

From The Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Volume 1, Number 4

BYRD'S EYE VIEW

A Public Service Column By

SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

TOURISM CAN BE NEW BIG INDUSTRY FOR WEST VIRGINIA

A tremendous untapped and under-developed natural wealth--the sheer grandeur of her hills and valleys--holds promise of providing West Virginia with a new big industry called "tourism." Last year, this industry earned \$290 million for our State. Its potential, however, is several times this figure.

For many states, such as North Carolina, tourism already is their No. 1 industry. It grossed \$645 million for our neighboring state of Virginia last year. Maryland claims it earned \$225 million for her in 1960, and that she confidently expects the 1961 figure to be around \$300 million.

Today, domestic tourism--travel by Americans within this country--is estimated by the U. S. Department of Commerce as "a multi-billion dollar business." In addition, the Department also reports that foreigners last year spent \$1.1 billion sight-seeing in this country.

The only reason West Virginia's tourist industry is not currently enjoying its full potential is that the State lacks

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the kinds of developed recreational areas and facilities needed to attract great numbers of travelers. President John F. Kennedy's task force on depressed areas recognized this short-coming and recommended Federal action to overcome it. However, it made no specific proposals as to projects to be undertaken, because it lacked authority to do so.

Fortunately, West Virginians have not been asleep on the subject. Three project proposals already have been made to the Federal Departments responsible for such matters. If approved by them, they would then require appropriations by the Congress.

One proposal is for enlarging Harpers Ferry National Monument through purchase of old Storer College buildings and campus, as well as other adjacent parcels of land. This proposal has the approval of the National Park Service, and the budget just submitted to the Congress carried a request for \$300,000 for the acquisition. Funds for this project, however, were voted by the Senate last year, but the action was not concurred in by the House. Every effort will be made for passage by both Houses this year. Enlarging the Monument would make it additionally attractive to tourists.

A second proposal is to extend the Monongahela National Forest into south-central and south-western West Virginia, and to greatly enlarge its recreational facilities through the building

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of more cabins, camping sites, swimming areas, trails, and access roads. This proposal is currently being explored by the Forest Service, and there is much hope that it will receive favorable consideration. This National Forest holds enormous tourist potential if it can be enlarged and made attractive for vacationers.

The third proposal is for the creation of a New River Gorge National Park, extending from Gauley Bridge to Hinton, and possibly including the Bluestone Reservoir area. The New River gorge is without parallel in the East for beauty and grandeur. Moreover, the New River is the only major river system in the eastern United States which cuts through the Appalachian Mountain chain to flow westward. Both these factors would make it uniquely attractive to tourists. The National Park Service has been asked to study this proposal.

Meanwhile, more can be done on a local basis to make tourism a bigger industry for our State. Communities should plan for roadside picnic areas, and for brochures which tell in words and point out with maps the unusual or historical sights in the areas, as well as places to stop for good food and overnight lodging.

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Volume 1--Number 5

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
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HELP AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS WANTING COLLEGE EDUCATION

Within the next few months, a large number of the 23,359 students expecting to graduate from West Virginia public and private high schools will be faced with this fateful question: Can my family afford to send me to college? If the answer is "No," the student wishing to go to college will find a surprising number of avenues of financial help available.

In fact, on a national basis, financial help is available to more than 750,000 students who otherwise could not afford a college education.

This help includes the National Defense Student Loan Program, which makes loans up to \$1,000 per year for four years to qualifying students; 233 various kinds of public and private scholarships; some 77,000 loans which colleges will make on their own hook to exceptional students; and about 233,500 "work-your-way-through-college" campus jobs which colleges and universities are eager to fill.

Most of the student loan programs and public scholarships are based on "need" as well as academic excellence. The Federal loan program has the additional qualification that the course of study to be pursued by the student is essential to national defense--with first priority being given to the student who plans a teaching career, and with secondary priorities given to students planning for degrees in science, mathematics, engineering, and modern languages. Students seeking degrees in other subjects are unlikely to qualify for Federal loans, although they can qualify for other public and private loans and scholarships.

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While the Federal student loan program does not meet the full annual cost of college for many students, it does take care of the major part of it. Here is how it works:

1) A student can borrow as much as \$1,000 during the course of an academic year. The money is loaned without interest during the years of study and for one year thereafter. Then the interest rate is three per cent a year, and the loan can be paid back in 10 years.

3) The loan can be applied for prior to, or on the day of registration, at the college or university. Application for the loan should be made in writing to the "Financial Aid Officer" of the institution the student plans to enter.

4) If the student becomes a full-time teacher in a public elementary or secondary school, up to one-half of the loan will be forgiven by the Federal government at the rate of 10 per cent for each year he or she teaches. The total amount forgiven is based on the total owned at the beginning of teaching service.

5) Students who use up the full allowable total loan money, and who want to continue their education for a master's degree, or a doctor's degree, or who want to study medicine or dentistry, do not have to make repayments until one year after completion of such study. Interest will not accrue during this period.

The terms of this cooperative Federal student loan program should not be construed as being the same for loans which colleges and universities will make to students out of their own established loan funds. Each school has its own rules covering such loans.

This year, every effort will be made in the Congress to improve the Federal student loan program so that many more needy students can be provided for. Meanwhile, any student wishing to

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know what financial aid each college offers can send for a booklet published by the U. S. Office of Education, entitled: "Financial Aid for College Students--Undergraduate." This can be obtained for \$1 from the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

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Volume 1--Number 6

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column By
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FEDERAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES OPEN FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

Many West Virginians are unaware of the fact that the Federal government is interested in recruiting qualified people in several fields of work for U. S. civil service jobs in our State. To qualify, a person must have the needed skill or necessary training or experience, and in many instances must pass competitive examinations for jobs in a particular field. Persons receiving the highest grades get first consideration when appointments are made.

Here are some of the positions for which Civil Service boards of examiners are accepting applications at the present time. In some cases, a written test is required; in other cases, the examination consists of a rating of the applicant's training and experience:

Laboratory Helper, \$1.83 an hour, Veterans Administration Center, Martinsburg. Some experience or specialized study is required. No written test.

Medical Laboratory Technician, \$3,255 and \$3,495 a year; Electrocardiograph Technician, \$3,495 a year; Electroencephalograph Technician, \$3,495 a year. These three jobs are open at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Huntington. Some experience or specialized study is required. No written test. Higher grade technician jobs are also open.

Engineering Aid and Cartographic Aid, \$3,500 a year, U. S. Army Engineer District, Huntington. A year of experience or some specialized high school study is required, plus a written test.

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Higher grade jobs with higher requirements are also available.

Messenger, \$3,185 a year, U. S. Engineer District, Huntington. A written test is required, and only veterans may file.

Messenger, \$3,135 a year, Bureau of Public Debt, U. S. Treasury Department, Parkersburg. A written test is required. Both veterans and non veterans may apply, but non-veterans can be appointed only when no veterans are available.

Machinist (Maintenance), \$2.55, \$2.66, and \$2.77 an hour, U. S. Naval Ordnance Plant, South Charleston. Apprenticeship or experience is required. No written test.

Substitute Automotive Mechanic, \$2.28 an hour, Post Office Department, Huntington. Experience is required.

Card Punch Operator (Alphabetic), \$3,500 a year, Bureau of Public Debt, U. S. Treasury Department, Parkersburg. A written test is required. Some positions may also be filled in Wood, Wirt and Pleasants Counties.

Food Service Worker, \$1.14 an hour, Veterans Administration Center, Martinsburg. Open to men only. Both veterans and non-veterans may file, but veterans get first preference. Credit is given for kitchen and mess hall experience. No written test is required. Some of the job openings are part-time.

Laundry Worker (Extractorman-Tumblerman), \$2.03 an hour, Veterans Administration Center, Martinsburg. Open to men only. Six months' experience is required. No written test.

Lock and Dam Operator, \$2.25 and \$2.35 an hour, U. S. Army Engineer District, Huntington. One year of experience is required and men are preferred. No written test. Jobs are at various locations.

Bookkeeping Machine Operator, \$3,760 a year, U. S. Army Engineer District, Huntington. Some experience and a written test are required. Some jobs in the Veterans Administration, Huntington, may also be filled from this examination.

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Persons interested in any of the above positions should get full information about them from the Federal installations where the jobs are located, or by writing to the 6th U. S. Civil Service Region, Post Office and Courthouse Building, Cincinnati 2, Ohio.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
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GOVERNMENT SEEKING WEST VIRGINIANS FOR JOB OPENINGS

Strange as it may seem in this day of large-scale unemployment, the Federal government is experiencing some difficulty in filling various kinds of civil service jobs in Washington, D. C. Thus, it is hopeful that qualified West Virginians will be interested in applying for some of these positions.

For example, many applicants are being sought to fill positions as policeman and fireman in the District of Columbia. Both jobs start at \$5,160 a year, and no experience is required. However, a written test is required, and successful candidates must pass a stringent physical examination. The age limits are 21 to 29 years.

Interested persons can obtain further information and application forms by writing to the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D. C. Arrangements can be made for the written test to be taken in Beckley, Bluefield, Charleston, Clarksburg, Elkins, Huntington, Lewisburg, Martinsburg, Morgantown, Parkersburg, Wheeling, and Williamson.

Stenographers and typists are also being sought by the Federal government, and these positions pay from \$3,500 to \$4,040 a year. Immediate openings for these jobs are in Washington, D. C., and in various Federal agencies in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia. Applicants must first pass a written test, which also can be taken in the West Virginia cities listed above. Applications may be secured by writing to the 6th U. S. Civil Service Region, Post Office and Courthouse Building, Cincinnati 2, Ohio.

Accounting clerks are also needed by the Federal government for positions in Washington, D. C. These positions pay \$4,040 a year, and are open to men and women. High school graduation, plus a year of experience, is required. A written test will be given.

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The Government also has a continuing need for people to fill positions which are classed as "Physical Science Aid" and "Engineering Aid." These jobs pay \$3,500 a year, and successful applicants will be called upon to fill jobs in the Washington, D. C., area. Specialized high school study or a year of experience is required, and a written test will be given. Men and women may apply.

Also needed for positions with the Federal government in Washington, D. C., are persons skilled in chart or map-making-- "Cartographic Aid." This job pays \$3,500 and \$3,760 a year. Men and women may apply. Experience or certain specialized high school study is required. There is no written test. Many higher paying "cartographic" jobs also are available, but these require more qualifications.

Persons with photographic dark-room experience may apply for positions with the Federal government in Washington, D. C., as "Photographic Aid." The job pays \$3,500 a year. Six months of experience is required, but some types of training can be substituted for this requirement. No written test will be given. Men and women may apply. There also are higher paying photographer jobs for fully experienced photographers.

Jobs also are open in such positions as Addressing Machine Operator, Bookkeeping Machine Operator, and Card Punch Operator. Each job pays \$3,500 a year and is open to both men and women. Three months of experience or high school graduation is required. A written test will be given for each position. There are higher paying jobs in each category for persons with more experience.

With the exception of the policeman and fireman positions, all of the above listed available jobs can be applied for through the 6th Civil Service Region, Post Office and Courthouse Building, Cincinnati 2, Ohio.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
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UNIQUE CAREER SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON OPEN TO WEST VIRGINIA WOMEN

At the Hannah Harrison School of the Young Women's Christian Association in Washington, D. C., age is no barrier to success, as several West Virginia women have already discovered. Women from 13 to 55 are learning new jobs and starting new lives as graduates of this unique school, which offers them free board and tuition while they receive their education.

The two career training courses offered by the Hannah Harrison School are a nine-month series of studies in Institutional Housekeeping, and a year's training in practical nursing. This latter course includes 32 weeks of supervised hospital ward work. Each graduate is helped to find a position.

In the 10 years of its operation 450 women, averaging 40 years of age, have graduated from the Hannah Harrison School, and have gone on to lead successful, happy lives. The school keeps in touch with its graduates through the years, offering them new job opportunities as they may open.

Situated on seven acres of rolling, tree-studded lawns, overlooking the Potomac River in suburban Washington, the school's rose-brick building with terraces and sun decks resembles a fashionable residential hotel. Yet, despite its spaciousness, the school takes only 35 women for "on-campus living." These are women who require free board. Women who are able to sustain themselves can live off the campus, though all of the school's social facilities and social functions are available to them.

Each woman living on the campus has her own room, cheerfully decorated with matching bedspreads and draperies, carpeting, bookcases, a desk, an easy chair, wardrobe and dresser.

Students are encouraged to add personal touches, such as pictures

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and a radio. There is a snack kitchen, laundry room, recreation room and patio available to all students. All of this is provided free, as are all meals. In return, the students share light house-keeping duties, such as waiting on tables or running the telephone switchboard.

The school regularly schedules sightseeing tours of Washington, and also plans visits to museums, art galleries, and other cultural attractions. In the evenings, discussion groups, poetry reading, and music lessons are held for students interested in broadening their cultural background. Too, visiting lecturers speak on many subjects in addition to those included in the regular training program. Washington religious leaders alternate in conducting services.

This spring, a new class in Practical Nursing will begin its year-long training, and in September, a new class in Institutional Housekeeping and Foods will begin its nine-month course.

West Virginia women interested in applying for either of the two courses offered by the Hannah Harrison School, should request application forms by writing to Genevieve E. Poole, Director of the school, at 4470 MacArthur Boulevard, N.W., Washington 7, D.C.

The application forms ask for such information as the applicant's educational background, why she wants to attend the school, four personal references, and a brief biography. Students are selected on the basis of age, health, need for scholarship, mental alertness, integrity, emotional stability, and ability to get along with others in group living.

There are no restrictions based on race, creed or national origin. Though financial need is a requirement, applicants do not have to be entirely without funds to be accepted so long as any income they may have is insufficient to make them self-supporting.

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CAREERS OPEN TO STATE'S YOUTH IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Never before has the Nation's health advance depended so much on public health teams comprised of skilled non-medical as well as medical specialists. For this reason, career opportunities in the field of health services have never been greater than they are today. This fact merits the consideration of high school students who may be pondering their future. It also warrants the attention of college freshmen and sophomores.

Our public health services today concern statisticians and stenographers as well as surgeons; physicists as well as physicians; management specialists as well as microbiologists. Modern health problems are complex. They are solved through teamwork of people in some 250 different occupations.

Although the Public Health Service is headquartered in Washington, D. C., it has field stations located throughout the United States and in many foreign countries. Its personnel are often called upon to travel to many places in the world, from Alaska to Africa, or to the islands of the South Seas--all in behalf of the Service's numerous activities.

Few people realize that the Public Health Service has charge of the health services of Indian Reservations, or that it is responsible for the health of Eskimo tribes in Upper Alaska. Nor do many people realize that its Quarantine Service, at all ports of entry into the United States, keeps our country free from the disease plagues that ravish the populations of many foreign countries.

But aside from these vital services, the Agency is engaged in heart disease research and control; communicable disease

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research and control; occupational health; air and water pollution research and control; accident prevention research; hospital care and hospital construction and management; cancer chemotherapy, and a host of other significant activities.

Most United States Public Health Service positions are under Federal Civil Service. Eligibility for these positions involves a number of specific qualifications. For most jobs, applicants must be at least 18 years of age, citizens of the United States, able to pass a physical examination, and able to pass such Civil Service tests as may be required. Many of the positions start at around \$5,000 a year. Career development and subsequent promotions may lead to top positions with salaries of \$15,000 a year or more.

Some positions are under the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, a career officer organization comprised of qualified physicians, dentists, sanitary engineers, nurses, scientists, and other categories of professional personnel. Appointments in the Corps are made from nation-wide competitive examinations, and the successful candidates are usually commissioned in the three lower grades--Junior Assistant, Assistant, and Senior Assistant. These are equivalent to the Navy grades of Ensign, Lieutenant (Jg), and Lieutenant.

Examinations in the various medical and health specialties of the Corps are given periodically throughout the year, depending upon the manpower needs of the Service.

Applications for positions with the Public Health Service may be obtained from the 6th Civil Service Region, Post Office and Courthouse Building, Cincinnati 2, Ohio, or by writing to the Surgeon General, U. S. Public Health Service (P), Washington 25, D. C.

For information about health careers in general, a 150-page "Health Careers Guidebook" has been published by the National Health Council, and can be found in high school, college and public libraries. A 27-page pamphlet entitled "What's in Your Future--A Career in Health?", may be purchased from the Public Affairs Committee, 22 East 38th Street, New York City, New York, at 25¢ per copy.

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Volume I--Number 10

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
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WEST VIRGINIANS CAN PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

West Virginians who would like to participate in the billions of dollars worth of goods and services which the Federal Government buys--and sells--each year, would do well to turn to the General Services Administration for information.

Not only does GSA buy the products of small business firms, large corporations, manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and jobbers; it also supervises the disposal of a wide range of government items ranging from real estate, automobiles, aircraft, plumbing, office supplies, and wearing apparel.

At present, GSA is under special instructions from President Kennedy to favor businesses in depressed areas for much of the government's procurement needs. Thus, West Virginians who desire to do business with the Federal Government may find it useful to consult the GSA Business Service Center located in Washington, D. C., at 7th and D Streets, Southwest. This Center serves West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

The GSA also maintains small area manager offices in the Post Office Building at Charleston, at the Dils Building in Parkersburg, at the Federal Office Building in Huntington, and at the Post Office Building in Clarksburg. The Washington Center is a fully staffed operation, and can help West Virginia business concerns to participate in government procurement and disposal contracts. It gives special consideration to small concerns.

GSA is not only interested in helping businessmen sell their products and services to the Federal government; it also helps them procure government surplus items which they may need. Firms which have only a service to sell are helped to obtain contracts for the construction, renovation, alteration and repair of public buildings.

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GSA business service centers pride themselves on tailoring assistance to fit the needs of the individual businessman and the specific products he has to market. When technical questions arise, center personnel go straight to contracting officers or legal counsel for the correct answers.

But at the business service centers, businessmen also learn such valuable information as the locations of contracting offices; how to get on bidders' mailing lists; how and where to obtain specifications; how to establish government consumer demand and promote sales; how to introduce new products; and how to keep informed of current bidding opportunities.

As for the disposal of government surplus personal property, GSA usually offers items in small lots to encourage the participation of individuals and small business firms. It does this through three kinds of surplus sales:

1) By sealed bids on prescribed forms which must be in the hands of the GSA by a specific date. Deposits are usually required on most of such kinds of bids. The bids are open publicly.

2) By auctions when many varied items of known commercial application are for sale. These auctions are widely advertised, and GSA usually prepares catalogs listing the items to be sold.

3) By "Spot bid." This method of sale, sometimes referred to as "bid in the box," affords prospective buyers an opportunity to inspect the item or property, submit a bid and, if the bid is high, arrange for the prompt removal of the property. Quantities sold by this bid method are usually smaller than those in either sealed or auction-type sales, and generally include a wide variety of items.

All items and property sold by GSA are offered for sale on an "as-is, where-is" basis. West Virginians are urged to first inspect anything they wish to purchase from the government, because any item, once purchased, cannot be returned.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column By
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VAST STOREHOUSE OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM GOVERNMENT

Many West Virginians are not aware of the fact that there is readily available, free, from their Washington legislators a vast storehouse of valuable information in the form of government pamphlets beneficial to all classes of people--from the farmer to the housewife, and from the home gardener to the handy do-it-yourselfer.

These pamphlets are based on research, experiments and studies constantly being undertaken by various Government departments and agencies.

For the farmer, there are such excellent booklets as "How Much Fertilizer Should I Use?" and "Hotbeds and Cold Frames" (a pamphlet offering sound advice on starting seedlings), as well as many others with information on poultry raising, fruit tree farming, the care and feeding of livestock, etc.

The home gardener can obtain, without charge, such useful booklets as "Growing Annual Flowering Plants," or "Growing Vegetables in Town and City," or "Insects and Diseases of Vegetables in the Home Garden," and many other helpful publications.

Free of cost, too, are helpful pamphlets filled with ideas for the home owner and handy man. These include such instructive ones as "Fireplaces and Chimneys," "Wood-Frame House Construction," "Planning the Expansible House," and "Easy to Build Cabinets." There are many others, too.

Pamphlets for the homemakers, also available, include "Food Management and Recipes," "Meat for Thrifty Meals," "Money Saving Main Dishes," "Mending Men's Suits," "How to Make Jellies, Jams and Preserves at Home," and a host of others, including ones with instructions on how to make draperies, how to upholster furniture, and how to remove various kinds of spots from clothing.

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Parents and parents-to-be are not neglected either. The free pamphlets available to them from their Washington legislators include one on "Prenatal Care," on "Your Child From One to Six," "Your Child From Six to Twelve," and an exceedingly good one entitled "The Adolescent in Your Family," which advises parents on the problems of teenagers.

Veterans, disabled persons and elderly citizens also can obtain free pamphlets dealing with problems of particular interest to them. These include "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents," "If You Become Disabled," and "Your Social Security," a very good booklet detailing old-age, survivors, and disability benefits under the Social Security Law.

There are, of course, a great many other Government publications which are not available without cost from West Virginia's legislators, but which can be purchased at nominal prices from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The approximately 30,000 titles which that Office maintains for sale include almost every conceivable subject, and are listed in 45 free subject price lists, also obtainable by writing to the above address.

These free price lists contain titles about such general subjects as aviation, construction, geology, health, education, history, mining, business, labor, wildlife, transportation, and foreign relations. Also listed are higher priced books dealing with factual accounts of Indian wars, Civil War battles, and the battles of World Wars I and II.

Upon locating the title of a desired pamphlet, send the required remittance to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. It is best to send a check or money order. Postage stamps are not acceptable for payment.

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Volume I--Number II

BYRD'S EYE VIEW

A Public Service Column By
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A NATIONAL FUELS POLICY URGED TO AID COAL INDUSTRY

A resolution calling for a joint House-Senate committee to study the whole problem of fuels, has been introduced in the Senate. This action acknowledges a recommendation by President-elect John F. Kennedy's Depressed Areas Task Force, which declared the establishment of a National Fuels Policy by the Congress would be beneficial to the entire country.

A fair fuels policy would contribute to the growth of this Nation in that it would remove some of the raw inequities that have so burdened our coal industry and our people. West Virginians in particular have been literally taking it on the chin because of the present lack of such a national policy.

Most harmful to our State has been the dumping of foreign residual fuel oil at east coast markets which previously and traditionally purchased West Virginia coal. In many instances, this foreign residual oil is sold under contracts stipulating that the price at all times will be substantially under the cost of an equivalent amount of coal.

The Government has imposed quota restrictions on residual oil importations, but it is like closing the barn door after the horse has gone.

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Last year, importations of this fuel took almost 10 million days' work from the coal miners of this country and coal mining families were deprived of \$250 million in wages.

Of secondary importance is the fact that foreign shipments to this country of residual fuel oil took between 450 million and 500 million U. S. dollars in 1960. This occurred at a time when the President of the United States ordered women and children of men in our armed forces to return home because we could not afford the drain of our dollars to foreign countries. Certainly, the loss of gold reserves to pay for this ill-advised importation is a direct threat to the value of the dollar at home and abroad.

Coal has lost certain of its markets to gas, to home-heating fuel oil, and to the dieselization of locomotives. The industry has made major adjustments necessary to live with these evolutionary changes. But the deliberate low-priced dumping of foreign residual fuel oil in the markets that used coal, and where coal can do a good job at low stable cost, is the kind of unfair competition that calls for more strenuous consideration than the present governmental policy of "adjustable quotas" for residual imports.

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Residual fuel oil is just what its name implies. It is the residue, or waste product, left over from the refining of crude oil. It is a thick, black, tar-like substance which has to be pre-heated before it can be used. As a waste product, it is an "extra-profit" item if it can be sold. However, its sale in this country adds very little to the pay envelopes of foreign workers. It does, on the other hand, cause thousands of our coal miners to depend on Government surplus food packages for mere subsistence.

The lack of a National Fuels Policy has constituted an underlying reason for the present depressed conditions of every major coal-producing region in our country.

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AIR CONTAMINATION IS GROWING DANGER FOR NATION

Awake or asleep, each of us breathes about 6,000 gallons of air every 24 hours. Little do we realize, however, that, depending on where we live, the air we breathe may be shortening our lives by contributing to, or aggravating, our susceptibility to lung cancer, tuberculosis, pneumonia, asthma, heart disease, and a host of other ailments.

For air--which Nature made clean and wholesome for human survival--has become dangerously polluted in many parts of our country. We are contaminating it at a reckless pace. Each year its life-giving quality gets more unbalanced--heavier with deadly carbon monoxide from auto tail-pipes, with cancer-causing hydro-carbons and oxides of nitrogen from crank-case blow-by, with sinus and bronchial-irritating soot from home and factory chimneys, with lung-scorching industrial fumes and gases.

Most of us learned in high school that the air we live in is made up of about 75 per cent nitrogen and 23 per cent oxygen, by weight. The rest is carbon dioxide and various "rare gases." This is the careful balance under which Nature intended all living things to grow. This is the balance we seem heedlessly intent upon upsetting.

Of course, Nature keeps trying to clean the air by "scrubbing" it with wind and rain. But on windless and rainless days, when no "scrubbing" takes places, polluted air becomes a genuine menace to good health.

The people of Donora, Pa., know this. In 1948, after several days of steady smog, 20 people dropped dead in Donora,

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and thousands were made ill. In London, England, in 1952, and again in 1956, a blanket of smog snuffed out between 4,000 and 5,000 lives in a few days' time.

In farming communities close to dirty-air cities, crops have been killed or stunted over many square miles by excessive air pollution, according to the Department of Agriculture--pollution which occurred faster than Nature could "scrub" it away.

Air pollution has already reached a point immediately inimical to good health in many cities, large and small. In New York City, for example, its Air Pollution Control Department recently reported that the carbon monoxide content alone, in that City's air, now averages 3.4 parts per million--three times as much as was found in the City's air in 1957, and enough to impair the blood's oxygen supply by .56 per cent! Carbon monoxide, it should be noted, cripples the blood's ability to carry oxygen to the lungs.

In a recent technical paper prepared by its staff of experts, the U. S. Public Health Service said: "We know that cancer-producing agents are in the air we breathe. Cancers can be produced in animals using concentrates of urban smog. We know that lung cancer death-rates in the largest cities are twice as high as those in non-urban areas." The experts then listed New Orleans, New York City, Newark-Jersey City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Buffalo as cities having the highest lung-cancer death rates in the United States.

Some cities have set up air pollution control units, and require by law that all industrial smoke-stacks be equipped with soot-catching devices. What is really needed, according to Public Health Service officials, is a device which will "scrub" car tail-pipe exhausts--something that will take all the deadly chemical particles out of the pipe before the exhaust leaves the car.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW .
A Public Service Column By
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

VIGILANT FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION PROTECTS NATION'S HEALTH

Few of us are fully conscious of the fact that everything we eat, all of the medicines we take, all of the cosmetics we use, come under the watchful eye of the Food and Drug Administration. It has been on the job constantly for more than 50 years, and due to its vigilance the American housewife can shop for her family with confidence.

In its daily work to protect consumers in situations where they would be unable to protect themselves, the Food and Drug Administration is backed by a series of laws which require informative labeling on both food and drug products for the guidance of the purchaser--and for the protection of both health and purse.

Food labels, as drug labels, must be truthful and free of deceit. The customer has a right to know what he or she is buying. If, for example, artificial coloring, or flavoring, or a chemical preservative has been used, the label must say so, according to the law. This prevents attempts at deception.

If the product is a special dietary food, the label must contain special information for its proper use. For example, many people with certain types of heart disease are on "low-sodium" diets. Foods marketed for these diets must state the amount of sodium they contain.

The common or usual name of any food must be given on the label to prevent exploiting a common product under a fancy name. Peas are peas, and not "les pois de Paris," says FDA.

MORE . . . MORE

and thousands were made ill. In London, England, in 1952, and again in 1956, a blanket of smog snuffed out between 4,000 and 5,000 lives in a few days' time.

In farming communities close to dirty-air cities, crops have been killed or stunted over many square miles by excessive air pollution, according to the Department of Agriculture--pollution which occurred faster than Nature could "scrub" it away.

Air pollution has already reached a point immediately inimical to good health in many cities, large and small. In New York City, for example, its Air Pollution Control Department recently reported that the carbon monoxide content alone, in that City's air, now averages 3.4 parts per million--three times as much as was found in the City's air in 1957, and enough to impair the blood's oxygen supply by .56 per cent! Carbon monoxide, it should be noted, cripples the blood's ability to carry oxygen to the lungs.

In a recent technical paper prepared by its staff of experts, the U. S. Public Health Service said: "We know that cancer-producing agents are in the air we breathe. Cancers can be produced in animals using concentrates of urban smog. We know that lung cancer death-rates in the largest cities are twice as high as those in non-urban areas." The experts then listed New Orleans, New York City, Newark-Jersey City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Buffalo as cities having the highest lung-cancer death rates in the United States.

Some cities have set up air pollution control units, and require by law that all industrial smoke-stacks be equipped with soot-catching devices. What is really needed, according to Public Health Service officials, is a device which will "scrub" car tail-pipe exhausts--something that will take all the deadly chemical particles out of the pipe before the exhaust leaves the car.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column By
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

N. I. H. SPEARHEADS COMING NEW BREAKTHROUGHS IN HEALTH

Before 1970 rolls around, Americans may no longer be troubled by the common cold, and their chances of getting a heart attack may be reduced by more than 50 per cent. Moreover, cancer may become as remote a threat as polio now is, and our life expectancy, now 69.9 years, may be extended to at least 72 years.

In short, the secrets of a host of killing and crippling diseases may be uncovered--and, in the main, conquered--before the current decade ends, thanks to the work of the National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, Maryland, and to the research they sponsor through grants of money.

Already, more than 1,275,000 Americans are alive today, who otherwise would have died, because of recent dramatic inroads in research in the killing and crippling diseases. Millions more will be saved tomorrow by the new medical pathways being uncovered by our scientists.

A little over 10 years ago, there was no effective drug for reducing high blood pressure, or for dissolving blood clots that cause thrombosis, or for reducing edema in blood associated with heart failure, or for coping with rheumatic heart fever. Today, a wide variety of drugs is available for treating those conditions, thus enabling afflicted Americans to enjoy longer, useful living.

Now scientists are on the threshold of licking the biggest heart killer of them all--arteriosclerosis--hardening of the arteries. At the National Institutes of Health, researchers have found new drugs that substantially reduce cholesterol levels in the blood--the substance largely responsible for hardening of arteries. These drugs, still being laboratory tested, hold tremendous hope for conquering this killer. MORE . . . MORE

Not satisfied with this important step, which alone could save countless thousands of lives, NIH scientists are seeking ways of freeing arteries from cholesterol deposits already there. Their findings may soon enable doctors to prescribe a medicine that will "freshen" arteries--clean them out, so to speak. In any event, the secrets of the blood's chemistry are slowly but surely being unlocked at NIH, and each new step advanced leads our scientists to another to be taken.

The strides against cancer, at NIH, have been phenomenal, too. A few years ago, survival chances from this malignancy were hardly worth mentioning. Today, one out of every three cancer patients survives five years or more. Tomorrow, it may be one out of two--or even better.

Already one particularly virulent and fast-acting form of cancer is being successfully cured at the NIH hospital--cancer of the placenta and female reproductive organs. The drug being used--still in the experimental stage--is methotrexate. Where it has been used on female patients suffering from these forms of cancer, the malignancy has completely disappeared! In the four years of its experimental use, patients treated with it have no recurring symptoms of cancer.

Cancer, in general, is still a riddle to our scientists. As a medical problem, however, its solution comes closer with each passing day. NIH scientists are now pursuing research in viruses as possible causes of cancer. This is a vexing research problem, because there are hundreds of different viruses to isolate, then identify. The task after that would be to develop an antibiotic or vaccine to deal with the viruses.

Meanwhile, NIH has been making new advances in the battle against arthritis, rheumatism, and multiple sclerosis in the study of brain chemistry and the causes of mental illnesses--all of which mean that before the current decade ends, Americans will be enjoying better health and greater freedom from disease than the world has ever known.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column By
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

CONSTRUCTION OF MONONGAHELA SCENIC HIGHLAND ROUTE WOULD AID STATE

The proposed scenic highland road through Monongahela National Forest, for which a general reconnaissance survey has recently been completed by the U. S. Forest Service, would be tremendously beneficial to West Virginia, just as the Skyline Drive has proved to be a first-rate economic asset for Virginia.

The existence of the Skyline Drive is said to be largely responsible for Virginia's having grossed approximately \$645 million in tourist business last year. Tourism grossed approximately \$290 million for West Virginia in the same period. Unquestionably, a scenic highland road in our State would mean a considerable enlargement of this figure. But how to get this proposed road constructed, in view of the estimated cost of approximately \$27 million, remains a vexing problem.

The Skyline Drive was first conceived by former President Herbert Hoover, as a result of his many fishing and hunting trips into the area of Virginia now established as Shenandoah National Park. Mr. Hoover would often climb to the tops of the hills and mountains in that area, and spend hours admiring the scenic views about him--views he sincerely believed all Americans should have an opportunity to see and admire. He succeeded in having the Park itself authorized by Congress in 1926. It was finally established in 1935 under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

But, in July, 1931, while Mr. Hoover was still President, preliminary work on the Skyline Drive was begun--solely with Federal funds. The National Park Service undertook the planning of the road, and the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads acted as the contracting agent.

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The main construction of the road, however, took place during President Roosevelt's tenure of office, and was completed late in 1940. It had cost the Federal government approximately \$7,100,000 to build. It has cost the State of Virginia not one penny, aside from moneys it spent for access roads.

Actually, the money the Federal government spent for the construction of Skyline Drive, through the National Park Service, was considered "relief funds." Building the road was considered a good way to usefully employ vast numbers of people. Moreover, the road was viewed as a means of revitalizing the depressed economy of the mountain region of Virginia, through what was then a relatively new industry--tourism.

The possibility of stimulating full Federal engagement in construction of the Monongahela scenic highland road is remote. The same economic conditions do not prevail today as when the Skyline Drive's construction was undertaken. At that time the whole Nation was in the grip of the Great Depression. One out of every 12 Americans was unemployed, and many who were working were on a part-time basis. Moreover, we had almost no National debt, and our appropriations for defense were not as staggering as they are today.

Yet, West Virginia needs the Monongahela scenic highland road. Its construction would benefit the State in several immediate ways--by providing useful work for many people, and new business for our crushed stone, cement, steel and lumber industries. But, aside from these economic benefits, there is the treasure of tourism imbedded in our firm belief that all Americans should be given the opportunity to see the breath-taking scenic grandeur of West Virginia from the tops of our hills and mountains.

The problem of financing the road's construction requires urgent attention.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column By
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

SOVIET SPACE ACHIEVEMENT STRESSES U. S. NEED FOR EDUCATIONAL
ENRICHMENT

Now that Russia has scored another first in the space race--this time by sending a "cosmonaut" whirling around the earth--the need for an immediate enrichment of our whole educational process should become apparent to everyone. Any weakness in public understanding of this need is an invitation to the eventual destruction of our freedom.

National security now requires a national slogan: A good American is a fully educated American! But to make this slogan a purposeful goal, we must concentrate on a massive effort to upgrade our entire educational system, from the first grade on through college. We must do this at every level of Government--county, state, and national. We must do this courageously, taking whatever taxing action may be necessary, for we cannot expect to buy an insurance policy on continuing freedom without paying the premiums.

The needed enrichment in education must have its beginnings with our teacher staffs. There is an increasing shortage of qualified teachers for all levels of instruction. The principal reason for this is the salary level. Thousands of highly qualified teachers either failed to enter our school systems, or have left them, in order to give their families decent standards of living. Fair salaries will not only encourage teachers to enter and stay in our school systems, but would attract more of our high school and college graduates to consider the profession of teaching.

We must enrich our school construction programs so that half-day sessions and "split-shifts" are completely erased from our school systems. At the same time, the overcrowded classroom must become a thing of the past. The half-time pupil, of necessity, must undergo a hurried, unrelaxed course of instruction, in many

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instances having to forego needed help in speech correction or in remedial reading.

In overcrowded classrooms, slower students are often neglected and submerged. Teachers, preoccupied with heavier than normal loads of students, cannot give proper attention to student achievement. Our goal is not to produce "knowledgable students"; rather, it is to produce "educated students." Every child needs to be given the opportunity to develop his or her potentials to the fullest if we earnestly desire national security through national strength.

We must find the means for ending the educational waste of one-teacher schools, and the inefficiency of small secondary schools. We cannot afford to give our children anything less than top quality education. The teachers of these schools are not at fault. One cannot get the same results education-wise where one teacher has to instruct all grades in one classroom, or where vital subjects are left untaught because the small secondary school is too small for many classrooms.

It is conceivable that we may have to knuckle down and get along with fewer luxuries in order to enrich our whole system of education. But the price of freedom has never been cheap, and if foregoing some luxuries will spare us tyranny of an arrested society--of ruthless dictatorship and human automation--the price is absurdly cheap!

Volume 1--Number 17

BYRD'S EYE VIEW .
A Public Service Column By
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

NEEDY CHILDREN OF UNEMPLOYED CAN BE ELIGIBLE FOR AID

For the next 14 months -- until June 30, 1962 -- a needy child of unemployed parents is eligible for financial assistance under amended provisions of the Aid to Dependent Children section of the Social Security Act. In our State, the Federal government will match any funds West Virginia may provide for this program. Last year, the Federal government provided 77.2 per cent of the total expenditure for aid to dependent children in West Virginia.

Under the previous provisions of the Social Security Act, Federal grants-in-aid were available to States only for the assistance of children deprived of support, or care, because of the absence, death, or incapacity of one parent. However, as an ironical result of those provisions, destitute children living with two able-bodied parents were actually penalized in that they were not eligible for aid. For the next 14 months, this situation need no longer be true.

The new legislation recognizes that a hungry, ill-clothed child is as hungry and ill-clothed if he lives in an unbroken home as if he were deserted by a parent, or orphaned, or illegitimate. It also extends financial assistance to needy children living with a close relative, or relatives "in a place or residence maintained by one or more such relatives as his or their own home."

Another feature of the new legislation is that aid is extended to children whose parents do not receive sufficient income to adequately provide for them. This could be especially helpful to children whose parents may have no more than one or two days of work a week, or whose unemployment compensation benefit payments are

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instances having to forego needed help in speech correction or in remedial reading.

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From The Office Of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Volume I--Number 18

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column By
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

MONONGAHELA FOREST GROWS AS ECONOMIC ASSET FOR STATE

Very few people in our State are aware of the fact that one of the most productive national forests in the Eastern half of the United States is the Monongahela of West Virginia. The 30-year history of this forest, and its response to management and protection, is definitely a success story both as an economic asset and as an unparalleled recreation center.

Last year, the Monongahela National Forest had a dollar income of \$685,000, of which 25 per cent was returned to the State and Counties. During the 1930s, the Forest yielded an average income to the Government of about \$3,000. By 1970, its income is expected to be in excess of \$1 million.

As a recreational center, no dollar value can be placed on the Forest, for there is no way one can measure the true worth of a clear, cool stream, or a day's tramp in the woods, or a picnic amid the scenic beauty and shade of a wooded grove. But recreation visits to picnic and camp grounds in the Monongahela have tripled in the last ten years, and now number close to one million annually. This figure may be doubled before the end of the current decade.

Not all of the visits to the Forest were made by West Virginians. Many out-of-staters -- a few of the approximately 48 million people who live within a 500-mile radius of the boundaries of our State -- have sought to escape the noise and traffic, and the complexities of urban living, in the space and quiet of the Monongahela.

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In addition, under the Stamp Act passed by the West Virginia legislature in 1951, some 400,000 fishermen and hunters paid an extra fee of \$1.00 each, last year, to try their skill in the vastness of that sylvan area. They either fished its lakes and streams for trout and bass, or hunted its wildlife habitats for deer, bear, beaver, rabbit, squirrel, muskrat, grouse, turkey, and waterfowl.

These sportsmen, it is estimated, spent approximately \$4 million in the cities, towns, and villages within, and adjacent to, the Forest -- and economic benefit which has been growing with each passing year.

The Monongahela National Forest was established in 1920, and today consists of 806,000 acres. It is interesting to note that its establishment by the Congress resulted from the disastrous Ohio River flood of 1907. The flood was blamed on the tremendous denuding of water-absorbing West Virginia forest lands through the heavy cutover of hardwood timber, and through forest fires. The Congress felt that only through Government ownership could so vast an area of land be restored to its natural state.

It takes a long time to grow a tree, and it takes a longer time to restore the productivity of fire-scarred land to absorb rainfall and halt erosion. But, thanks to the splendid work of the U. S. Forest Service, the Monongahela National Forest today has no resemblance to the sorry-looking acreage the Government purchased in the 1920s.

Through carefully planned development work, which included tree planting, timber-stand improvement, recreation-area development, and the control of forest fires, the Monongahela National Forest is a growing economic asset for West Virginia. Its value to our State is immense by any set of terms.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Volume I -- Number 19

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

The proposed step-up in the output of Minuteman missiles is both sound and logical, in view of deteriorating world conditions, and it is certain that the Congress will respond to this proposal with additional appropriations. However, the Defense Department should be put on notice that the entire contract for these missiles should not be let to West Coast defense plants.

There already exists an over-concentration of defense contracts in West Coast plants. Some 27 per cent of defense production is centered there. This geographic concentration is nothing less than reckless, when we think of the vulnerability of such concentration to enemy attack.

West Virginia, which is less vulnerable to enemy attack, because of its inland position and rugged terrain, enjoys less than one-tenth of one per cent of military procurement. Moreover, many areas in our State have been suffering from deepening unemployment over a long period of time.

Already spokesmen for those West Coast defense plants are beginning their fight to retain the entire Minuteman missile contract, including the proposed production increase. They contend that it would be foolish and uneconomical to shift some of this production elsewhere. They maintain that they have the skills and techniques required for the missile's production, as well as a large labor force. These arguments sound good, but they are not necessarily true.

Aside from the fact that a concentration of Minuteman missile production in one small area of California is dangerous to the security of our country, it is clearly uneconomical to produce missiles out there which must be shipped to the East Coast for its defense. A long time ago, auto manufacturers found out that it was

MORE . . . MORE

too costly to produce all of their cars in Detroit for shipment throughout the country. They scattered their assembly plants.

As for the skills and techniques required for the missile's production, Eastern United States labor was hard at work in the Machine Age when the West Coast was still in baby's bunting. Certainly, the labor force in West Virginia is as skillful as any in this country.

As a center for missile production, West Virginia is ideally located. Most of the major Eastern industrial complexes needed to support a missile plant are within a 500-mile radius of the State's boundaries. Moreover, within that same radius are many major universities which could provide any necessary scientific backup that a missile industry in our State may need.

With regard to the argument that it would be "uneconomical" to shift some Minuteman missile production away from the West Coast, it is interesting to note that the cost of producing this missile in California has mysteriously gotten out of hand. Less than a year ago, top Air Force officers were talking of the Minuteman as "the cheapest missile in Uncle Sam's armory." They estimated that it would cost one million dollars per missile on a "ready-to-go" basis. Final costs are turning out to be closer to two million dollars.

On the other hand, it should be noted that West Virginia has the steel, aluminum, chemical, and electronic industries needed for missile production. Moreover, our State excels in cheap electric power for such an industrial undertaking, and our railway transportation system is second to none in this country. These are production cost factors which cannot be ignored -- factors which could make it possible for a missile plant in our State to produce the Minuteman close to the Air Force's original cost estimate.

From the office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Volume 1--Number 1

BYRD'S EYE VIEW

A Public Service Column By
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

LITTLE NOTED KENNEDY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION OF VITAL
SIGNIFICANCE TO WEST VIRGINIA

A little noted recommendation by President-elect John F. Kennedy's Depressed Areas Task Force can have substantial economic significance to West Virginians. In fact, insofar as our State is concerned, it could be like a pebble dropped in a pool of water--the expanding ripples spreading wholesomely over the entire nation.

This proposal was for an immediate supplemental appropriation to the Forest Service of \$50 million. The money would be spent in distressed areas on improving timber stands, reforestation, construction of forest trails and roads, small watershed improvements, soil erosion control, and the construction of recreation facilities in National Forests.

Our State is blessed by a variety of natural resources, all of them in great abundance. But second only to our vast coal reserves are our forest reserves. Two-thirds of West Virginia, or roughly 10 million acres, is covered with stands of timber. However, much of this timber is in species not commercially desirable, or of a quality which defies manufacture, or of a volume per acre which cannot economically support its removal.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW--add 1

This is evidenced by the fact that lumber production in our State in 1959 slipped to 351 million board feet--about 86 million board feet less than was produced in 1954. Also, our lumber products and furniture production in 1959 totaled only \$67 million--up a mere \$15 million from 1954.

Under the Task Force recommendation, our timber stands, even those privately held, would be cleared of undesirable types of trees and reforested with the kinds needed commercially. Too, present stands of good timber would be aided through much needed conservation work.

The full significance of what such reforestation and conservation would mean to West Virginia can best be understood by the following facts: By the year 2000 the Western forests will have been depleted, according to government experts. The dependence for usable lumber, therefore, will have to fall on Eastern forests, which currently comprise three-quarters of our nation's forest land and forest production capability.

In time, we have only a few years to ready our timber stands for this tremendous opportunity to become a major supplier of lumber and wood products. It takes from 20 to 40 years for the needed trees to grow to commercially useable sizes. That is why we must press vigorously for the enactment of this little known proposal.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW--Add 2

An immediate benefit of this proposal would be the useful jobs afforded many unemployed workers--the kinds of jobs which, though temporary in nature, would create lasting, long-term job opportunities. Two-thirds of every dollar of the proposed \$50 million appropriation would go for salaries for locally hired people.

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Byrd's Eye View

A Public Service Column By

Senator Robert C. Byrd

Volume I -- Number 2

A resolution calling for a joint House-Senate committee to study the whole problem of fuels, has been introduced in the Senate. This action acknowledges a recommendation by President-elect John F. Kennedy's Depressed Areas Task Force, which declared the establishment of a National Fuels Policy by the Congress would be beneficial to the entire country.

A fair fuels policy would contribute to the growth of this Nation in that it would remove some of the raw inequities that have so burdened our coal industry and our people. West Virginians in particular have been literally taking it on the chin because of the present lack of such a national policy.

Most harmful to our State has been the dumping of foreign residual fuel oil at east coast markets which previously and traditionally purchased West Virginia coal. In many instances, this foreign residual oil is sold under contracts stipulating that the price at all times will be substantially under the cost of an equivalent amount of coal.

The Government has imposed quota restrictions on residual oil importations, but it is like closing the barn door after the horse has gone.

Last year, importations of this fuel took almost 10 million days' work from the coal miners of this country and coal mining families were deprived of \$250 million wages.

Of secondary importance is the fact that foreign shipments to this country of residual fuel oil took between 450 million and 500 million U. S. dollars in 1960. This occurred at a time when the

President of the United States ordered women and children of men in our armed forces to return home because we could not afford the drain of our dollars to foreign countries. Certainly, the loss of gold reserves to pay for this ill-advised importation is a direct threat to the value of the dollar at home and abroad.

Coal has lost certain of its markets to gas, to home-heating fuel oil, and to the dieselization of locomotives. The industry has made major adjustments necessary to live with these evolutionary changes. But the deliberate low-priced dumping of foreign residual fuel oil in the markets using coal, and where coal can do a good job at low stable cost, is the kind of unfair competition that calls for more strenuous consideration than the present governmental policy of "adjustable quotas" for residual imports.

Residual fuel oil is just what its name implies. It is the residue, or waste, product, left over from the refining of crude oil. It is a thick, black, tar-like substance which has to be pre-heated before it can be used. As a waste product, it is an "extra-profit" item if it can be sold. However, its sale in this country adds very little to the pay envelopes of foreign workers. It does, on the other hand, cause thousands of our coal miners to depend on Government surplus food packages for mere subsistence.

The lack of a National Fuels Policy has constituted an underlying reason for the present depressed conditions of every major coal-producing region in our country.

Byrd's Eye View

A Public Service Column By
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

1-26-61



ACTION URGED TO MEET GOOD WATER NEEDS

Water for domestic and industrial uses is fast becoming the most critical raw material limiting the future economic growth of West Virginia. In many large and small cities, clean water supplies are increasingly difficult to obtain. Engineers are now forecasting that within 20 years, at the present rate of consumption, we may be faced with a fresh water crisis without parallel in human history.

Water using industries are already finding it difficult to locate in some areas of our State, because unlimited supplies of usable water are no longer available. In other areas, growing pollution of our streams and rivers is thwarting the establishment of new industries and the expansion of old ones.

The problem is best understood when it is realized that it takes 65,000 gallons of water to produce one ton of steel; about 64,000 gallons of water to make one ton of sulphate paper; that 100 gallons are needed to wash one ton of coal; that it takes 500 gallons to produce one yard of woven cloth, and between 100 to 200 gallons to manufacture a pound of rayon. Today there is hardly a product that can be made without water.

Before World War I, the water supply for a city was figured at 50 to 75 gallons per person per day. Now, because of increased awareness of personal hygiene and more automation in our homes, the daily per person use of water is figured between 125 to 225 gallons.

Actually, we have as much water flowing in our country now as when the Pilgrims landed. But having water is one thing, and having usable water is quite another. The amount of usable water is diminishing at a frightening rate, and this becomes more alarming in view of a rapidly expanding population and an increased use of water per capita.

While much needs to be done on a State and local level to save this valuable and essential resource, the Federal Government also has a responsibility in this effort, because the flow of clean water is of universal importance.

Though the government recognizes its responsibilities in this direction, it has been operating under a ground rule which includes assistance where it is most needed. In cases where the rule applies, many communities are receiving help and some are being helped. However, the ground rule is not being applied uniformly, and many communities are being left out.

of reservoirs. Many West Virginia cities cannot afford the required money, so nothing is being done to help them.

It costs huge sums of money to build a multiple purpose reservoir, but such a reservoir not only acts to reduce flood damages; it also stores water during periods of high flow for release during summer months when natural flows in streams and rivers are at their lowest point. Among the many benefits to be derived from such low flow regulation are reduced treatment cost of the water for domestic and industrial purposes, cleaner water for swimming, boating and other recreational purposes, and for the support of fish.

Thus, the rule requiring financial participation by a local community is often an unrealistic one, because the benefits from stream flow regulation accrue to all communities along the stream. For this reason, efforts will be made to change this rule -- to make it easier for hard pressed communities to have more and cleaner water.

Meanwhile, immediate local action should be undertaken to diminish contamination and to conserve good water.

5-19-6

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Volume I -- Number 20

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

STATE'S TOLL IN DEATHS AND INJURIES DUE TO CARELESSNESS

Danger is no stranger to West Virginia, where coal mining has played an important role in the State's economy. But while safety now receives keen concentration in our coal mines, generally speaking it does not seem to receive the same sharp focus of attention throughout our State. Deaths and injuries due to accidents are taking a high toll among our people.

In 1959, the latest year for which figures are available from the U. S. Public Health Service, accidents caused the death of 1,158 West Virginians. During that same year, over 600,000 of our people were accidentally injured -- almost one out of every three persons in the State!

The plain truth is that most of the accidents which caused these deaths and injuries could have been prevented by a little more caution, and a better appreciation of the need to live, work, and play more safely. In the words of the U. S. Public Health Service, "Accidents don't just happen. They are caused by people."

Not long ago, diseases were the principal causes of death among children. Now, accidents are the chief claimants of these young lives. Why? Because careless parents leave matches, or products containing poisonous ingredients, or boiling pots of water, within the reach of exploring little fingers.

Tragically, over half of our State's teen-agers who died in 1959, died accidental deaths. These were West Virginians on the threshold of life, removed from our midst through carelessness. Who could say but that one of them may have one day made an important contribution to society? The thought of such human waste is appalling.

MORE . . . MORE

As an indication of what a serious threat accidents have become to the people of our State, it is estimated by the U. S. Public Health Service that, in the decade between 1950 and 1960, accidents killed more West Virginians than were killed in all the wars the people of our State have participated in since the beginning of the Revolutionary War!

While automobile accidents lead in the number of deaths -- 390 in 1959 --, home accident deaths follow a close second with 250 for the same year. However, automobile injuries totalled 48,000 in that year, but home injuries took a high swing to 231,000. These figures would indicate that if a man's home is his castle, it also is becoming his least safe haven -- and rapidly so.

Perhaps our faster pace of living is responsible for the lack of attention we give to safety. Certainly, we appear to be less thoughtful about what we should or should not do to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and other people, from possible injury or death. To the old proverb, "Haste makes waste," can be added a postscript: "Haste can make for heartbreak."

The cost of the mounting number of accidental deaths and injuries, for West Virginians, has been estimated in the high millions of dollars. Most of this cost has been in the amount of wages lost, and in the price of medical care entailed. There is no way to place a cost figure on the human suffering involved.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

THE SCULPTURE OF WEST VIRGINIA IS UNIQUE AMONG THE STATES

Tourists coming to West Virginia often remark that the topography of the State is unlike that of any other in the Union. They scan the sculpture of our hills and mountains, interlaced as they are by narrow valleys and short, deep hollows, and they find them unique.

Of course, our State is indebted to the mysterious, though tremendous, forces in Nature for its outstanding physical attractiveness. Many millions of years ago, these forces heaved and shook the earth's skin until the Allegheny Plateau was formed. Then, through the ages, water and wind have washed and eroded the Plateau into the highly dissected hills and mountains which characterize West Virginia.

There are many unique features about our State, some perhaps unknown to many West Virginians. Certainly, they are unknown to most tourists, and a universal knowledge of them may prove exceedingly valuable to our budding tourist industry.

For example, most of the Appalachian Mountain States have their greatest extent east and west. Thus, they include large areas of lowland as well as high mountains. But only West Virginia lies wholly within one of the mountain belts of the Appalachians and has no lowlands as such. Its lowest elevation is the 247-foot mark at Harper's Ferry, on the Potomac River drainage.

West Virginia is the only State in the Union the boundaries of which are almost wholly within a mountain range and its subdivisions. For this reason, its average altitude of

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1,500 feet above sea level is 300 feet higher than any of the other 27 States which lie entirely, or partly east, of the Mississippi River. Thus, for pure and invigorating air, our Mountain State has no Eastern equal.

Of course, six Eastern States have points of elevation higher than our Spruce Knob; but none can brag of marching mountains, such as we have in West Virginia, nor of the number of streams and rivers with which our State is blessed, nor of the natural springs whose beneficial waters have been sought out by man since an ancient age.

Not a square mile of marshland is to be found in all of West Virginia, despite the regular passage of vapor clouds across our rugged mountains. Unlike many other States in the Nation, West Virginia enjoys a natural system of drainage which is total. This, too, makes our State a healthier place to live in and to visit.

But the sculpture of our State is unique in still another fashion. It harbours more salt licks than any other Eastern State, and for this reason it was a bloody Indian battleground before the white man trod its soil. These salt licks have also made our State a hunter's paradise, for many wild animals, especially deer, travel hundreds of miles from neighboring States to get their fill of this vital mineral.

West Virginia has been variously known as "The Mountain State," and "The Panhandle State." It deserves to be known as "Nature's Wonder State."

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

BECKLEY CONFERENCE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On June 16, a most important state-wide conference on the recently passed Area Redevelopment Act will be held in Beckley -- a conference which several hundred West Virginians are expected to attend. The purpose of the conference is to help participants to better understand the types of aid available under the various provisions of the Act.

A complete and uncomplicated understanding of the various aspects of the Area Redevelopment Act can contribute to the development of many West Virginia communities.

Not only will those attending the conference be told by various Government officials how they might apply for Federal assistance for their communities, or businesses, under the Act, but they will be free to ask questions if they feel they need further clarification on any point. The question period, of course, will be reserved for the afternoon session of a two-part program.

The first part of the program, from 9:30 a.m. until the noon recess, will be devoted to talks by Commerce Secretary Luther Hodges, Senator Jennings Randolph, Governor W. W. Barron, William Batt, Jr., and various Federal agency officials who are responsible for extending assistance under some of the provisions of the Act. In effect, this part will be the explanatory session of the conference.

The second part, starting at 1 p.m., and ending at 4 p.m., will be devoted to panel discussions and to answering questions. In this session, too, Federal agency officials will be available for personal consultations on community or business problems to which the Act is designed to offer solutions.

Directly or indirectly, every West Virginian will enjoy
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the benefits to be derived from the forms of assistance offered by the Area Redevelopment Act. That is why all of our State's mayors, county commissioners, members of the West Virginia Legislature, businessmen, and individuals who bear responsibility for industrial development in their respective localities, are invited to attend the conference.

The understanding which these men and women will gain about the Act, at the Beckley conference, will help them to plan for the revitalization of their communities. As each community plans for its own progress, and works to implement those plans, the whole State benefits.

The Beckley conference will have an unheralded but important feature: It will demonstrate to the people of the United States that while the people of West Virginia are not reluctant to seek the assistance, the advice and guidance of the Federal government, they are determined to seek new economic horizons through their own efforts.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

LIGHTNING IS NATURE'S MOST WANTON FORCE

The season for electrical storms is about to start, and West Virginians should take heed of the fact that lightning is a reckless electrocutioner that seeks to discharge its 100 million-volt bolts through any handy "grounded" conductor.

This most wanton force in Nature kills some 500 careless Americans each year, and seriously burns and injures several hundred more. Throughout the world it takes thousands of lives annually.

Statistically, one's chances of being struck by lightning are a million to one, despite the fact that bolts strike the earth on an average of 360,000 times every hour of the day and night. These odds, however, should afford no one the least reason for being careless or indifferent to safety during an electrical storm. A bettor can end up dead!

Sensible people take cover during a thunderstorm, but sometimes the shelter they seek can be a trap for eternal rest. Taking cover under a tree, for example, is akin to committing suicide, because lightning has a special affinity for trees. Standing on wet ground under any shelter is like having no shelter at all. Touching or leaning against the wet wall of a shelter is equally dangerous. Standing or sitting on a damp porch, especially in front of a screened area, is a perfect set-up for a killing stroke.

If there is a choice of shelters, the best kinds are an automobile, a building if the floor surface is dry, or, if caught in the woods, the smallest tree in a grove of trees, because

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because lightning seeks out the tallest available conductor. When outdoors, however, avoid touching or leaning against anything-- rocks, trees, wire fences, or wet wood. Within the confines of one's home, avoid touching grounded metal such as water faucets, because "indirect strokes" have been known to come charging through water pipes in homes.

Lightning is Nature's way of blowing a fuse -- of getting rid of the static electricity that builds up in the sky and on the ground as the earth spins and "rubs" against the atmosphere. This same kind of rubbing action takes place when hot moist air at the earth's surface rises and meets colder air masses in the sky. High cumulus clouds are formed, and inside them the hot and cold air currents swirl and rub against each other in ever-increasing speed, often forming negative charges at the bottom of the cloud and positive charges at the top.

When enormous potentials of these opposite charges have been produced, the cloud, so to speak, blows a fuse. A gigantic, jagged bolt of electricity may flash within the cloud itself, or stroke downward to a conductor on the earth.

A common misbelief is that lightning strikes only from the sky downward. Actually, it just as often leaps upward from the earth. This happens because negative and positive charges are continuously being built up in the ground as well as in the sky, and opposite charges attract each other.

The sulphur-like smell of lightning, after it has struck, has led to the superstition that the bolt is Satan himself, and the "smell" comes from his personal presence. The National Bureau of Standards, in Washington, D. C., explains the "smell" as that of Ozone, a form of oxygen created by the discharge of the bolt. But whether one is superstitious or not, a thunderstorm deserves healthy respect and utmost caution.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

THE OAK TREE IS A SYMBOL OF WEALTH FOR WEST VIRGINIA

The rhododendron is the official State flower of West Virginia, but the oak tree is her most profitable renewable resource. In effect, it is a symbol of wealth as well as a thing of beauty.

Of the approximately 10 million acres of forest land in West Virginia, oak-type trees make up more than 50 per cent of the total. Their total potential commercial value to our State is estimated to be in billions of dollars, for they are among the most important hardwoods of the United States. Currently, because of the under-development of our lumber industry, they afford our State an annual income of more than \$20 million.

But there is a growing appreciation for West Virginia oak tree species. Whereas they were previously sought for mine timbers and railroad ties, they are now increasingly in demand for veneer, flooring, furniture, and for tight cooperage. They are also being found highly desirable in the construction of pleasure boats--for keels, hulls, and framework.

During the past few years, the value of high-quality oak saw logs cut in our State has been around \$90 per thousand board feet at local points of delivery. Red oak and white oak types make up a large part of the volume sold, though good-quality chestnut oak types are experiencing a step-up in demand.

There also is a bonus value inherent in the oak trees of our State. They serve as primary food sources for the white-tailed deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, raccoon, gray squirrel, and fox squirrel. They also furnish some food for black bear, snowshoe hare, red and gray foxes, and bobwhite quail. Thus, as a food source for

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game, the oak makes a contribution to the revenue of our State through the sale of hunting and trapping licenses, and through the money spent in our State by out-of-state sportsmen.

Characteristically, West Virginia oak trees are just as ruggedly individualistic as are our people. Each species has its own likes and dislikes. For example, red oak types which make up 32 per cent of our forests, confine themselves to the middle slopes of our mountains, on southern and southwestern exposures. Occasionally, they occur on the lower slopes, but rarely on high ridge tops.

On the other hand, white oak types, which make up about 9 per cent of our forests, prefer the richer, well-drained lower slopes -- especially southern slopes. Moreover, they occur in almost pure stands, and are seldom seen mixed in with red oak or hickory oak types.

The elite of the oak family are the chestnut species, which also make up about 9 per cent of our forest growth. They stand on the higher slopes and on ridge tops in majestic splendor, preferring thin, dry, rocky soil, where faster growing, but less hardy, types of trees cannot compete for similar prominence.

While our oak tree species differ in temperament, they have a common feature: a susceptibility to fire by the careless hand of man -- a carelessness which each of us should guard against if all of us are to perpetually enjoy the assets of this superior natural resource.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

MOUNTAIN FOLK ARE FAIRLY ACCURATE WEATHER PROPHETS

Mountain folk in West Virginia have been accurately predicting the weather long before scientific instruments were invented for this purpose. They have been doing this by "reading" certain "weather signs" -- a kind of personal method of meteorological prognostication based on years of close observations.

For example, the West Virginian who decides the day is just right for cutting hay, because he observed chimney smoke rise straight up in the morning air, will not be fooled by rain. He may not be able to give a scientific reason for his prediction, but he is absolutely right. Scientifically speaking, straight rising smoke indicates dry, high atmospheric pressure -- a sky free of moisture.

In the Eastern Panhandle of our State, fruit growers say, "A year of snow means fruit will grow." In effect, says the U. S. Weather Bureau, this is a fairly good long-range forecast, because relatively continuous cold will delay the blossoming of fruit trees until the danger of killing Spring frosts is over.

A weather proverb related by mountain folk in many parts of the State, and which is a highly accurate observation of an atmospheric change, says: "A washboard sky means rain by and by." The Weather Bureau agrees with this "weather sign," and offers the following scientific explanation:

"As a weather front, warm or cold, approaches, there will be temperature differences ahead of it. These cause conflicting currents of air, which drive through, in, and out of an existing cloud formation, having the effect of splitting the cloud to give it a washboard-like appearance."

Some people can foretell rain by watching a spider. If it suddenly begins to enlarge its web, it is a fairly good indication of wet weather coming. Insects fly low in wet weather, and tend to seek shelter. Spiders instinctively know this, and when they feel an increase in the moisture content of the air, they go to work with the zeal of a gourmet preparing for a feast, and literally spin away for their dinner.

Mountain folk, to the amazement of Weather Bureau scientists, can listen to the chirping of a cricket at night and pretty accurately predict the following day's temperature. They do this by counting the number of chirps a cricket makes in 14 seconds, then adding 40. Seventy-five per cent of the time, the temperature thus obtained is within one degree of accuracy.

Not all weather "signs" believed in by West Virginians are accorded scientific acceptance. Some, in fact, are vigorously disputed, or are shrugged off as mere superstition.

For example, some of our folk claim they can predict the severity of the coming winter by the width of the brown bands on a woolly caterpillar in the Autumn. They hold that, if the bands are wide, a mild winter will follow; if they are narrow, the winter will be cold.

The American Museum of Natural History, in New York City, says this is nonsense, that the size of those bands merely indicates whether the caterpillar has been eating well or not. There are studies to prove this. But West Virginians who have been "reading" caterpillars, have their own studies to back up the validity of their prognostications -- studies handed down from father to son for many, many generations.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

OUR FENCES ARE HITCHED TO THE STARS

Several weeks ago, a 37-man field party of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, arrived at Gassaway, to begin a 3,000-square-mile area survey in central West Virginia. The purpose of this survey is to determine the exact latitude and longitude of selected geographic locations, triangularly set apart at intervals of approximately 6 to 3 miles.

Actually, these selected locations in West Virginia will form part of a network of similar locations, some ranging from less than one mile in distance to more than 25 miles, and covering the entire United States. Upon the precise accuracy of these survey points depend everything we do in the way of map-making, engineering for various public and private projects, and all surveys undertaken by local surveyors.

More accurate mapping of the earth's surface is becoming a pressing need in this missile age. Over an area as rugged as our State's, however, some slight margin of error is expected by the survey party. This has been held to less than one inch in every 400,000 inches -- or about one inch in 33,333½ feet. But this error is almost entirely erased by "compensation" -- by spreading it among all survey points until it becomes infinitesimal. In a local survey, this margin of error would amount to less than the thickness of a human hair.

The Coast and Geodetic Survey party in our State began its work by first establishing a "base line" between two selected points. The end points of this base line -- their precise position on earth -- were then determined astronomically, by taking "sightings" on at least three different sets of stars. The line itself was then measured by instruments and by tape.

A third point was then selected by the survey party, triangular in distance from the base line. Its position was then determined by precise observation from the original two points. Knowing the length of the base line, and the precise position of the third point, the two unknown sides of the triangle were then computed by the mathematics of trigonometry. Thus, with the length of each line known, the area within the triangle was then accurately computed.

The survey party has now fanned out by selecting and measuring new distant points triangularly set from each line of the original triangle. In each instance, the new points are now determined by carrying forward the chain of triangles. Each new line makes the precise computation of a new triangle possible.

This survey process, called "triangulation," will go on until the survey of the Gassaway area is completed. There are many areas in West Virginia which have not as yet been surveyed, but these will be accurately measured during the coming years. The Gassaway area had not been previously surveyed.

The Coast and Geodetic Survey has been measuring and re-measuring the United States, and its territorial waters, since 1807. It is one of the oldest operations carried on by the Federal government. Its measured points are called "triangulation stations," and are marked by little bronze disks. Removal of a disk is a Federal offense, punishable by a fine of \$250, or by imprisonment.

It is interesting to note that our property lines are stable because precise measurements of our land depend on astronomy. This, in effect, hitches our fences to the stars.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA'S MARITIME ACTIVITIES SURPRISINGLY BIG

To those Americans who have framed for themselves a mental picture of West Virginia as a land-locked piece of real estate in the rugged fastness of the Alleghenies, the awarding of a Government contract to a Point Pleasant shipyard for the construction of at least two ocean-going vessels must have come as a real shocker. To them, that this could have happened must have seemed as remote a possibility as the building of a navy by Switzerland.

Even the credibility of many devout "Mountain State" patriots must have been taxed by the idea that ships large enough to course the world's seas can be built up in our hills. But then, no one should ever doubt our State's true capabilities. In fact, a catalog of them could prove to be a universal eye-opener.

Actually, West Virginia is quite a maritime State. Its state-wide water-borne commerce carried more than 53,235,000 tons of goods and materials in intrastate and interstate movements in 1960.

Last year, too, the powerful, snubby river boats, pushing strings of barges ahead of them, made a total of 357,000 calls at West Virginia docks. By any set of comparative figures, based on population, this represents tremendous maritime activity.

The hills around Point Pleasant have rung with the clangor of ship construction for several decades now. Prior to World War II, the yard there -- the largest in the State -- constructed many sleek U. S. Coast Guard cutters. During the War, this same shipyard helped our country achieve victory by turning out such highly effective military vessels as Mine Planters, Net Tenders, LST's and LCU's. The ships it built served in many theaters of the conflict.

The present contract which the Point Pleasant shipyard has with the Government calls for the construction of vessels that will be 162'-7" in over-all length, with beams of 33', draft of 9'-6", with 760 tons light load displacement, and with twin screws for propulsion. The yard is capable of building even greater-size ships.

The vessels under construction are actually for the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and are designed to serve a dual purpose. Not only will they survey and chart the sea lanes of the Nation, but they also will be used for oceanographic exploration -- unlocking the mysteries of the waters which make up so vast a part of the earth.

The oceans could well hold the key to the future of mankind. It is imperative, therefore, that we intelligently seek to understand their mysteries, and to uncover their resources of scarce minerals. It is equally important, from the standpoint of national defense, that we have a better understanding of the physical structure of the ocean floor and its relationship to land.

It is both timely and fitting that the task of constructing these important vessels should go to our State. The Nation has for too long been unaware of the many natural skills and talents of our people. This shipbuilding contract should serve notice that nothing is impossible for the hand and mind of West Virginians.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT "C-MEN" CRIMP COMMUNIST WAR POTENTIAL

America's "economic secret service" -- a handful of dedicated men in the U. S. Department of Commerce -- are bedeviling the efforts of Communist countries to become industrially powerful in a hurry. In fact, their unpublicized actions, sometimes performed in cloak-and-dagger style, are effectively retarding the over-all war potential of both Iron and Bamboo Curtain countries.

These "C-Men," as they are sometimes called, are in the business of balking Communism's multi-billion-dollar effort to smuggle out of the United States our strategic minerals, metals, chemicals, machinery, electronic components, and industrial technology. They are exceedingly good at their jobs.

Communist countries, despite their vaunted claims of scientific progress, have gotten much -- if not most -- of their industrial machinery and technology from us. They got them in the years prior to World War II, and during the period of Lend-Lease. Some they have gotten since, through the efforts of their smugglers, with the help of a few dollar-hungry, careless Americans.

However, since World War II, when the Kremlin began its studied policy of overtaking countries by occupation and subversion, we have had a total embargo on shipments to Communist countries of all American products and materials considered to be of strategic value. Thanks to the work of the "C-Men," this embargo has been so successful that Communist smugglers and their agents are willing to pay fabulous prices for items which usually sell for a few dollars in this country -- if they can be successfully sneaked out of our country.

The tremendous profit involved in smuggling for Communist countries has lured many foreign firms in many foreign countries into dabbling in the racket. They falsify export documents, or ship our strategic goods to non-Communist countries and then transship to the Reds. But what could be a flood of such exports to the Communists is merely the barest trickle.

When foreign firms who play this Communist smuggling game are found out by our "C-Men," they are placed on a "blacklist" by our Government. This means that they can no longer do any business with any American firm -- a rather severe punishment for those business houses who were blinded by Communist gold.

Recently, because of Khrushchev's demands for the quicker industrialization of Russia, prices paid for strategic items smuggled out of America have almost doubled their previous high values. This has led Kremlin agents to try making the smuggling of small electronic equipment a popular pastime for European tourists visiting our country.

Tourists are told, for example, that a shoe box full of transistors, which may cost \$500 to purchase in this country, are worth well over \$10,000 delivered to Russian purchasers in Europe. In effect, they are informed, for no trouble at all they can not only have a "free" vacation in America, but a sizeable profit as well.

But while U. S. Customs agents usually do not check outgoing baggage, our "C-Men" somehow always learn of such smuggling attempts and are on hand to stop the Communist dupes before they leave our shores. How they come by such knowledge is their secret. It is enough to know, however, that they possess this astounding knowledge.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA SALT BEDS HOLD HOPE FOR INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

West Virginia could be in line for an industrial boom of sizable proportions within the next few years, all because of salt -- a mineral which underlies vast areas of our State in virtually inexhaustible layers.

Salt, of course, is vital to the proper functioning of the bodies of men and animals. It is equally vital to the production of the industrial world. There is hardly a product made today which completely excludes salt, its by-products or derivatives, from all phases of its preparation.

Our age of nuclear fission and space exploration could not proceed without salt. Uranium cannot be produced without it. Sodium metal, a salt derivative, is a vital ingredient in the manufacture of exotic fuels -- the boron hydrides -- for powering supersonic aircraft, and for solid fuel missiles. It also is used in making tetraethyl lead, an antiknock substance used in motor fuels.

The great chemical industries in the Kanawha Valley are located there because of vast bodies of underlying brine salts -- salts which are pumped up from depths of more than 6,000 feet in liquid form and then evaporated and processed into such vital industrial compounds as chlorine, caustic soda, and soda ash (sodium carbonate).

Last year, for all purposes, our country used slightly more than 25 million tons of salt. This is, literally, a drop in the bucket when compared to the tremendous tonnages of the mineral beneath the surface of our State. In fact, the reserves in West Virginia alone are sufficient to supply the needs of the United States, at present rates of consumption, for several thousand years.

For example, in the northern part of the State, an estimated 3-billion-ton reserve of rock salt underlies approximately 1,600 square miles of terrain, in layers more than 100 feet thick. In the southern part of the State, around the Kanawha Valley, the reserves of brine salts are so vast as to defy estimates of their extent.

West Virginia has come by its salt as a result of great geological happenings which took place some 300 million years ago, in a period of time called the Silurian Age. At that time the Silurian Sea, which covered our State and parts of adjoining ones, was suddenly cut off from what is now the Atlantic Ocean.

In the upheaval that caused this cut-off, part of the Sea is presumed to have been trapped beneath the surface of what is now the Kanawha Valley. The other, larger, part, which covered the northern part of our State and areas beyond it, is presumed to have been entirely evaporated by the intense heat which the earth then experienced. Sea life and other matter then covered the salt residue of the evaporated Sea, locking it beneath a growing thickness of overburden.

This salt lay untapped until early settlers began processing the "salt licks" bubbling up in the Kanawha Valley. But not until the early 1940's was there a full realization of the amount of salt beneath our State. The growth and expansion of the chemical industries in the Valley followed.

That this wealth of salt will attract new industries to our State is certain. The future courses of both science and industry make this inevitable. Our adjacent abundance of coal holds forth the added attraction of economic operations in evaporation and production processes.

However, we should not sit idly by waiting for this industrialization to happen. Nothing is gained by inaction. We should go after it through our community development organizations

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

DISEASE RESEARCH DOLLARS HELD INADEQUATE FOR NATION'S HEALTH

In defense of our lives, we spent over \$43 billion in fiscal 1961 against possible military attack. Nobody quibbled over this price. All of us considered it as necessary national insurance, for no price would seem too high to pay for the right as a free people to live in peace.

But while we think nothing of paying whatever price is asked of us for peace, we do not consider the Nation's health in the same terms. In fiscal 1961, for example, the Government spent a mere \$560 million to defend us against all the diseases that kill and cripple us -- diseases which each year take a far bigger toll of American lives than the combined total we have lost in all the wars we have fought.

In 1959 alone, 838,970 Americans lost their lives through heart and circulatory diseases -- roughly one death every half minute of every hour of every day during the year. In that same year, we also lost 259,090 persons as a result of cancer. Other diseases accounted for an additional 201,000 deaths.

Added to this fearsome toll are more than 31,800,000 Americans who are suffering from some disease-caused disability. Some of these disabilities are the painful kinds, like arthritis and rheumatism; other may be mental disorders which, though perhaps without pain, are just as disturbing to the life of the human being involved.

If an enemy air attack were to erase and disable as many American lives, we would mobilize our entire national strength to repel and smite the invader. Yet the funds appropriated by the

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Congress for the support of medical research, although substantial, are still not sufficient to assure the full utilization of the Nation's potential for an attack on all diseases.

Today we spend vast sums of money for space exploration. We know it is imperative that we spend these sums if we are to keep abreast of other powers in the race for the moon. And we are electrified by the spectacular ride of an astronaut into the fringes of outer space. But in the course of human events the conquering of cancer would actually be of far greater significance.

Certainly, the entire world was stirred when Dr. Jonas Salk announced that he had perfected a vaccine against polio. But because the scourge of polio has been all but wiped out in this country, we have forgotten that the cost of conquering this dreaded disease was met in the main through private contributions. The reason for this was that Government funds for this battle were never sufficient for the research involved.

Economy at the expense of human life is the worst kind of extravagance. When so many Americans are suffering from cancer, heart disease and mental illness, it is penny-wise and pound foolish not to forge ahead in medical research. Surely, the Government has a moral obligation in this respect.

But aside from the moral aspect involved, it makes good business sense for the Government to invest more money in medical research. It should be evident to all that the people whose lives will be saved, and whose health will be improved by such research, will be able to pay into the Treasury taxes many times greater in amount than the cost of these programs in medical research.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S CALL TO ARMS EXPLAINED

Within the next few weeks the lives of many young West Virginians may be temporarily discommoded by a Presidential call to arms, as our country firms up her determination to resist Communist threats against the freedom of West Berliners.

This call to service will be in the form of increased draft quotas, and in the activation of some units of the Ready Reserve -- the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The period of active service can be as much as one year from the date of call. In addition, enlistment periods of some current members of the Armed Forces may be extended for as much as one year. Not all such enlistments will be extended.

The call to active duty, however, may be very temporary in nature insofar as reservists are concerned, for the intent of our military planners is to have their places taken by the extra draftees and the volunteers who sign up for regular enlistment periods. For this purpose, draft calls will be doubled, and then tripled, until the strength of our Armed Forces has been increased by approximately 225,000 persons, over and above the strength previously planned.

Nationally, not more than 250,000 reservists will be called to active duty with the Armed Forces. However, under the resolution passed by the Congress, the President can also order reserve units to active training for periods longer than the usual 15 or 17 days, in order to improve their degree of readiness. It also is possible for the Chief Executive to order two or more separate periods of active training during the fiscal year.

According to the Department of Defense, there will be an order of priority in the calling up of reservists. Among the ready

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reservists, an effort will be made to use drill-paid reservists before calling nondrill-paid reservists. This system is said to be the most equitable way of activating the various units.

Draft inductees, under the law, may not be sent out of the country unless they have had 4 months of training. Most reservists have already had six months of training.

Whatever action the President may take with regard to the duty periods of reservists will depend, of course, on the state of world affairs. But the reemployment rights of those called to service will be protected.

Today, we have an armed force of 2,493,000, and we plan, during this fiscal year, to go to a force of 2,743,000. If the Berlin crisis should ease, it is unlikely that there will be any reduction in this figure of preparedness, because the aggressive surge of the new imperialism of Soviet Russia can be expected to become evident in other parts of the world.

In fashioning stronger manpower for our Armed Forces, and in enriching our programs for weapons and armaments, we are stating emphatically to Mr. Khrushchev and his puppets, to our allies, and to so-called neutral nations, that we are a people with the will and determination to take whatever steps may be necessary -- and to fight, if need be -- that we may continue to be free and secure.

We will continue to work and pray for peace. But the surest way to prevent war is to be prepared for it.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

"HONEY" IS A PLAY OF COURAGE AND A COURAGEOUS UNDERTAKING

Out of a mountain wilderness almost 100 years ago, great men of uncanny foresight and unbounded courage fomented a series of events which led to the birth of a new State. They called it West Virginia.

Of these men and of this State, the first known drama of the Civil War -- "Honey in the Rock" -- has been written by a native of Welch, Kermit Hunter, under the auspices of the West Virginia Historical Drama Association.

"Honey in the Rock" is worthy of the time and attention of every West Virginian. Like the courage it displays, it is a courageous undertaking. It is being staged each evening -- with the exception of Mondays -- from now until Labor Day, in the heart of Grandview State Park located approximately 16 miles from downtown Beckley.

Guests are seated in comfortable chairs -- not benches -- in the beautifully constructed, newly-built open-air amphitheater of stone and stained Ponderosa pine. The amphitheater, the pride of Beckley, was completed in May of this year and cost \$157,000. Parking is no problem, for there are ample grounds surrounding the amphitheater, and there are many guides, dressed in Civil War garb, to direct persons to free parking space.

The wire-tight tension during the period between 1861-1863 is captured by Kermit Hunter in this powerful play. The human and historic themes cross and countercross, creating a powerful impact which leads to violence, confusion, and anxiety. The soul-searching torment of many of the people as they struggled to choose between separation of Western Virginia from the Mother State or secession

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from the Union, between the armies of the North or the armies of the South, between loyalty to one's family or loyalty to one's convictions -- all are depicted in "Honey."

But all is not serious in "Honey." The playwright skillfully peppers comic relief in many scenes, fills the stage with beautiful costumes and expert dancers, which add up to a delightful and entertaining evening at the theater.

One of the surprising elements of the evening is the frequent changing of stage settings. Each of the eight sets is mounted on wagons. Each is complete and authentic down to the most minute detail. Coupled with the newest concepts of lighting and stereophonic sound, the staging of "Honey" rises to the finest of Broadway standards.

"Honey" was a big undertaking. It took \$80,000 to stage it. The West Virginia Drama Association collected this money from contributions coming primarily from Beckley citizens.

The play itself kindles a deep pride in West Virginians. In "Honey" they see the recreation of the true Mountaineer spirit. But even more, the teamwork and the hard work, the planning and execution of such an overwhelming project by such a small group of people, demonstrate what can be done by enterprising and energetic West Virginians. The teamwork and initiative that it took to produce "Honey" kindle an even deeper kind of pride.

As we prepare to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of West Virginia -- a State which was "the child of battle, conceived in a cauldron of fire," we should take example from the accomplishment of the West Virginia Drama Association.

It took a play to help boost the economy and moral spirit of West Virginia. It took a dedicated group of citizens to bring about its success. Using the same recipe with the same ingredients, West Virginians can undertake other ventures -- in tourism, in commerce, in industry -- which could redound to the benefit of the State.

The honey is in our rocks if we but look for it and take measures to discover and exploit it!

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

"PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" IS CALLED A RUSSIAN TROJAN HORSE

To achieve the heady promises of a classless society, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev recently drafted a new program as an action vehicle for the Communist Party of his country. It is a program which all Americans should read, for it will dispel any doubts regarding the Kremlin's intentions to take over the world.

Aside from the many "free" things which this new proclamation promises the Russian people in the "next 20 years," it calls upon all non-Communist countries to align themselves in "peaceful coexistence" with the Soviet government. The document, however, indulges in the usual fulminations against "capitalism" and "imperialism," and promises eventual victory for world Communism.

"Peaceful coexistence" is certainly the desire of the United States. As a people, we would much rather spend for social betterment the vast sums of money we now must earmark for defense against a take-over of us by the Soviets. The trouble is, however, that "peaceful coexistence" is merely a Russian-fashioned Trojan horse designed to deceive the free nations of the world.

Khrushchev himself attests to this fact in the language of his program. "Peaceful coexistence," he writes, "constitutes a specific form of class struggle" -- the kind which, he professes, will permit countries to shift from capitalism to communism without a resort to war.

In brief, what Khrushchev implies, with regard to "peaceful coexistence," is that it is a device by which non-Communist countries can be made to submit to Soviet demands. They must do this, of course, if they wish to live in peace with Russia.

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Countries not wishing for this kind of accommodation with the Soviet Union -- like not agreeing to her demands for the "liberation of the people of West Berlin from the yoke of capitalist imperialism" -- are assured by Khrushchev that they will eventually be swept out of existence by the "power of social reformism" -- meaning, Communism. The long-range Soviet strategy, he continued, is still the "advancement of socialism" until a classless society is achieved throughout the world.

This new program by Khrushchev is merely a more sophisticated plan for a world-wide takeover by Communism than any previously proffered by Kremlin leaders. However, because it reemphasizes the Kremlin's determination to "overtake the United States in all fields of production," and thus weaken our position as the leader of the free world, the sheer grimness of the Soviet effort will increasingly pervade every facet of our existence. It is a challenge which we may face for a long time to come, unless Khrushchev decides to substitute bombs for bluster.

Today, we are meeting this challenge through foreign aid programs, through a strengthening of domestic social welfare programs, through the revitalization of our homefront economy, and through a stronger and more determined posture of national defense.

But let us never be deceived by Khrushchev's plaintive pleas for "peaceful coexistence," Russian style. It is a Trojan horse that can lead to our destruction.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WE ARE REACHING FOR THE MOON -- AND NONE TOO SOON!

Throughout the centuries people have negated seemingly incredible ambitions by likening them to "reaching for the moon." However, some new form of easy derision will have to be invented. Today, we are not only earnestly reaching for the moon, but we also expect to get there!

This serious undertaking has come about none too soon, for our total application to this effort may determine whether we remain a first-rate independent Nation, or become part of a totalitarian form of world government. Russian competition in this direction leaves us no alternative.

The decision to reach for the moon is comparable to the decision our Nation made regarding the airplane after World War I. If that historic decision had not been made at the conclusion of that conflict, it would be difficult to imagine at what stage our aircraft development would be today. In fact, without the benefit of our airpower through the years, it is entirely possible that we would be existing today only as a satellite Nation.

Now that the decision has been made to reach the moon, and to explore it, the measuring spoon of our success will be the unbounded support that all of us give to this venture. We dare not be frugal with funds or manpower, for the nation reaching the moon first may control the earth.

The Soviets already have the ability to thrust seven tons or more of payload into orbit. In effect, this gives them an ability to design a space-craft sufficiently large to house nuclear weapons and other kinds of ominous equipment. All they may need,

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now, is the ability to attain a space platform, such as the moon, from which to launch deadly destruction on selected earth targets.

Thus, our determination to make the daring leap into the far reaches of outer space is not without urgency. While it is not being made for war-like purposes, its achievement will certainly deter any contemplated aggression by the Communists.

Our efforts to establish ourselves on the moon will continue to exhibit our respect for human life. Before we send men to that satellite, we will first send an unmanned vehicle around the moon to gather photographic data as to its surface. The intention, then, is to follow this up with a manned space-craft which will circle the moon and gather additional data. Finally, we will attempt to land a manned space-craft on that satellite, and return the vehicle and the men to earth.

Our hope is to have a man on the moon before this decade ends. As of this moment, it looks as though that goal will be reached. Within the next few weeks we will begin static, or stationary, tests of a prototype of the great F-1 engine. This single-chamber engine will generate some 1.5 million pounds of thrust. A cluster of eight such engines may well become the first stage of a rocket that will put our first space ship on the moon.

The thought of reaching for the moon is a breath-taking one. But it is a task worthy of the American people. We are a Nation dedicated to the betterment of mankind, and our venture into space will serve this purpose only. If we succeed in reaching that satellite before the Russians, the freedom of free men will have been made more secure.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

SPACE SPENDING WILL ADVANCE CIVILIZATION TO NEW "HIGH GROUND"

During the next five years our Government will spend an extra \$7 to \$9 billion to accelerate our space efforts. An additional \$679 million has been allotted for the program in the current fiscal year, which began on July 1.

Such present and planned expenditures have caused some people to wonder whether we have lost our national sobriety in this effort to meet and to surpass Russia's spectacular space probes. This, of course, is not the case.

We are told by both military men and scientists that the nation that dominates the earth 10 years from now will dominate it through space -- through a capacity of launching space ships that can circle the globe and fire nuclear warheads at targets on earth. These men should know what they are talking about, for they are the ones who have sent our many satellites into spacial orbit, and who have made it possible for our Astronauts to safely touch sub-orbital levels and return to earth.

However, our space programs, while firmly embodied with military applications, have as their basic purposes the advancement of our civilization to a higher plateau of enriching accomplishments.

The successful launching of two weather satellites, TIROS I and II, is aiding us to understand the basic atmospheric changes which produce our weather. TIROS III, a kind of hurricane hunter, may bring us closer to the day when we can change the course of storms, provide rain for parched or arid areas, and benefit agriculture at a level never before dreamed possible.

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TRANSIT, the navigational satellite, with expected improvements, holds the promise of a revolutionary land, sea, and air navigational system. It may make possible instantaneous, accurate positioning through the use of inexpensive radio receivers. Perfection of this satellite would be a tremendous boon to shipping, aircraft, to surveyors, and others.

ECHO, which was successfully launched into orbit early last year, is still being used for bouncing radio beams. It already is responsible for current development efforts with more sophisticated satellites. One of these is expected to be able to handle more than 100 million overseas telephone conversations a year. In 1960, our combined underwater cable system and radio system was able to handle about 3 million overseas conversations.

Another outgrowth of ECHO will be a satellite which will enable television signals to be sent to any part of the globe. Thus, it would be possible for a Presidential message, or an important American statement, to be beamed instantaneously to every television set in the world.

An additional development may make it possible, by 1965, for us to receive facsimile editions of newspapers from the capitals of the world on our television sets. This could foster better understanding of the aims and aspirations of other peoples, and erase possible areas of distrust and suspicion.

Certainly, our space program is costly; but the promises it holds for us, and the benefits which we shall reap from it, make its price infinitesimal for us and our posterity.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA HILLS OFFER INDUSTRY BEST ATOM BOMB SECURITY

Our scientists tell us that the estimated fatal flash area of the newer type nuclear bomb is from 20 to 40 miles in diameter from the point of ground contact. Thus, the old saying, "A miss is as good as a mile," may be true insofar as a bullet is concerned, but not when it comes to a nuclear bomb. In such an instance, a miss can be as deadly effective as a direct hit -- especially if the topography of the target area is flat.

This fact can hurry the turning wheel of West Virginia's fortune, for the hills and valleys of our State offer the Nation more than gratifying beauty. They offer industrial security as well.

Today, the intercontinental ballistic missile in the arsenal of our potential enemy has a range in excess of 6,000 miles. In this long flight, the smallest fraction of deviation is more possible than not. For this reason, all claims made for fired missiles (including those made by our country) is that they "have hit within the target area" -- meaning, of course, that they have hit close enough so that the aimed-for target would have been covered by the fatal nuclear flash.

Only in a mountainous area like West Virginia could a bomb miss of more than a mile result in almost no blast damage to an industry which may be on the other side of a mountain, or two mountains removed from the bomb's impact area.

There would, of course, still be the deadly nuclear "fallout" to contend with, but not the shattering, burning blast of the bomb itself. The natural shield of mountains would absorb and deflect most of the shock and flame.

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Even fallout contamination would be short-lived in West Virginia because of the unusually good drainage which Nature has afforded our hills and valleys. In all of the State there is little or no swampland to be found. The rains would flush out any contamination and carry it off to the sea, leaving our mountains and hollows "clean" for continuing industrial effort.

Moreover, our mountains can provide natural aid and raid shelters, in that level "drifts" can be excavated, with the natural limestone overburden sufficiently thick to prevent bomb damage.

In the event of a war, the victory of our Nation may hinge upon the security of our industry. If our industrial might can be protected from injury, the eventual defeat of an enemy is certain.

While much thought has been given to the protection of our civilian population, in the event of war, little thought has been given to the protection of our industries. But time is running out on us. The spectre of war becomes more stark with each passing day. The time for doing something about this situation is now.

The businessmen and industrialists of this Nation must assume the responsibility of seeking the best possible means for protecting our production facilities. The hills and valleys of West Virginia offer such protection. Their silent strength can prove mightier than the most fearsome weapon devised by man.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

EAST BERLIN IS NEW SOVIET SHOWCASE OF REPRESSION

If ever there were any doubt that every Communist country is a prison, it should be dispelled for all time by the barbed wire entanglements and the five foot high concrete block walls which fence off East Berliners from relatives, friends, and jobs, in West Berlin. In fact, East Berlin has become a showcase of Soviet repression, an exhibit of human enslavement for all the world to view.

But there is a savage lesson which the Communists will one day learn. They will find that, while they can force the imprisonment of the bodies of men and women, they cannot imprison their minds. As the British poet, Oscar Wilde, once wrote:

"Stone walls do not a prison make,
Nor iron bars a cage . . . "

In all of history, no dictator, or social order based on human enslavement, has ever been able to chain the souls of people who yearn to be free. None was ever able to fully quench the burning desire for human dignity, for liberty, and for the pursuit of happiness. The human need for freedom, it seems, is as much a part of man as any vital body organ. He functions poorly without it, or not at all.

This is attested to by the contrast between East and West Berlin -- a contrast starkly evident long before the barbed wire and cement walls were erected. In East Berlin, as in East Germany, despite two "Five Year plans," the people are no better off today than they were shortly after the conclusion of the war. There are serious food shortages, much unemployment, and a shoddiness in clothing that emphasizes the grim living conditions of the social order under which the Communist masters force people to live.

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On the other hand, there is an affluence in West Berlin that cannot be denied. There is a shortage of labor; there is the hustle and bustle of prosperity; there is the gayness of well-fed, well-clothed people, happy with themselves and with life in general. They are a progressive people.

In this contrast between the two Berlins is an example of what happens when liberty and freedom are abrogated or circumvented -- a contrast for the entire world to see, for liberty is synonymous with progress, and freedom can lead to prosperity and well-being.

Of course, Red China has long been a showcase of terrifying forms of Communist suppression of freedom and liberty. At present, this suppression is taking a terrible toll of lives as a result of famine -- a famine caused, in the main, by the unwillingness of people to conscientiously work under conditions of enslavement and regimentation. Now, bubonic plague, a sister of famine, has struck the people of Red China. Thus, for the greater glory of a social system that denies what men seek most -- liberty and freedom -- thousands upon thousands of people will perish in deaths more horrible perhaps than those which can be inflicted by war.

Let us never forget the barbed wire entanglements and the concrete walls around East Berlin. Let us never forget, too, that freedom is indivisible, and that what has happened to the East Germans and the people of Red China can also happen to us, if we do not strengthen ourselves in every possible manner.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

LOCAL INITIATIVE IS HELD KEY TO AREA REDEVELOPMENT

In every sense of the word, the Area Redevelopment Act is a "grass-roots" piece of legislation. The basic process by which it will operate places great responsibility on local initiative.

After a local community is designated as a redevelopment area, local leaders must develop an over-all economic development program for the area which must be approved by the State in which the area is located, and which must be submitted to the Area Redevelopment Administration, U. S. Department of Commerce.

When this over-all program is approved by the Area Redevelopment Administration, the local community will develop industrial and commercial projects consistent with the over-all economic development program and secure endorsement by the West Virginia Department of Commerce before submittal to the Area Redevelopment Administration for approval.

Many areas already have active development groups. In most areas there are also numerous political subdivisions and jurisdictions. If redevelopment programs for the entire redevelopment area are to succeed, the various existing groups must work together in harmony with an over-all redevelopment organization that is representative of the area as a whole. Such an organization would serve as the prime mover, as well as the contact point, with the West Virginia Department of Commerce, and the Administrator of the Area Redevelopment Administration.

The basic elements of an over-all economic development program include a review of the economic situation, a summary of the problems and needs, the economic potentials in light of resources, markets, and labor skills, economic development objectives, and most
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important, a program of action involving local, State, and Federal responsibilities.

The over-all economic development program will vary from one area to another. The problems and needs of each area differ, and each redevelopment area has a unique combination of physical environment, natural resources, human skills, available markets, and economic, social, and political institutions.

Five broad types of assistance are available under the Area Redevelopment Act:

1. Loans for industrial and commercial projects
2. Loans and grants for public facilities
3. Technical assistance
4. Occupational training
5. Retraining subsistence payments

Even the most enthusiastic supporters of area redevelopment legislation do not expect that the new program will solve all the chronic unemployment problems of all eligible areas. They do believe, however, that Federal assistance can materially help those communities and States willing to work hard for their own economic improvement. This is a long-range program of creative area economic redevelopment -- as distinct from a short-term, anti-recession program.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

BOND PURCHASING PROGRAM FINDS WEST VIRGINIANS IN FOREFRONT

When it comes to strengthening our country's power for peace, the people of West Virginia have achieved a kind of national distinction. They have done so through a rather remarkable record of thrift in the form of United States Savings bonds purchases -- and, this, in the face of grim, statewide, economic distress.

Last year, for example, West Virginians bought some \$48½ million of the U. S. Savings Bonds sold in this country. This represents 1.12 per cent of Savings Bonds sales, although our State's estimated population is only 1.02 per cent of the country's population.

The record is more impressive when one considers that from May 1941, the start of the current bond program, through June 1961, West Virginians put away over \$1,072,000,000 in Series E and H Savings Bonds alone. Their purchases of other series bonds, now discontinued or matured, amounted to millions of dollars more.

In the first six months of this year, despite hard times, sales of Series E and H bonds in the State totalled more than \$25,563,000 -- only one per cent below the State's total purchases for the first half of 1960. In the words of a Treasury Department official, "This is a conspicuous achievement in both thrift and in aid to our country."

Today, West Virginians, together with other Americans, own some \$44 billion worth of Series E and H Savings Bonds. This represents about 20 per cent of the public held portion of the national debt. Economists say that this makes for a solid foundation for the entire national debt to rest upon, since it is in the hands of individual citizens.

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Of course, bond savings spells more security for the savers and their families -- more personal freedom, too, from financial worries, and more opportunities for betterment in the future. But, at the same time, it also spells a determination to help keep America strong by providing our Government with the money it needs for military defense and for aid to other free nations in the current world contest with Communist imperialism.

We are now faced with some of the most critical problems of our national existence -- in fact, with that very existence at stake. While our country is extending a helping hand to economically distressed Americans, through various programs of assistance -- such as Area Redevelopment, Aid to Dependent Children of Unemployed Parents, etc. -- it needs, in turn, the helping hand of its citizenry. It needs a greater volume of Savings Bonds sales.

The fine record of bond purchases made by West Virginians is symbolic of the way the people of our State think and act for their own good and the general good. It demonstrates both a practical and patriotic approach to the spirit of freedom -- freedom from want, and freedom from Communist enslavement.

But now, more than ever before, the purchase of Savings Bonds should be uppermost in our minds. We cannot build security for ourselves and the free peoples of the world by wishing. The price of peace, unfortunately, must be met by dollars for defense.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

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November 3, 1961

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

GROWTH OF SMUT NOVELS AND VULGARITY IN MOVIES HELD DEMORALIZING

The communist threat to our security, as symbolized by the manufactured situation in Berlin and the resumption of atomic testing by Russia, is not the only crisis our country faces today. Our Nation also faces a moral crisis of tremendous proportions.

Today, many of the novels published in our country seem to be deliberately loaded with smut--a necessary ingredient, it would seem, for the attainment of a position on the "best seller's" list. And as for our movies, perversion and passion seem to be the critical criteria for the achievement of a box office hit.

This moral decay is heightened by the fact that deliberate bad taste has even become the national advertising absolute for ascending sales in almost every product. It is given additional weight by the fact that product sales over television seem to depend on story scripts loaded with mayhem and murder.

Cicero once wisely noted: ". . . weakness takes a pleasure to indulge itself; and having imperceptibly launched out into the main ocean, can find no place to stop." We can rightly wonder if our indulgence in smut "literature", in movies keyed to lust and perversion, and in TV shows which offer murder and mayhem for family entertainment, has not already reached a point where it can find no place to stop.

Our young people are not living in a vacuum. They are living in the same daily world we live in. Thus, if we do not resent the floodtide of vulgarity and perversion, smut, mayhem and murder, to which we and they are constantly exposed, how can we prevent their ready acceptance of immorality as a way of life?

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Juvenile delinquency is a complicated problem, and there is often a series of factors which can cause anti-social actions by our youth. But psychiatrists have pointed out that a perfectly healthy child, constantly exposed to smut, can be turned into an immoral and distorted creature.

Nationally, the percentage of rapists under 20 has more than doubled since 1940. Yet police officials state that virtually every rapist has a record of an affinity for obscene literature and lurid photographs.

This relationship between crime and smut should make us aware that to successfully combat one we must strive mightily to eliminate the other. In this instance, what we do to eliminate vulgarity and immorality in movies, magazines, books, television, and in advertising, will pay off in huge tax savings through less crime. More importantly, it will pay off in a stronger, more vital America.

We face enormous economic and social problems, not only in our country, but also in almost every area of the world. We are seeking to solve those problems in the most moral and ethical way we know, using as standards our own high-principled backgrounds.

Tomorrow, however, our children may face equally difficult problems when they assume the leadership of our Nation. Will they have the necessary moral and ethical integrity with which to rightly deal with them? They will--if we face up to our responsibilities and overcome the current national slide toward indifference to standards of decency.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

BEATING RUSSIA TO MOON HELD VITAL TO OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE

Our country is redoubling its efforts to place a man on the moon at the earliest possible date. The reason for this is the fear that prior occupation of that satellite by the Russians may preclude our use of it for both national defense purposes and as a base for explorations elsewhere in the solar system.

Russia's recent action in shutting off East Berlin to all outsiders has emphasized the fact that she can be expected to exclude other nations from territory she occupies first. Thus, if her astronauts reach the moon before ours do, she may claim exclusive territorial rights and bar American landings on that satellite.

Aside from its military value as a ready-made space platform within relatively easy reaching distance from the earth, the moon is unique in that its low gravity makes it an ideal area for take-offs and landings requiring far less energy than those undertaken on earth. Thus, as a refueling depot for space ships seeking to explore, say, Mars or Venus, it would enable such vehicles to carry the larger kinds of payloads needed for reaching distant planets.

For sheer military value, however, occupation of the moon is held to be without equal. Any nation reaching its surface can probably make obsolete any military defense system, including those based on the nuclear bomb and the ballistic missile. This can be done, it is believed, by aiming a missile at an earth objective, and with the help of our planet's strong gravitational pull, smash down destruction with almost pinpoint accuracy.

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The importance of the moon also lies in the fact that it may be a vast storehouse of new or useful natural resources. Some of these resources may be the kinds that can help make inter-terrestrial flights easy happenings.

For example, scientists now say it is entirely probably that liquid hydrogen can be manufactured on the moon. A few years ago, this was not believed possible, because of the held theory that the moon contained no water. However, Russia's rocket photos of the moon indicate that some of the lunar surface may be water.

Liquid hydrogen can be manufactured from water. Therefore, if liquid hydrogen can be manufactured on the moon, it would obviate the need for sending tanker ships from the earth to refuel space ships, or to fuse missiles for flights. This fact alone makes the moon an invaluable piece of real estate to possess, for military as well as scientific reasons.

With the moon as a space platform, an entirely fresh approach to national prosperity and well-being can take place. The need for vast arsenals of armaments can give way to the production of more useful and durable public facilities, such as schools, libraries, hospitals, etc.

Thus, for us, reaching the moon as quickly as possible is not an exercise in the spectacular. Instead, it is a compelling drive to preserve our Nation. The other benefits which will accrue from our reaching the moon first will merely highlight the fact that this effort was also based on the American concept that new freedoms for mankind are to be found in new ventures.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

COUNTERFEITING INCREASING BUT SO ARE ARRESTS BY SECRET SERVICE

Manufacturers of phony money have been working in high gear during the past 18 months, furiously attempting to get rich quick by passing off spurious currency on unsuspecting, complacent businessmen and their employees. Their successes, however, have not been outstanding, thanks to the tremendously effective work of the U. S. Secret Service.

Last year, Secret Service agents seized \$2,179,000 in counterfeit notes, capturing \$1,632,000 before they could be placed in circulation. However, \$547,000 was passed to merchants and cashiers, much to their later surprise. The total of phony money seized and passed, though, was more than double that for the previous year.

Americans engaged in counterfeiting last year increased by 44 per cent over 1959, for a total of 595. This year's final figures may be even greater. But the Secret Service has been successful in obtaining convictions in 99 per cent of the cases brought to court. Nonetheless, the need for closer examination of money being offered us should become a habit, rather than a matter of indifference.

Merchants and others are too often prone to accept large bills in payment for goods or services without close examination, because the individual passing the money looks ordinary and trustworthy. These "harmless looking" individuals, however, can sometimes prove to be the agents for counterfeiters. Counterfeit rings operate in just such a manner.

Last year, for example, a group of counterfeiters started the circulation of spurious \$20 bills in West Virginia, and from our
MORE . . . MORE

State they fanned out to other areas. Subsequently, the Secret Service arrested 32 persons who comprised this ring. All of them looked like "nice" people -- even the manufacturer of the plates from which these bills were printed.

In another case last year, three men were arrested in New Jersey for manufacturing and distributing counterfeit \$20 notes. But they had more than 100 agents working for them -- ordinary men and women who were successful in heavily circulating this spurious money along the East Coast, until they were caught and convicted.

Learning to distinguish the difference between genuine and counterfeit money can spare any person from being victimized. Here is what the Secret Service offers as pointers to help detect counterfeit bills:

1) If the bill offered looks dull, smudgy, or unnaturally white, scratchy, with lines irregular and broken, the bill may be a phony.

2) If the portrait on the bill merges into the background, and if the eyes of the portrait do not appear lifelike, the bill is likely the handiwork of a counterfeiter.

3) If the saw-tooth points on the colored seal are uneven or broken off, or if the serial numbers are poorly printed, badly spaced, uneven in appearance, the bill is spurious.

4) Look for genuine color threads imbedded in the paper. Make sure that these are not being imitated by very small red and blue ink lines.

The Secret Service says that a good admonition to bear in mind is that not all strangers are counterfeiters, but all counterfeiters are likely to be strangers.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Volume 1 -- Number 43

October 27, 1961

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

DRUG ADDICTION IN U. S. SHOWS CONTINUING ANNUAL DECLINE

Despite the efforts of Communist China to weaken the moral fiber of America through illicit shipments of narcotics to this country, drug addiction in the United States has been on the decline for the past several years. This, of course, must be very disheartening to the overlords of our crime syndicates, whose ill-gotten wealth depends on an ever-increasing number of narcotics users.

But, since Congress enacted the Federal Narcotics Control Act of 1956, which provides minimum mandatory penalties for unlawful sale of narcotics, "pushers" of narcotic drugs have found it an easy way to attain long jail terms. This law, buttressed by similarly severe State narcotic control laws, such as that of the State of Ohio, has been the chief weapon by which both illicit traffic and addiction have been notably reduced.

Most significantly, these laws have been responsible for the greatly decreased addiction among teenagers--an addiction which had been on the increase from the end of World War II, and which reached its peak about 1952. The laws now deal harshly with offenders caught trying to "hook" our youngsters.

Heroin is the preferred narcotic of addicts. This drug, which cannot legally be manufactured in the United States, must therefore be smuggled into our country. Red China, despite U. S. protests to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, has been the source of increasing attempts to smuggle large quantities of heroin into our Pacific Coast ports. These shipments usually originate in Hong Kong.

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In 1959, the U. S. Bureau of Narcotics concluded an investigation of the smuggling from Communist China of 270 pounds of heroin over a period of 6 years. Twenty-one Chinese conspirators--12 of them residents of Hong Kong, Macao, and Shanghai--were responsible for bringing this staggering quantity of the drug into our country.

A pound of heroin, it should be noted, contains 7,000 grains. However, for street-level consumption by addicts, drug peddlers dilute this down to 70,000 shots of one-tenth of a grain each. Thus, the 270 pounds of heroin illicitly smuggled into our country represented approximately 18,900,000 shots!

Although Federal and State laws are succeeding in reducing addiction on a nation-wide basis, high rates of addiction still prevail in a few metropolitan areas where gangster elements are still powerful. However, new proposed Federal crime laws, once they are passed by Congress, can be expected to place additional effective curbs on the odious activities of these unjailed criminals.

Of the 44,906 active addicts in our country at the end of 1960, 46 per cent live in the metropolitan centers of New York State; 16.5 in such centers in California; 14.5 per cent in Illinois; and 4.5 per cent in Michigan. More than half of these addicts are between the ages of 21 and 30.

The number of active addicts in West Virginia, in 1959, was 5. However, none has been reported for 1960 or 1961. This speaks for the fact that the criminal syndicates have not found our State a good place for their corrupting activities.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

GROWTH OF SMUT NOVELS AND VULGARITY IN MOVIES HELD DEMORALIZING

The communist threat to our security, as symbolized by the manufactured situation in Berlin and the resumption of atomic testing by Russia, is not the only crisis our country faces today. Our Nation also faces a moral crisis of tremendous proportions.

Today, many of the novels published in our country seem to be deliberately loaded with smut--a necessary ingredient, it would seem, for the attainment of a position on the "best seller's" list. And as for our movies, perversion and passion seem to be the critical criteria for the achievement of a box office hit.

This moral decay is heightened by the fact that deliberate bad taste has even become the national advertising absolute for ascending sales in almost every product. It is given additional weight by the fact that product sales over television seem to depend on story scripts loaded with mayhem and murder.

Cicero once wisely noted: ". . . weakness takes a pleasure to indulge itself; and having imperceptibly launched out into the main ocean, can find no place to stop." We can rightly wonder if our indulgence in smut "literature", in movies keyed to lust and perversion, and in TV shows which offer murder and mayhem for family entertainment, has not already reached a point where it can find no place to stop.

Our young people are not living in a vacuum. They are living in the same daily world we live in. Thus, if we do not resent the floodtide of vulgarity and perversion, smut, mayhem and murder, to which we and they are constantly exposed, how can we prevent their ready acceptance of immorality as a way of life?

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Juvenile delinquency is a complicated problem, and there is often a series of factors which can cause anti-social actions by our youth. But psychiatrists have pointed out that a perfectly healthy child, constantly exposed to smut, can be turned into an immoral and distorted creature.

Nationally, the percentage of rapists under 20 has more than doubled since 1940. Yet police officials state that virtually every rapist has a record of an affinity for obscene literature and lurid photographs.

This relationship between crime and smut should make us aware that to successfully combat one we must strive mightily to eliminate the other. In this instance, what we do to eliminate vulgarity and immorality in movies, magazines, books, television, and in advertising, will pay off in huge tax savings through less crime. More importantly, it will pay off in a stronger, more vital America.

We face enormous economic and social problems, not only in our country, but also in almost every area of the world. We are seeking to solve those problems in the most moral and ethical way we know, using as standards our own high-principled backgrounds.

Tomorrow, however, our children may face equally difficult problems when they assume the leadership of our Nation. Will they have the necessary moral and ethical integrity with which to rightly deal with them? They will--if we face up to our responsibilities and overcome the current national slide toward indifference to standards of decency.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

THE RUSSIAN GIANT HAS FEET OF CLAY

Aside from the intense de-Stalinization campaign which has been going on in the Soviet Union during the past several years -- and only recently made known to the Russian people -- the myth of Russian unity has never been so exposed as it is at present. It is already possible to see burgeoning outlines of political and social ferment in the land of the Soviets.

Astute Western observers of the Russian scene believe that while the unrest of the Russian people is made by the current Kremlin leaders to appear as political disgust with old Stalinist policies -- and with the old-time adherents of those policies -- the underlying unrest really stems from a yearning for more freedom by Russians in general and for a more rapid improvement of their economic lot.

Perhaps no Russian is more aware of this than Khrushchev himself. For this reason he has been stumping Russia in a manner never undertaken by any of his predecessors, trying to persuade his listeners to believe that the Soviets are supermen as to space and science achievements. At the same time, he has been making what can be called "pie-in-the-sky" promises of free food, rent-free apartments, and other free things, within 20 years, as a result of "Socialist progress."

However, neither the gilded glories of Soviet space and science achievements, nor the glittering promises of

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"free" everything in the distant future seem to be appeasing the Russian people. Soviet agricultural programs are still dismal failures, consumer goods are still shoddy and inadequate, and the entire Soviet system of distribution is still one of painful confusion. People still stand in long and slow-moving lines to buy food and other essentials, and, despite growing families, must still crowd themselves into one-bedroom apartments.

Moreover, the Russian people, who can see at first hand the shortcomings of their own economic system, must feel uneasy when they hear Khrushchev utter the strange half-truths and bald lies with which he believes he is cunningly deceiving the nations of the free world. No doubt they feel that he must be using the same propaganda technique to allay their own fears that conditions for them will never really improve under Communist slavery.

Because Khrushchev's promises are basically lies, they must eventually smash themselves against the hard wall of reality. For example, the promise of free food 20 years hence would be an impossible condition to fulfill, for several hard-nose reasons. For one, the vagaries of Soviet agriculture are not likely to lessen because of the tightly controlled system of collective farming and State farming. Agriculture is still the Achilles heel of the Soviet system. In all of her 5-year plans, Russia has never come even close to meeting her farming goals in any agricultural commodity.

Today, 47 per cent of Russia's meat, 49 per cent of her milk, 82 per cent of her eggs, 50 per cent of her green vegetables, and 65 per cent of her potatoes are produced by

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holders of small garden-type plots operated by individuals for their own profit. These individuals work on collective and State farms by day, and operate their small plots on an "after-hours" basis, proving, of course, that private initiative is a far more successful way to attain production, even in Russia.

All in all, a good hard look at Russia, made objectively and weighed with known facts, shows her to be a giant with feet of clay.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW .

A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA FOLK MEDICINE HELD TRIED AND PROVED BY USAGE

In our West Virginia hills and valleys, many old-fashioned remedies for aches, pains, and illnesses remain with steadfast belief in their effectiveness, despite the nostrums and preparatory drugs provided by present-day medical research. The reason may be that they have been tried and proved by usage over the years, perhaps through trial and error.

A few of these old-fashioned remedies have been forerunners of modern medicine. For example, an old standby cure for an abscess has been to make a poultice of moldy bread and water. Today, penicillin, manufactured from mold, is perhaps a quicker, though more expensive way of treating an abscess.

Among our mountain folk, a little wood charcoal, ground powder-fine and taken with hot sassafrass tea, is held to be a good cure for an upset stomach. It is interesting to note that some of the manufactured preparations designed to alleviate stomach disorders contain powdered charcoal.

Coal miners hold that chewing tobacco will prevent toothaches or tooth decay. Many dentists agree that for some unknown reason, persons who are heavy smokers, or who use chewing tobacco, are seldom bothered by cavities. However, they do not recommend the chewing of tobacco as a sure way of preventing tooth decay.

At present, there are literally hundreds of preparations that can be bought in any drug store as aids in fighting the common cold. They can be bought in the form of pills, tablets, lozenges, inhalants, and liquids. But an old West Virginia remedy, said to be an effective cold cure, is to cook a fistful of horehound (a bitter mint plant with hoary, downy leaves) in a pint of water, to which

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two tablespoons of honey and one tablespoon of butter have been added. This mixture is also held to be good for sore throats and head colds.

When it comes to curing muscle strain, many an old-timer in our mountains will mix a tablespoon of turpentine in a cup of warm, melted lard, and cover the strained muscle area with warm flannel saturated with the mixture. This remedy is also said to be good for back aches and turned ankles.

Lumberjacks hold that the dust, or powder, of puffballs, that grow in the woods like large mushrooms, is good for cuts. In fact, medical science is currently studying this oddity of nature, because not only does the dust or powder of the puffball seem to have special healing powers; it also seems to have built-in preventives against infection.

On the other hand, some farmers hold that lard mixed with chimney soot will not only stop a cut from bleeding, but will help it heal quickly. Others hold that spider webs are best for both. Each school of thought agrees, however, that a cut should be thoroughly cleansed first.

A West Virginia remedy held to be effective in preventing the shock reaction of a bee or wasp sting is the immediate drinking of a glass of warm milk, to which a half teaspoon of salt has been added. This is followed by a poultice of vinegar, salt, and flour applied to the sting area.

Of course, some folk remedies, while widely believed, are not necessarily good or beneficial. For example, tea brewed from dried wild raspberries and wild cherry tree bark is said to be a good cure for pneumonia. In this instance, one of today's wonder drugs, administered by a doctor, is a more reliable remedy.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

STATE MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD GREATER USE OF TIMBER STANDS

West Virginia's greatest natural and renewable resource--her approximately 10 million acres of forestland--may soon help our State toward new and lasting economic gains. Two recent, important developments highlight this possibility.

The first of these, and perhaps the most significant, is the new Forest Products Utilization Center, which the U. S. Forest Service is currently having constructed in the Princeton area. The second of these is the establishment of a wood products industry in Mingo County by the National Seating and Dimension Company.

The importance of the new Forest Products Utilization Center to the economy of West Virginia cannot be overstated. Its long-term value to our State is immeasurable. It will be a constant demonstration point where woodland owners, sawmill operators, and wood products manufacturers can study and appraise the profitable possibilities that exist in both good and poor timber stands, as well as in good and poor sawed timber.

This Center, the only one of its kind in the United States, can be expected to encourage the establishment of local wood products enterprises throughout the State. Community leaders and businessmen will also find the Center useful in obtaining the kinds of technical information they may need on timber stands and manufacturing facilities.

Moreover, the Center will be highly valuable to young people wishing to establish a sawmill operation or a small wood-products manufacturing business. From the Center's specialists they can seek advice and guidance on all phases of their expected operations.

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Often, small businesses are hopefully established only to end in failure for lack of proper guidance and advice.

The new \$1,148,000 wood products industry which is being established in Mingo County by the National Seating and Dimension Company is a recognition of the profitable possibilities that exist in West Virginia hardwoods. This will not be a small operation. The plant will probably employ about 200 workers within one year of operation, and approximately 300 workers shortly thereafter, for its furniture, church, and schoolroom seating stock production. Additional employment opportunities will be afforded in transportation and other kinds of services.

Enhancing the contributions which our State can make toward greater and more profitable utilization of its timber resources is the fact that a growing number of our schools now offer workshop instruction in woodworking. Today, 83 out of 312 of our schools with grades 7, 8, and 9, teach woodworking to 5,850 boys. In addition, 48 out of 240 of our schools with grades 10, 11, and 12, offer similar instruction to 1,300 boys.

It is this kind of manpower training, together with the valuable services to be performed by the new Forest Products Marketing Center at Princeton, that will bring about growing interest on the part of wood products industries to locate in West Virginia, and to use its hardwood resources.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

SPACE RESEARCH PAYS OFF FOR THE HOUSEWIFE

In our efforts to conquer space, the attainment of necessary scientific goals has proved to be a boon to housewives. Like most of us, the lady of the house may be puzzled by such research terms as "thermal shock" and "low friction co-efficiency." But, in achieving laboratory answers to such space problems, new kitchen utensils have been perfected that make cooking for the family easier, and less expensive, in the long run.

Take, for example, the greaseless frying pan. In searching for high-temperature insulations, our scientists discovered the unusual properties and capabilities of a substance known as "Teflon." This substance was found to have the lowest co-efficient of friction known to man.

In simple terms, this scientific language means that Teflon is extremely slippery and will not be affected by high temperatures, such as are created when the nose cone of a missile, or a space vehicle, reenters the earth's atmosphere from outer space.

Thus, the greaseless frying pan -- an ordinary frying pan with a Teflon liner -- has come into being. The extreme slipperiness of Teflon makes greasing the pan unnecessary. Moreover, because cooking temperatures are many times less than those which Teflon can endure without losing its effectiveness, the greaseless frying pan can last forever.

In searching for a substance which would withstand thermal shock, caused by extreme temperature changes, our scientists developed a ceramic coating for nose cones. This discovery has now been applied to kitchenware. It has made a previously impossible kind of cooking possible.

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Today, the housewife can cook in an attractive ceramic container, use it as table service, then cover it and place it in the refrigerator for storage. She can then take the container, ice cold, out of the refrigerator and place it directly over stove heat, or in the stove oven, without its breaking.

Advances that were discovered, through the space program, in the treatment of aluminum have led to greatly improved aluminum pots and pans, less susceptible for food acids and water tarnish.

Manufacturers of household appliances are using the development of greatly miniaturized, printed electric circuits to perfect "thinking" kitchen equipment. For example, today's stoves will automatically respond to any cooking instructions set on their dials by the housewife.

Tomorrow, as more advances are made in space technology, alert manufacturers will be quick to apply them to our everyday living. In the years to come, it may be possible for the housewife to decide on the family breakfast before getting out of bed. Then, by setting dials and pushing buttons, the morning meal will be cooked and ready for serving by the time she and her family are dressed.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

MORE RESTRICTIONS POSSIBLE AS OUR GOLD RESERVES GROW SHORT AGAIN

Gold today, as throughout most of man's history, is in short supply. This, of course, is one thing that makes it a metal of high value. However, the current shortage of this metal as a medium of exchange is causing some concern among Government officials.

While our stocks of gold are not critically short, there is an uneasiness that a disturbing shortage may arise for the United States -- a shortage much like that which concerned our Government more than a year ago. The result of that shortage was restrictions on dollar spending and on dollar purchases abroad. The current shortage may bring more such restrictions.

To understand the problem facing our Government, it is necessary for one to keep in mind the following two facts: 1) Gold is the standard money metal of the United States, the dollar being the equivalent of one-thirty-fifth of an ounce of gold; 2) the dollar price of gold is standard throughout the leading non-Communist nations, and the values of most free-nation currencies are stated in terms of that price.

At the present time, official gold holdings in the non-Communist world total \$40.9 billion. The United States holds 43 per cent of that total, or about \$17 billion. However, against this reserve, and subject to immediate call, if the owners so desire, are \$18.5 billion of foreign-owned assets in this country. It is apparent, therefore, that possible claims against our gold supply are greater than the supply itself.

Complicating the picture is the fact that the supply of new gold is growing more slowly than our volume of trade, even though more of it is being mined than in past years. For this reason, it

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is feared that a large, continued outflow of gold from the United States is likely.

While gold reserves do not necessarily determine a nation's strength in international trade, nor in its domestic progress, care must nonetheless be exercised if reserves are to be adequate to meet necessary payments. In effect, this means that care must be exercised in minimizing our dollar spending and dollar purchases abroad.

Thus, the gold problem today has our Government officials thinking in terms of how to make the most effective use of a limited and slow-growing supply of the precious metal, and of how to minimize the need for transferring gold abroad. While many simple answers may spring to the mind, they are not as uncomplicated as they may appear. The world of high finance has many treacherous pathways, all of which the Communist countries stand ready to exploit.

Our Government has met the "Gold Rush of 1960" through several specific restrictions. These include the temporary reduction in the amount of duty-free goods which American tourists can bring back to this country; the reduction in overseas military spending; a requirement that United States Government credits must be utilized in this country, as well as several actions of a highly technical nature.

Those restrictions, however, have not materially affected the current "gold rush," which seems to arise in part from increased purchases by some Americans of cheaply produced foreign goods and materials. Imports of glass and residual oil and steel products are prime examples of how we spend our dwindling gold reserves abroad. Certainly, restrictions against such dollar spending would help in stabilizing our gold reserves.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

PEACE CORPS IS IMPROVING THE IMAGE OF AMERICA ABROAD

The Peace Corps, a pool of trained American men and women sent overseas to help foreign countries meet their urgent needs for skilled manpower, shows every indication of becoming one of our most successful undertakings in the field of foreign relations. Its volunteers are being looked upon, and accepted, as true examples of American idealism and spirit.

So successfully have Peace Corps volunteers demonstrated unselfish devotion in the fulfillment of their duties that most nations are turning cautiously devised experimental programs into full-fledged operations, and are asking for additional volunteers.

In the Philippines, for example, a modest program, in which Peace Corps volunteers have been assigned as educational aides on Filipino teaching staffs in four major regions, will be expanded up to 300 volunteers by June 1962. This is being done at the request of the Philippine government, which speaks of the current work of Corps members in most laudatory terms.

President Alberto Lleras Camargo, of Colombia, has characterized the Peace Corps' efforts as ". . . the finest way in which the United States could prove to the humble people of this and other lands that the primary purpose of its international aid program is to build a better life in all of the free world's villages and neighborhoods." He has requested additional volunteers to help his country achieve improved farm productivity and better living standards in its rural areas.

In Tanganyika, one of Africa's new republics, a specialized contingent of Peace Corps volunteers is helping to build a network of small farm-to-market roads. The initial work of this American

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unit has so impressed the Government of Tanganyika that it recently redrafted its current three-year development plan to incorporate Peace Corps assistance.

Even on the island of St. Lucia, West Indies Federation, Peace Corps members are in rural areas, helping to dig modern irrigation systems, and improve livestock and vegetable production through good soil practices.

Today, Peace Corps volunteers are scattered all over the world, working with local people, demonstrating how to drill water wells, lay water and sewage lines, build roads, map the geology of an area, and in countless other ways achieve economic and social progress.

There are many skills needed by the Peace Corps. At present, persons experienced as coal mine supervisors are being sought for service overseas. Qualified persons wishing more information regarding this opportunity to serve abroad should write to: Peace Corps, Washington 25, D. C.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

APPLE FARMING GAINS IN IMPORTANCE IN STATE'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

The well drained foothills on the southern and western sides of our West Virginia mountains are more than timeless vistas of comely beauty. They are slowly becoming the parading grounds for countless, even rows of apple trees, which march up their slopes in cultured splendor, alive with pink-white blossoms in the spring, and heavy with green and red fruit in the fall.

This year, the cool climate of our hills helped to nurture an apple crop estimated to be valued at approximately \$9 million. Last year's apple crop brought cash receipts of \$7,397,000 to our State. The production this year has been estimated at 5.7 million bushels, or about 21 per cent above the 4.7 million bushels produced last year, and 20 per cent above the average for the decade, 1950-59.

The importance of the apple crop to the economy of West Virginia can best be understood by the following facts: In 1960, the total value of our apple crop was 6.9 per cent of all farm cash receipts. In 1961, it is estimated to be approximately 9 per cent of such receipts. In our neighboring State of Virginia, the 1960 apple crop accounted for 3.3 per cent of its total farm receipts. For the United States as a whole, apple sales accounted for only .6 per cent of all farm receipts in 1960.

Both 1954 and 1959 have been better apple-producing years than 1961. During both those years, West Virginia apple farmers produced more than 6.4 million bushels, compared to the estimated 5.7 million bushels produced this year. However, better storage practices, and the growth of apple cooperatives have given this year's crop greater value.

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Oddly enough, this year's sizable apple crop in our State comes from fewer farms. For example, 48,616 farms in 1950 reported production of 4.4 million bushels of apples. In 1954, an excellent apple year, 15,802 farms produced a record crop of 6.4 million bushels. In 1959, also a record year, only 7,340 farms produced 6.4 million bushels. There are no census figures for the number of farms producing apples in West Virginia for 1960 and 1961.

The fact that fewer West Virginia farmers are producing record apple crops for the State indicates that apple husbandry is becoming a specialty with many of our farmers. They are turning fields previously used for other crops into apple orchards. In short, they are becoming experts in the growing of fruit trees, and indications are that this may be a sound economic move on their part.

Prospects for the growth of the fruit industry are good, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. While U. S. per capita consumption of apples in fresh form has declined from 29.7 pounds in 1940 to 20.1 pounds in 1960, per capita consumption of canned apples and applesauce has increased from 1.5 pounds in 1940 to 3.4 pounds in 1960. This is an important increase when viewed in the light of our population growth.

According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, apples trees need a long period of dormancy, such as the distinct West Virginia winter season affords them. That is one reason why apple farming will gain in importance in our State's agricultural economy.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

RUSSIA AND RED CHINA SPLIT OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE TO WEST

The current ideological differences between Red China and Russia are causing some mean words to be passed between them, much to our delight. However, we would be sorely misled if we were to believe that the vocal intemperance between these two Communist giants could substantially benefit the West.

The things over which Russia and Red China are bickering are of no great consequence when viewed against the forces which bind them together. The basic ideology of Communism remains the same -- the ultimate conquest of the world. The current differences are merely centered on how best this piece of business can be achieved.

These differences do not in any way lessen the fact that the Red China and Russian leaders continue to share the same hatreds, the same suspicions, the same insecurities, and the same ambitions insofar as the West is concerned. Moreover, any aggressive manifestation against either one of them by the West would quickly weld them together again in common support of each other.

The plain fact is that, despite the current name calling, both Red China and Russia know that they need each other. Without continuing close ties with each other, their respective industrial and economic developments would suffer, and their cold war tactics would have to be somewhat muted.

Without Russian financial, technical, and material assistance, the present industrial and agricultural difficulties in Red China could become intolerable to the already hard-pressed masses of her people. Thus, a complete rupture of relations with Russia would be too risky an undertaking.

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On the other hand, a hostile Red China along her lengthy Mongolian and Siberian borders would play havoc with Russian aspirations. To defend herself against possible aggression from her erstwhile Communist brother, Russia would have to divert large numbers of army divisions and much military equipment from their poised positions along the borders of free Europe and the Middle East. The Kremlin does not intend to make this kind of a sacrifice.

Thus, despite the cordial dislike which each set of leaders has for the other, Red China and Russia must remain wedded to each other. Their mutual interests are more powerful and overriding than their well publicized frictions. Any contrary assumption can be dangerous wishful thinking.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA SUFFERED COAL PRODUCTION DECLINE IN 1961

While most of the country enjoyed an economic recovery during 1961, the coal industry in West Virginia had an overall poor year. This was partly due to the initial economic slump in the beginning of the year when steel mill production was below its normal seasonal operating rate. As a consequence, however, the economic rehabilitation of our State becomes more challenging than ever before.

Preliminary estimates now on hand indicate that West Virginia produced approximately 114,592,800 tons of coal in 1961. This represents a decline of almost 4 per cent below the 1960 figure of 118,994,000 tons.

What must be obvious to all West Virginians is that no matter what may be the reason, or reasons, for a decline in coal production, the economic results are painful, indeed. They extend in many directions throughout our State.

In human equations, the loss of this production -- roughly 4,341,200 tons -- means that in 1961, approximately 361,758 man days of work were lost to coal miners in West Virginia. At an average price of \$5.02 per ton, f.o.b. the mine, it also means that our coal operators lost about \$21,792,324 worth of production. At a rate of 40¢ per ton, it also means that the UMWA Welfare and Retirement Fund lost a possible receipt of \$1,736,480.

Nor are coal miners the only ones to suffer loss of wages when coal production drops. Almost 90 per cent of the coal produced in West Virginia is shipped to consumers in other

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states via railroads, trucks, and barges. Thus, transportation workers are hurt when coal production declines, and transportation companies likewise suffer loss of income.

As for the State of West Virginia itself, it loses money that would have come to it from the gross sales tax on coal, as well as revenue from the tax on personal income and corporate dividends. Then, too, within the State, there is the multiplier effect on the general economy as decreased coal production adversely ripples outward to storekeepers and service tradesmen.

Prospects for a substantial increase in coal production in 1962 look fairly good, due, primarily, to improved economic conditions throughout the country. However, better economic conditions will not of themselves bring an end to much of the wasting unemployment of coal miners in our State. Some specific steps are needed.

One such step must be the establishment of lower import quotas on foreign residual fuel oil. Another must be the recapture of markets that have been lost to coal, perhaps through renewed emphasis on the kinds of technological developments which could also lead to newer and lasting uses of larger tonnages of coal. These steps are realistically attainable and deserve continuing pursuit.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

STATE'S FARMERS SWINGING FROM DAIRY TO MEAT PRODUCTION

West Virginia farmers seem to be showing increasing interest in the production of beef cattle, and less in the raising of cows for dairy products production, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Evidence of this trend can be found in the following statistics, which are the latest available:

The number of cows and heifers kept for milk production on farms in our State decreased from 291,000 head in 1955 to 207,000 head in January 1961. On the other hand, the number of cattle kept on our farms for meat production increased from 302,000 head in 1955 to 333,000 head in January 1961.

The above figures are far more impressive than they may seem at first blush, because since 1955 there has been a 40 per cent decrease in the number of farms reporting any livestock on hand. Moreover, the value of all cattle and calves on hand in West Virginia farms in 1955 was \$42,696,000. On January 1961, this value jumped to \$63,720,000.

The increased production of cattle and calves in our State seems to have spurred related economic advances. For example, in 1954 there were 14 meat packing plants, excluding meat and poultry processing plants. By January 1959 there were 27 plants. In 1954, only 371 West Virginians were employed in these plants. By January 1959 the number jumped to 706. Moreover, employee payrolls in these plants totaled \$1,249,000 in 1954, but increased to \$2,741,000 by January 1959!

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While West Virginia farmers are raising more cattle and calves for meat production, they are exhibiting diminishing interest in the raising of certain other meat animals. The number of hogs and pigs on our farms decreased from 142,000 in 1955 to 95,000 in January 1961. There were 311,000 sheep and lambs on our farms in 1955, and only 272,000 as of January 1961.

Perhaps farmer interest in raising more cattle and calves, and less of other meat animals, may be due to what appears to be a changing meat consumption pattern among West Virginians. The following figures lend weight to this thought:

Taking into consideration our population decrease from 1,983,000 in 1955 to 1,860,421 in 1960, West Virginians consumed 42 per cent of their own farm-produced beef and veal in 1955 as against 44 per cent in 1960; 23 per cent of their own farm-produced pork products in 1955 as against 17 per cent in 1960; and almost a full 100 per cent of their own farm-produced lamb and mutton in 1955 as against 84 per cent in 1960.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

NUMEROUS NATIONAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS HELPED DEVELOP STATE

Many people from other states think of West Virginians as a particular breed of people -- thrifty, hardy, self-reliant, and as full of temperament as the changing seasons of a vigorous climate. Basically, they are right. But while the character of West Virginians may be unique in many respects, our "breed" has no origin in any one stock of people.

Historically, West Virginia has been a "melting pot" for various national and ethnic groups. Since the early days when we were part of the Colony of Virginia, our hills and valleys attracted settlers from many European countries who were in search of a better life.

The Welchman, Morgan Morgan, is usually credited with being the first white man to build a permanent home in what now constitutes West Virginia. In 1726, he built a log cabin in the vicinity of Bunker Hill, on Mill Creek in what is now Berkeley County. He was followed, in 1730, by German settlers driven from Pennsylvania by dissension with William Penn's heirs. One of their settlements grew into what is now Shepherdstown.

By the beginning of the American Revolution, western Virginia was populated by approximately 30,000 Germans, Scotch, Irish, Welsh, and English immigrants. Most of them lived in scattered communities in the Eastern Panhandle, along the upper Ohio River Valley, and in the Greenbrier and New River areas.

When West Virginia was admitted to the Union, in 1863, its population of 380,000 included 20,000 Negroes and 17,000 foreign-born whites--principally Germans, Swiss, and Irish, together with

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small numbers of other nationalities.

In the decades after 1890 the demand for labor, created by more intensive exploitation of our natural resources and the subsequent expansion of industry, brought waves of new nationalities to our State. Italians, Poles, Czechs, Hungarians, Jews, Greeks, Syrians, and Lithuanians came to West Virginia to add their brawn and brainpower to the development of our State.

Today, according to the Census Bureau, among the foreign-born whites in West Virginia, the Italians are the largest group. They are followed by Germans, Poles, Yugoslavs, Hungarians, Czechs, and Irish, in that order.

But there is a special quality about our State -- a certain something that seems able to take newcomers and change them from national and ethnic groups into typical West Virginians. It is this certain something that has made the people of our State a "breed" unto themselves.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

HEADWAY BEING MADE IN RESTORATION OF STATE'S FORESTLANDS

West Virginia's mountain forest empire -- the 306,000-acre Monongahela National Forest, and the 96,000 acres of the George Washington National Forest which extend into our State -- underwent substantial restoration work in 1961, thanks to the U. S. Forest Service. The result, of course, has been an enrichment of a natural resource that can be of limitless value.

Employing approximately 100 additional West Virginians, the U. S. Forest Service began, in July of 1961, the improvement of more than 10,000 acres in the Monongahela National Forest, and 2,425 acres in the George Washington National Forest. This timberstand improvement program will call for the employment of still another 100 men in 1962. Employment of these men will be spread throughout the national forest counties.

The timberstand improvement work is being done on a scientific basis. The woods are carefully being thinned and weeded, and diseased and defective trees are being removed. This is expected to improve the stands of good timber for future market cutting.

At the same time, the U. S. Forest Service is undertaking the reforestation of 340 acres of unproductive land in the Monongahela National Forest, and 66 acres in the George Washington National Forest.

In addition, key measures are being undertaken to prevent stream siltation through the stabilization of stream banks. Stream "gabions," a device developed to control swift rivers in the Alps and other mountainous areas of Europe, are being installed in Clover Run in Tucker County, and at the Smoke

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Hole Recreation Area in Pendleton County.

Preliminary work with these rock-filled metal "cribs" indicates that they can help materially in confining West Virginians swift-flowing streams to permanent channels. The prevention of stream siltation can do much to reduce the danger of floods in and out of the forest areas.

The work of clearing slash and brush from the national forests in our State, and the construction and maintenance of fire-breaks, have payed off in big dividends. During 1961, only eight forest fires totaling 28 acres in area were chalked up against the national forests in West Virginia! The Forest Service hopes to continue to reduce forest fire damage in 1962.

An interesting happening in the Monongahela National Forest speaks more effectively than words can do with regard to the 50 years of U. S. Forest Service care of our timberlands. The 60-foot fire tower on top of Backbone Mountain, in Tucker County, is being replaced by a 100-foot tower, because the timber has grown to such an extent that the old tower no longer provides sufficient height for effective surveillance.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

INTERSTATE ROAD SYSTEM TO HELP WEST VIRGINIA ECONOMICALLY

Ten years from now, by 1972, West Virginia will have over 520 miles of new interstate highways coursing through its hills and valleys. These roads will link many of our cities for the first time with safe and efficient means of transportation. By doing so, they will spur the economic growth of our State.

There are few better ways to stimulate industrial and economic growth in West Virginia than to provide for the swift movement of our products for trans-shipment throughout the country, and to all parts of the world. There also are few better ways to bring tourists to our areas of superb natural beauty.

The United States is a nation on wheels. Among our 185 million people there are 90 million drivers who operate 76 million automobiles, trucks and buses on 3½ million miles of roads and streets. In fact, there is a vehicle for every 2½ persons, and 22 vehicles for every mile of road.

In 1961, these 76 million vehicles traveled an estimated 736 billion miles in our cities, suburban and rural areas. By 1976, when the U. S. population may reach 230 million, there will be over 113 million motor vehicles on our streets and roads, and they are expected to travel more than 1.2 trillion miles that year.

Thus, the straighter, stronger, wider, and safer we can make our roads in West Virginia, the more we can benefit from vehicular traffic. For the interstate road system, of which our 520 miles will be a part, will total 41,000 miles and link together more than 90 per cent of the Nation's cities having populations of 50,000 or more, as well as many smaller cities and towns.

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West Virginians have paid dearly for the inadequate roads in our State -- not just in frazzled nerves and inconvenience, and in time and gasoline wasted, but in the prices of everything we buy and sell. We have also paid in the number of lives lost on our often narrow, twisting, and sharply turning roads.

The new interstate roads in our State will not only make possible cheaper transportation costs by motor vehicles; they will also substantially reduce accidents. Because of the safety feature built into interstate roads, the accident rates on those roads already built are one-third of those on other roads with comparable traffic.

In all, the interstate road system will promote the general welfare of West Virginia. And this is sufficient unto itself.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

HOUSE PLANTS LEND CHEER DURING DREARY WINTER MONTHS

A certain kind of cheerfulness can pervade any household during these bleak, wintry days. All that is needed are plants to line the sill of a sunny window. Their foliage not only enlivens a room, but makes a pleasing contrast when viewed against the frozen, tawny brown of outdoor vegetation.

Of course, growing potted plants in the home has been the pride of many West Virginians since Colonial days. Our early settlers cheered their indoor wintry days with potted clumps of lacey woodland ferns, and with sprigs of ivy stuck in water-filled gourds. Some settlers also potted shrubs of rhododendron to delight in their pink and rose-purple blossoms when spring came to our mountains.

The charm associated with having potted plants in the household grew among our people through the years. Shortly after the Civil War, the indoor growing of palm and rubber plants found high favor. These were followed by the fiddleleaf fig, various species of begonia, and the snake plant.

Today, many householders continually seek new varieties of plants with which to make more pleasing their indoor living. Even citrus trees, including orange, lemon, and grapefruit, are sometimes grown in pots, because of their excellent foliage.

Long time favorites among West Virginians, in household plants, have been geraniums and begonias. In fact, some families make almost a collector's hobby of potting

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numerous species and horticultural forms of each of these flowering plants.

Even species of cacti, of which there are numerous forms, are grown in the homes of families who like the challenge of caring for diverse kinds of potted plants. Mostly these are grown for the interesting shape or structure of their spines and bodies, although some are especially nurtured for the beauty of their flowers.

Flowering bulbs are often part of many window arrays of potted plants. Set in a moist mixture of pebbles and soil, bulbs of narcissus, tulip, daffodil, or hyacinth are brought to bloom in the home while winter still grips the outdoors.

For the householder who is a novice at growing potted plants, or for more experienced hands which may be puzzled by the sudden unhealthy appearance of a favorite shrub, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has published an excellent booklet entitled "House Plants," which offers detailed advice on indoor plant care. This booklet is available without cost from my office.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

MORE FORESTRY RESEARCH HELD ESSENTIAL FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

One of the most productive programs of the Federal Government has been the development of the Nation's extensive forest resources through systematic and aggressive research. At the cost of relatively little money, millions of acres of valuable timber stands are being afforded better forest fire control and are being saved from deadly insect depredations.

In addition, forestry research is providing better utilization of our timber stands in both good and poor quality wood. And all of this has meant new jobs, more abundant wood products, and flourishing wood industries in many parts of the country.

One vital phase of forestry research, however, has been neglected. This deals with watershed management -- a complex and technical job that challenges the skill and ingenuity of research men who probe into the secrets of developmental forestry. Neglect of this particular problem is due, in main, to a lack of recognition of its importance.

Few people are aware of the intimate connection which our forest lands have with the quality of water they drink, and with water needed by industry. About three-fourths of all the precipitation that falls on the United States, actually falls on forest land.

Thus, it is in our forests that water and soil problems can and do start, but research can help solve them. Forest watershed research must be stepped up if we are to get the answers to better soil erosion control, more effective flood control abatement, and

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better yields for the home and for industry.

In the Appalachian Mountains region, of which West Virginia is a part, the problem of forest watershed management is particularly acute due to the sharply sloping topography. This problem, if left unsolved through lack of scientific research, can adversely affect our timber resources, our water supplies, our wildlife, and our recreation.

The U. S. Forest Service is eager to construct a watershed management research laboratory at Parsons, West Virginia. Although this laboratory would primarily concern itself with the watershed problems of the Appalachians, its findings would be applicable to all timberlands management.

The budget estimates for fiscal year 1963, which were recently submitted to the Congress, do not contain a request for funds for the Parsons laboratory. Also omitted from the budget estimates are certain other funds which the Forest Service needs for various types of urgent research in other parts of the country. Indications are, however, that Congress will nonetheless move ahead on forestry research by providing the Forest Service the necessary funds.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

NEW PRECISION ATTAINED IN THE MEASUREMENT OF TIME

The clock on the kitchen wall is as out-dated as the horse and buggy, because it is built around an inaccurate concept of time. So say Government scientists in the National Bureau of Standards, who are using atomic clocks for precision timing -- clocks that accurately slice each second into billionths of parts.

Development of ultra-precise time measuring mechanisms has been a necessary correlation to our space explorations. A probe of the moon, based on conventional time mechanisms, could miss that satellite, because the smallest error in timing is magnified over great distances.

For centuries, time has been measured by the rotation of the earth, and by comparing the rates at which the stars move across the sky. In fact, the movement of the earth in the solar system is the basis of our present international standard for the second.

However, in recent years, as measurements of time were made with greater care, it was perceived that there was something wrong with the earth as a timekeeper. It did not rotate at a uniform rate, and it seemed to wobble a little on its axis.

In short, it was determined that the movement of the earth is not a precise enough standard of time measurement to meet the present needs of science and the space age. What was required, instead, was some observable, regular, periodic process which could be counted.

It was natural for our scientists to turn to the
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atom as a source of time measurement. Atoms spin or vibrate at constant rates, and are therefore accurately measurable. Our scientists found, when using the atom for measuring a second, that the degree of error was never greater than one ten-billionth of a second -- a precision not possible to achieve by astronomical measurements.

Atomic clocks may never replace the kinds we now have in our homes. They can't be hung on walls. In fact, they are so large and heavy that they require a room of their own. Moreover, few householders could afford to own one because each costs tens of thousands of dollars to manufacture.

Nonetheless, it is reassuring to know that this new and precise time-piece will enable mankind to reach frontiers of achievements never before considered possible to attain. Perhaps through it we can also learn how we human beings and our earth fit into the larger pattern of the entire creation.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

POULTRY INDUSTRY LOOMS BIG IN STATE'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

Many West Virginians may not know that our State pioneered in the field of poultry meat improvement work. The fact is, ours was the very first state to set up such a program under official supervision.

This program, known as the West Virginia Meat Improvement Plan, was originated in 1948. It is indicative of the increasing importance attached to poultry meat production in our State. It has contributed towards West Virginia's present ranking as the 15th leading state in broiler production, and 11th in turkey production.

Few industries in our State are as enterprising, vigorous, and forward-looking as the poultry industry. Few industries are as competitive. None has strived harder to improve both its products and its efficiency.

Cash receipts from the sale of poultry and poultry products by West Virginia farmers rose to \$29,446,000 at the end of 1960, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce. This represents 27.4 per cent of the total cash receipts received by our farmers.

While the 1960 figure is only slightly better than the 1959 figure of \$29,341,000, it is significant, nonetheless, because the advance was made during a period when the national economy as a whole was declining. Moreover, the advance was made in the face of falling prices on poultry and poultry products.

The efficiency of our poultry producers is aptly demonstrated by the following facts:

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Although the number of West Virginia farms producing poultry and poultry products decreased from slightly over 81,000 in 1950 to less than 44,000 in 1960, the average number of eggs marketed per farm increased from 337 dozen in 1950 to 970 in 1960.

The average number of broilers sold per farm increased from 9,213 in 1954 to 19,229 in 1960. The average number of turkey hens kept for breeding purposes increased from 14.8 per farm in 1950 to 31.9 in 1954, and to 43.1 in 1960.

Approximately 70.2 million pounds of broilers were marketed by West Virginia farmers on a dressed weight basis in 1959. In 1950, 36.2 million pounds were marketed. Turkeys marketed in 1950, on a dressed weight basis, amounted to 6.6 million pounds. In 1960, 12 million pounds were marketed.

All of the above is not to say that our poultry farmers are thriving in their business. Rather, it is to point with pride at their accomplishments in the face of difficult conditions.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

A "Q" LINE PROTECTS US FROM EPIDEMICS OF DEADLY DISEASES

Early this year, many lives were lost as a result of smallpox epidemics in Western Europe and Pakistan, and cholera contagions in Hong Kong and other Far Eastern areas. In the past, these deadly diseases often reached our shores via ocean vessels, innocently brought into our country by unsuspecting passengers and crewmen.

In these days of rapid air travel, the danger of foreign contagions reaching into our homes has increased many-fold. It is now possible for a person to contract a deadly disease and carry it to the depths of our country in a matter of hours, perhaps causing a serious epidemic in our midst. This risk is accentuated by the fact that smallpox and cholera usually require several days of incubation in a human being before they sicken him.

That so dreadful an event has not happened in the United States in recent years is due to a remarkable health defense system known as the "Q" Line -- 372 quarantine stations covering most of our country's border posts and ocean ports of entry. Less than 700 trained technicians, doctors, nurses, and inspectors man these stations. They are members of the Division of Foreign Quarantine of the U. S. Public Health Service.

Because of the effective vigilance of the "Q" Line, there has not been a single laboratory-confirmed case of smallpox in the United States in 13 years. Nor has there been a case of cholera in this country in many years.

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How is this remarkable record of health defense achieved? During 1961, for example, the "Q" Line stations inspected more than 5,607,000 persons, not counting 400,000 persons who were given thorough medical examinations for immigration purposes. In addition, more than 450,000 Mexican border crossers were carefully examined and certified as okay, and 338,000 Mexican farm laborers were also examined and approved for entry into our country.

In doubtful cases, "Q" Line personnel placed 92,000 persons under medical surveillance, and required more than 564,000 persons to get vaccinations or revaccinations. In critical areas overseas, 20 quarantine stations examined 135,000 persons before certifying them for entry into our country.

In all, travelers aboard 32,000 vessels and 65,000 aircraft were checked, and sanitary inspections of ships -- to rule out plague-carrying rats -- totaled 13,400. Moreover, 34,500 aircraft were routinely sprayed as a precaution against mosquitoes carrying yellow fever.

The above figures may read like dry statistics, but they indicate that nothing is taken for granted along the "Q" Line. No deadly diseases are crossing our borders!

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

PROPOSED MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST EXPANSION COULD HELP STATE

There are some areas in our State where the land slopes sharply and the soil is thin amidst rock outcroppings, and where human existence and economic growth are grimly challenged. Yet, despite the topographical and soil limitations of such areas, they can be made to produce substantial economic benefits.

In these areas a new land management program is needed to halt a steadily declining economy. Such a program is being offered by the U. S. Forest Service, which has recommended a westward expansion of the Monongahela National Forest into Braxton, Fayette, Lewis, and a few other counties.

Lest we forget, the land now encompassed by the Monongahela National Forest was in very poor condition when it was taken over by the Forest Service some 40 years ago. It was land that had suffered years of soil erosion, that had generally been poorly managed, and that had been blighted by forest fires. Now this land is a highly valuable, multi-purpose asset of increasing and enduring worth.

Should the Forest Service be successful in obtaining a westward expansion of the Monongahela National Forest -- and it is seeking an initial 550,000 acres for this purpose -- it would immediately undertake rehabilitation, restoration, protection, and development work projects.

These projects would include tree planting, timber stand improvement, road construction, recreation development, wildlife food and habitat development, intensified fire control, stream channelling and soil stabilization. At the beginning, these projects would

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furnish employment for about 150 persons. As the work intensifies, as many as 500 persons could be employed.

The labor force would consist of workers in woods, shop workers, truck drivers, as well as office workers with clerical and typing skills. Also, private employment would rise with increased public recreational, hunting, and fishing uses, and with availability for exploitation of other forest resources.

Over the years, recreational uses of the Monongahela National Forest have grown by leaps and bounds. Over a million visits were made in 1960 -- up 72 per cent over 1950. More than half of these visits were made by hunters and fishermen. But all of the recreational visits generated a multi-million-dollar-a-year business locally.

Good judgment indicates that similar benefits could be expected locally in the areas that would make up the proposed westward extension of the Monongahela National Forest. These, added to all the other benefits that would be achieved through planned management, could significantly advance economic growth and employment opportunities in our State.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

FOREIGN TRADE FAIRS HELP SELL AMERICAN PRODUCTS TO THE WORLD

The U. S. Government has found that one of the best ways to help manufacturers sell their products abroad is by presenting them in official exhibitions at trade fairs around the world. For many exhibitors, the results have been gratifying, to say the least.

Last year there were 13 trade fairs in which the United States had official exhibitons. Each included the products of at least 90 American manufacturers. However, the selections in each exhibit were specifically chosen with respect to the needs of the host country. A greater volume of orders has often resulted.

For example, last spring in Cairo, Egypt, along with farm machinery, one of our exhibits in the American Pavilion included various kinds of insecticides. During the fair, individuals placed floor orders for \$194,712 worth of farm machinery. However, at the end of the fair, the Egyptian Government bought \$2 million worth of one of the insecticides to fight an infestation of "army worms" that were endangering that country's cotton crop.

Similarly, because of the intense interest of Polish miners in mine safety techniques, a variety of safety equipment -- resuscitators, fire extinguishers, hazard warning devices, burn kits, nozzles, pumps and firefighters' suits -- was shown in the U. S. exhibition last spring in Pozan, Poland. Total floor sales amounted to \$105,000. The Polish Government has shown interest in many of the exhibited items.

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These overseas exhibits do more than sell the American way of life to the varied and diverse peoples of the world. They also serve to gain understanding of, and respect for, American technological progress. Moreover, they effectively refute the Soviet Union's claim that our economy is creating nothing but war material.

U. S. exhibits abroad are arranged by the U. S. Department of Commerce's Office of International Trade Fairs. Since 1954, the OITF has presented 110 exhibitions in locations ranging from Vienna, Brussels, London, and Berlin, to such exotic centers as Phnom Penh in Cambodia, and Mogadiscio in Somalia. It is estimated that more than 75 million people have seen them.

In 1961, more than 1,150 U. S. manufacturers participated in 13 U. S. overseas exhibitions. This year, 16 such exhibitions are scheduled. To date, no West Virginia manufacturer has participated in these trade fairs. Certainly, there are many products produced in our State which would be of interest to people in other countries. We have much to gain by making our products known in the markets of the world.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

RAMPS ARE RAISING THEIR HEADS IN OUR MOUNTAINOUS COVES

To most mountain folks, the head of a ramp poking through a retreating blanket of snow is a sure symbol of the end of a long, hard winter. The sight stirs thoughts of pleasant things to come -- trout fishing, wild-strawberry picking, and the like.

This first harbinger of Spring is especially prevalent in West Virginia's Appalachian highlands. Here it seeks out the rich, deep loam of coves in which to sink its roots. Here, too, it thrives as "Spring tonic" for the "tired blood" of man and beast.

For countless generations, mountain folk in West Virginia have looked forward to digging ramps soon after the snow melts. "They do you good and help you too," they solemnly declare. Actually, because they are rich in vitamins and minerals, ramps fill a direct need in the fare of simple diets.

Although the ramp is a member of the lily family, there is a vast odoriferous difference between the two. Whereas the lily is blessed with a sweet fragrance, the ramp has an aroma of onion and garlic combined.

Some folks call the ramp a wild leek. Others say it is nothing of the kind, stoutly maintaining that it is something extra special in nature. None, however, would deny that the ramp has a flavor all its own -- a flavor, some brag, that lurks on one's breath "for weeks to come."

The "clinging quality" of ramps is best related in a mountain yarn about a pig that strayed out of its pen one fine

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Spring day, and spent several hours grubbing and rooting in a ramp patch. "That animal smelled something terrible after that," the yarn goes on, "and when it was butchered in the Fall, eating its meat was like chewing raw onions."

But despite such stories, ramps have brought a certain kind of epicurean fame to our State. For several years now, conservation leaders, writers, gourmets, and others, have gathered at Spruce Knob, usually in late April, to indulge in "ramp feeds" -- a cook-out where ramp recipes are the order (and odor) of the day. Of course, tall tales about ramps are part of the festivities, and they help to give the "delicate morsel of West Virginia's highlands" immortal fame.

Mountain folk don't have fancy recipes for ramps. They often boil them with a piece of slab bacon, or chop them up and fry them with eggs. For the uninitiated, however, suffice it to say that ramps may be eaten raw, much like scallions, or chipped into garden salads. But in any event, partaking of ramps would prove to be a memorable occasion for the novice.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

INVENTIONS AND IDEAS ARE NEEDED BY OUR GOVERNMENT

It has been said that the spark of inventive genius is inherent in every man. Our Government, however, would like to see many such sparks burst into creative flames. In the cold war atmosphere of today, an idea or an invention that might strengthen our national defense could be of tremendous significance to the security of our nation.

In past years, most of the inventions that have had momentous bearing on our national defense were created by private citizens not connected with the Government. Ericsson, a private engineer, built the Monitor, the first revolving turret warship. Colt, while a seaman, whittled from wood the model for the first revolver.

Independent inventors devised the first submarine, the torpedo, the screw propeller, the repeating rifle, and the machine gun. The idea of the atomic bomb followed privately formulated concepts of atomic fission.

Men who use tools in their everyday jobs have devised improvements which have made those tools more proficient. Within the armed services, important military innovations have been suggested by men who have never seen the inside of a research laboratory.

Back in 1940, when the wars in Europe and Asia were threatening to engulf the United States, persons in all walks of life were literally inundating the armed services with ideas and inventions to improve our military position. Because of a lack of personnel qualified to make evaluations of submitted material, almost

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everything proposed was either ignored or shunted aside.

To overcome this situation, the Government established the National Inventors Council in the U. S. Department of Commerce. Right from the start, the work of the Council has been effective. For example, when supplies of kapok were cut off during the war, a civilian offered the suggestion that the floss of the milkweed would make a suitable substitute. The Council took this suggestion seriously. As a result, milkweed floss was used to stuff life preservers and aviators' clothing.

The Council also took to heart the suggestion of a scoutmaster who proposed that a small mirror be included in life rafts. That little mirror, used for sun signals, saved the lives of many seamen and aviators who were adrift at sea.

Now ideas and inventions which would improve the techniques of defense are needed once again. Imaginative laymen may come up with simple solutions to perplexing problems. In any event, the National Inventors Council is receptive to all suggestions and inventions of defensive value. The Agency's address is: Washington 25, D. C.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

EXPANSION OF EXPORT MARKETS VITAL TO WEST VIRGINIA'S ECONOMY

The imperative need we face in our State is to create new job opportunities. Foreign trade offers one such possibility. It is a field of activity that has been barely tapped by West Virginians.

Nationally, export sales tally up to more than \$20 billion a year, and are said to give employment to 3.1 million Americans. In 1960, West Virginia exports amounted to \$263.4 million, and gave full or partial employment to an estimated 112,189 of our people, or approximately one-fifth of the State's employed labor force.

Thus, while West Virginia's participation in the total export market is small, percentage-wise, it nonetheless is significant. Coal exports alone, in 1960, amounted to 17 per cent of that year's production of our mines.

Our chemical and allied products industries exported over 7 per cent of their total value of shipments in 1960; our fabricated metal products companies exported over 3 per cent of their production; and our stone, clay, and glass products industries exported nearly 3 per cent of their total 1960 production.

Export sales of West Virginia's farm products have been growing. In 1960, about 2,700 of our State's farmers and farm workers directly benefited from such sales. This figure represents about 3.7 per cent of West Virginia's total farm labor force.

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A few years ago, less than one per cent of our farm labor force benefited from foreign sales of our farm products.

That West Virginia's export trade could experience a substantial expansion is altogether possible and highly desirable. In a goodly number of foreign countries, incomes are rising. An active need for the products of West Virginia could be encouraged in such countries.

In addition, over the past few years, many new nations have been born. They may have little or no knowledge of what our industries, mines, and farms could supply them with. It is also possible that some of the old and established nations are unacquainted with the products of our State.

To help remedy this situation, the U. S. Department of Commerce plans to ask West Virginia exporters to attempt a 10-per-cent increase in their foreign shipments this year. Also, the Department is considering sending "missionaries" into our State to advise businessmen on how to promote their products in the export market.

Increasing our exports is a challenge we cannot afford to overlook. It is a challenge we must meet in behalf of our unemployed, for it offers us a sound opportunity to broaden our industrial base.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

SPACE AGE MEDICAL RESEARCH IS BENEFITING ALL MANKIND

To many former invalids and bedridden persons, the millions of dollars our country is spending on space age medical research is worth every penny. In seeking ways to make manned lunar expeditions possible, we are inventing devices which can ease pain and restore chronically ill persons to normal activity.

For example, the pressurized space suit is designed to maintain normal blood circulation during stresses in space flight. Our doctors are now using it to restore the necessary tone of blood vessels in bedridden victims of strokes, and to help normalize their blood pressure. Many stroke victims so treated are now able to walk and to work.

Space scientists have developed a miniaturized heart stimulator powered by tiny batteries. The entire device is about the size of a small match box. It can be sewn into a heart patient's body to provide his heart with rhythm-control while he goes on living normally. Today, hundreds of persons with certain heart defects literally owe their lives to this space age technology.

The wonderful developments of our space exploration program never seem to cease. An intense point of light, a million times brighter than the sun, has become a unique surgical tool for delicate tissue operations. It already has been used successfully in eye operations and in brain surgery. It also has been used to "weld" torn nerves.

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Soundless living may soon be a thing of the past for deaf persons, thanks to space science. In several instances, hearing in deaf persons has been restored via an operation and surgical implant of a tiny electronic device. A variation of this device has also been used as an artificial larynx, which permits people to speak who otherwise could not.

Painless dentistry without the use of drug injections is another space science benefit. Pinpoint-size ball bearings, devised for satellite equipment, have made possible new, ultra-fast dental drills with speeds exceeding 250,000 revolutions a minute.

"Instant care" is now being afforded some hospital patients through "sensors" developed for space flight medical research. These devices, attached to astronauts, measure heartbeats, brain waves, blood pressure, and breathing rates, and record them by radio to instruments on earth. Similar devices attached to hospital patients now instantly note any changing condition and flash a warning to a nurse.

Space science benefits are to be found in all phases of home living. But they are indeed exciting and more fully appreciated when they are related to our physical well-being.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

UNCLE SAM IS HELPING TO MAKE THE CLOTHES WE BUY FIT BETTER

A little known Government activity is being highly successful in helping to provide the American people with better fitting ready-made apparel. It is also significantly reducing the number of "returns" to retailers, and saving consumers and retailers costly alterations.

For the past several years, the Commodity Standards Division of the U. S. Department of Commerce has been compiling scientific data on body sizes to assist the apparel industry in formulating reliable size standards. Until fairly recently, many apparel items have been sized by manufacturers on totally unscientific sizing standards.

For example, until the Department of Commerce study on boys sizes was published, a size-14 pair of trousers was supposed to fit a 14-year-old boy. This was not always the case, because boys of the same age vary considerably in height and weight.

The Department of Commerce revised sizes for boys take into account height as well as weight. Now, size-14 is supposed to fit all boys five feet-one inch tall. Moreover, the size is supposed to come in four categories: Slim, regular, husky, and robust.

Retailers have been plagued by the variance to be found in dresses of the same indicated size shipped to them by different manufacturers. Mail order house shipping women, say, size-12 dresses, may have many of the garments returned by unhappy customers as not being the size ordered.

MORE MORE

Now, under the guidance of the Department of Commerce, the old systems of sizing are giving way to new and better systems. Manufacturers are voluntarily providing children, pre-teens, teenagers, and men and women with sizes defined in terms of body measurements -- height, weight, bust, waist, and hip.

The Commodity Standards Division of the U. S. Department of Commerce is also working to end the vast differences in category sizes. Today, a woman wearing a size-12 dress may have to buy a size-36 sweater, a size-26 skirt, and a size-34 blouse. Under the proposed new sizing system, all of these items of apparel would be sized similarly. Thus, a woman who takes a size-12 dress would know that all other clothes items for her would also be size 12.

Standardizing sizes would not only simplify both purchases and sales, but would also foster new pattern ideas without restricting style or fit, according to Commerce Department officials. Leading industry proponents of scientific sizing agree. They see new styling possibilities -- the creation of optical illusions -- in emphasizing or de-emphasizing figure differences which would be found in the new sizes of ready-to-wear clothes.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

TAILOR-MADE LIVESTOCK IS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT'S GOAL

A long time ago, the U. S. Department of Agriculture proved that science can cooperate with Nature and breed almost any desired character into a plant if given enough time. This work has been highly beneficial for both farmers and consumers. It has made our agriculture production the greatest on earth.

In recent years, the Department has been proving that livestock can be bred to meet certain conditions and special needs. In this research, as in its work with plants, Agriculture is being eminently successful.

The Beltsville Small White Turkey, for example, was developed several years ago to meet the requirements of the modern housewife. Our ladies wanted smaller turkeys to fit smaller refrigerators, smaller ovens, and smaller families. Last year, approximately 12 million of these small turkeys were produced out of a total turkey production of about 103 million birds.

Now, through the miracle of research, Government scientists are attempting to develop chickens that will yield a larger area of lean white breast meat. The demand for white chicken meat is increasing because it is a favorite of many people. Doctors also recommend it for bedridden patients because it is easy to digest

Consumer demand for less fat and more lean cuts of pork has led to the development of a streamlined hog. The animal has more total body weight in choice cuts -- hams, bacon, shoulders, and shoulder butts. In effect, this hog yields on the average 3.2 pounds more lean meat and 9.6 pounds less fat than did its ancestors.

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Breeding certain qualities into an animal is often a long and costly process. It took the U. S. Department of Agriculture more than 16 years to make the meat-type hog a commercial reality. But the savings to the family budget has more than justified the research expenditures. Now, about 35 per cent of the hogs slaughtered for market are the so-called meat-type.

The lamb and mutton we eat are also from tailor-made sheep -- the Columbia breed, for the most part, although there are now improvements on this "improved" animal. But the Columbia, which accounts for about 60 per cent of the sheep currently on range, economically produces more meat and more wool than any other sheep widely used for market purposes.

No farm animal has undergone as great a transformation as has the cow. It has been bred to produce 25 per cent more milk and butterfat; to produce larger meat yields and less fat; to withstand either very hot or very cold weather well; and to be more disease resistant than its forebearers. To date, only the moo of the cow remains unchanged. There is yet no economic reason for science to alter it.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

RESEARCH MAKES COAL INDUSTRY FUTURE LOOK BRIGHT

The economy of the coal industry may soon be in for a big boost. In fact, the future for coal looks increasingly bright. There are very valid reasons for this optimism: The imaginative and dynamic coal research and development programs being conducted under the auspices of the Interior Department's Office of Coal Research.

With an exemplary signleness of purpose, the Office of Coal Research has been competently stimulating a search for new uses of coal -- uses which would require sizable production increases from our mines, and which would also mean employment opportunities for hundreds of persons in West Virginia as well as in other coal-producing states.

"Project Gasoline" is typical of this search for new coal uses. An evaluation contract for this project was recently initiated by the Office of Coal Research. In this instance, new process methods would be utilized together with a new catalyst to manufacture gasoline and related chemicals, as well as char, from high-volatile bituminous coal.

The success of this project would have tremendous impact on the coal industry. It would provide a new market for the use of up to 3 million tons of coal annually for one commercial-scale plant. Several such plants could mean the utilization of 25 million or more tons of coal per year.

"Project Bootstrap" is another research and development program which appears to have great economic and technical

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promise for the production of chemicals and synthetic fuels from coal. In this project, hydrogen will be used to "up-grade" coal through an electrical process. At the same time, attempts will be made to introduce hydrogen into the chemical compounds which constitute coal. An initial commercial-sized plant using this process -- if it proves commercially feasible -- would provide an additional market for coal of up to 2 million tons annually.

Then, too, the Office of Coal Research has signed a contract for the development of processes and methods to prepare, transport, and use pulverized ultrafine coal -- each particle of which would be equivalent to the diameter of a human hair.

Ultrafine coal could be used in many processes, such as gasification, liquification, and chemical manufacturing, and could boost consumer demand for coal by several million tons annually.

There are several other research and development contracts which the Office of Coal Research is about to finance. Out of these projects, we can be certain, will come new vigor for the coal industry, and a new appreciation for the coal resources of the Nation.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE GETS BETTER ALL THE TIME

The enslaved citizens of Communist countries would turn green with envy if they were permitted to read recent U. S. Census Bureau reports on facilities found in American households in the 1960 U. S. Census of Housing. These people would find that while they seem to have less of everything, the American way of life gets better all the time.

For example, among the 53 million U. S. households in 1960, more than 43½ million had radios, 46 million had television sets, and nearly 42 million had telephones available in or near their housing units. Ten years earlier, about 40½ million American households had radio sets, and 5 million households had television sets.

Thus, in a 10-year period from 1950 to 1960, the number of U. S. households with radio sets increased by 8 million and the number of households with television sets increased by 41 million. The 1950 Census of Housing did not include an inquiry on telephones, but Government officials nonetheless say that the 10-year-increase was sizeable.

In Communist countries, the washing of clothes is almost entirely a back-breaking task for the woman. She generally has only a scrub-board and tub. Her American counterpart is pretty much free of this kind of household drudgery.

About 39 million U. S. households have washing machines, and about 9 million have clothes dryers, according to the 1960 Census report. Among households with washing machines, 17.4 have

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wringer or spinner type, 20.7 have semi-automatic or automatic machines, and 1 million have washer-dryer combinations.

Then, too, we are also doing something about cooling our homes in the summer. In 1950, air-conditioning units for homes were practically a new item on the market. But by 1960, about 6' million American households had air-conditioning units. Current sales trends indicate that at least three times as many households will have such equipment by 1970.

Owning one's own home is pretty much an unheard of thing in a Communist country. In the U.S.A., of the 53,023,875 occupied housing units enumerated in the 1960 Census, 32,796,720 homes -- or 61.9 per cent -- were owner occupied. In short, more than 6 out of every 10 American families own their own homes.

Communist leaders have a strange answer for this great disparity in living standards between their people and ours. They say their people prefer to concentrate on building a "stronger" State, while our people concentrate on acquiring more creature comforts. One wonders what makes a "stronger" State -- enforced drudgery or freedom to acquire and enjoy more leisure through the ability to purchase "creature comforts."

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

UNCLE SAM'S BUG FILE REDUCES "CRIME" IN AGRICULTURE

Most Americans know how the FBI fingerprint file in Washington, D. C., helps state and local police forces fight crime. Few are aware, however, of a bug file maintained in the Nation's capital to help fight "crime" in agriculture -- damaging infestations of crops and livestock by bugs.

"Crime" in agriculture is far more costly to Americans each year than crime in the streets of our cities. It is imperative, therefore, that any bug causing a harmful infestation be identified as quickly as possible so that control measures can be taken against it.

To provide for the immediate identification of any bug, more than 14 million specimens of insects from all parts of the world are housed in a collection in the Natural History Museum of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C. Some 400,000 species, believed to be approximately 50 per cent of all described insects, are represented.

As an illustration of why insect identification is so necessary, an incident that took place in Coral Gables, Florida, a few years ago, may be related. A home-grown grapefruit, cut open, was found infested by maggots. The house wife took the fruit to the Dade County agriculture agent. Within a few days, it got to the Smithsonian. The maggot was identified as the Mediterranean fruit fly.

About \$10 million was spent on an immediate eradication program by State and Federal agencies to keep the infestation from spreading to commercial citrus groves in Florida and elsewhere in

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the country. This quick work saved fruit and fruit trees worth countless millions of dollars.

In 1954, in Hampshire County, West Virginia, a bug resembling the Japanese beetle was found to be damaging lawns, stands of winter grains, and bean crops. Sent to the Smithsonian, the bug was identified as the European Chafer -- an insect with an enormous appetite.

Not only was the infestation contained in Hampshire County, but it was quickly eradicated as well. However, Federal entomologists still wonder how the bug got into the Mountain State. The European Chafer had not previously been seen south of New Jersey.

Last year, about 330,000 insects were received by the Smithsonian for identification. Some came from farmers and householders; others from local and State agriculture and health organizations; thousands also came from foreign governments lacking trained personnel for insect identification work.

The Smithsonian bug collection grows with each passing year. In 1961, about 73,000 insect specimens were added. These additions please Government entomologists. It helps them wage a more effective war against "crime" in agriculture.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

HURRICANE SEASON DUE TO ARRIVE SOON

Within the next few weeks, the skies over the Caribbean Sea, or the Gulf of Mexico, may become swollen and murky with wind and moisture-bearing clouds. From near sea level to several thousand feet upward, these clouds may stack themselves in far-flung layers, pushing each other until they boil and swirl almost as one.

In this atmospheric cauldron, a full-bodied hurricane may be born. It will be given a female first name by the U. S. Weather Bureau. The first of the 1962 season will be christened Alma. Her equally fearsome sisters, as they burgeon into life, will be, in order of birth: Beckey, Celia, Daisy, Ella, Flossy, Greta, Hallie, Inez, Judith, Kendra, Marsha, Noreen, Orpha, Patty, Rena, Sherry, Thora, Vicky, and Wilma.

The life-spans of these forces of Nature are short -- usually 8 to 12 days. Hurricanes crossing West Virginia literally have the wind beaten out of them by our hills.

Normally, hurricane winds have a velocity of from 75 to 150 miles per hour. However, those that have entered West Virginia were more noted for their wetness than their force of wind. Hazel, which caused severe damage to the State's apple crop on October 15, 1954, did so with wind gusts of about 25 miles per hour.

Hazel also dumped from 4 to 6 inches of rain in the extreme eastern section of the State, causing the Cheat River at Parsons to reach its highest flood level of record -- 19.2 feet. Connie, in August of 1955, poured approximately 3.25 inches of rain over the Cheat River basin, and also caused a sharp rise in the Monongahela River.

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Diane, which followed Connie's path four days later, dumped from 2 to 4 inches of rain over the Eastern Panhandle, again flooding the Cheat, and also the Potomac River. Audrey, a less intense hurricane, brushed across north and central West Virginia in late June of 1957. It shed about 2½ inches of rain and caused flooding in several narrow valleys in the State.

The fearsome force of a hurricane can best be understood by a modern-day example: the energy contained in one is said to be equal to ten 20-kiloton atomic bombs going off every second. Moreover, when a hurricane passes, a pressure of two million tons is removed from each square mile of land in its path, due to the drop in barometric pressure.

"Hurricane" is the Carib Indian word for "big wind." Its inclusion in the Anglo-Saxon language has not lessened the ominous sound of this word. Thanks to the U. S. Weather Bureau's special Hurricane Warning Service, however, the big wind's toll in human life has been greatly reduced.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA PLAYS GROWING ROLE IN AMERICA'S "ELECTRIC LIVING"

West Virginia may yet become known as the "Dynamo State of the East." As of now, more than half of the electric power produced in the Mountain State is being exported to neighboring states to help people in those areas to "live better electrically."

In fact, with the booming demand for electricity for home heating and air-conditioning, the kilowatt manufactured in West Virginia may be finding itself "climatizing" an expanding number of American homes in adjoining and nearby states.

In 1961, utility companies in West Virginia generated 16,856,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. Of this production, 7,520,000,000 kilowatt hours were used within the State. The balance, almost 59 per cent of the total, was fed into transmission lines to other states.

Many of the electric companies in the Middle Atlantic region have inter-connected transmission facilities. For example, the Allegheny Power System, serving northern and central West Virginia, is inter-connected with systems serving Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia. It is also inter-connected with the American Electric Power System serving southern West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Michigan.

Actually, the kilowatt hours of electricity that are exported through these inter-connected systems are used mainly for displacement purposes. But even so, West Virginia-produced power, at times, gets used as far away as Michigan.

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The growth of electricity production in West Virginia in the last 25 years has been impressive. It has increased about five times since 1937, when production was about 3 billion kilowatt hours. A further substantial increase is predicted by 1970.

Two technical developments make this envisioned increase possible. To mention one, electricity can now be transmitted over longer distances economically. Previously, transmission was limited to 132,000-volt lines. Some utility companies now use 345,000-volt lines. Current experiments have made possible 500,000-volt-and-up transmission without excessive "power loss."

The other technical development enables modern power plants to economically use lower grades of coal. Such grades of coal, because of low BTU content, are usually not worth the shipping expense to distant power plants. But specially designed power plants, like the one being built on Stone River in Grant County, can locate near lower-grade coal fields and economically produce electricity for long-distance transmission.

The Stony River plant, when completed, will send its electricity to Northern Virginia cities about 150 miles away through 500,000 volt transmission lines. Its construction in West Virginia points up the State's growing role as the "Dynamo State" of the East -- the State that is helping increasing numbers of Americans to "live better electrically."

Perhaps nowhere has the competitive ability of American manufacturers been more obviously demonstrated than in the automobile field. This is a case where, for a while, foreign competition grew to be an extremely serious threat to the vitality of our domestic automobile industry.

Foreign automobile imports, particularly "compact" cars, increased steadily from a total of 57,115 in 1955, to a maximum figure of 668,070 in 1959. It was an ominous trend. It called for fantastically costly planning, engineering, and retooling by our big manufacturers of automobiles.

By late 1959, American producers of automobiles introduced their "compact" lines. The results were crippling to foreign car imports. In 1960, such imports dropped to 444,474 units. In 1961, they declined to 279,436 units. Early indications this year indicate an import trend comparable to 1961.

In many instances, although not in all, foreign competition may have been beneficial for Americans. Research has been stimulated by such competition, and so have innovations and cost reduction on similar American-made products. Certainly, these are economically desirable developments for a vigorous American economy.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

COMPETITIVE ABILITY OF AMERICAN PRODUCERS HELD PHENOMENAL

When it comes to achieving a competitive advantage for a product through greater production efficiency, American manufacturers can outclass most of their foreign rivals and come out with a lower price despite vastly different wage scales. Stories of such successful happenings are beginning to clutter the files of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

Take, for example, the case of Japanese transistor radios. Between 1956 and 1959, imports of these miniature receiving sets grew so rapidly that they finally exceeded our domestic production. The reason for this: retail prices on imported sets were about half of those posted on comparable American-made sets.

Faced with this competitive challenge, American radio manufacturers spent two years concentrating on research and production efficiencies. Now they are turning out transistor radios that sell for less than equivalent-quality Japanese sets. Imports of this item from Japan have now decreased by more than 50 per cent!

A couple of years ago, a West Coast manufacturer of sandal-type slippers found that he was being driven out of his own domestic markets by lower-cost Japanese products. Using American ingenuity, this manufacturer undertook some research.

An investigation of the market showed that there was room for a slightly higher-quality, higher-styled scuff. The manufacturer took the gamble. As a result, he is not only experiencing a rapidly growing domestic market for his better product, but is also selling his quality "scuffies" in Japan!

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

U. S. "FOOD FOR PEACE" PROGRAM REDUCES STARVATION ABROAD

The growing abundance of our own agriculture makes it difficult for many Americans to comprehend the fact that two-thirds of the world's population live in semi-starvation. Nonetheless, this wide-spread hunger is a dark deficit in an age of space technology.

In 70 underdeveloped countries -- mostly in semi-tropical and tropical lands -- yields per acre are generally low. Yet, the ratios of population to land are high. Moreover, these ratios grow wider apart with each passing year.

Yet, for more than a decade, aside from Red China, there has been no real famine anywhere in the world. The reason for this is largely due to our Government's "Food for Peace" program -- a program which strives to narrow the gap between abundance here at home and starvation abroad.

Our country can never expect to feed the "have-not" peoples of the world to a point where each human being would have a dietary sufficiency. The total annual food deficiency is too great.

It is estimated, for example, that in 1962, the underdeveloped countries will need 3.3 billion pounds of nonfat dry milk; 3.5 million 100-pound bags of dry beans; 7 billion pounds of vegetable oil; and 1.1 billion bushels of wheat. In addition, millions of bags of rice are required, as well as billions of pounds of cotton fibre.

But countless numbers of human beings are alive today

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because we have shared with them our stockpiles of farm produce. In fiscal year 1961 alone, our shipments overseas amounted to 661 million bushels of wheat; 273 million bushels of corn; 21,200,000 100-pound bags of rice; 7,003,000 bales of cotton of approximately 500-pound bales; and 2,382,000,000 pounds of vegetable oils.

From July 1, 1954, when legislative authority launched the "Food for Peace" program, through December 31, 1961, our Government has shipped approximately \$12.5 billion worth of food and fiber to needy people throughout the world. By the end of this calendar year, at least \$2.5 billion will have been added to that figure.

Our "Food for Peace" program has often been called "America's Bread-and-Butter Diplomacy." It is a program which Communist countries are incapable of launching, because of their own agricultural deficiencies. Thus, it is not only a program which feeds hungry people, but it also proves to them that abundance is attainable in a free society.

Our huge food surpluses are generally considered to be a national headache. However, we should really think of this bounty from our soil as an asset to world peace.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

GOVERNMENT'S INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION BEGINNING TO PAY OFF

A few short years ago, when Russia's first "Sputnik" flashed across the skies, our Nation awakened to the fact that we were falling behind in scientific achievement. Our concern was heightened when we discovered critical shortages developing in several specialized "brainpower" categories -- the sciences, mathematics, modern languages, and the teaching profession.

Today, we face the space age, and the future, with renewed confidence. The Soviet Union's progress in space science no longer perturbs us unduly. The reason for this new faith in ourselves is due, in main, to the efficaciousness of the National Defense Education Act. Our "brainpower" deficits are rapidly being erased.

The National Defense Education Act was authorized by Congress in 1958. During the past 4 years, the NDEA has enabled approximately 350,000 undergraduate and graduate students to attend colleges and universities by loaning them \$225 million to help finance their education.

Most of the students obtaining NDEA loans were those who were majoring in some science, in engineering, mathematics, modern languages, or in teaching. It is entirely likely that many of these students, had they not been able to finance their college education, would have ended their education upon graduating from high school, or before completion of their college course. It is reasonable to assume from past statistics that the abilities of many of these students would have been lost to the Nation.

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The effectiveness of the program can be testified to by the fact that about one-fourth of the borrowers now paying off their student loans have become elementary and secondary school teachers.

Since its enactment into law, the NDEA has made available to the States on a matching fund basis nearly \$300 million for strengthening elementary and high school education in the sciences, mathematics, and modern languages. This included the construction of more than 4,000 electronic laboratories, plus the purchase of equipment for instruction in physics and chemistry.

In addition, some 17 million children in public and private high schools have been helped to identify their talents and to develop their abilities in the directions best suited to them individually. This extremely important program was made possible through the counseling and guidance testing provisions of the NDEA.

There are many other ways in which the NDEA has been strengthening education in America. Together with the major provisions of the Act, a new quality in teaching has been achieved while needed "brainpower" has been saved and developed for our security.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

A STRONGER SENSE OF CONSERVATION VALUES HELD VITAL TO NATION

Approximately 33 years separate us from the 21st Century. During that space of time the inevitable sweep of history may bring our Nation face to face with many new and challenging problems. It is important, therefore, that we not encumber the future with the unresolved problems of today.

One problem, still current because it has received only halting attention since before the turn of the 20th Century, is the continuing misuse, abuse, and sheer neglect of our natural resources. We are turning this rich heritage into a poor endowment for our posterity.

Today, our population is about 187 million. By 1980, it is likely to be about 245.7 million. We may have close to 300 million Americans by the year 2000. This means an increasing dependence on natural resources for the necessities of life, as well as for expanding industrial and recreational needs. However, the realities of the situation are not pleasant to contemplate.

For example, according to an Interior Department report, 100 million Americans are currently getting their drinking water from rivers carrying sewage and industrial waste. But little is being done to clean up the hundreds of streams and rivers that are continuing avenues of extending pollution.

Millions of acres of timberlands are in dire need of thinning and pruning to permit the growth of good timber stock. The timber needs of the Nation are estimated to be 100 billion board feet by the year 2000. Present assessments by the U. S. Forest Service say this is attainable only if we launch a vigorous

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conservation program now. Current usage is about 45 billion board feet.

An estimated 200 million acres of watershed land need conservation treatment -- contouring and seeding to stop soil erosion, and dams for flood control and water quality improvement. Proper management of these watersheds are vital to our future water needs.

The reverse side of the conservation coin is proper utilization of a natural resource. In coal we have tremendous mineral wealth that is being virtually ignored -- wealth the exploitation of which could mean countless thousands of diverse jobs for current and future generations. However, research programs to find new uses for coal can be considered as less than meagerly financed.

What is needed at all levels of government -- Federal, State, County, and local -- is a strong sense of conservation and utilization values. Planning for immediate and long-range goals should be fully funded. For unless we show greater determination to make wiser use of our natural resources, we will be passing on to succeeding Americans a kind of National weakness that could impair their freedom.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD UNITS HAVE TRADITION OF SERVICE

The men of West Virginia's 150th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 3664th Ordnance Company are coming home again. For almost a year now, they have been on active duty, training themselves to be battle-ready in the event of a national emergency.

In this they have followed the honorable traditions of their forefathers.

During Colonial days, Minute-men companies, organized in that part of Virginia which now constitutes the Mountain State, not only guarded our frontiers, but fought in almost every battle of the Revolutionary War. In some battles, such as that at Saratoga, they served with special distinction.

When our new Nation needed help to quash the Whiskey Rebellion which broke out in the latter part of 1794, volunteer units from the hills of Western Virginia came to the service of their country. Again, in the War of 1812, the "Mountain Men" of West Virginia rallied to the call.

In the War Between the States, volunteer units of West Virginians fought on both sides of the conflict. But today, our State's 201st Field Artillery Howitzer Battalion is the only known unit that displays both Confederate and Union streamers. This is because the battalion successfully united Confederate and Union volunteers into a cohesive Guard Unit for the common defense of America.

When the Spanish-American War broke out in April 1898, West Virginia National Guardsmen again responded to the Nation's

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call to arms. And although these units did not serve outside the continental United States, they trained vigorously and were battle-ready. They also served under General Pershing on the Mexican Border in 1916.

Four days after America entered World War I, in April 1917, the Guardsmen of the Mountain State were again mustered into Federal service. However, they did not fight as units. Instead, they served as replacements with Army divisions throughout France, and participated in many engagements.

During World War II, while some West Virginia Guard Units were serving in the Panama Canal Zone, and in the Aleutian Islands, the 1092nd Engineer Battalion (Combat) participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe, and won many distinctions and decorations. This battalion also fought in seven of the ten Korean campaigns from 1951 through the late summer of 1953.

Today, the West Virginia National Guard includes the 16th Special Forces Group (Airborne) -- one of four such groups in the entire Army National Guard --, and the Air National Guard. But no matter in what units they serve, the men of West Virginia who are members of the Nation Guard, and of reserve units, can be counted on to serve well. The people of our State are proud of them.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

FEDERAL-STATE REHABILITATION PROGRAM PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS

Being "on the shelf" is quickly becoming a thing of the past for many handicapped and disabled West Virginians. Credit for this significant development, which has won national renown, goes to a very special and highly effective program being pursued by the State's Board of Vocational Education.

Handicapped and disabled persons represent about every kind of disease and injury we humans can experience -- strokes, amputations, polio, mental illness, arthritis, deafness, blindness, mental retardation, and many others. However, given personal attention and help, many afflicted persons can be job-trained for remunerative employment.

Last year, 3,500 disabled West Virginia men and women went back to work as a result of such personalized attention and help from the Board of Vocational Education. While this number established a record for the State, indications are that a new and even better record may be established by the end of this year. In 1961, West Virginia stood first among the 50 states and territories in the number of handicapped persons rehabilitated per 100,000 population.

At present, the rehabilitation program in West Virginia is costing about \$2 million a year, with the State putting up approximately \$658,000 and the Federal Government the other \$1,429,000. In effect, the State puts up about 30 per cent of the cost of the program.

In terms of dollars and cents alone, the value of the program is tremendous. Those 3,500 disabled West Virginians who

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were rehabilitated last year bear this out. They are now earning more than \$5½ million a year, according to the U. S. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, which keeps fairly good figures on such matters.

In the last few years, several thousand disabled West Virginians have been rehabilitated and restored to jobs. Thus, instead of being on welfare rolls, they are now working and paying taxes.

Washington officials also have figures to prove that about \$10 is paid in Federal taxes by these handicapped persons during their working life for each dollar spent to rehabilitate them. This rates as a big dividend for Uncle Sam. It easily proves the worth of the program.

But aside from dollar-and-cents values, in terms of human recovery, the program is one of which all of us can be proud. Restoring disabled persons to usefulness, thus helping them to regain self-respect, gives us the kind of dividends which are priceless.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

HEW DISBURSEMENTS TO WEST VIRGINIA HELD IMPRESSIVE /

The disbursements to West Virginia, which the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare made in fiscal year 1961, are impressive. They amounted to nearly \$40 million in grants. But aside from the size of this sum, the expenditures illuminate the services which HEW renders to the people in our State.

For example, in fiscal year 1961, West Virginia received over \$6.4 million in Public Health Service grants. Of this sum, almost \$5.8 million was for disease control, water-pollution control, and for the construction of hospitals, sewage treatment works, and other facilities. Nearly \$630,000 consisted of National Institutes of Health grants for medical research and training.

The bulk of NIH grants was made to West Virginia University, which obtained \$572,368 for 31 research projects, 11 training grants, 3 regular fellowships, 16 part-time fellowships, as well as one traineeship for PHS work. NIH grants to other institutions in the State amounted to \$55,876.

Children's Bureau grants to West Virginia amounted to \$810,879 for three programs: maternal and child health services, crippled children's services, and child welfare services.

Also during fiscal year 1961, the U. S. Office of Education made approximately \$2.4 million available to State and local educational agencies in West Virginia. This included \$621,000 for loans to students in schools of higher education, and \$719,000 for vocational education, as well as \$635,000 for other specific educational programs.

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In addition, school districts in "Federally Impacted Areas" received about \$129,000; grants for library services were approximately \$168,000; and grants to agricultural and mechanical colleges totaled \$90,000. Programs for mentally retarded children received \$10,000 in grants.

The U. S. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation granted public and private non-profit rehabilitation agencies and educational institutions in the State a total of \$1,498,584. Moreover, West Virginia obtained \$1,197,729 for the support of basic rehabilitation services, as well as \$15,167 to provide infirmity services at the State's Rehabilitation Center and Workshop, and \$26,239 for the Cabell County Sheltered Workshop.

It is interesting to note that HEW, which also administers the social security program, reports that more than \$139 million in social security benefits was paid to West Virginians in fiscal year 1961.

In fine, the HEW offers a good example of how an instrument of Government goes about its task of looking after the health, education, and general well-being, not only of West Virginians but also of all the American people.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA FIGHTS DISEASES THREATENING RICH TIMBERLANDS

A vigorous, unpublicized battle is being waged in the rich timberlands of West Virginia. It is a fight against tree diseases which have been posing an increasing threat to the production of hardwoods in our State.

Allied in this war against the number one enemy of our forests -- a killer far more destructive than forest fires -- are West Virginia University, the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, and the U. S. Forest Service.

It is an uphill fight, but the odds are on the side of man and science. The question, however, is how much destruction to good timber the diseases will have wrought before they are fully controlled and eliminated.

The serious consequences which tree diseases could have upon West Virginia's economy must be viewed in the light of the fact that two-thirds of our State's total land area is covered by timber. At present, the Mountain State ranks seventh in the Nation in the volume of standing hardwood timber, largely oak and yellow poplar. About one-half of the State's manufacturing establishments are dependent on wood and wood products for their raw material.

Yet, today, diseases account for 45 per cent of the total damage to our timber from all injurious agents combined, including forest fires. Year in and year out, winter and summer, often undetected in their early beginnings, diseases kill, decay, stunt, and malform good stands of timber, rendering them useless for most of man's many timber products.

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Oak wilt is a disease now widespread in West Virginia. Control is sought by locating infected oaks and destroying them before the infection can spread to healthy trees. The Dutch elm disease is being similarly fought. But a disease recently discovered in West Virginia -- annosus root rot of pines -- presents a puzzling problem in "forest sanitation" for which an antibiotic control is being sought.

Chestnut blight is a classic example of a disease which practically eliminated the American Chestnut from our forests. Today the few old chestnut trees that survived this disease are the basis for research to develop a strain of this specie which will be resistant or immune to the blight.

Through control methods now in use, and through the hopeful development of antibiotics and other effective weapons, the cooperative efforts of West Virginia University, the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, and the U. S. Forest Service are certain to bear happy results. This combined research and control work should help our State to maintain its eminent position in forest production and utilization.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA CAN BE RECREATIONAL CENTER FOR EASTERN UNITED STATES

The national attention being focused on the mounting need for public outdoor recreational facilities holds great promise for the development of parklands in West Virginia. There are few areas east of the Mississippi River that contain as much untrammelled, awe-inspiring panoramic beauty as does our State.

Paradoxically, the vast bulk of public land available for recreational purposes lies west of the Mississippi River, while the major portion of the Nation's population lies to the east of that River. Yet, in the East, the developed public outdoor recreational facilities are already overcrowded, and an expansion of those areas is limited.

Thus, West Virginia, with her tumbling streams, sparkling lakes, majestic woodlands, and the mystic grandeur of her hills and valleys, is perhaps the only area in the East where large-scale development of public outdoor recreational facilities is highly possible.

Aside from the merit to be found in West Virginia's physical attributes, approximately 2,600,000 people live within a radius of 100 miles from the center of our State. Approximately 26,000,000 people live within 250 miles of that same center.

Most of these people live in crowded population centers-- big cities, where the hustle and bustle of everyday living enervates both body and spirit. In ever-growing numbers these urbanites are seeking the renewing experience to be found in outdoor recreation. Thus, the pressure for outdoor recreational facilities keeps increasing.

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One West Virginia area being given serious consideration for development as a national recreational facility is in the vicinity of the Racine and Coal rivers. Legislation to authorize the establishment of a 30,000-acre Coal River National Recreation Demonstration Area has already been introduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Another area receiving Federal attention for possible recreational development is the New River Gorge. In addition, a contemplated westward expansion of the Monongahela National Forest would provide many new recreation facilities in West Virginia. A further enlargement of Harpers Ferry National Monument is also under consideration.

The proposed Allegheny Parkway, which would course through about 300 miles of West Virginia's most scenic country, would also provide many new recreational facilities along and adjacent to its roadway.

It has often been said that the physical vigor of a nation is as much a part of its strength as good education. In the very near future, West Virginia may be helping millions of Americans to reinvigorate themselves in healthful outdoor activities. The natural beauty of our State is an asset of tremendous worth and must be exploited to the fullest.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



RECREATION

Inquiries on Federal assistance for development of recreational projects in West Virginia are proliferating.

This rising interest within the State fits the national pattern of mounting public demand for recreation. Yearly, 9 out of 10 Americans—more than 175 million—travel the Nation's roads and byways in search of outdoor recreation.

In so doing, they spend \$20 billion annually for outdoor recreation. In another decade, according to Federal estimates, they will annually spend nearer \$47 billion, creating 200,000 new full-time jobs in small cities and open countryside.

As another piece in the mosaic of national recreation demands, Federal and local governments are spending an estimated \$300 million annually to build more parks and recreation areas in cities and to improve the urban landscape.

Such activities and expenditures are giving a second meaning to the word recreation, transforming it to mean not merely diversion and play, but also big business.

West Virginians wanting to develop recreational projects and needing funding assistance have many prospective channels of Federal aid.

Some are particularly well-suited to Mountain State needs. These include U.S. Department of Agriculture pro-

grams, such as loans for recreation enterprises provided through the Farmers Home Administration. Also, within that Department, the Soil Conservation Service has a leadership role for assistance to landowners and operators in developing income-producing recreation enterprises on private lands.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development provides grants for neighborhood facilities needed for health, recreation, social, and similar community activities in selected areas.

The Department of the Interior, through its Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, makes grants for approved public outdoor recreation enterprises, in keeping with the comprehensive Statewide outdoor recreation plan accepted for the State of West Virginia.

The multiple nature of available Federal assistance is attested to by a Dept. of Interior publication comprising 224 pages of descriptive index of outdoor recreation programs and related services of all Federal agencies.

This publication, nominally priced, may be purchased through the Superintendent of Documents, GPO, Washington, D.C.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

PUTTING MONEY INTO EDUCATION IS SOUND INVESTMENT

School bells will be ringing again very soon for approximately 436,000 West Virginia primary and secondary public school children. Some of this number will be newcomers to the educational process. Most of these young people, however, will be classroom veterans refreshed after a summer of play and sunshine, and ready to tackle textbooks.

The opening of the school year makes us conscious once again of the need for exerting every effort to give our children the best possible education. The problems we face today in West Virginia, in the Nation, and internationally, may be those with which our children will have to deal tomorrow. But only through a soundly-funded system of education can we prepare the youngsters of today for the responsibilities of tomorrow.

Putting money into education has proved to be a good investment for America. It has been the means by which this Nation has achieved the capacity to produce and distribute a greater volume of goods and services than that produced by any other nation.

Education has also been the means by which science has opened new doors of discovery -- the Telstar Communications Satellite being the latest example of scientific achievement.

In America, too, education has been the process by which people of differing cultural backgrounds, origins, and creeds, have become united as a nation -- a nation which has been able to maintain stability in the face of every challenge and every danger.

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As a whole, educational attainment in our country has been increasing. Today, nearly four out of five persons, 25 years of age and over, have had eight or more years of schooling. However, of every 10 youths in our population, two do not reach the senior year in high school; and one other, who does become a senior, fails to graduate, according to a recent Census Bureau survey.

But the educational attainments of today are not sufficiently impressive when viewed against the growing magnitude of our domestic and foreign problems. Out of a population of more than 132 million persons, only 7.6 million Americans have four or more years of college to their credit. In effect, on the shoulders of this small number of Americans rests the burden of keeping our Nation in the forefront of scientific achievement, and the leader of the free nations of the world.

The need for enriching our educational systems with sufficient funds to enable our teachers to do a better job in educating our children makes good financial sense. We could not provide our children with a better inheritance than a soundly-based and well-rounded education.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

COAL-ASSOCIATED MINERALS HOLD PROMISE OF NEW INDUSTRIES FOR STATE

Scientific research is out to determine whether rock, clay, and other material located in or adjacent to mineable coal seams can be profitably processed for manufacturing and industrial purposes in coal mining areas. The feasibility of the idea is certainly worth exploring.

Enthusiastic and professionally competent researchers at West Virginia University, working under a contract signed recently with the Office of Coal Research, are doing just that. The success of this project could prove that coal-associated minerals hold great potential value for the coal mining industry. Even in normal mining operations, these minerals could become "secondary" production items at little extra cost.

Several mines in Southern West Virginia are already proving that the exploitation of coal-associated minerals is both feasible and practical. Some of these mines are operating plants to produce light-weight aggregates and construction materials from so-called "tailings" and the residue resulting from coal preparation. Moreover, one coal company is investing large sums of money in a pilot plant for the recovery of alumina from mine refuse.

West Virginia University scientists are undertaking their research project in three phases. First, they will gather comprehensive information as to the quantity and quality of rock and mineral materials which are located in or adjacent to mineable coal seams.

The second phase of the work involves the studying

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and testing of methods of mining and beneficiating shales, clays, slates, refuse, and other minerals and materials physically associated with the coal being mined.

The third phase will be to determine by what steps these coal-associated materials may be economically separated into such widely varied products as light-weight aggregate, construction sand, silica and glass sand, refractory clay, oil shales, mine rock dust, lime and limestone dust, cement, alum or alumina, sulphur and sulphuric acid, low-grade iron ores, ceramic materials, germanium, uranium, and many other products.

Individually, each of these minerals may be of marginal or sub-marginal value. Taken together, however, and mined with coal at little additional cost, they could result in extremely profitable items, and could lead to the early development of new manufacturing and industrial complexes throughout the Appalachian coal mining areas.

Conceivably, if methods of processing are perfected and profitable markets for even a few of these "secondary" products are developed, many hundreds of new jobs would be created in coal mining areas.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

In more than 1,500 West Virginia schools approximately 130,000 students line up each day for a well-balanced luncheon. This nutritional noon-time meal costs only a nominal charge, or nothing at all, depending on the financial circumstances of a student's family. In all, about 30 million meals will be served to the State's school children by the time the 1963 summer vacation period starts.

The tab for this school lunch program, which is jointly participated in by the State and Federal governments, is very small considering the benefits involved. For the 1962 school year, which began in September 1961, the Federal government gave West Virginia \$1,372,142 for this program. The State put up approximately \$215,000. In total, this amounted to roughly 5¢ per meal.

Several counties and communities also make contributions to the program. Many private groups of citizens and fraternal organizations help out with services, supplies, and sums of money. This cooperative effort speaks well for the concern which the people of the Mountain State have for their children.

The school lunch program follows carefully designed menus. Each meal is predicated on providing youngsters with a third to a half of their daily nutritive requirements. In economically depressed areas, a special program provides school children with at least two-thirds of their daily nutritive needs.

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The U. S. Department of Agriculture, which is responsible for the National School Lunch Program, is busy filling up school larders. The Department's program covers some 65,400 schools across the country, in which more than 14 million youngsters will be fed for a total of about 2.5 billion lunches. Thus, the procurement of food undertaken on behalf of the program is tremendous.

Already, the Department has purchased an initial 294,000 cases of No. 10 size cans of peas, 443,000 cases of red tart pitted cherries, 300,000 cases of canned green beans, and almost 5 million pounds of fresh frozen chickens. It also intends to buy 25 million pounds of frozen ground beef, and has asked for bids on canned peaches, corn, and pineapple. The milk and bread requirements of the program are contracted for on a local basis.

In the schools themselves, mostly with voluntary help, the basic protein foods and the fruits and vegetables are turned into beneficial meals. This program has been carried on in West Virginia for the past 15 years. In the same manner, the program has been participated in by the other states and territories.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
; A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

CONSUMER INTEREST GROWING IN WEST VIRGINIA HANDMADE GLASSWARE

Glass is composed largely of silica sand, lime, and soda ash. But to turn these basic raw materials into elegant tableware, or objects of art and ornamental beauty, requires the kind of unique craftsmanship for which West Virginia's handmade glassware industry has been historically noted.

This is why, of late, there is a renewed and growing appreciation, both domestically and overseas, of the fine handmade glassware produced by West Virginia artisans. Cheaper priced products made in Italy, West Germany, Sweden, and Japan, do not contain the quality and craftsmanship historically associated with West Virginia handmade glassware.

The upswing in domestic interest in West Virginia handmade glassware may have been occasioned by the recent purchases made by Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Mrs. Lyndon Johnson. The First Lady is a connoisseur of fine glassware, and the Vice President's wife has a reputation of setting a well-appointed table. It can be assumed that neither lady would buy glassware that was not of the very best quality and workmanship.

The rise in overseas interest in West Virginia handmade glassware can be judged from a review of the latest available export statistics, bearing in mind the fact that West Virginia's 25 handmade glassware producers account for more than half of the total United States production.

In 1960, our country shipped 313,291 dozen handmade glassware items overseas. In 1961, our exports rose to 376,412 dozen, or an increase of 63,121 dozen over 1960 exports.

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And although the 1961 figure is still 20,016 dozen below shipments of 396,428 dozen made in 1958, the reversal of the downward trend in exports is significant.

Of course, foreign handmade glassware imports continue to make serious inroads in our own backyard, so to speak. During the years 1958-1961, such imports increased their proportion of United States consumption from 44.7 to 49.9 per cent. No tariff relief has been afforded American handmade glassware producers. And since wages average about two-thirds of the cost of handmade glassware, competition from foreign countries tends to be severe because of the vast differences in wage rates.

Since early in the 1320's, western Virginia's handmade glassware has had the respect and admiration of discerning consumers. Back in those days, newspapers were reporting that a little glass works at Wellsburg, which had begun operations in 1315, was making glass decanters "of great beauty and solidity," and "white flint glass rivaling the foreign product."

Today, after almost 150 years of quality glass making, West Virginia's handmade glassware industry is still "rivaling the foreign product." A growing consumer awareness of this fact should prove helpful to the industry in the years ahead.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA FARMS CAN OFFER UNTAPPED RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL

Taking the family on a farm vacation is not a new idea. However, among city dwellers, farm vacations are becoming increasingly popular, according to a recent survey by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

In the light of this fact, some of the elements of rural life that West Virginia farmers may take for granted have a new value. Indeed, clean country air, blue skies, a cornfield, a stand of trees, or a running brook, can mean additional income to individual farmers as growing numbers of urbanites seek escape from a city civilization full of gadgets, gasoline fumes, and crowded living.

Many West Virginia farms have a built-in advantage over farms in other Eastern states -- unparalleled scenic beauty. Moreover, many of our farms have small lots which are adaptable for camping, and woodland lots which can be utilized for picnicking, or adjacent hilly lands for vacationers who like to hike.

Of course, the construction of a farm pond could be an added attraction, and could also mean additional income. Some farmers in other states not only make their ponds available to summer vacationists for swimming, but also charge a dollar a day for the rent of a small boat, or for fishing privileges. These ponds are usually stocked with bluegill, crappie, bass, and catfish.

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In winter months, farmers who are making recreation a side business encourage ice-skaters to use their ponds for a small daily fee. Some farmers have also prepared small hills for tobogganing and sledding, and charge enthusiasts of these winter sports a nominal fee.

It is interesting to note that some Maine farmers charge a single camper from \$5 to \$7 per week, and a family of campers from \$12 to \$15 per week. These fees do not usually include the use of utilities other than plenty of good drinking water and toilet facilities. The sale of food to campers provides an extra source of revenue.

Not all vacationers like to camp out. Some seek farms which have bedroom accommodations, or small cabins or cottages for rent. Fees for such accommodations vary, but are said to average about \$50 per week per person, when meals are included.

Americans are becoming more recreation conscious than ever before. The average city family will travel about 250 miles for a vacation spot. Most public recreational areas are already over-crowded. Perhaps this is the reason why farm vacations are becoming so popular. In any event, West Virginia farmers can tap this growing recreational potential to their own good advantage.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

OUR WEATHER SATELLITES ARE PROVING INCREASINGLY USEFUL

Probably the most significant benefit of the Nation's Tiros weather satellite program has been the ability of these man-made space bodies to discover and track such major storms as hurricanes and typhoons. However, these Tiros satellites are proving useful in other respects.

Earlier this year, for example, a Tiros photograph revealed the sudden presence of icebergs in the North Atlantic. The U. S. Coast Guard, which maintains an iceberg watch, was immediately notified. Steps were quickly taken to prevent ships from possible collision with these partially submerged ice hazards.

But the photograph which revealed the icebergs got weather researchers to thinking about the general usefulness of photographing seas. Such photographs could possibly reveal rough sea conditions. This kind of information, passed on to ship captains, would enable a vessel to skirt an area of possible danger. Work on this program is proceeding at a rapid pace.

The sharpness and clarity of the photographs being taken by our Tiros satellites are also spurring new programs of detection of benefit to all Americans. One such hopeful program would be the early detection of forest fires. Another possible surveillance program would be the detection of locust clouds so that farmers in a threatened area could be forewarned of the coming of these insects.

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The potentials inherent in the Tiros program are so vast that earlier this year the Congress passed an Act which created a National Weather Satellite Center. The Act also called on the U. S. Weather Bureau to establish a National Operational Meteorological Satellite System.

The first Tiros satellite was successfully launched on April 1, 1960. Since that time, five of these instrument-packed space bodies have been launched. Each Tiros is cylindrical in shape, resembling a large hat box. Each weighs about 285 pounds and carries two television cameras, and circles the earth about every 100 minutes at an approximate altitude of 450 miles.

In contrast to space flight programs where the benefits to Americans are in long-range research and development, the Tiros satellites have been sending us information of immediate value. In the case of hurricanes and typhoons which the Tiros satellites have discovered, an additional two or more days of warning have been gained--time which has been significant in preparing safeguards for lives and property in the direct path of those storms. This is a measurable benefit, just as new detection uses by the Tiros satellites will prove to be.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA IRON ORE DEPOSITS MAY HAVE GOOD FUTURE

The abundant deposits of iron ore in West Virginia, and in adjacent Appalachian areas, may soon be called upon to fill the growing needs of the Nation's steelmakers. This possibility stems from new technology being developed by the U. S. Bureau of Mines -- technology which seeks economically feasible methods of extracting the iron in low-grade ores.

Up to now, research to utilize our abundant deposits of low-grade iron ores has been pursued in a dilatory fashion. So long as we had high-grade ore deposits to work, there seemed to be no pressing need to concern ourselves with finding methods for the economic extraction of iron from low-grade ore deposits.

However, the hard new look being afforded the Appalachian region iron ore deposits results from the exhaustion of the rich ore deposits in the Lake Superior area -- deposits which, historically speaking, were opened so recently.

Today, much of the high-grade iron ore used by our steelmakers is imported. Some comes from Canada, but a goodly percentage comes from Venezuela and other Latin American countries. Thus, there is national concern that, in the event of war, or of political upheavals in Latin America, these foreign supplies of iron ore could be cut off.

The low-grade iron ore deposits in the Appalachian region are called "hematitic sandstones." These deposits are said to contain several billion tons of extractable iron -- enough to

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supply our Country's steel needs for the next one hundred or more years at the current rate of steel consumption.

Currently, in connection with the iron ore deposits in West Virginia, the U. S. Bureau of Mines is seeking an economic method to reduce the phosphorus and sulphur content while increasing the iron content of the concentrate produced. Moreover, the Bureau is also experimenting on ways to separate the silica associated with West Virginia ores.

Also, while intensive research is proceeding on the economic removal of impurities from the ore, the Bureau is engaged in experimental work in the production and utilization of pellets reduced from concentrated ore. Pelletizing ore concentrates could mean lower steel production costs.

In Colonial days, the low-grade iron ores of western Virginia were eagerly sought after by the iron furnances in Tidewater Virginia. Now, after a lapse of more than a century, the wheel of history has fully turned; only this time the Nation may soon eagerly seek the calcareous red iron ores in what, since 100 years ago, is now West Virginia.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

SALINE WATER CONVERSION IMPORTANT TO NATION'S PROGRESS

A population explosion, which has changed small communities into small cities, and large cities into megalopolises embracing myriad new and expanding suburbs, has focused increased attention on the urgent need for low-cost sea water distillation.

Concern for the problem has been reflected in Congressional action. Large sums of money have been appropriated for research programs designed to develop low-cost methods of producing needed supplies of potable water from sea water or from brackish river water.

Two distillation pilot plants are already in operation. A third is soon to be constructed at Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. Food Machinery and Chemical Corporation also has a research contract on a phase of the problem, and is undertaking the work at its plant in San Jose, California.

Remarkable progress has already been achieved. The cost of converting 1,000 gallons of sea water to fresh water has been reduced from over \$4 to about \$1. The goal sought is to reduce the conversion cost to about 40¢ per 1,000 gallons.

Statistics point up the critical problem facing the Nation due to the growing scarcity of water suitable for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses. The figures also tell us that we have a nearing deadline in which to meet the problem.

In 1960, we were using water at a rate of 270 billion gallons a day--an increase of 12 per cent over the rate of

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use in 1955. By 1975, the use of water in the United States is predicted to increase to 453 billion gallons a day--almost double present consumption.

Thus, the success of research work to find a low-cost method for converting sea water and brackish water into potable water is of vital importance to the progress of the Nation.

However, sea water distillation should not be looked upon as a panacea for all water problems. Good conservation practices, instituted now, would do much to alleviate the pending water shortage. We are still carelessly polluting, mismanaging, and misusing the fresh water resources that are available to us.

Perhaps, as a Nation, we have not come to fully understand that water is a perishable commodity. More can and should be done to improve watersheds and to properly manage them, to curb and clean up stream pollution, to plan and construct reservoirs for containment of excessive rain water runoff.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA TINPLATE USED IN CANNING TUNA FISH PACK

Tuna on grocery shelves may come from the watery depths of the Atlantic or Pacific oceans; but a significant percentage of the steel cans encasing the flavorful fish meat is produced from a special-size tinplate manufactured in "Pittsburgh area steel mills," which include those in West Virginia, according to can manufacturing officials.

Producing tinplate for the tuna packing industry is no small piece of business. Last year, the United States tuna pack was approximately 16 million cases, with a canning plant value of about \$190 million.

Most of the pack originated in 25 West Coast canning plants. About 10 per cent of the pack was produced in East Coast and Puerto Rico canning plants.

However, about 40 per cent of the tinplate used to can the West Coast tuna pack came from East Coast steel mills. Moreover, of the 40 per cent, approximately two thirds came from the so-called Pittsburgh area steel mills.

As for the East Coast and Puerto Rico tuna pack, about 75 per cent of the tinplate used came from Pittsburgh area steel mills. Much of this production came from Weirton, West Virginia.

While the United States tuna canning industry routinely converts about 60 per cent of the landed weight of the fish into highly nutritious protein food for human consumption, a good part of the remaining 40 per cent is used

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for cat food. This also requires cans made of tinfoil, much of which also comes from Pittsburgh area steel mills.

Of course, other kinds of seafood are also packed in tinfoil produced in the steel mills of our area. Salmon and sardine packs are also sizable. But none compares to the tuna pack, which has been growing at a tremendous rate in this country.

For example, the domestic tuna pack in 1920 was about 1 million cases. In 1945, the pack had increased to 5 million cases. In 1954, the amount of tuna canned jumped to 10 million cases. By 1960, the pack was 15 million cases. Last year, the pack increased by 1 million cases to reach an all-time high of 16 million cases. Federal officials believe the pack will reach or exceed 20 million cases by 1965, and that means a steady increase in the production of tinfoil for tuna canning.

Participation in the tuna pack is but another example of how West Virginia industries serve the many needs of Americans.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Volume II -- Number 47

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WILDLIFE GROWTH IN STATE DESERVES GREATER HUNTER ATTENTION

Sportsmen who live east of the Mississippi River would do well to emulate the Indians of old. For pleasant and rewarding hunting and trapping, they have only to roam the hills and valleys of West Virginia.

Before the white man came to America, and for many years after Colonial settlements were established in what is now West Virginia, many Indian tribes, encamped to the east, west, north, and south, would make long treks to the area of the Mountain State to hunt for food and fur-bearing animals. Few other areas were so rich in wildlife resources.

Today, West Virginia is once again a haven for abundant numbers of wildlife of many species. The thousands of streams that interlace our State, and the millions of acres of verdant forestlands, seem conducive to the growth and multiplication of wildlife.

For example, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that the white-tailed deer population in West Virginia is now more than 80,000. Last year, the kill in this species was over 5000.

The elusive wild turkey, almost extinct in the State a few years back, now numbers well over 10,000. Last year, patient hunters who have studied the feeding habits of these wary birds bagged over one thousand of them.

The ruffed grouse has become so plentiful in West Virginia that open season on this game bird has been lengthened from mid-October to the end of January. The grouse, whose

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powerful wings can carry its three-to-four pounds of body weight at 30 to 40 miles an hour, can be found in most open forest spaces and on old logging roads.

Even the burly black bear is staging an impressive comeback in the Mountain State, and is now estimated to number over 500. Hunters succeeded in taking 65 of this loping bruin last year, mostly in the Monongahela National Forest.

The nocturnal opossum, who often feigns death when caught, is also increasing in number, though 1,225 of them were taken by sportsmen in our State last year. But that bushy, ringed-tail night prowler, the raccoon, whose numbers have been rapidly multiplying in the State, gave over 7,800 skins to hunters in 1961.

Beaver, bobcat, red and gray fox, mink, muskrat, skunk, and weasel--all are now prospering habitants of woodlands throughout most of West Virginia. For sportsmen, this wildlife challenges skill and cunning and makes hunting a profitable recreation.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

STATE'S SCHOOL SYSTEMS CAN BE STRENGTHENED BY EDUCATIONAL TV

Some West Virginia school systems are now using television as an educational aid for upgrading classroom instruction in certain vital subjects such as English, mathematics, and the sciences. They are also finding that the medium, when properly used, results in a big savings to taxpayers.

Charles Town, in Jefferson County, and Berkeley Springs, in Morgan County, are already using television to maximize the teaching of essential subjects to their public school students. These two cities are receiving their programs through an arrangement with a non-profit ultra high frequency TV station in Washington, D. C.

Elsewhere in West Virginia, educational channels, not yet activated, have been reserved for school systems in the areas of Charleston, Huntington, Morgantown, and Wheeling. When in operation, these TV stations could materially benefit school systems in sparsely populated areas -- especially high schools, where small student numbers make it impossible to hire teachers for many desirable math, science, and language courses.

At present, 301 ultra high frequency television channels have been reserved throughout the country for use by private non-profit organizations and by school systems. The U. S. Office of Education estimates that educational TV is helping to improve the quality of instruction in many subjects to some 3.5 million students in 7,500 public primary

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and secondary schools in the Nation.

The Ford Foundation, which has been offering grants of money to school systems on an experimental basis to determine the effectiveness of television as an educational aid, reports that it is highly pleased with results thus far. U. S. Office of Education officials have stated that "TV classroom instruction is helping many young people to become better educated and better prepared for intelligent living and for job opportunities in the space age."

Generally, advocates of educational television contend that classroom instruction prepared for use through TV "is superior to what most students would otherwise receive because only superior teachers are used in the preparation of such lessons."

In Washington County, Maryland, after a two-year experiment with educational TV, the superintendent of schools reported that the achievement testing of students receiving TV instruction indicated that they were obtaining grades above standard national norms. The success of the Washington County experiment has been responsible for the rapid growth of educational television. But, as a mountainous area with many sparsely populated communities, the Washington County experiments also indicate that greater use of TV in West Virginia could be a boon to education in our State.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

LOWER PANAMA CANAL TOLLS ON COAL COULD HELP WEST VIRGINIA

Japan is the foremost importer of United States coal, much of which is shipped to that Asian country from West Virginia mines. But growing competition from Russia and Australia threatens to seriously reduce American coal exports to the Land of the Rising Sun.

This competition, however, could be overcome through a selective reduction for coal in Panama Canal tolls--a reduction which would not only help West Virginia and other coal-producing states to maintain a high level of coal exports to Japan, but would also serve to improve America's gold reserve situation.

To understand why a reduction is needed in the toll charge for coal passing through the Panama Canal, a review of the following statistics is necessary:

In 1951, Japan's imports of coal from the United States amounted to 1½ million tons. Five years later--in 1956--the figure reached 3½ million tons. It went up to 4,988,000 tons in 1960, and to 5,958,000 in 1961.

For the first six months of 1962, Japan imported 3,826,212 tons of U. S. bituminous coal as compared with 3,143,328 tons in the corresponding period of 1961. (Italy, second ranking importer of U. S. coal, took 2,690,518 tons in the first half of this year, as compared with 2,378,728 tons for the same period in 1961).

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But despite the fact that the United States continues as the major supplier of Japan's coal needs, our share of her market fell from 72 per cent in 1959, to 53 per cent in 1961. Meanwhile, Australia's share of the Japanese market has moved up from 481,000 tons of coal in 1959, to 2,561,000 in 1961-- or from a 10-per-cent participation in 1959 to 23 per cent of the Japanese market in 1961. Moreover, in the first three months of 1962, Australia shipped 762,760 tons to Japan, as compared to 333,380 tons for the same period in 1961.

Russia is also getting a bigger chunk of the Japanese coal market--from 36,000 tons delivered in 1959 to 560,000 tons in 1961. At present, Russian trade representatives are proposing to open negotiations with Japanese steel mills for delivering 5,220,000 tons of coal between 1963 and 1965. Earlier this year, Japan agreed to purchase 3.4 million tons of Russian oil--another threat to West Virginia coal exports.

Presently, the Panama Canal tolls for coal are the same as for all other commodities--90¢ a net vessel ton. However, a reduction of 25¢ a ton would be very meaningful in helping to meet Russian and Australian competition. This reduction, plus lower domestic freight rates envisioned through the use of the integral train, should secure the Japanese market for West Virginia coal for a long time to come.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Volume II -- Number 50

12-7-62

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

A "KILOGRAM" AND A "METER" ARE NATION'S MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS

Two of the most valuable possessions of the United States government have only an indirect concern with money, yet they directly affect the purse of every American. They are perfect standards of weight and measurement--a "kilogram" and a "meter."

These two highly prized standards are made of platinum and iridium. But that is not the reason they are so highly valuable. Their tremendous worth is due to the fact that everything we manufacture or buy has been weighted or measured against these perfect standards.

Kept in a glass vault at the National Bureau of Standards, in Washington, D. C., the perfect kilogram and meter are never touched by human hands even though they are constantly used to test the accuracy of weight or measurement instruments. The moisture of a hand could change the fractional weight of the kilogram, and the heat of a hand could expand the fractional length of the meter bar.

When in use, the kilogram is handled by a cloth-covered claw operated from an adjacent room. The meter bar is handled by a technician wearing white gloves of a special knit.

How is it that Uncle Sam uses the kilogram and meter for accuracy tests of weights and measures when our common usage is the pound and yard? By international agreement, measurement systems throughout the world are metric standards. All measurements of mass (weight) are based upon a kilogram, and all measurements of length are based on the meter.

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Thus, the United States pound is a precise fraction of the kilogram; one pound being 0.45359237 kilogram. The yard is a precise fraction of a meter; one yard being 0.9144 meter. All precision instruments for weights and measures in our country are calibrated accordingly.

The kilogram and meter in the glass vault at the National Bureau of Standards were made by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, in France. They were brought to this country in 1390. They have been used since that date as primary controls of weight and measurement instruments throughout the Nation.

In space-age science, however, where the most minute measurements are required, the perfect kilogram and meter are not considered to be perfect enough. Two years ago, the world's nations, including the United States, adopted a new standard for length--1,650,763.73 wavelengths of the orange-red light from a krypton 86 lamp.

A substitute for the perfect kilogram still eludes science. Experiments to use the atom for precise weight have proved unsuccessful thus far.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

NO "FIRST STRIKE" NUCLEAR TARGETS IN WEST VIRGINIA

Defense Secretary McNamara has officially published a nuclear strategy for the United States that has special interest for West Virginia. The strategy implies that there are no "first strike" nuclear targets in the Mountain State.

According to Secretary McNamara, if there is a nuclear war, the opponents will probably first try to knock out each other's nuclear power before moving on to cities. Air bases and missile sites will be the immediate targets on both sides. It is believed that our vast firepower, too great to be eliminated in one strike, would give our opponents an "incentive" to call a halt to the war before nuclear destruction could be heaped on our cities.

This nuclear strategy of "controlled response" has replaced the old strategy of "massive retaliation" -- which was sometimes called "spasm response" because it implied a massive, civilization-destroying attack. Our strategy has changed because our country has been developing its capability of making more than one nuclear strike after we and our allies have been attacked with nuclear weapons.

Defense Secretary McNamara holds that, if it is necessary to do so, we have sufficient reserve striking power to destroy an enemy's society even after our air bases and missile sites have been attacked. This fact would give a possible enemy the strongest imaginable "incentive" to refrain from striking our cities.

If air bases and missile sites can be assumed to be "first strike" targets, it is interesting to note that the near-

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW--Add 1

est such targets to West Virginia are in Indiana (near Columbus and near Peru), and in Ohio (near Wilmington and near Columbus), and in Virginia (near Hampton). They are all far enough from West Virginia to make the State safe from the blast and fire effects and the intense initial radiation which would come from a nuclear burst on any of these targets.

The radioactive fallout from the nearest of these targets would have to travel more than 100 miles before it reached the West Virginia State line. The fallout would take four to seven hours to arrive in West Virginia, depending on the winds. Meanwhile, the fallout radiation would have decayed in intensity to about one-tenth of what it was an hour after the explosion that produced it.

These calculations indicate that nuclear survival in West Virginia, based on the strategy of "controlled response," might be assured by adequate fallout protection. Secretary McNamara has announced that he intends to put a serious fallout shelter program very high on the list of priorities for the next session of Congress.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY DECLINES IN STATE AND IN NATION

Juvenile delinquency in West Virginia's 55 counties showed an overall 3-per-cent drop in court cases in 1961 as compared with 1960, according to figures compiled and recently released by the Children's Bureau of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Two West Virginia counties scored the biggest decline in juvenile delinquency. The Cabell County Court reported a decline from 313 juvenile cases in 1960, to 249 cases in 1961. In Kanawha County, the decline was from 793 court cases tried in 1960 to 501 cases tried in 1961.

State-wide, the drop in juvenile cases tried before county courts was from 3,325 in 1960 to 3,232 cases in 1961. A few West Virginia counties experienced a slight increase in cases tried in 1961 over 1960. In most such instances, however, the increase was approximately 2 per cent.

Nation-wide, juvenile delinquency cases dropped one per cent. This is the first time in 13 years that a nation-wide decrease in such cases has occurred. In 1960, for example, the number of juvenile delinquency cases increased by 6 per cent over the 1959 figure.

In West Virginia juvenile delinquency court cases, girls generally accounted for only one out of every five cases tried. Half of the offenses committed by girls during 1961 were for runaways, for truancy, and for being ungovernable.

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Almost 50 per cent of the offenses for which boys were tried included larceny, unauthorized use of an automobile, robbery or burglary, and being drunk or disorderly.

While the general decline in juvenile delinquency cases in West Virginia is an encouraging trend, the overall data for the State give us no room for complacency. We cannot by any means be sure that we have turned the corner insofar as preventing and controlling juvenile delinquency are concerned. We can only hope that 1962 figures will show a positive breakaway from past patterns.

In this respect, the experimental program in preventing and controlling juvenile delinquency which the Charleston Youth Community, Incorporated, is about to conduct, may prove to be a demonstration project worthy of attention by all other communities in the Appalachian area.

Our children are our most priceless possessions. We must learn to treat them as we wish ourselves to be treated. Respect for a child will encourage respect in a child. Young people who have self-respect are not likely to become delinquents. A little thoughtfulness on the part of adults can prevent a lot of carelessness on the part of youth.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

DEVELOPMENT OF "FUEL CELL" COULD SPUR WEST VIRGINIA'S ECONOMY

The pathways being followed by scientific research never cease to amaze us. But it is especially gratifying when the end results of such research not only mean a useful new product but new job opportunities as well.

Indeed, this would be the case if success is attained by the Office of Coal Research project to develop a fuel cell employing coal as the fuel. We would have not only a new and more efficient method by which to produce electricity but also a greater use of coal for the production of electrical energy.

A fuel cell is similar to a battery in that it delivers electric power without using moving parts. However, it differs from a battery in that the fuel can be continuously introduced into the cell and current taken from it continuously without fear of the fuel cell "battery" running down.

In a normal electric utility plant, coal or some other fuel must be burned to produce steam which turns turbines to generate electricity. The spinning turbines produce alternating current which, for many applications, must be converted to direct current.

In a fuel cell, direct current is generated from coal itself, without moving parts. Thus, the fuel cell could lower the production cost of electricity. Moreover, without the need for steam with which to turn turbines, the use by utility companies of foreign residual oil or dump natural gas could decline.

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The fuel cell is unique in concept. It can be described as a divided box -- the divider being a porous, heat-resistant diaphragm, or electrolyte. On one side of the diaphragm would be an air chamber, and on the other side a coal chamber. The oxygen in the air chamber would pass through the diaphragm to the coal chamber, where the coal would be oxidized, or burned.

As the oxygen in the air passes through the diaphragm it releases electric energy which is carried away by electric "leads" on both sides of the diaphragm in the form of direct current.

Research work on the fuel cell is being performed under contract by the Central Research Laboratories of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As a first phase of their efforts, Westinghouse scientists and engineers will design, construct, and operate a 100-watt test cell.

When the fuel cell is perfected and becomes commercially operational, an important new use for coal will be added to the several new uses which are now undergoing intense experimentation. Together, these new uses could mean substantial economic progress in the coal industry.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA TO BE HONORED WITH CENTENNIAL STAMP

West Virginia's 100th anniversary as a State will receive auspicious recognition by the United States Post Office Department, which plans to issue a special commemorative stamp in honor of the occasion. The design being considered for the stamp is our State flower, the rhododendron.

According to present plans, the Post Office will issue the special West Virginia stamp with ceremonies on June 20, in Wheeling, because that city was the first capital of our State. One day later, the stamp will go on sale in the more than 1200 post offices in the Mountain State, as well as in post offices throughout the country. The U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing will initially produce 120,000,000 of these special stamps. The price of the stamp will be five cents.

Based on past trends when Statehood stamps were issued, the Post Office Department believes that many West Virginia industries and business establishments will purchase large supplies of the special stamp for use in business correspondence. Of course, the use of this stamp would make a valuable contribution toward the efforts being made to publicize the State's centennial.

Stamp collectors in many foreign countries always purchase big lots of new United States stamp issues. The Post Office Department estimates that there are about 30 million stamp collectors in Europe alone. Thus, West Virginia's 100th anniversary of statehood should gain world renown through the commemorative stamp.

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It would indeed be helpful to the economy of our State if some of these foreign philatelists and the 15 million American stamp collectors would seek to augment their hobby by visiting West Virginia to learn at first hand of its beauty and its history.

Post Office Department files show that the first effort to gain a stamp for West Virginia began in 1942. At that time, the West Virginia State Association of the National Association of Letter Carriers adopted a convention resolution calling for a special stamp to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Statehood.

This request was not acceded to, because the Post Office Department felt that a centennial stamp would be more commemorative. Perhaps the adverse decision in 1942 was all to the good. As luck would have it, West Virginia will be the only State in the Nation to be honored with a commemorative postage stamp this year.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

KNOWLEDGE OF NUCLEAR PROTECTION VITAL TO WEST VIRGINIANS

Defense Department officials have stated their belief that there are no "first strike" nuclear targets in West Virginia. However, this does not mean that the people of the Mountain State would not experience deadly danger in the event of a nuclear attack. Nuclear fallout, carried on prevailing winds from bomb bursts elsewhere in our country, could be a silent killer.

Thus, in the event of a nuclear attack, one's survival may depend on a basic understanding of what to do for protection against nuclear fallout. This knowledge must become as fundamental a part of one's life as knowing how to read and write.

In essence, protection against radiation fallout requires putting a "shield" between one's self and radiation fallout. The thicker the shield, or the more dense the shield, the safer the protection.

Sufficient shielding occurs naturally in the center rooms and corridors of large masonry or concrete city buildings. It also occurs in below-ground basements or cellars in ordinary homes. Persons having neither of these types of shielding available should plan for an underground fallout shelter.

Most city buildings suitable for use as public fallout shelters are being marked by Civil Defense officials with distinctive yellow and black signs. These buildings are being stocked with survival supplies, such as food, water, and medical materials. The location of these buildings should be memorized by persons working in cities or towns.

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Survival supplies for home basements or cellars must be privately stocked. Food and water storage should be sufficient to last a family at least five days, though a wise precaution would be to provide enough of such supplies for a longer period of time.

In all likelihood, "first-strike" nuclear bombs would fall on targets at least 100 miles from the borders of West Virginia. Depending on the strength of prevailing winds, this could mean that fallout would cover our State within a period of from four to six hours from the time of the bomb blast. Thus, there would be sufficient time for West Virginians to get themselves securely set in adequate fallout shelters.

The intensity of fallout radiation decays in 48 hours to one per cent of what it was an hour after the bomb blast. It would be possible, therefore, to leave a fallout shelter for a short period of time after two days have passed. In two weeks, the fallout radiation could decay to a point where streets, roads, and land areas would be safe for general use.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

STATE'S MAPLE SYRUP POTENTIAL NEEDS TO BE DEVELOPED

The production of maple syrup could be a profitable item for West Virginia farmers and woodland owners. Of the more than 20 valuable species of trees in the Mountain State, the sugar maple alone offers a continuing economic return before it is ready to be felled and moved to a sawmill.

Maple syrup is one of the few farm commodities for which the demand exceeds the domestic supply. As a matter of fact, only about half of the syrup used in the United States is produced in our country. The rest is imported from Canada. Last year, the average price received by farmers for pure maple syrup was \$4.63 per gallon.

Latest figures show that 1,372,000 gallons of maple syrup were produced in the United States in 1962. Most of this production came from Vermont, New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. However, in 1959, the only year for which West Virginia figures are available, our State produced a mere 5,255 gallons, and this production was recorded as coming from 179 of the State's farms.

Paradoxically, more than 1,500,000 acres, or about 15 per cent, of West Virginia's commercial forest lands contain sugar maple trees. But only a fraction of one per cent of these trees is being tapped for the sap which makes maple syrup. This is an economic neglect of considerable magnitude.

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Based on a national average yield of about one quart of finished maple syrup per tree, the profit yield per tree could be approximately \$1.15 per year. Depending on the health and maturity of the tree, this yield could be obtained for from 30 to 50 years.

Maple syrup production takes place in the early spring, when the chemistry of warm days and cold nights causes a heavy flow of sap in sugar maple trees. This sap, coming up from the roots, dissolves a form of sugar which the leaves of the tree had manufactured during summer months and stored in the roots and trunk.

Tapholes bored into the tree to a depth of about 2 inches are fitted with spouts from which pails are hung. Sap will drip into the pails for about 10 days, depending on the weather. An average taphole yield is about 3 gallons of sap. A rule of thumb is one taphole for every 5 inches of a tree's diameter. Approximately 42 gallons of sap have to be boiled down to make one gallon of syrup.

Blessed as our State is with large numbers of sugar maples, increased interest in maple syrup production could make an important contribution to West Virginia's farm economy.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Volume III -- Number 5

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

NATION MAY SUFFER AS COLLEGE ENROLLMENT IN ENGINEERING DECLINES

Student enrollment in engineering at the college freshman level has declined approximately 2.3 per cent below enrollment figures for the previous school year, according to the U.S. Office of Education. Of course, the causes for this decline are being studied and remedial action may be proposed to the Congress.

Nonetheless, the news is not encouraging. This situation is darkened somewhat by the fact that the number of bachelor's degrees in engineering awarded last year was approximately 34,600 -- a decline of about 3.5 per cent from the preceding year.

The significance of the decline in enrollment and in the number of bachelor's degrees awarded is that both come at a time when concentrated Soviet educational effort is producing more Soviet engineers each year. Our country's decrease in the development of engineering brain-power could in the long run prove injurious to the survival of our Nation as a world mainstay for freedom.

Oddly enough, for the past several years our development of engineering talent was on the increase. For example, the number of doctorate degrees awarded in engineering during the calendar year ending June 30, 1962, was approximately 1,200. This was an increase of nearly 23 per cent over the preceding year.

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Moreover, enrollment in the fall of 1962 for doctorate degrees in engineering has increased by about 24 per cent over last year, to approximately 9,750 -- or about three times the enrollment seven years earlier.

In addition, the number of master's degrees awarded in engineering during the past year was approximately 8,900 -- an increase of nearly 9 per cent over the preceding year. To this can be added the fact that enrollment for the master's degree in engineering during the current school year also increased by about 9 per cent over the year before, to roughly 35,800 -- nearly double that of seven years ago.

But it is the decline in college freshman enrollments in engineering that is causing concern. The good start which we have made in overcoming Russia's lead in the development of this talent should not be allowed to falter.

Government educational authorities are hopeful that future engineering graduates are beginning their studies in increasing numbers, at junior or community colleges. These are not recorded as "freshman starts" in engineering, and thus their numbers are unknown. Nonetheless, the drop in college freshman enrollments in engineering is a fact that calls for remedial action.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
U. S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA 4-H CLUBS HELP CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN YOUTH

In a positive sense, youth is a period in life during which the habits, hopes, and faiths that will mark the character traits of the adult are formed. The thousands of mature men and women who are "graduates" of West Virginia's 4-H Clubs perhaps know this best.

"Make the best better," and "Learn by doing," are the motto and the slogan of 4-H Clubs. And, as in the past, these words are today inspiring approximately 34,000 West Virginia boys and girls from 10 to 19 years of age to become good American citizens.

In the Mountain State, 4-H Clubs are to be found in most rural, urban and suburban areas. There are no membership dues, no fees of any kind. The only "payment" required of a member is an interest in the development of his or her talents and abilities--a willingness to work for self-improvement.

The pledge which 4-H Clubbers take is indicative of the organization's role in character-building--a role which has won Federal, State and County support. The key words of the pledge are "Head," "Heart," "Hands," "Health." These words give the Club its name--4-H.

Symbolically, a new member pledges: 'My Head to clearer thinking, my Heart to greater loyalty, my Hands to larger service, my Health to better living, for my club, my community, and my country.'

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The important ingredient in 4-H membership is the purposeful use of leisure time--the outlets afforded young people for mental, physical, and creative work. The programs planned by individual clubs are designed to bring personal enjoyment and satisfaction.

In rural areas, 4-H Club projects include an understanding of foods and nutrition, health and fitness, making or selecting and caring for clothing, home management, home furnishing, home grounds beautification, agronomy, forestry, wildlife and nature study.

But in urban and suburban areas where 4-H Clubs are experiencing their fastest growth, projects include automotive care and safety, career exploration, money management, meal planning and preparation, child care, good grooming, personality improvement, and creative crafts.

Concepts of democracy are instilled in 4-H Clubbers. With adult guidance, members largely run their own clubs, elect their own officers, help plan and hold meetings, and select their own projects.

Perhaps too few of us have fully recognized the value of 4-H Clubs. Their work with our youth is adding strength and vitality to the Nation.

Note to Editors: This column is for release to weekly and daily newspapers on Wednesday, February 20, or on any day thereafter, but not on any prior date.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column
by

SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

GAS MADE FROM COAL LOOMS AS ALTERNATIVE TO NATURAL GAS

Within a few years, synthetic gas produced in West Virginia from Mountain State coal may be heating homes and firing industrial boilers in New England and in the Middle Atlantic States. This new outlook for coal usage can be attributed to our Nation's growing energy needs, scientific breakthroughs in coal technology, and the increasing price of natural gas.

Paradoxically, leading natural gas producers are supporting research efforts to produce gas from coal, even though they continue to under-mine coal's long-established markets through special price arrangements to large consumers. But there are pressing economic reasons why these producers are turning to coal gasification as an alternative to natural gas.

In the last decade the price of natural gas has increased rapidly, because of rising costs of exploration, marketing, and transportation. On top of this, there has been a long-term downward trend in the ratio of gas reserves as against gas use. The use of natural gas as a fuel has almost tripled in the last 20 years, and demand continues to rise. But about 80 per cent of the gas reserves that are expected to be used in the future have not yet been discovered.

Thus, the natural gas industry is faced with the problem of assuring the availability of supply without incurring tremendous exploration costs while drilling for as yet undiscovered reserves.

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For this reason, gas industry leaders hope that an alternative to natural gas can be obtained by manufacturing gas from coal. These leaders view the coal fields of West Virginia, and adjacent areas, as providentially suited to their needs. Not only are these coal fields much closer to densely populated centers than are the distant natural gas fields in Texas and Louisiana--which can result in cheaper transportation costs--, but major gas pipelines already cross the Mountain State, and could be used for the transmission of the gas manufactured from coal.

Processes for producing pipeline gas from coal are in a state of advanced development. A few of these processes are reaching the stage where pilot plant operations are needed to determine the economics of the processes, and to work out certain engineering factors as well as to improve "method technology."

Government officials believe that by 1970, barring unforeseen delays, the commercial production of gas manufactured from coal could be a reality. If this comes to pass, the economy of West Virginia could be substantially strengthened.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column
by

SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

LEGEND SAYS CLOWN HELPED CHARLESTON BECOME STATE'S CAPITAL

History is often embroidered with legend, some of it true. But the legend of Lowlow, the Clown, whether true or not, bears repeating, for it is said that he helped to persuade West Virginia voters to choose Charleston as the State's capital.

The year was 1877. Wheeling was then the capital of our State, but Charleston, Clarksburg, and Martinsburg, were contending for the relocation of West Virginia's government to their respective cities. A special May election had been called by the legislature to decide the issue.

The competing cities sent spokesmen all over the State to solicit voter support. The issue, however, seemed of little concern to the people of the Mountain State. Nowhere did more than a handful of citizens turn out to hear the speakers. None, it seemed, cared whether the capital stayed at Wheeling or was moved elsewhere.

But time never passes so quickly as when it seems to be running out. That, it is said, is the way Charleston's campaigners, Romeo H. Freer and John E. Kenna, felt when they arrived at Huntington, ten days before the election, to garner support for their city. Their street-corner appeals were met by voter apathy.

At a tavern in town, Freer and Kenna met a stranger who was connected with a circus then playing in Huntington. In the course of conversation, they told him of their failure to get people to hear their speeches on why the capital should be moved to Charleston. The stranger suggested that they discuss their problem with John Lowlow, the circus clown.

The next day, when Freer and Kenna met Lowlow, he pondered their problem. "If you need people to listen to you," he suggested,

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"then travel with us. We will let you speak to our audiences for five minutes at the halftime break at each performance."

For more than a week, Freer and Kenna traveled with the circus. At several stops they spoke to audiences of 5,000 or more. Lowlow would introduce them and add a few words of recommendation when they were finished.

When the election was held, and the votes counted, Charleston had won as the site for the State's capital. But does Lowlow deserve credit for this? If the legend of Lowlow is to be believed, then the answer is yes. For it was he who made it possible for large numbers of West Virginians--captive audiences, as the advertising world would say--to hear Freer and Kenna "sell" Charleston as the best location for our State government.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column
by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE IS VITAL TO SECURITY OF THE AMERICAS

Fidel Castro has been calling for our abandonment of the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba--a demand echoed by Mr. Khrushchev and other Communist leaders. However, there are vital reasons for our determination to hold Guantanamo, and these can best be appreciated by looking at a map.

Cuba sits between two main passages to the Caribbean Sea, the Panama Canal, the Gulf of Mexico, and the lower South Atlantic for all ocean commerce from European, African, and Mediterranean ports. These routes are the Windward Passage and the Yucatan Passage.

Two other routes, Mona Passage between the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, and the Anegada Passage between Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, contain too many shipping hazards and thus do not figure significantly in ocean commerce. Strategically, therefore, Cuba is a gateway to the Caribbean Sea, just as Gibraltar is the gateway to the Mediterranean Sea.

To the north, the waters between Cuba and the Bahamas are mostly shallow. There is a deep, narrow channel along the north coast of Cuba, but it is interspersed with islets which are hazardous to navigation.

Thus, aside from the Yucatan Passage, which must be entered through the Straits of Florida, the shortest and best route to the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the lower South Atlantic, is through the Windward Passage between the southeastern tip of Cuba and the northern tip of Haiti on Hispaniola Island.

Guantanamo Naval Base sits just off the Windward Passage, almost in the center of what comprises the approximate end of the Caribbean Sea and the beginning of the Gulf of Mexico. The Base

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is also within short flying distance from Mona and Anegada Passages, making it ideal for surveillance and patrol of all sea approaches to the lower South Atlantic, the Caribbean Sea, the Panama Canal, and the Gulf of Mexico.

If a hostile power should ever occupy Guantanamo Bay, the Castroites could seal off both the Yucatan and Windward Passages, and perhaps even make our control of the Panama Canal untenable. Moreover, with the area serving as a hostile submarine base, the security of the entire Western Hemisphere would be threatened.

Our determination to hold Guantanamo at all cost is therefore based on stern realities, aside from our treaty rights. The strategic importance of Guantanamo is fully appreciated by the Russians and the Castroites. In their hands, the Base could constitute a formidable facility for Communist aggression. In our hands, the Base is a continuing assurance of a strong, defensive arm in support of freedom and human dignity.

Volume III - Number 10.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column
by

SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

HIKING IN WEST VIRGINIA GOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL

In recent days, hiking has been spotlighted as a moderate means of attaining physical fitness. The swing of the stride, we are told, gives motion to most of the body's muscles and generally promotes a better conditioning of the tissues.

But hiking, as such, can be a dull activity if the route of the walk lacks eye-appealing elements which can add the factor of contentment to the exercise. Personal serenity can be found, however, along the 735 miles of hiking trails and byways in the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia.

Some enthusiasts have called hiking in the Monongahela National Forest "tranquillity without tranquilizers," and a "panoramic tonic." Certainly, for physical renewal and spiritual enrichment, extensive foot travel in the high country of the Mountain State has no equal anywhere East of the Mississippi River.

Oddly enough, many of the trails in the National Forest are the paths that mark the commerce of a generation almost forgotten. They were established by loggers, at the turn of the century--men engaged in harvesting the rich virgin forests from such logging centers as Davis, Thomas, Parsons, Glady, Neola, Evenwood, Bemis, Cass, Rimel, Franklin, Petersburg, Whitmer, Horton, and Job.

The trails which these woodsmen left for our generation of hikers are pathways abounding in natural riches. They weave between birch, beech, and maple trees; they touch on many cool, flowing springs; they pass fields of wildflowers; and they skirt scenic overlooks of breath-taking beauty.

Then there are trails developed by the Forest Service which lead to forest fire towers located at high elevations. Here the hiker is afforded commanding views of lush mountainous landscapes. There is the Red Oak tower overlooking Cranberry River; Red Spruce

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tower in Pocahontas County overlooking the Williams River; and Beaver Lick tower, also in Pocahontas County.

Spruce Patch, a stand of virgin timber of rare beauty, is reached by walking 4½ miles over the Mylius Trail in Randolph County. This trail was named for one of the pioneer families of the area.

Hiking in the high country of West Virginia's Monongahela Forest is particularly pleasant during the summer months. It is a truly stimulating experience in the autumn months, when the brilliant hues of many hardwoods are sharply contrasted by the evergreen foliage of the native Red Spruce. In many respects, the coloration of our forestlands is superior to New England's fall foliage, which attracts thousands of visitors each autumn.

Thus, to those Americans who are thinking of taking to hiking, the high country of the Mountain State recommends itself as being good for both body and soul.

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CHESTNUT TREE COMEBACK IN STATE IS STILL LONG WAY OFF

The blight that killed off chestnut trees, some 25 or 30 years ago, did more than rob West Virginia of its highly valuable forest giants. For many new generations of youngsters the blight ended that wonderful autumn treat of gathering bags of chestnuts in the woods for roasting over live coals, or for munching now and then during the long winter months.

Those bags of chestnuts also came in handy when there was some special cooking to be done. Nothing could ever equal the chestnut dressing that stuffed the Sunday chickens or the Thanksgiving and Christmas turkeys.

Today, only the rare ghost of an old chestnut snag still standing amid oak and beech trees reminds us of our loss. Before the blight struck, chestnut made up at least 25 per cent of the forest stands of West Virginia, and was an important source of revenue for our timber and wood products industries.

The economic blow of the blight was eased a little, but only temporarily, because chestnut is a durable wood. Our saw mills, other wood-using industries, and tanneries, were able to continue supplying chestnut timber products for many years by using blight-killed trees.

Even "sound but wormy" chestnut, sawed from those blight-killed trees, was in high demand for interior paneling and other specialty uses. But the salvage job is essentially over, and the occasional loads of chestnut seen at railroad sidings are headed for a tannery (because chestnut is rich in tannin, a strong astringent substance used for the manufacture of leather), or for the production of split-rail fencing.

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Chestnut is a tenacious species. Many of the blight-killed trees still send up sprouts from their stumps and roots. Some of these sprouts even live long enough to bear a few nuts before getting killed back by the blight. But the blight itself seems to be dying out, and for this reason each new generation of sprouts survives a little longer and bears a few more nuts before it dies.

Today, there are between 200 and 300 chestnut that have withstood the ravishes of the blight and still live. The U. S. Forest Service, working on the presumption that these trees survived because they have a natural resistant to chestnut blight, are collecting live cuttings from the best of these trees. These cuttings are being grafted onto root stocks of blight-resistant Asiatic chestnut trees. The grafted trees so developed are then shipped out to cooperating woodlot owners.

If all goes well, this research may enable the chestnut to stage at least a partial comeback. Indeed, it would be wonderful to see West Virginia's hills once again forested with magnificent chestnut trees. Then our children, or their children, could experience the wholesome pleasure of gathering chestnuts in the fall.

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MORE PERSONS FISHING WEST VIRGINIA WATERS THAN EVER BEFORE

Now that spring is officially here, thousands of West Virginians are focusing their thoughts on fishing. Lures are being examined, reels are being oiled, and the snap of a flyrod is again being practiced.

Fishing in West Virginia waters is becoming increasingly popular. Hundreds of ex-West Virginians, as well as residents of neighboring states, are coming to the Mountain State for the thrill of fishing in familiar haunts. In 1961, 247,316 persons applied for fishing licenses, permits, and stamps, in West Virginia. In 1962, the number jumped to 251,148. A substantial increase is expected this year.

Of course, West Virginia's streams and lakes are the habitat of many varieties of fish; but the finny aristocrat of the Mountain State is the Brook Trout. Known also as the Speckled Trout, Mountain Trout, or Mountain Beauty, the brilliant pink spots of this highly prized fish are a sight to thrill any red-blooded sportsman, as they flash from the quiet waters of a deep pool in a leaping snap at an artificial fly.

The natural habitats of the Brook Trout are in the cold, tree-shaded, boulder-strewn, gravel-riffled headwaters of the Potomac River, the Greenbrier, the Gauley, and the Elk. The speckled beauty also dwells in the upper reaches of other major rivers, as well as in a host of tributary streams that have their source in the high country of our State.

These headwaters are also the spawning grounds of the Brook Trout, which seeks out spring-fed dark crevices in which to deposit its eggs in the fall--eggs that will be incubated by circulating

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currents of water in the spring. But to increase a sportsman's chances of creeling some of these muscular, fighting fish, our State hatcheries stock "put-and-take" trout of legal size in these streams.

Of course, as better watershed management keeps our streams from silting and becoming cluttered with debris, and as stream pollution is abated and new tree plantings help to keep waters cool, fish life in West Virginia will be greatly increased and more anglers will come to the State for the sport and recreation of fishing.

In 1961, West Virginia revenues from the sale of fishing licenses, tags, permits, and trout stamps amounted to \$539,591. Similar revenues in 1962 added up to \$555,862. Hopefully, these revenues could reach three-quarters of a million dollars by 1970. By 1980, however, through determined water conservation practices, the Mountain State can become the "Fisherman's Paradise of the East"--an event which would be very meaningful to the economy of our State.

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HELIUM MAY BE OUR PASSEY TO OUTER SPACE

Many persons today think of dirigibles when "helium" is mentioned--a word association dating back to World War I days, when this inert, non-flammable gas was used by our Government for inflating lighter-than-air craft. Tomorrow, however, helium will be synonymous with "outer space."

Helium's new importance lies in the fact that this second lightest of the elements can afford our spaceships with a "shield" that will protect astronauts from high-intensity radiation as they explore the universe. Thus, in effect, helium may be our passkey to outer space.

Helium's new prominence is due to bench-work experiments which promise to untie a very knotty scientific problem. This involves the extreme low temperature of outer space--only slightly higher than 459 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit. This temperature is known as "absolute zero," where, theoretically, all molecular action ceases.

At absolute zero temperature, materials take on new characteristics completely unlike their room temperature traits, and become "superconductors" of electricity. A spaceship, therefore, could become a deathtrap unless properly shielded. This hazard is due to the fact that America's spacemen must pass through a doughnut-shaped girdle of electrical particles from the sun known as the Van Allen radiation belt.

In researching this problem, our scientists turned to liquid helium. This is the only known substance on Earth through which a temperature just a fraction of a degree above absolute zero can be reached.

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Reasoning that the electrical particles of the Van Allen radiation belt are held in place above the Earth by magnetic force, our scientists worked on an old principle--that magnets can be made to repel electric particles as well as attract them.

A conventional electromagnet powerful enough to surround a spacecraft with an electromagnetic field sufficiently strong to protect the astronauts would have to be almost as big as the ship itself. With liquid helium, however, it may be possible to generate an electromagnetic field powerful enough to do the job with a metallic coil weighing less than a pound!

Thus, in a world where challenges are given us with such frequency that we have come to accept them as the norm, the new-found use for helium may not engender much excitement. But in years to come, when inter-planetary travel becomes commonplace, we may be asking mechanics to "check the helium shield," just as we ask today for a carburetor check.

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DISAPPEARING BIRD SPECIES OF GROWING CONCERN TO GOVERNMENT

In our preoccupation with large problems facing the nation, many of us are unaware of the intensive efforts being made to cope with smaller, pertinent problems. One of these is the danger of extinction of some valuable bird species. It is a problem on which the government may spend more than \$30 million in fiscal year 1964.

All living things have their place in nature. Not all, however, are as important to man's welfare as are birds. Aside from a few species which farmers view as nuisances, most birds are rightfully looked upon as our "feathered friends." We depend on them to keep down the population of harmful rodents and insects.

Without birds, rodents would do untold damage to our crops, and insects would soon denude our forests, our flowering shrubs, and lay waste to our orchards. Even our grasslands would suffer, which in turn would mean reduced meat supplies for the nation.

Twelve valuable bird species have already disappeared from America in the less than 200 years of our existence as a nation. These include the Passenger Pigeon, the Carolina Parakeet, the Heath Hen, the Great Auk, and the Labrador Duck, to mention a few. Almost extinct today are the Whooping Crane, the Prairie Chicken, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, the Everglade Kite, and the California Condor, among others.

During the 19th century, hunters killed thousands of birds for feathers and meat. This ruthless slaughter brought about the extinction of some species, and the near extinction of others.

Today, the destruction of natural bird habitats through the extension of cities, roads, the drainage of vast marshlands, the

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pollution of streams and rivers, and the careless use of pesticides, are threatening to seriously reduce or wipe out remaining bird species.

To preserve our birdlife, and to aid vanishing species in recovering numerically, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service are devoting themselves to special conservation programs. These include the purchase and development of natural habitats; the control of predators such as snakes, coyotes, bobcats, foxes, etc.; and the assurance of sufficient food supplies during heavy winter months.

Unquestionably, the future of birdlife in our country will require more than government action. It will require thoughtful vigilance on the part of all Americans, such as seeing to it that some grain, or bread or fat scraps, are left on the ground for birds to find during the migratory seasons, or when snow covers the ground. At the same time, let none of us forget to remind youngsters that BB-guns and slingshots should not be aimed at birds.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW

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GOVERNMENT DEVISES A NEW DICTIONARY FOR IDENTIFYING COLORS

Roses may be red and violets blue, but they are also going to have scientific last names, according to the Bureau of Standards. The Bureau has devised a "Method of Designating Colors and a Dictionary of Color Names" which provides a mathematical reference for identifying colors.

Colors have traditionally taken their names from common objects, such as flowers, trees, lakes, etc. Commercial advertising still follows this pattern. Cosmetics, clothes, automobiles and other competitive items depend on the suggestive quality, rather than the precise meaning, or a word to capture a consumer's purse.

But in many industries there has been a growing demand for a system of nomenclature that would give colors the preciseness of weights and measures. Color, of course, means brilliance and saturation, as well as hue. If one imagines the color spectrum to consist of a wheel, with x number of spokes radiating out from the center, the spokes would represent hues (or shades). Saturation is the quantity of hue in a given area, and brilliance means the amount of white light it reflects.

Every individual red rose, for example, will vary according to brilliance and saturation, as well as hue. This creates no problem in courtship, but in industries such as painting and decorating, where exact duplication of color is a familiar problem, some scientific formula for arriving at the duplication has been eagerly sought.

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Almost a dozen color systems, based on a given number of hues and degrees of brilliance and saturation, have been developed, but these have not solved the basic problem of standardization, for the systems are not interchangeable. If one system has thirty spokes in its color wheel, and another has fifty, equivalent colors will obviously not exist.

The Bureau of Standards has solved the problem by adopting a basic color wheel of 28 spokes. The 28 hues combine with a variety of brilliances and saturations to produce 267 color names. The degree of brilliance and saturation, as well as the exact hue, is determined by the colorimeter, and the spectrophotometer, and therefore has a mathematical identity.

The 267 color names are identified in the Bureau's Dictionary of Color, which also gives their mathematical derivation. The Dictionary is supplemented by a set of 230 color chips, providing exact matching samples for about 90% of the colors. The Dictionary is cross-referenced in such a way that any existing color system can determine the relationship of its colors to those of any other system.

The Bureau of Standards hopes, of course, that the other systems will soon be abandoned, and its own nationally adopted. Then it will be possible, when we speak of a red rose, or a red nose, to know exactly just how red it is.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
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INCREASING DEMAND EXPECTED FOR DIAPERS AND ROCKING CHAIRS

Most people are aware of the fact that we in the United States are living longer than we used to. This suggests that the citizenry as a whole is getting older. But a recent study of population trends by the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare indicates that the population configuration is now enlarging at both ends of the age scale. Here are some of the interesting findings.

In 1820, when the first census was taken in this country, the median, or average, age was 16.7 years. This increased steadily through the years and rose to 30.2 by 1950. In 1960 the average age dipped, for the first time, to 29.5.

The age group which has shown the greatest increase during the past 90 years is the 45-64, or middle age group. In 1870 this group represented 11.6 percent of the population. After climbing steadily for 80 years, it reached 20.3 percent in 1950. Then it declined, in 1960, to 20.1 percent. Out of our present population of 180 million persons, about 36 million are in the 45-64 group.

The second greatest increase has come in the oldest group, persons 65 or older. In 1870 the 65+ group represented 2.9 percent of the population. In 1960 it was up to 9.2 percent, giving us about 16½ million persons over 65.

It is clear that not only has the average age of the United States citizen been increasing, but the upper age groups of the population have increased faster than the youngest, or under 45 group. However, Census Bureau projections for the next 20 years indicate a tapering off of this trend, for the 65+ group, and a reversal of the trend for the 45-64 group.

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By 1980, the Census Bureau projection indicates, the 65+ group should represent 10 percent of an expected 240-260 million population, or from 24 to 26 million persons. At the same time, the middle age group, from 45-64, will have dropped to 17-18 percent of the population, or about 44 million persons. There will be a corresponding increase, then, in the under-45 group, which will number nearly 180 million persons.

The significant fact of this projection is the nearly 3 percent drop expected in the middle age group, in proportion to the whole. Indications are that a continued high birth rate, and improved medical care, will give America a more youthful population within the next twenty years. The average age will be younger, while at the same time the life expectancy will continue to climb. Both diapers and rocking chairs should remain in good demand.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW

A Public Service Column
by

ROBERT C. BYRD, U.S.S.

POKE IN THE POT GIVES A LIFT TO THE LIVER IN SPRING

In Spring, no doubt, a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love. His head spins out wild dreams. His heart aches for romance--so the poet tells us. But sober country folk may diagnose the problem in such homely terms as a simple craving of the liver for a mess of fresh-picked poke. Poke is one of the wild, edible greens that contribute to the well-being of that unromantic but highly important glandular organ.

Poke, like dandelion, lambsquarters, plantain, wild chicory, emerging fern, purslane, milkweed, and wild mustard, gives an appetizing flip to the dinner table. But mountain folk know from experience that these wild Spring greens also help them shed the torpor of winter. This may be because, as the scientists tell us, these early weeds are a potent source of vitamins and minerals.

To the city dweller, recognizing wild greens may appear a formidable task best left to experts. One hears stories of severe cramps, following a feast of greens. Some regard them in the same dangerous category as unfamiliar mushrooms.

These fears are exaggerated. It is true that some greens may be harmful, if taken late in the season. Poke leaves, for example, should be avoided once the plant forms its red berries. Dock, or mountain rhubarb, becomes too harsh for most palates as it matures.

Dandelion, the most abundant of wild greens, develops a bitter taste once the yellow blossom appears. But taken earlier, the tooth-edged leaves are fine in salads, or even brewed as a tea. On the other hand, purslane, a sprawling, trailing weed with small, thick leaves, may be eaten right through midsummer.

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Plantain, almost as common as dandelions, has a coarse texture and a somewhat bitter taste. But plantain's top tender leaves, like those of milkweed, make a delectable cooked green to go with any meat dish.

For those who like a strong, spinachy flavor, lambsquarters make a fine wild green. But as a substitute for asparagus, nothing compares with young fern, picked before the leaves unfold, and fried in a pan with butter.

Young wild mustard and wild chicory will spice up a salad, as will the tender tops of horseradish. These greens, when cooked, also make good "pot liquor" for soups and stews, or sauces.

Wild greens must be served quickly after gathering, for they wilt rapidly and lose their vitamin content sooner than garden greens. That is one reason they are not found in the marketplace. They are a part of Nature's treasure which, like health, is freely offered but never sold.

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FALLOUT CONCERN LABELED FALSE ALARM BY HEALTH SERVICE

Newspaper stories predicting a heavy atomic fallout in the Spring rains, as a result of atomic testing by the United States and Russia, have raised the question in many localities, "Are we in danger? Should we take precautions?" Some persons fear actual contact with the rain. Others will not allow their children to drink whole milk, the principal source of radioactive strontium and iodine.

Those who have seen the recent report on Radiological Health Data issued by the U.S. Public Health Service may have been disturbed to note that West Virginia lies in a temporary "ridge of higher strontium-90 concentration." But careful analysis of the data shows that this State is in no actual danger and that local precautionary measures are unnecessary.

Constant surveillance of radioactivity over the entire nation by the U.S. Public Health Service means that the Surgeon-General will be the first to know of any danger arising in any locality. Thus, any needed safety or protective measures would be initiated by State health officers. Brief radiological fluctuations are insignificant, since it is the total yearly absorption of radioactive particles, or "radionuclides", that matters.

Basic information for the Public Health Service comes from monthly sampling of the "radionuclide" intake in milk, which provides from 60 to 30 percent of the strontium-90 intake and almost all of the iodine-131 intake. During the 12-month period ending in January, 1963, West Virginians absorbed a total of 6,853 micromicrocuries. (A micromicrocurie is one millionth of
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one millionth of a "curie". A curie is the total radioactivity in one gram of radium.) The national average intake was slightly lower--4,997 micromicrocuries--but it ranged as high as 11,046 (in Louisiana). The acceptable dose of strontium-90 for a 12-month period is 73,000--more than ten times what we received in West Virginia.

Our intake of iodine-131 for the year was 6,970 micromicrocuries while the national average was 11,863--nearly double. The safe yearly dosage of iodine-131 is 36,500, nearly six times the intake in West Virginia.

Since iodine-131 is a shortlived radionuclide (half of its radioactivity is spent in eight days), counter-measures are fairly simple, should the need arise. Milk can be refrigerated for a few weeks, or processed into powder or cheese, until the radioactivity fades away.

Strontium-90 is considered the more dangerous radionuclide, because it is longlived, and because it may be absorbed into bone and bone marrow in place of calcium. Thus far, the amounts of strontium-90 being absorbed nationally are so insignificant that no counter-measures are being taken by the Public Health Service. But if the need should arise, the Health Service has in reserve such measures as control of soil conditions, removal of strontium-90 from milk by "ion exchange", and possibly the addition of stable calcium to diets.

However great the potential threat from fallout may be, from increased testing or actual war, the present situation calls for no individual or local protective action, nor for any deviation from normal habits of living and eating, either for adults or children. The Surgeon-General urges that children should not be taken off whole milk. Carry on as usual, is the word from Washington.

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DOLA DISASTER SPURS RESEARCH FOR AUTOMATIC DETECTOR

The Dola mine disaster in Harrison County has pointed up the need for something that Federal Bureau of Mines officials have been seeking for many years: a completely automatic coal-gas detector. Until such equipment is perfected and installed in the mines, no man underground will be completely safe from the dangers of a gas explosion.

Preliminary investigations at Dola indicate that the common enemy of the miner--the electric spark from power equipment--set off an explosion of methane gas. Methane, or coal-gas, being odorless, colorless and tasteless, collects insidiously in shafts where coal is being worked, and is explosive when the concentration exceeds 5 per cent. Seepage of methane where coal is being mined goes on continuously, but proper ventilation of mine faces prevents a dangerous concentration.

The basic instrument for detection of methane is the flame safety lamp, in use for 150 years. The flame safety lamp can indeed be called "the miner's friend", but it is only as protective as its users are vigilant. The lamp must be held up, at frequent intervals, toward the roof of shafts, where the methane, being lighter than air, collects. Its presence is made known by a blue "cap" atop the yellow flame. The presence of any detectable amount of methane in the shaft requires that all electrical equipment in the vicinity be shut off and kept off until proper ventilation takes place.

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The present usage of heavy machinery, such as the "continuous miner", brings rapid changes in the atmosphere of the shaft. The dilemma of the mine operation is that efficiency and competition call for speedy production of coal, whereas safety calls for frequent stoppages for inspection with the flame lamp. The result has been a compromise, sometimes with fatal results to the miners.

The only reliable solution to the problem of explosive coal-gas appears to be an automatic detection device. Since 1958, the Bureau of Mines has been working to develop an effective "Methane Monitor" that can be built into coal-mining machinery. Thus it could be in continuous operation at all mine faces and would automatically shut off power equipment whenever the methane concentration approached the danger level.

The Methane Monitor is being built at a Research and Testing Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Working models have been tried in the mines, but the Monitor is still far from being perfected. Because it will be installed on heavy, vibrating machinery the Monitor will have to be sturdy enough to withstand mechanical shock, yet sensitive enough to detect the presence of methane instantly.

More frequent inspection of mines and more rigid safety legislation may be in order, but development of an automatic gas detector for the mines is of primary urgency. Perfection of this device will come too late, unfortunately, to help the victims of Dola. All we can do is hope that it will not come too late to prevent future disasters in our mines.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
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AIR TANKERS PROTECTING APPALACHIAN FORESTS
FROM FIRE

The stationing of airborne fire-fighting units of the U. S. Forest Service in the Appalachian region will mean better fire protection for West Virginia's forests, insuring the economic and recreational future of the State.

The Forest Service now has available both helicopters for airlifting crews and equipment, and air tankers for aerial dousing of woods with fire-retardent liquid chemicals. The helicopters are mobile units that are shifted about during the fire season, as needed. The air tanker intended for use in West Virginia is stationed at Hot Springs, Virginia. This is a converted B-26 Army bomber with a carrying capacity of 1,200 gallons of liquid and a range of several hundred miles.

Control of fires with the help of air tankers is credited with keeping timber loss in West Virginia to a minimum this year, despite the unusually dry weather, and the prevalence of numerous burns in Virginia and other neighboring States. This is especially important in view of the increased use of timber in the growing woods-products facilities of West Virginia. These facilities depend heavily on logging in the National Forests, where the allowable annual timber cut would be adversely affected by loss from fire.

Fire fighting from the air was developed by the Forest Service in the arid West, where the Rocky Mountain and coastal ranges had been suffering huge annual losses from fire. These

losses have been reduced significantly since the Forest Service began experimenting, in 1945, with aerial fire-fighting equipment. The latest development is the use of "smoke jumpers" -- fire fighters who parachute directly into affected areas. No smoke jumpers are being used in the East, however, because forested areas here are more accessible to surface transportation than those in the West.

The aerial technique used in West Virginia consists of dropping a chemical slurry from the B-26's 1,200 gallon tank in a single "cascade," spreading a blanket of fire retardent over an area in the fire's path approximately 200 by 800 feet. This slows up the fire until crews can surround it. When the fire is small enough, the retardent may be dropped directly on the blaze.

Thanks to this new technique, none of the 200 fires that ranged through the National Forests of West Virginia, Kentucky and Virginia this Spring reached any significant proportions. Only 8 of the blazes covered more than 100 acres.

April is the month of highest fire danger in the Appalachian woods. Because the trees are not yet in leaf, the sun is able to dry out dead twigs and leaves in the forest bed, where gusty winds may fan the smallest spark into a roaring flame. October, when the leaves again pile up on the ground, is the second most dangerous fire month for West Virginia.

Fire danger in summer comes chiefly from campers who are careless about their fires. The Forest Service's "Air Wing" combats this danger by hovering over campgrounds in helicopters, warning campers by loudspeaker against neglect and carelessness in the woods. Thus, Smoky, the Bear, is getting some help from on high.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW

A Public Service Column by
U.S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

THE SAVING OF MR. MAGOO A VICTORY FOR COMMON PEOPLE

In a solitary cell in a concrete block in Duluth, Minnesota, sits a forlorn exile from India, condemned by governmental edict to spend the rest of his life cut off from his own kind. But the continued presence of Mr. Magoo, the celebrated mongoose, on American soil is regarded as a victory over bureaucracy by the common people.

The saving of Mr. Magoo is a heartwarming story for all nature lovers. Brought to this country by a sailor who slipped him past Customs, the Indian mongoose was presented to the Duluth zoo, where he became a favorite resident.

But the illegal immigrant's presence was soon discovered by alarmed biologists of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Department ordered his immediate deportation, on the grounds that "The mongoose...could be a major danger to the poultry industry, ground-living wildlife, and birds...in this country."

The mongoose, incidentally, is a large member of the weasel family, about twenty inches long, plus tail, with short forelegs and long hindlegs. Despite the short forelegs, he is fast enough to outstrike a cobra. He is not at all fussy about food, and will attack anything that moves, from a mouse on up to a sheep. When the meat supply runs low, he may go on a vegetarian binge and help himself to an apple orchard. Wherever he emigrates, his kind multiply at a frightening pace. Hence the cry of the Department of the Interior biologists: Mr. Magoo must go!

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But animal lovers everywhere sprang to Mr. Magoo's defense. They maintained that Mr. Magoo could not be held responsible for the crimes of his race. They pointed out that he had killed no chickens, had pilfered no piglets, had raided no orchards, and had in no way broken the sovereign laws of the United States or of Mother Nature. His only offense was in having been born a mongoose.

Furthermore, the defense contended, the unspoused Mr. Magoo could hardly produce a population explosion all by himself. He is a confirmed bachelor, with no living relatives in this country, and no romantic aspirations. He desires only a life of simple contemplation. Mr. Magoo must not go, the common people cried.

The Secretary of the Interior harkened to the voice of the people. He granted Mr. Magoo "non-political asylum" in the Duluth zoo, where he must be maintained in solitary confinement, under maximum security conditions. All visits by relatives are strictly forbidden.

Thus Mr. Magoo, the oversized weasel, is allowed to remain among us, on the condition that he will never found a family. He had better not, or we'll all be sitting up nights in the henhouse with a shotgun.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW

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U.S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

MAN'S BEST FRIEND IS STILL IN THE BARN

Farm machinery may come and go, but the wonder of the farming world continues to be what may be properly called man's best friend -- the cow. In terms of food production, none of man's agricultural achievements has proved as beneficial as his domestication of the cow. The trail of human history is virtually a "Milky Way," for wherever he has traveled, civilized man has always hitched his wagon to a cow.

Like the white man, the milk cow is a relative newcomer to the Western World, but Betsy has thrived here. Today there are more than 17 million cows in the American dairy industry. Last year their yield of fluid milk totalled 126 billion pounds. This works out to 7,370 pounds per cow, which means that in the course of a year the average cow produces about 5 times her own weight in edible food.

Most of us tend to think of dairy produce in terms of milk, butter and ice cream. But the product of the cow has hundreds of other uses, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Last year, for example, some 14 billion pounds of milk went into cheese making. Nearly 4 billion pounds went into evaporated and condensed milk. One billion went into bulk condensed milk (for candy and bakery products). Millions of pounds went into skim milk, which is used in dietary drinks, and in powdered milk, cake mixes, sausage meat, and in soft drinks and soups. Skim milk is used in many pharmaceuticals, and in one form (casein) it is even used as glue.

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Ice cream is, of course, one of the favorite forms of milk. Americans consumed 702.3 million gallons of ice cream last year -- nearly four gallons per person. This was in addition to 180 million gallons of ice milk products. No other nation approaches us in this respect.

However, it may surprise some to learn that Americans are not the greatest milk drinkers in the world, in spite of our high standard of living. Ireland, which has a much lower standard, leads all other nations in per capita consumption of milk. In 1961 the Irish average milk consumption was 1510 pounds per person -- almost half a gallon per day. The American average per capita consumption was 640 pounds, less than a quart a day. The United States is 16th on the list of milk products consumers of the world.

The concern over cholesterol intake has reduced milk consumption in this country, but the real explanation of why we do not rank so high among milk drinkers is that we have such a great variety of food to choose from. No other country has such choices of meats, fruits and vegetables as are to be found in American markets. Improved methods of refrigeration and transportation have freed us almost completely from dependence on weather and locality. Country people especially benefit, for previously they had to depend chiefly on local produce, and leaned heavily on the milk cow. But that same cow is still the wonder of the world, when it comes to producing a basic part of our diet.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

GOVERNMENT MARKETING SERVICE GUIDES BUYER TO BEST BUYS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is currently holding an exhibit in Washington, D.C., which commemorates 50 years of marketing service to American farmers, industry and consumers. The aim of the exhibit is to increase awareness of what the Department's grading stamps mean, as regards quality and economy of purchase. Ability to interpret these stamps correctly can save the housewife many dollars.

On dairy products, the classifications "Grade AA", "Grade A", and "Grade B" are most common. On butter, there is not a great deal of difference between the two top grades, both of which are made from fresh cream. Where the price differential is great, a substantial saving may be effected by purchasing Grade A rather than AA. Grade B is made from sour cream, and lacks the fresh flavor of the top grades, although it is almost equally healthful. Thus, for some buyers it may represent a dollar saving without any nutritional sacrifice.

The following grade stamps may be found on cheese: "AA", "A", "B", "C", and "D". These stamps indicate excellence of flavor, rather than nutritional value; all U.S. graded cheese is of acceptable quality. For cottage cheese, the Department issues a "Quality Approved" stamp of approval.

Fluid milk is one of the few items not graded by the Department of Agriculture. Instead, the U.S. Public Health Service puts out a "Milk Code" which is followed in 37 States and 1900 municipalities. Under the Code, Grade A milk is designated as meeting certain rigid standards as regards bacteriological

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count, herd health requirements, sanitary inspections, butterfat content, etc.

Four grades of eggs are acceptable: "AA", "A", "B", and "C". The first two grades are best for egg dishes, since both the yolk and the white are thick and firm. Grades B and C eggs have a thin white and a fragile yolk, which breaks easily. There are six sizes of eggs: "jumbo", "extra large", "large", "medium", "small", and "peewee". Size has no bearing on the quality of an egg; Grade AA eggs come in all sizes.

Poultry has three grades, "A", "B", and "C", which are considered wholesome. The grade A bird is full-fleshed with a good layer of fat. Grade B is somewhat leaner, and the grade C fowl is noticeably thin, with the breastbone prominent, and some skin flaws.

The best grades of beef are labeled "Prime", "Choice", and "Good". Prime beef has the maximum amount of fat marbled in with the lean meat. Choice and good are less interspaced with fat. "Standard" beef has almost no fat, and less juice and tenderness. "Commercial" beef comes from older cattle and requires long, slow cooking to make it palatable. Lamb and mutton are graded similarly, except that "utility" replaces standard, and "cull" is the lowest grade of lamb.

As U.S. gradings are voluntary, it is possible to purchase food that is ungraded, or is "graded" without the U.S. Department of Agriculture stamp on it. However, the familiar USDA shield is the housewife's best guide to a safe and economical purchase.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

NATIONAL STUDY OF PESTICIDES ADVISED BY SCIENCE COMMITTEE

A program of expanded research on the toxic effects of pesticides, on man as well as on animals, was recommended by the President's Science Advisory Committee following the Committee's investigation of pest control practices across the country.

Concern that human beings may be absorbing and building up dangerous levels of toxic chemicals in their bodies, as a result of intensive spraying, dusting and other applications of pesticides, has prompted the scientists to urge the President to take immediate steps to obtain exact data on the present levels of pesticides in our environment and to increase our efforts to understand their long-term effects.

The Committee acknowledges the great value of pesticides in ridding society of many dread diseases. The use of DDT against the anopheles-bearing mosquito has practically wiped out malaria in this country, although it is still the number one killer in other parts of the world. However, detection of pesticide residues in living creatures far removed from the time and place of application -- such as in the bodies of fish far out at sea -- has raised the question of pesticide buildup with potential dangers to man as great as that from radiological fallout.

At present there is no evidence of pesticide residues causing death or malignant disease in man. Biologists feel that it is still too early to tell whether there is an occupational hazard in dealing with pesticides, or even a danger

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from exposure to their presence in the environment. But they believe that a thorough investigation of the question should be undertaken at once.

It is known that insecticides have been responsible for wiping out as much as 80 percent of bird flocks, and that, in general, the tolerance of these chemical agents is very small among lower forms of life. For example, pink shrimp have been experimentally poisoned by as little as 0.9 parts per billion of heptachlor, a chlorinated hydrocarbon similar to DDT. Young salmon have been all but exterminated in streams where bordering plants were sprayed with DDT. Crayfish and crabs are very sensitive to it. Birds have been known to die from eating apparently healthy fish containing very minute concentrations of pesticides.

Some \$4 billion worth of chemicals is dumped or sprayed into our environment each year by farmers alone. The amount is increasing yearly, as various pests develop immunity to specific pesticides. Before the nation is virtually engulfed by this sea of poison, scientists suggest that alternate means of pest control be explored.

Methods for pest control without chemicals have been known to farmers even in ancient times. Crop rotation, fallowing land, burning over fields, etc., are examples. In modern times, entomologists have worked with the use of insect enemies for pest control. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has imported more than 500 species of insect-destroying organisms, of which 36 have had some success. Another technique is the sterilization of male insects, which are then released to compete with non-sterile males. Traps baited with sex attractants constitute still another method that has been used on certain insects. Although none of these methods has experienced the outstanding success of pesticides, they deserve to be followed up, insofar as they mitigate the practice of poisoning our environment.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WILDLIFE PREDATOR CONTROL PROGRAM UNDER STUDY

A new look at predator control in the United States will be taken by the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries and Wildlife to determine what further steps may have to be taken in the battle against predatory animals and birds. While most of the large predators are in the West, farm crops in the East are often affected by the activities of small animals and birds.

The fox is no longer a serious threat to the chicken coop or sheepfold. This animal is currently being trapped, under federal supervision, in several eastern states, including West Virginia, as a potential transmitter of rabies.

But the most active farm predator is the common field mouse, which, in addition to a voracious appetite for stored grain, causes considerable damage to fruit trees by eating the bark at the base of the tree in the winter. This little rodent, however, is now subject to a control program supervised by the Wildlife Bureau which is calculated to save farmers millions of dollars annually.

Weasels, skunks, and similar small, fur-bearing animals are on the increase in West Virginia, much to the sorrow of poultry farmers. This is due to the fact that these animals are no longer being trapped for their pelts, which have lost the market value they had twenty years ago. Researchers say that steel traps and poisoned bait are still the best control methods against these predators.

Some species of birds are severe farm pests, and the problem of keeping them away from ripening grain, berries, and fruits is still in the research stage. Flocks of blackbirds and

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starlings may settle in a sweet corn field, and by pecking at a corner of an ear they spoil the crop for marketing.

More troublesome than the blackbird is the starling, a fairly recent emigrant from Europe. Originally introduced here as a means of controlling insect life, the starling has had a population explosion, making this bird a menace to cities, farms, and even to aircraft. Some jet planes have crashed on take off when their intake tubes sucked in errant starlings. When a large flock of these birds land in an orchard, they may not leave until the trees are bare of fruits.

Experiments with noismakers appear to be the most promising methods for scaring off pestiferous birds. Certain types of firecrackers have been used with good results, although a prolonged bombardment is often required, and this can be costly.

Direct extermination of the starling and blackbird could upset the balance of nature. Therefore, wildlife scientists are studying how to make the natural habitats of these birds unwholesome indirectly. But whether man is smart enough to outwit these birds remains to be seen.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

STUDIES REVEAL HOW DAIRY INDUSTRY IS AFFECTED BY CLIMATE

Cows, like human beings, are affected by the humidity in the air, and give less milk under hot and humid conditions, an agricultural scientist reported at the 1963 International Symposium on Humidity and Moisture, in Washington, D. C.

Experiments carried out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland, demonstrate that, when the temperature rises above 75 degrees, milk production of cows drops off as the humidity increases. At temperatures below 75 degrees, the milk yield does not appear to be affected by damp weather.

In this research project, four breeds of cattle were confined for periods of two weeks in rooms with controlled atmospheric conditions. Milk production was found to be constant, no matter how the humidity fluctuated, as long as the temperature remained below 75.

When the room temperature raised above 75 degrees, a decrease in milk output, as well as in food and water consumption, was noted as the humidity was increased. The respiratory rate of the cattle also went up, and there were other physiological changes. Of the four breeds tested, the Brahman showed the least effect of the "weather"; the Holstein showed the most adverse effect, and the Jersey and Brown Swiss were in between.

Scientists speculate that the Brahman cow, a native of India, stands up to heat and humidity best because its body has a relatively greater skin surface than the other cows --

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approximately 12 per cent more skin surface. This physical factor enables the Brahman to "breathe" through its skin more readily than other cattle, and thus to be more successful in adjusting itself to changes in climate involving heat and moisture.

The Brahman, however, is not generally regarded as a milk cow, and its milk yield does not compare, under any circumstances, with that of the other breeds tested. Among the milk cows, the Brown Swiss stands up best to humidity, but is lowest in average yield. The Holstein is highest in yield, but is most noticeably affected by humidity.

The research indicates that greater efficiency in milk production may be achieved by breeding herds that are specifically adapted to the locality and climate. Furthermore, it may profit the farmer to take measures to adapt the climate to the cow, by air conditioning barns during the especially hot, sticky months. Experiments have been conducted, with encouraging results, in confining cattle within air-conditioned barns during the day, and turning them out at night.

In country where the shade trees are scarce, "shade-sheds" are advocated to protect the cattle from the direct rays of the sun, which affect them adversely. In the far West, grazing cattle in the summer on mountain ranges provides a natural air conditioning. Where this is not possible, man-made air conditioning may prove a significant factor in the dairy economy.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

AMERICAN COAL AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN EUROPEAN ECONOMY

American coal exports are playing an important part in the industrial progress of Western Europe, according to the latest report of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, which foresees a significant increase for our coal exports in 1963.

Reversing the unfavorable trend of the past few years, Western Europe imported 16.4 million metric tons of U.S. coal in 1962, an increase of 2.17 million tons, or 19.5 per cent, over 1961. The rise in European coal needs is attributed to booming industrial needs.

In the first four months of this year, our coal exports continued to rise. As of May 1, shipments to Western Germany amounted to 1,840,000 tons, an increase of 324,000 tons over the same period in 1961. Similar increases are noted in our coal trade with Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and France.

Thus far, the economic policies of the European Common Market have not restricted the importation of American coal. Only one country, Western Germany, places a duty on U.S. coal, above a fixed quota. Other members of the Common Market require licenses for individual shipments of coal, but impose no duty.

Italy was the largest European importer of U.S. coal in 1962, taking 5.4 million metric tons, compared with 4.4 million in 1961. This accounts for approximately one-third of American coal sold in Europe. West Germany was the second

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biggest customer, buying 4.9 million tons of coal; and the Netherlands was third, with purchases of 2.2 million tons.

The one Western European country which has closed its shores to U.S. coal is England, which is not a member of the Common Market. English steel manufacturers pay nearly \$3.00 a ton more for British coking coal than the price of American coal delivered in England. Consequently, Britain's steel industry is having difficulty competing with steelmakers on the continent, who have access to American coal.

Coal has always been an expensive product in Europe, owing to the relatively difficult conditions under which it is mined there. Because of the greater accessibility of our coal deposits and the use of highly productive mining machinery, coal can be mined in the United States and delivered to Europe at cheaper prices, despite our higher wages and the transportation cost.

The ability of the American coal industry to provide Europe with an abundance of coal at a relatively low price has helped to spur the remarkable recovery of Western European industry, which suffered extensive devastation in World War II.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

RIVER AND FLOOD SERVICE CONSTANTLY ON GUARD

Since Biblical times, floods have been one of the great terrors of the human race. Despite our advanced knowledge of engineering, and our swift communication systems, rampaging rivers continue to threaten life and property every year. To protect our citizens as fully as possible from this danger, the River and Flood Service of the U.S. Weather Bureau has spun an intricate web of data gathering and disseminating stations which can predict the rise of angry waters with timely accuracy.

The warning system of the River and Flood Service begins with a network of observers strategically placed throughout the United States, wherever flooding is a potential menace. In West Virginia there are fifty observers who keep track of river and rainfall data, and fifty more who report on rainfall only. The observer may be a trained technician at a manned station, or he may simply be an individual farmer or country-dwelling businessman.

The rainfall gauge may be located on an airport tower, or near the kitchen window of a farmhouse. River gauges are placed along solid banks, or under bridges, and usually consist of graduated metal staffs, requiring little upkeep. The rainfall gauges, on the other hand, need periodic emptying and clearing. The actual precipitation rate is recorded automatically on a clock-driven cylinder, or measured manually with a calibrated stick.

Each observer reports his gauge readings at regular

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intervals to the nearest forecast center. This information is fed by teletype into a main River Forecast Center (for West Virginia these main Centers are located at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Washington, D. C.).

Rainfall and river height information is studied at the Centers in connection with tables recording such data over the past 100 years. Additional data are taken from telemeter gauges (gauges wired directly to telephone lines), and from radar scopes which can observe rainfall in areas within a 100-mile radius. The overall weather picture is also studied on the basis of distant weather station reports.

The data then flow out, in the form of warnings and predictions of river crests and times, to the reporting stations and observers, and also to the press, to radio and television stations, to the Red Cross, to local civil defense and police, U.S. Engineers, etc. In Washington the National Red Cross Headquarters is alerted, as well as the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization.

Although reservoir systems and watershed maintenance can reduce flooding damage, no amount of leveeing or dam building can ever fully eliminate the danger of floods. However, a cooperative network of observers all but eliminates the danger to life.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

ELECTRO MAGNETIC WAVES NOW MEASURE THE MOISTURE IN WALLS

A radically new method for measuring humidity with electro-magnetic waves was demonstrated at the recent Symposium on Humidity in Washington, D. C. Quick, precise, and extremely simple to operate, this "moisture meter" is expected to prove of great value to the building industry, especially where wood products are involved.

The variable moisture content of building materials has always been a problem in construction, especially in surface finishing. Paint applied to material retaining hidden moisture will not give good protection. On the other hand, delaying finish work on this account is costly, and may be harmful to the material. The new electro-magnetic device apparently solves this problem nicely.

Water is known to absorb electro-magnetic energy at a consistent rate. The moisture meter works by beaming electro-magnetic waves through the measured object by means of a small, portable radio transmitter. The radio signal is first transmitted to a mobile, transistorized receiver at a known distance, with no interference. Then a second signal is sent, across the same distance, but through the wall or ceiling or post in question. The second signal will be weaker than the first, in direct proportion to the moisture content of the intervening wall--after a correction is applied for the wall material.

A correction table based on the known absorbent power of various building materials enables one to measure the relative

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moisture of any solid object, of any size. A few measurements suffice to calculate the moisture content of an entire room. Furthermore, no destruction or harm can come to the measured substance, since no direct contact with it is necessary.

The advantages of this device to the building industry are many. Lumber may be dehumidified with scientific precision. Finishes may be applied to building surfaces without guesswork. The moisture resistance of new materials can be tested with certainty. We can expect to see better, longer-lasting homes built for us with the aid of this new scientific tool.

Agriculturists are also interested in the moisture meter, since it can be used to test the curing stages of tobacco, the moisture in stored grain, dried fruits, etc. It can even evaluate the lean-to-fat ratio of livestock meat, since lean meat contains a great deal of moisture and fat meat relatively little.

Just about the only thing the moisture meter has not been able to do, so far, is to find water underground. It may be only a matter of time before electro-magnetic waves will unlock that secret too.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

IMPORTS FROM COMMUNIST BLOC COUNTRIES CAUSE CONCERN

A survey of United States imports of merchandise for consumption in 1962 indicates that goods produced in Communist bloc countries are competing with American industry, as well as funneling American dollars into Red pockets.

For example, the United States imported over \$3 million worth of glass products from Communist bloc countries in calendar 1962, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Commerce. In view of the fact that some American glass manufacturers have had to go out of business recently, the problem of slave-labor competition from behind the Iron Curtain deserves our attention.

Figures show that plate glass was imported from Communist bloc countries in 1962 in the amount of \$1,245,000. Glass kitchenware from these countries amounted to \$1,882,000. The largest single source of Communist-produced plate glass was Russia, while Czechoslovakia provided the largest share of glass kitchenware.

Steel is a vital industry in the United States that affects employment on a broad scale. Yet, last year we imported more than \$3 million worth of steel products from Communist countries, chiefly Poland and Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia shipped \$2,340,000 worth of wire nails, while Poland sent over half a million dollars worth of nails.

Poland, incidentally, appears to be the largest single exporter to the United States, among the Communist bloc countries. Last year we bought more than \$25 million

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worth of cooked ham and pork from Poland.

Another important exporter to this country is Hong Kong. The British Crown Colony, with a population of over 3 million, is one of the great trading centers of the world. There is scarcely an item on our import list which is not imported in some measure from Hong Kong. Finished cotton goods, silks, satins, raincoats, baskets, toys--the list is enormous.

While we admire the commercial success of the Colony, we cannot ignore the large trade it carries on with Red China. The possibility that many of our imports from Hong Kong originate in Red China, and that our trade dollars are going beyond the Bamboo Curtain, is too strong to overlook.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

SUMMER "BEAR SEASON" BRINGS WARNING FROM RANGERS

August is the peak of the summer "bear season," according to U. S. Forest Rangers charged with protecting vacationers in the woods from the dangers of fraternizing too closely with big Bruin.

The sighting of a bear is one of the unusual thrills a visitor may encounter in the National Forests of West Virginia. The bear population of our State is on the increase, with more than 500 reported last year. During the summer the bears are occasionally attracted to campsites by the smell of food. Entertaining as they are to watch, they must be considered a potential danger to life and property.

Forest Rangers caution that bears should be viewed from a safe distance, and never fed by hand. By way of warning, the U. S. Park Service lists 748 "bear incidents" last year (958 the year before), involving 63 personal injuries in National Forests and Parks across the nation. Property damage was over \$10,000. Over 300 bears were trapped--arrested for bad conduct--and 99 were destroyed. Eighteen persons were arrested for misconduct toward bears.

Most of the "bear incidents" in the East take place in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park (131 last year), but a significant number of incidents occur in the Monongahela and George Washington National Forests of West Virginia. The following are some typical "bear incidents" reported by the Forest Service:

"On May 8 of this year a camper in a sleeping bag awoke to find a bear standing on his chest, about to rip open the bag, and the camper in the process. He yelled, and the bear went away reluctantly. Another camper in a sleeping bag reported that a

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bear bit his toe while starting to chew his way into the bag."

"On July 14, a camper reported that a bear stepped on his head while he was sleeping on the ground. He suffered minor lacerations."

"One bear has made a practice of smashing ice chests of campers. Apparently he has developed a taste for coldcuts. There have been three reports of tents being ripped open by bears. Two convertible tops have been torn open."

These reports are meant to remind forest visitors that bears should be seen but not handled. Many scrounging bears develop greedy and impatient natures, and no one should leave the safety of a closed car while viewing them. Convertibles offer no real protection from a bear on the prowl for food. Neither does any other canvas material, and for that reason it is not advisable to store food in tents, open cars, or sleeping bags that are intended for occupancy. The bear has a very good sense of smell, and very bad table manners.

Vacations in the woods can be very enjoyable if everyone keeps a healthy respect for wild animals, especially during "bear season."

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

BACKPACKING IN THE WOODS A POPULAR FAMILY VACATION

Americans who really want to get away from the complexities of city life and recapture the thrill of pioneering adventures are taking pack-trip vacations into the National Forests of West Virginia. Such vacations have become popular with families. They are low in cost and high in adventuresome enjoyment.

The National Forests of West Virginia are full of inviting trails and sparkling streams. A journey on foot into the woods is a real test of self-reliance, for whatever is needed for the trip--food, clothing, and shelter--must be carried on one's back. Of course, there are fish to be caught in the streams, and natural cave shelters to be found, but basically it is a question of "packing in" the necessities of life.

Experienced campers now favor a lightweight aluminum packframe which rests easily against the hiker's back, but which can be hitched snugly when needed. Lightweight sleeping bags and tents are now available which considerably reduce the load once associated with backpacking. Dehydrated foods also eliminate many pounds from the pack, and are much preferred over canned foods by many campers for this reason. Complete meals are now available from dehydrated foods weighing only a few ounces, and especially packaged for campers.

For those who know the woods well, daily meals can be spiced with such local delicacies as mushrooms, herb teas, and mountain greens. The skill of the angler is never better rewarded than on a pack trip, for there is a particular pride in being able to "live off the land."

The U. S. Forest Service recommends that families going off into the Monongahela or George Washington National Forests should

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provide themselves with certain basic equipment for safety and for emergencies. Good maps are essential. First-aid kits should be carried. Some device for signaling distress, such as a shrill whistle, or a good flashlight, is advisable. In a pinch, smoke signals can be used. It is important to remember that the emergency signal is always three of something--puffs of smoke, flashes of light, whistles, etc.

Perhaps the best overall advice to the backpacker is to leave word with a Forest Ranger about his proposed journey and expected time of return. Finding a lost family in the thousands of acres of National Forests in West Virginia could be greatly simplified if a Ranger knew where and when to start looking.

Two U. S. Forest Service booklets which could be helpful to persons interested in a pack-trip vacation in the National Forests of our State are called WILDERNESS and CAMPING. These booklets and other pertinent information about backpacking can be obtained by writing to: Forest Supervisor, Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, West Virginia.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

COOLING WITH COAL IS PROVING ITS WORTH IN WASHINGTON

In Washington, D. C., a modern 9-story building can be entered on the hottest day of the year and found to be pleasantly cool and refreshing inside. This building, which houses the National Coal Association, is cooled through the warmest summer months as effectively as it is heated in winter by the same energy source: coal. This heating-cooling system is one of the pioneer installations pointing the way to a new market for coal in the field of large-scale year-around air conditioning.

The boiler room of the Coal Building is a model of modern efficiency. The room and all working components are a spotless white. The coal is never evident, from storage bin to ash bin. Automatic controls feed coal into the furnaces of two 71-horsepower low-pressure steam generators which supply the energy used to cool (and heat) the building.

The cooling system, which is one of several on the market today energized by coal-fired steam, employs a lithium bromide solution as the refrigerant. The refrigerant flows through an evaporator under a high vacuum, which causes it to boil at the low temperature of 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Evaporation involves an absorption of heat, which is withdrawn from water circulating in coils through the evaporator. This chilled water in turn is used to cool the air, which is distributed through the building.

In three years of operation in Washington, D. C., a city of considerable temperature fluctuation, this coal-fired cooling system has demonstrated its reliability and economy. Approximately 400,000 cubic feet of building space is supplied with cool, clean air, with a minimum of manual attention. Building engineers believe that a

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significant saving has been made in owning and operating costs, over other available systems.

Nor is there any cause for complaint on the grounds of air pollution. Fuel utilization in the coal furnace is automatically controlled with such precision that the exhaust gases are cleanly carried off into the atmosphere.

Thus, it appears that in regions where coal is readily available, coal-fired air conditioning systems can compete successfully with those using other fuels. This is especially true in the industrial heartland of the nation, where air conditioning has become an integral part of the design of new buildings.

As a source of heat, coal is still the most economical fuel we have. As a source of basic energy, there are still many new potentialities in the domestic market for this natural resource, to which the economy of West Virginia is vitally linked.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

RETURN OF SOFTWOODS TO WEST VIRGINIA FORESTS SEEN

A recent species-conversion study by the U. S. Forest Service in West Virginia reveals that some mountain slopes are more favorable to softwoods than to the hardwoods now occupying them. A long-range conversion program to build up stands of white pine and red spruce on sites now growing oak, birch, and maple would eventually increase the value of our annual timber cut.

The forests of West Virginia once contained considerably more softwoods than they do now--especially white pine and red spruce. Scattered through the woods one still encounters giant white pines which indicate how favorable the terrain and climate are for that important source of building lumber. Massive early cutting by settlers plus eradication by fire are believed responsible for the diminution of softwoods in the Mountain State.

A Forest Service study on species-conversion was begun in West Virginia in 1954. The first step was the development of a new site-indexing formula for determining the tree-growth potential of land. Heretofore, site evaluation could only be made where a well-stocked, evenly-aged stand of trees existed, and this is seldom encountered. A better indexing method was needed.

In making up a new site-index formula, four variables were studied: (1) compass direction of the slope, (2) grade of the slope, (3) relative position on the slope, and (4) soil depth to rock.

A formula was arrived at mathematically which enables a site to be evaluated without reference to the existing tree stand.

Using an index rating where the number indicates the predicted height of trees after 50 years, it has been found that sites in the 60-80 foot ranges of the index are suited to oak, but that sites

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falling within the 40 to 60 rating show a better potential for white pine. Sites poorer than the 40 rating are being considered for less demanding species, such as Virginia pine.

Results indicate that where mature stands of hardwoods on 40 to 60 rated sites are cut heavily and planted to white pine, the pine will be able to dominate the site within a few years, producing a more valuable crop in a shorter time.

Regeneration of red spruce is being experimented with on high-country sites where the virgin spruce stands had been clearcut and burned at the turn of the century. A study in northern West Virginia shows that spruce regeneration by direct seeding is difficult on heavily eroded soil, and that bracken fern interferes seriously with spruce plantings. However, a long-range program of spruce planting and bracken removal could restore red spruce forests to our State.

These findings point the way to a prosperous softwoods industry in West Virginia.

to installing adequate lightning protection devices on individual tall shade trees near the house or barn. Those trees which tower over buildings are especially dangerous, since they may transmit lightning around the nearby area. Expensive damage may occur when trees are ruined by lightning bolts, or fall on buildings.

Trees are protected with a system of air terminals, conductors and grounds similar to that used on buildings. Allowance must be made for the swaying movement of trees during a storm; the conductor must have some flexibility. The ground leads must be adequate to fully discharge the lightning bolt, but care must be taken not to harm the root system of the tree. Where cattle are at large, the conductor on the tree should be covered with a wooden casing.

One of the simplest methods of safeguarding cattle is to remove isolated trees from a pasture, or fence them off. A grove of trees is a much safer shelter during a storm, and if it is a small grove only a few of the tallest trees need be given lightning protection. For the individual caught out in a thunder storm, a cave or cliff overhang is a much safer shelter than the woods. It is quite safe to remain inside a car or truck.

No person should install a lightning protection system without a thorough understanding of what he is doing. A defective system may be more dangerous than none at all. For specific details one may write to my office, 342 Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C., and request FARMERS' BULLETIN NO. 2136, printed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

LIGHTNING PROTECTION FOR FENCES, TREES, RECOMMENDED

Everyone who lives in the country knows the need of protecting houses and barns from lightning. Somewhat less known is the advisability of protecting trees and fences from electrical discharges that are an annual menace to life and property, according to a recent bulletin put out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The bulletin reports that many livestock, and even some human beings, have been killed when in the vicinity of a fence that received a lightning discharge. An ungrounded or improperly grounded wire fence can carry electric current from a lightning bolt along its wires as far as two miles. Wire fences that are attached to trees or buildings are most likely to receive and carry lightning discharges, but any ungrounded wire fence with wooden posts, or steel posts set in concrete, is a hazard.

The Department of Agriculture recommends that wire fences be grounded with galvanized steel posts set directly in the earth at intervals of 150 feet all along the fence. Another method is to drive lengths of steel rod or pipe into the earth alongside the wooden fenceposts, making certain that all of the wire strands are in good contact with the rod. The rod should be driven down about five feet into the earth, and allowed to extend several inches above the fencepost.

Tall shade trees are notorious targets of lightning bolts in the country, as West Virginians well know, and the tendency of livestock to shelter under such trees during a storm is one of the headaches of farming. Where such trees are numerous and scattered, nothing can be done to protect the cattle except to keep them penned up when a storm is brewing. But the agricultural experts urge that attention be given

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

NEW PRODUCTION METHODS RENEW INTEREST IN APPALACHIAN OIL

An increase in oil and natural gas production in West Virginia is anticipated as a result of new interest by major oil companies drilling in the Mountain State. Hydraulic fracturing and diamond-core drilling are two modern practices that are increasing the output of high-grade petroleum and gas.

Hydraulic fracturing is a process that involves forcing liquid (usually a light oil) into the bottom of a well under great pressure. The pressurized liquid penetrates an area from 40 to 100 feet around the well, splitting open rock seams which release petroleum otherwise unavailable for pumping.

This technique is used when drilling on the perimeter of old oil fields as a means of "scraping the bottom of the barrel" where existing wells have gone dry. In the search for new fields, deep-well drilling, in the neighborhood of 15,000 feet, is now being practiced increasingly in the Appalachians. An increase in the price of natural gas, from 27½ cents a cubic foot to 32-35 cents, is providing one of the incentives.

Although petroleum products have been found in 46 of West Virginia's 55 counties, the present interest in drilling appears to center in the counties of Lewis, Doddridge, and Ritchie. A recent well drilled near the Spruce Creek field in southeast Ritchie County came in at 600 barrels a day. The overall State average production is less than one barrel per well per day.

The U. S. Bureau of Mines is sponsoring diamond-core drilling in the Appalachian region in order to learn more about oil production methods. Grants are made to oil companies that use a diamond-bitted drill to core out a section of earth 10-30 feet in length at the bottom of a well. In West Virginia these cores are studied at the U. S. Petroleum Research Laboratory at Morgantown, and correlated to

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other geological factors known about the oil field from which they come.

West Virginia oil is the high-grade type known as Pennsylvania, which is worth about a dollar more per barrel (approximately \$4.15) than Texas oil. Pennsylvania oil is more valuable because it requires less elaborate refining than western oil. Last year there were 101 new drillings in the Mountain State, nearly twice that of the year before. Production rose from 2.7 million barrels in 1961 to 3.3 million in 1962.

Oil was first produced in West Virginia in 1876. The output steadily increased until 1900 when more than 16 million barrels were pumped. Since 1900, interest in oil drilling declined as costs rose and prices fell. But nearly one-half of our State is still under oil lease, and the perfection of new production techniques may bring about a new petroleum boom.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

FERNOW FOREST STUDY POINTS WAY TO HIGHER HARDWOOD YIELD

In 1948 a tract of 3,640 acres in the Monongahela National Forest was set aside for use as a research unit, to be known as the Fernow Experimental Forest of West Virginia. Research on tree growth in the Fernow Forest has evolved methods of obtaining a much higher per-acre yield of hardwood.

Removal of culls, intensive cutting selection, and careful design of skidding-roads to avoid erosion are three of the main procedures in forest management which result in faster tree growth. A timber yield four to six times greater than the present average can be expected from scientific management of the forest.

On previously unmanaged stands, cull removal is rated first in priority by the Fernow study. Whether done by cutting, girdling, or poisoning, cull removal is a major operation. A significant gain in growth and form is quickly seen in the surviving trees, far offsetting the cost of culling. Even here, wastage can be minimized by developing a market for culls as pulpwood, posts, rails, or firewood.

Intensive selection means developing an evenly spaced, evenly aged stand of trees, from which the maximum growth can be realized. A yearly increase of from 400 to 600 board feet per acre has been noted on some stands in the Fernow Forest. The Statewide average growth for hardwood forests in West Virginia is less than 100 board feet per year.

Skidding logs down steep grades causes serious erosion. Such skidroads can lay waste to as much as 15 percent of the forest land, according to the Fernow study. In addition to the land spoilage, there will be a weakening of the watershed capacity. Laying out skidroads on shallow grades can reduce the waste area to 5 percent, with a total skidroad cost of less than \$5.00 an acre.

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Many forests depend upon surface moisture as well as underground water. Therefore it is important to avoid damage to the watershed. Seeding of abandoned log decks is recommended as one means of avoiding erosion. Installation of water bars, or outslope drainage, on roads is urged to prevent excessive wash. The water should be diverted onto the forest floor, rather than into running streams, which may become choked with sediment, according to the Fernow study. Stream courses should never be used as roads.

The study also brought out the fact that power-saw felling is less accurate than cross-cut felling. Two men on a handsaw were slow, but their tree dropped in place without damaging other trees. Development of a tool or method for more accurate directional control with power-saw felling is being sought to improve the efficiency of our logging operations in West Virginia.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

SURVEY SHOWS ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OF CONVENIENCE FOODS

Our age is sometimes called "The Age of Convenience," and one of the signs of our times is the ever-increasing supply of ready-to-serve foods on the market. The time and labor saving advantages of "convenience foods" are well known to West Virginians. But many convenience foods also offer a distant economic saving over home-prepared foods, according to a survey recently completed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Some of the largest savings observed were in fruits and fruit juices. Frozen orange concentrate often costs less than half the price of fresh or home-squeezed orange juice. Similarly, frozen or canned cherries usually cost less than half the price of fresh cherries. Here the saving amounts to nearly ten cents per serving.

On the other hand, the survey points out that certain other fruits, such as peaches, pineapple and grapefruit, are significantly cheaper when served fresh than when bought in some processed form. This is also true of strawberries, raspberries, and cranberries. Here the cost of convenience may amount to as much as 15 cents per serving.

Beef, in ready-to-cook form, is generally expensive. Frozen beef dinners cost about twice the price of home-prepared meals. Canned beef stew is the only processed beef item that offers any saving over fresh beef. Frozen chicken or turkey dinners are far more expensive than home-prepared, the cost of convenience here running as high as 40 cents per serving.

Ready-to-bake pastries and breadstuffs are also an expensive luxury, it was found. These items cost more than double their home-made counterparts. Comparative costs of vegetables varied, with peas, spinach, and lima beans cheaper in the processed form than fresh. On

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the other hand, beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and corn on the cob were more economical when bought fresh than when canned or frozen.

Instant coffee was found to cost nearly one-third less than regular coffee. The average cost of regular ground coffee came to about 1.5 cents per cup, while instant coffee ranged down to about $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per cup. Tea bags, on the contrary, trebled the cost of tea drinking. Costs per serving range from 1.5 cents when using tea bags to $\frac{1}{2}$ cent with tea leaves.

It is apparent that a careful selection of convenience foods will effect a saving in money as well as time and labor. The nutritional values of convenience foods are generally high, and the taste and appearance pleasing. Locality and season, of course, must be taken into account when making out market lists. Those persons who wish to be fully informed on the relative advantages of convenience versus ready-to-eat or cooked foods should write to my office, 342 Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C., and request MARKETING RESEARCH REPORT NO. 609.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

SAFER UNDERGROUND MINING FORESEEN WITH NEW ROCKBOLT

Greater safety in underground mine workings is promised by the U. S. Bureau of Mines' development of an explosively anchored rockbolt suitable for strengthening all types of rock tunnels. The new rockbolt is anchored by means of an explosive charge which is varied according to the hardness of the rock formation, and which has proved to withstand greater pull test pressure than conventional bolts.

Rockbolts are a standard safety device used to strengthen the ceilings in mine tunnels. Rows of bolts, installed under tension according to a pattern, "sandwich" rock formations together in much the same way that ordinary bolts squeeze together two or more layers of wood, thereby creating a stronger rock structure.

However, conventional rockbolts, while working satisfactorily enough in hard rock, tend to "creep" or give way when lodged in soft rock. The problem has been to discover a means of expanding the bolt, once it is lodged in the bolthole, in such a manner that it will not pull out when tightened, or left under continuous pressure.

The Bureau of Mines' safety engineers appear to have solved the problem by designing a bolt to the end of which is welded a sleeve containing a variable explosive charge. After the bolt is installed, the charge is set off electrically and the sleeve expands laterally, compressing the rock to some extent and anchoring the bolt securely.

The charge is contained in a narrow tube, which is surrounded with water or paraffin. The surrounding material produces an even expansion of the metal sleeve. A special type of steel is used for the sleeve, so that it is able to expand very quickly without rupturing.

Thus far, the Bureau has completed 87 individual field trials with the explosively anchored rockbolt, including pull tests with a hydraulic jack. The new bolt has passed the tests, either matching or

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exceeding the performance of conventional bolts under identical conditions, and it appears that explosively anchored bolts may also be able to provide support in soft or friable rock where no current method is applicable.

The only conventional method which has withstood greater pressure than the explosively anchored rockbolt is the grout method, whereby a bolt is anchored with grout forced in under pressure. But such grout requires many hours to "set up" before any safety factor is obtained, whereas the explosive bolt can be securely anchored at once, and the mine ceiling stiffened before the tunnel is extended, and human lives exposed to the dangers of cave-ins or rockfalls.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

GOOD POSSIBILITIES SEEN FOR HOLLY AS COMMERCIAL COVER CROP

Experiments with new strains of holly now being conducted at the National Arboretum in Washington suggest the feasibility of growing this traditional tree on mountain slopes in West Virginia as a watershed cover and as a commercial crop.

The National Arboretum is crossbreeding hardy West Virginia holly with high quality varieties in order to produce a strain which will withstand winter chill and also yield an attractive foliage which may be marketed for Christmas decorations. The extensive fibrous root system of holly makes it an excellent watershed plant. The bright green leaves and red berries have always been a popular seasonal decoration, although in recent years natural holly has suffered from competition with imported plastic substitutes.

Holly enthusiasts are hoping that natural holly will regain public favor as a result of improved handling methods which keep the leaves bright and the berries from falling off. Holly, which is gathered at Thanksgiving time, is now dipped in a hormone solution and kept in cold storage until shipping. The berries are usually blood-red in color (although some varieties are orange or yellow) and give a distinctive cheer to the Christmas season.

As a festival ornament, holly has been used since pre-Christian times by the ancient Chinese, the Druids, and the Norse, according to holly specialists at the Arboretum. American holly is a native tree, a much favored winter browse of deer and cattle. The leaves have a mild medicinal and tonic property for human beings, which has given rise to their use as tea leaves. The wood carves unusually well, and is used as inlays on musical instruments and fine furniture.

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Like apple trees, holly favors well-drained slopes with abundant moisture and organic soil. Specialists suggest a spacing of 25 feet by 25, which means about 70 trees to the acre. Well-tended orchards on good sites produce a ton of berried sprays and sprigs per acre. The trees grow to a height of about ten feet and are pruned severely each fall in a cone-shaped manner.

American holly begins to flower after ten years, with only the female tree bearing fruit. Arboretum authorities recommend a planting of one male tree for every ten females. Very little fertilizer is needed.

Holly supporters believe that the entire Midwest offers a great, virtually untapped market for commercial holly. As a mountain-slope industry, commercial holly growing could provide considerable slack-season employment in West Virginia. Interested growers are urged to contact the Holly Society of America, Bergner Mansion, Baltimore 16, Maryland, for complete information on this subject.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

MORE LAMB CHOPS ON THE TABLE FORESEEN BY U. S. RESEARCHERS

West Virginia housewives will be interested to know that a cheaper and more plentiful supply of lamb chops and roasts may soon be available, as a result of experiments with sheep now being carried out at the U. S. Agricultural Research Center, at Beltsville, Maryland.

Primary object of the Beltsville research on sheep is to raise the average number of lambs marketed per ewe bred each year. Flock management, nutrition, and disease control all affect lamb production, but Beltsville scientists expect the big breakthrough to come in selective crossbreeding, where the biological principle of heterosis, or hybrid vigor, can be used to significant advantage.

Hybrid vigor is explained by scientists as a phenomenon that occurs when two distinct strains of animals are bred. The resultant offspring is superior to both parents in certain traits, notably fertility, prolificacy, and livability. With purebred sheep, the average lamb yield is approximately 90 percent of the ewes bred. With selective crossbreeding at Beltsville, this yield has been raised to as high as 117 percent, using four-way crosses. The three-way cross (such as using a Merino ram with Shropshire-Hampshire ewes) yields a lamb crop of 104 percent, and is considered the most feasible commercial practice yet evolved.

Another method of producing more lambs, still under preliminary study, is an 8-months' breeding program. Sheep are normally bred only once a year, but sheepmen at the U. S. Agricultural Research Center believe that by selective crossbreeding they may evolve a strain that will produce three lamb crops in 24 months. This would mean an increase of 50 percent over the present lamb crop, and undoubtedly would result in a more plentiful supply of lamb in the marketplace.

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Loss of lambs from disease can be reduced, according to the Beltsville study, by earlier breeding. Lambs born in January, instead of in the Spring, generally were found to escape the attack of internal parasites, which become active in warm weather. Sheep researchers have also found that, since these parasites have a 10-14 day cycle, if sheep are moved from one field to another every two weeks they remain relatively free from internal parasitism, which affects both growth and fertility.

Closer nutrition control, especially during the months the sheep are off the pasture, also helps to maintain high fertility, according to the Beltsville research. Pelleted hay is being tried as one means of assuring a more complete diet. In pelleted form the hay is completely consumed. When fed loose hay, sheep tend to nibble at it selectively and discard the coarser stems containing valuable nutriment.

The ultimate aim of U. S. sheep researchers is a breeding program which will produce the most economic wool-meat crop for the least investment. This will eventually put more lamb chops on the table, and more cash in the farmers' jeans.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

HOW TO GATHER UP DOLLAR BILLS IN THE WOODS OF WEST VIRGINIA

Money does grow on trees. For those who know where to look, the forests of West Virginia could yield an annual harvest of many thousands of dollars from unsuspected sources. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has recently completed an important study of forestry by-products that can provide a profitable full or part time income for owners of small woodlots.

The Agriculture study reminds us that the forest is a natural nursery for many plants and shrubs that are prized by home owners for their ornamental value. Rhododendron and mountain laurel, for example, abound on the mountains of West Virginia. Owners of small forest tracts have found time, in the slack season, to make a business of marketing such shrubs. They can be dug up, balled in burlap sacks and sold to landscape nurseries or home owners. Or the rootstock can be cultivated in a family forest-side nursery for several years before marketing.

Our forests also abound with tree seedlings which, if carefully dug up, can be sold to nurseries. These include yellow-poplar, birch, cherry, maple, hickory, yew, cedar, hawthorn, and juniper. A little work in thinning the surrounding growth or transplanting to a forest-side nursery can result in the development of shapely trees that are much in demand in the cities, the Agriculture study reports.

Forest floors are frequently littered with material that can be turned into cash, according to researchers. Pine cones, where abundant, can be gathered easily by children, to be sold for Christmas ornaments. Deadfalls can be cut up into firewood or processed into wood chips that are becoming popular for flavoring meat in outdoor barbecuing. Hickory and beechwood chips are the most flavorsome, and these can be produced out of cull or pruned wood by means of a

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relatively inexpensive chipping machine. One wood chip business that began in Missouri as a one-man operation with a \$1,500 investment now employes 6 to 8 men and distributes bagged chips to supermarkets all around the country.

Wild berries provide a random harvest in many a small forest. Huckleberries, blackberries, raspberries and many others are plentiful in West Virginia. Jams and jellies made from wild, mountain-grown berries are eagerly sought after by visitors to the State, and can provide many an extra dollar in the housewife's sugarbowl.

The forest, we are also reminded, is a natural conditioner of soils, and the litter on a forest floor can be turned into cash. Some enterprising farmers rake up and bale pine needle "straw" for sale as a soil conditioner, finding a ready market among commercial gardeners. Pillows stuffed with ground, fragrant balsam needles are a specialty item sold to tourists.

Wild game is a frequently overlooked forest by-product that can enrich the family larder. Small clearings in the forest where native grass can thrive do wonders to increase the local deer herd. Ponds with suitable feed planted nearby will bring in ducks and geese in passage. Small stands of grain encourage the presence of upland game.

West Virginians who wish to learn more about opportunities for gleaning unexpected harvests from the woods may write to my office requesting literature on the subject of managing the family forest.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

NAVIGABLE RIVERS BRING THE WORLD'S MARKETS TO OUR BACK DOOR

Although the first settlers in West Virginia came over the Allegheny Mountains, it is the western border of our State--the Ohio River--which has now become the tradesmen's entrance. The economic future, as well as the past, of West Virginia is linked to this mighty river, which offers a natural passageway for the products of the Mountain State to reach the market places of the world.

The Ohio River begins at Pittsburgh, where the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers join. Some 981 miles to the southwest, the Ohio completes its journey at Cairo, Illinois, where it empties into the Mississippi. For 277 miles the Ohio River borders West Virginia. Once a wild, rampant, flood-prone river, the mighty Ohio has been tamed and controlled by a system of locks and dams which makes the river entirely navigable the year around. Cargoes from West Virginia can proceed downstream to the Gulf Coast and thence to all the ports of the world, or they can journey upstream as far as the Great Lakes, and thence up the St. Lawrence Seaway to the Atlantic.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for the navigational facilities on the Ohio, which were first completed in 1929. These consisted of 50 locks and dams, with associated reservoirs and hydroelectric plants, which provided a continuous minimum channel of 9 feet. Originally designed to accommodate 13 million tons of traffic annually, the Ohio now carries nearly 80 million tons a year.

The rapid increase in water-borne traffic prompted the Corps of Engineers to begin a modernization program in 1954 aimed at reducing the navigational facilities from 50 to 19. Fewer, larger structures will speed up the passage of vessels, especially barge tows, many of which now have to be "broken" in half before moving through a lock. A new lock is under construction at Beltsville, and two other new

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structures have been authorized, one near Wheeling and the other at Mason.

The major part of West Virginia shipping on the Ohio consists of coal and coke barges. The most recent count available showed an annual total coal tonnage of more than 42 million tons. Petroleum products are second, with a yearly tonnage of approximately 16 million. Some 10 million tons of sand, stone and gravel are transported on the river annually; about 4 million tons of iron and steel; and nearly 3½ million tons of chemicals.

An additional 30 million tons of freight are carried yearly on the Monongahela River, made navigable for 128 miles from Fairmont to Pittsburgh by means of 11 locks and dams. Finally, the Kanawha River carries approximately 9 million tons of shipping annually with the aid of 3 locks and dams, which maintain a 9 foot channel for 91 miles, from Gauley Bridge to Point Pleasant.

All predictions point to a doubling of traffic on the Ohio River within the next 15 years. West Virginia's share in that increase will have an important effect on the future of our State's economy. With a great trade-stream at our back door, we have a unique opportunity to export our natural resources and manufactured goods up and down our rivers to the whole wide world.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

GATHER YE HICKORY NUTS WHILE YE MAY

It is something of a shock to discover that a whole generation of American youths are growing up totally ignorant of a favorite country pastime: gathering wild nuts in the woods in winter. This family undertaking is one which not only can provide a tasty treat at the table but it is one which for centuries has also stored up happy memories that last a lifetime.

West Virginians are fortunate in that we have abundant forests where a great variety of wild nuts can still be found. It is true that the native chestnut is gone, a victim of a blight for which no preventative has been found. The chestnuts roasted in the fire today come from southern Europe. But hickory, black walnut, hazel and beech woods still provide us with an abundant natural harvest.

Hickory nuts are especially plentiful in West Virginia, and they are highly valued as a food. Not only are they nutritious, but their flavor also lasts longer after cooking than that of other nuts. Hickory nuts are rarely sold commercially, and indeed there are a surprisingly large number of persons in our day who do not know what a hickory nut is, let alone how it tastes. But the hickory nut helped sustain our colonial forebears through the first bleak winters of pioneer settlement, and surely it deserves a place of honor at our holiday feasts, as well as a niche in our memory.

Unfortunately, the hickory nut is attacked by a weevil which eats out the kernal. This weevil is the offspring of a curculio, or "snout beetle," which bores through the nutshell with a long, elephantine snout. The hickory nut curculio was first described in detail by researchers at the West Virginia Experimental Station at Morgantown in 1910, but no adequate control measures have been developed. More research is needed to protect our hickory forests

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and nuts from serious harm.

The black walnut is a native tree of West Virginia that bears an edible nut. The kernal cannot be removed whole, as a rule, but must be taken out piecemeat; nevertheless the nut meats have a rich and varied use in cookery--especially in cakes, pies, and candy. The black walnut tree appears to be in good health in the wild state, although husk maggots occasionally reduce the nut crop.

Hazelnuts are also found abundantly in the Mountain State. Although our hazels are not very large, more like shrubs than trees, the nut itself is highly delectable and keeps very well through the winter. Hazelnuts are usually eaten raw, sometimes in salads.

The beech tree, which is plentiful in the forests of West Virginia, sheds its annual crop of edible nuts--smaller than the others mentioned, but very tasty and useful in flavoring many kinds of dishes. The maple seed, or nut, may also be eaten, although it is less in favor with the woodsman than with the pastrycook.

Modern agriculture has enriched our tables with such a great variety of foods that we are no longer dependent on the natural resources that lie at hand. But gathering wild nuts in the woods is more than a search for food; it is a link to our past, to be cherished and enjoyed and never forgotten.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

UPLAND FARMING ON UNPLOWED LAND IN WEST VIRGINIA

In a State blessed with as many upland slopes as West Virginia, farmers have always had to deal with the problem of cultivating the highlands without weakening and exposing them to erosion from water runoff. Recent experiments on growing corn without tillage indicate that uplands can be placed in crop production without disturbing the sod structure. In fact, on some slopes such growing methods yield a higher crop than traditional tilling of the soil.

Experiments begun two years ago by the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Blacksburg, Virginia, studied the effects of various treatments of an upland sod used for corn production. These treatments ranged from no tillage, where the soil had been killed with chemicals, to conventional procedures where the seedbed was prepared by plowing and discing, and weed growth controlled by cultivation.

Planting in the undisturbed sod was accomplished by drilling the seed into the sod following a surface application of atrazine, a chemical herbicide. Applied at the rate of four pounds of active ingredient per acre, atrazine suppresses grass and clover, but is non-toxic to other forms of life.

On the cultivated soil, seed was implanted in the ordinary manner. A 10-10-10 fertilizer was broadcast over all experimental plots at the rate of 1,000 pounds per acre.

Soon after the crop came up it was reported that the corn in the plots with no tillage was growing faster and had a darker green color than the conventionally grown corn. Not only was there a greater plant height at silking, but there was also a significant increase in the stover present, amounting to an average of 1,873 pounds per acre. Plant

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population did not vary from one plot to another; the stover increase was due entirely to better stalk growth.

On July 4 the corn stalks (planted on May 17) averaged 18 inches taller on the untilled plots. By the middle of July these plants were 20 inches taller, and they maintained this lead into maturity. This improved growth was related directly to soil moisture availability.

Soil moisture was reported a full inch deeper in the untilled plots during June, when rainfall was frequent. During July and August rainfall was poor, but even then the dead sod acted as a beneficial mulch in preventing surface crusting and in reducing runoff and evaporation. The undisturbed sod is also believed to provide a better support for the plant stalk, preventing wind flattening.

The upland meadows of West Virginia which are too steep to plow and cultivate safely might well carry healthy stands of corn or other crops, where the seed can be planted directly into the chemically killed sod. Other mountainous lands, such as New Zealand, report success in growing berries in this manner. Plowless planting, of course, is not in itself a new idea, but farming on sod killed by herbicides is a development which may revolutionize upland farming practices and could bring many idle acres in West Virginia into fertile production.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

NEW MEDICAL DISCOVERY LOOMS FROM RESEARCH ON COAL

An investigation of coal dust which began, paradoxically, as an effort to learn about its role in miners' diseases, has now put scientists on the trail of an entirely new source of antibiotics--the modern "miracle drugs," such as penicillin, which are performing wonders in protecting us from infectious diseases.

The fact that certain kinds of coal dust exert an inhibiting action against bacteria and fungi was discovered by accident several years ago by a British investigator, a geologist who was exploring the connection between coal dust and pneumoconiosis--a disease of the lungs. The geologist noted that a certain dark-brown substance was more than usually abundant in dust from coal pits where miners showed a more than average resistance to disease. It was theorized that the dark-brown substance might have some deterrent effect on bacteria attempting to attack the lungs.

The research trail was subsequently taken up by the United States Bureau of Mines at its Pittsburgh laboratory. Although the substance has not yet been identified chemically, it is being extracted from various types of coal and tested on guinea pigs for possible pharmacological development as an antibiotic. The lower ranks of bituminous coal appear to be relatively rich in this substance, while the higher ranks of anthracite are practically devoid of it. Scientists conclude that it must be involved intimately in the process of organic breakdown.

In attempting to understand the nature of this antibiotic substance, U. S. researchers are studying its probable role in the original formation of coal deposits. Absence of oxygen is generally considered the principal condition that permitted vast layers of vegetable matter to lie in the earth so many millions of years without undergoing decomposition by microbes. However, Bureau

of Mines researchers are now speculating that the presence of a specific antibiotic, or microbe-killing substance, may have helped to preserve coal in its present state.

Most of our useful antibiotics, such as penicillin, are manufactured by microbes--usually bacteria or fungi--as a means of self-protection. Whether the antibiotic extract under study was actually formed by microbes, or whether it originated in prehistoric plants no longer in existence, is one of the mysteries being probed. A third possibility is that the coal-forming process itself manufactured an antibiotic from material available in the dead vegetable matter, under the special conditions that obtained in the earth at that time.

In any event, the interesting possibility exists that scientists may soon be able to learn from coal how to produce antibiotics synthetically--once the new substance is identified in the laboratory. Further refinement of the extract may yield a new and powerful ally in the field of medical treatment and prevention of disease.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

NEW GEOMETRIC DESIGNS DEVELOPED FOR COUNTRY BUILDINGS

When anything new is discovered, it appears that the Greeks had a word for it. "Hyperbolic paraboloid" is a Greek-derived phrase that is as difficult to understand as it is to pronounce. But "HP", as it is familiarly known, may soon be responsible for a radically new type of farm building structure that will provide more shelter with less material than was ever before possible.

Developed by engineers at the U. S. Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville, Maryland, the HP building concept is based on the theory that thin, flexible material, such as plywood, can achieve a rigidity and strength equal to material many times its weight, when the plywood is given an opposed twist, according to geometric principles.

Engineers at Beltsville are experimenting with lightweight roof panels of twisted plywood which not only carry a considerable downward thrust, but which do away with the need for supporting walls. In some designs, the panels are supported on pillars. Other designs, such as the "Pentagon," require no support whatever, other than a foundation tie for each of the five roof panels.

The "Pentagon" is a tentative name for the first of these HP structures to be completed and tested--so named because it sits on a five-sided foundation and consists entirely of five diamond-shaped panels bolted together, with the lower point of each diamond fastened to a bolt on the foundation and the uppermost point joining the other panels at the apex. The result is a modernistic structure such as one might expect to find in some outer space community. But the "Pentagon" is an extremely practical shelter for livestock, such as turkeys, hogs, or sheep, providing a maximum of shade and rain protection at a minimum cost. It can be entered from five sides, and it is equally

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well braced against the wind from all directions. The five panels that compose the entire structure can be prefabricated and erected on the site quickly. A panel 18 feet high weighs only 220 pounds. Snow and rain slide off the building without need of mechanical aids.

A model using 3/8 inch plywood coated with synthetic rubber has been tested successfully at Beltsville in all kinds of weather. Since no walls are required, and no heavy roof supports, the total saving in board feet of lumber over conventional design is estimated to run between thirty and fifty percent. Widespread adoption of this HP design for farm structures and perhaps for recreational buildings could provide a new market for West Virginia's forest products. It might be feasible to manufacture the complete panel in West Virginia lumber mills and truck it directly to the building site.

Another type of experimental roof being worked on at Beltsville has to do with solar radiation as a means of heating country dwellings. Special metal sheeting is being used to absorb the sun's heat and transmit it to the interior of the dwelling. Thus far, solar heat has provided only a portion of the total heat needed, but much is being learned about the effect of design, color, orientation of the building, etc., and it is possible that the country house of the future will exchange the familiar A-shaped roofs for a geometric design that will provide shelter and warmth by cooperating with the natural elements.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

HOW MASS PRODUCTION IN POULTRY IS AFFECTING WEST VIRGINIA

Poultry raising in the United States has long been identified with the Appalachian slopes, where steep land does not favor row-cropping. The Eastern Panhandle counties of West Virginia have utilized this hilly farmland, and the readily available labor, to become one of the leading poultry producing regions in the country. However, automation is now altering the poultry industry by reducing the labor component as well as the need for inexpensive land.

Automation has brought about mass production of poultry products, but it has also lowered the margin of profit and increased the capital risk. Financial responsibility has shifted, in many areas, from the farmer to the "integrator"--the organization that supplies the birds, the feed, and the market outlet, and merely pays the farmer for tending the henhouse.

This kind of "integration" is believed responsible for the shifting of poultry centers from the northern and middle Appalachian ranges to the south, where Georgia and Alabama are now the leaders. Broiler and egg production in West Virginia, although valued at \$22 million in 1962, has declined in recent years. Agricultural economists are seeking to understand the factors which make for success or failure in the poultry business.

For successful competition in today's poultry market, the availability of capital for automatic equipment, stock, and feed appears to be a more important factor than a labor supply, market vicinity, climate, or any other factor.

For example, where the volume of birds processed annually exceeds 2,000, automatic picking machines are advised. Where broilers are raised on a large scale, automatic feeding and watering devices

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make it possible for one man to raise as many as 40,000 birds with extra help for brief periods only. Freezing facilities are a must for large turkey processors, as 85 per cent of the American turkey crop is shipped frozen, and millions of frozen turkeys go into the school lunch program annually.

Small poultrymen depending on hand labor will have difficulty competing with the growing massive organization of the industry. However, Mountain State farmers who wish to retain their traditional independence can do so by going in for specialty items, such as smoked turkeys and other fowl. The hickory forests of West Virginia afford poultrymen an opportunity to develop a flavorsome product that could be sold nationally by mail order, as well as purveyed from roadside stands, resorts, and other local outlets.

Another form of turkey now being marketed is the frozen turkey "steak," which is an attractive "convenience food." Turkey steaks, being mostly protein, appeal to the weight-conscious buyer who likes meat but has to stay away from fat.

West Virginia's poultry industry is important to our national defense. In the event of a nuclear war, it would be important to have a valuable food source located in out-of-the-way (non-target) areas and capable of development completely under cover with a minimum of feed requirements. Raised on mash, American broilers can put on a pound of weight for every two pounds of feed consumed. This is the highest grain per pound-cost of feed that has ever been achieved in any form of livestock anywhere in the world.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

GOLD WAITING TO BE GATHERED IN THE HILLS OF WEST VIRGINIA

No metallic gold has ever been found in West Virginia, but liquid gold is waiting on the mountain slopes to be taken by those who know how to cooperate with Nature. This liquid gold is in the form of flower nectar, the source of honey, one of mankind's earliest and healthiest foods.

West Virginia honey commands a high price in the marketplace today, but the supply of honey from the Mountain State has dwindled from well over 2-million pounds a year in the 1930s to about 1,700,000 pounds in recent years. A reduction of nectar-yielding crops is usually blamed for this decline, but the fact remains that the vast forests of West Virginia offer a virtually untapped source of honey-flow for beekeepers.

Although beekeeping is usually associated with regions of crop cultivation, forests have always been the favorite haunt of bees, and flowering trees are a tremendous source of nectar. In Australia, for example, beekeepers obtain an average of 200 pounds of honey per colony of bees per year, according to current market reports. Yet the forests of Australia, chiefly Eucalyptus, do not offer nearly the honeyflow potential of West Virginia's woods, where more than 50 flower nectar trees have been identified.

The floras of West Virginia are ideally suited to apiculture, according to bee specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The absence of non bee-pollinated crops--particularly corn, wheat and other grains--and the prevalence of buckwheat, fruits and forest trees and shrubs that depend on bees, make the Mountain State a potential golden horn of honey. Our State Flower, for example, the rhododendron, is one of the best honey sources available.

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The seasonal honeyflow in West Virginia, according to reports gathered by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, begins with the flowering of fruits, from approximately April 1 to mid May. Clover is in bloom in June and July, and sumac and basswood bloom in July. In September and October beekeepers depend primarily on goldenrod and asters.

The month of August can be seen to be a poor month for nectar gathering, according to the present practice of beekeeping in West Virginia. Such seasonal lulls are at least partly responsible for lowering the production of honey in our State. However, bee specialists suggest that locating hives near appropriate forests, or moving them to the woods when other nectar sources are dry, would result in a great increase in honey yield.

The forest floors in our mountains are literally carpeted with hundreds of wildflowers which offer the finest nectar in the world for honeybees, and there is a steady progression of blooms from early Spring to late Autumn. This liquid gold, now neglected or gathered only by wild bees, is waiting to fall into the hands of enterprising beekeepers.

Although clover is generally thought of as the main source of commercial honey, California, the leading honey state, depends mainly on the desert sage for its 15-million pounds of honey annually. What the sage has done for California, the rhododendron, the mountain laurel, the sourwood, the maple and other forest trees might well do for West Virginia.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

THE "LOST" MOTHER LODE OF APPALACHIAN DIAMONDS

Until 20 years ago, the only diamonds associated with West Virginia were the "black diamonds" better known as coal. But in 1943 with the identification of the famous 35 carat "Punch Jones Diamond"--picked up by chance in Peterstown, Monroe County--the Mountain State joined a half dozen sister states in the "diamond belt" of the southern Appalachians. The appearance of this gem, the largest diamond ever found in the eastern United States, has led geologists to speculate where the mother lode of Appalachian diamonds might be.

Of the four diamond fields in the United States--the Far West, the North-Central, the Arkansas, and the Appalachian--only the latter has an unidentified source. Diamonds originate as a result of volcanic action, and are usually found in what is called the peridotite rock, a hardened mass of volcanic matter pressed into carrot-shaped vents, or chimneys, of extinct volcanoes. However, some diamonds are carried off a considerable distance by glacial movement or by other transporting agents.

Since the Appalachian diamond field is too far south to have been affected by glacial movement, geologists have theorized that the wide spread discoveries--scattered from northern Virginia to Alabama--may have been moved about by human agency, by birds, or by stream action.

The first two possibilities are largely discounted because of the surface abrasions, or "percussion marks" on diamonds like the "Punch Jones." These markings not only detract from the brilliance of the stone, making it unlikely to attract bird or savage, but they strongly suggest stream action and lead geologists to categorize them as alluvial, or water-borne, traces.

The most plausible theory appears to be that the Appalachian diamond field originated in what is now the Piedmont region millions

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of years ago, before the Appalachian upheaval. When the mountains rose up, they cut off all westward flowing streams from the Piedmont except the New River, which flows past Peterstown. If the New River was one of the original transporting agents of Appalachian diamonds, it may be possible to discover other diamonds along its banks or on an ancient flood plain, such as the Peterstown discovery site.

Alluvial diamonds, being widely scattered, cannot be mined. They are usually found either by accident, as at Peterstown--where a lucky horseshoe toss turned up a rich gem--or are discovered in the tailings of gold mining operations. No gold is mined in West Virginia, but there is nothing to prevent individuals from panning or screening river gravel for diamonds. Although some diamonds are deceptively opaque or even greenish in appearance, they can be readily identified by rubbing them against an emery stone. Any stone which emery cannot scratch is either a diamond, a ruby or a sapphire.

Diamonds are worth as much as \$2,000 per carat, according to the color and cleavage tendencies. If a lucky horseshoe can turn up a 35 carat gem, who can say what systematic diamond hunting might discover in West Virginia!

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

HOW AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH WILL HAVE US EATING HIGHER ON THE HOG

Which little pig went to market, and which little pig stayed home, used to be primarily a question of which had the bigger waistline. But big waistlines are going out of fashion in the hog world, as well as elsewhere. The "New Look" for porkers, according to the Agricultural Research Center of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Beltsville, Maryland, idealizes a longer, leaner pig. This change in contours is expected to have us all eating much higher on the hog than ever before.

The new trend is toward a meat-type hog rather than the old-fashioned lardy animal. Agricultural researchers are seeking to respond to the public dietary interest in more meat and less fat by developing new strains of hogs that actually have more ribs and longer loins, thus providing more pork chops per pig. This development may result in greater profits to the West Virginia pig farmer and a greater supply of desirable pork in our marketplaces.

Traditionally, farmers who sent pigs to market sought only to get as much fat on the animal as possible. But in the present market, lean, meaty hogs command a better price, and current research is devoted to helping farmers produce such animals on less feed.

The scientific campaign to slenderize the American hog began about 20 years ago with the importation of the Danish Landrace hog, which had been developed for the British market, where lean cuts are in demand. The Danish hog was crossed with several domestic breeds at Beltsville and elsewhere, resulting in a slim, trim offspring with more of his total weight in the choice cuts (ham, bacon, loin and shoulder).

The new strains developed by this selective breeding not only were longer and slimmer, but also the more streamlined sows were found

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to produce larger litters and bigger pigs, which in turn grew faster and required less feed to reach market weight than the average farm pig. Pig litters across the nation average about $7\frac{1}{2}$ piglets per sow. At Beltsville, the average litter is now considerably larger, with litters of 10 and 11 being common.

Proper diet has been found to further increase litter survival, especially with regard to the occasional cannibalistic tendency of some sows, which is now believed to be due to diet deficiencies, and therefore remediable.

Hog raising is usually associated with the cornbelt, but Agricultural researchers believe that pork can be produced profitably in West Virginia if the emphasis is placed on raising leaner pigs which can be shipped more cheaply to the Midwest for finishing. It has been learned that grain-feeding can be reduced considerably in the early stages of pig raising without detriment. Experiments have shown that young pigs can be raised on forage, wholly or partly, when sufficient land is available. The oak forests of West Virginia offer very good forage opportunities for this type of undertaking.

While pork has not shown the remarkable increase in consumption that beef has, it has enjoyed a better demand than lamb, and a steadier market on the whole, than any other form of meat. This indicates that pig farmers can count on a steady income, while housewives can now expect to find pork cuts that are higher on the hog, and more palatable.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

SKILL AND SAND MAKE WEST VIRGINIA "GLASSMAKER TO THE WORLD"

No trade in the world is more ancient, skilled, or honored than that of the glassblower. In an age of mechanization, fine glass must still be blown by the human breath, which alone can give the molten glass its delicate shape and uniform contour. West Virginia glassware has a world-wide reputation which rests on the skill of our craftsmen and the purity of the fine silica deposits in our State.

Glassmaking is West Virginia's third leading manufactured product, with more than 50 manufacturing plants in operation. Although most of the silica deposits are in the north, principally in Morgan and Monongalia Counties, the largest window glass factory in the United States is located in the Charleston area. West Virginia currently ranks second in the nation as a glass producer, accounting for one-eighth of the national output, with a valuation of over \$200 million annually, according to U. S. Department of Commerce estimates.

Glass is made from glass sand, which is approximately 98 percent silicate. Tableware and decorative glass are made from "flint glass" grade, which is described by the U. S. Bureau of Mines as being composed of 98.5 percent pure silicate, with only traces of iron or aluminum.

Most of West Virginia's glass sand was laid down some 300 million years ago in the Devonian Period when oceanic seas advanced over the region, according to Bureau of Mines geologists. Glass sand was deposited in much the same manner, it is believed, as beach sands are deposited on our coastlines today. The absence of metallic impurities made the deposits in West Virginia desirable for glass production, which began in the Wellsburg area early in the 19th century. (The earliest glass production in America goes back to the ill-fated Jamestown settlement in 1609, when glass beads were manufactured for trade with the Indians.)

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Historically, the ability to produce fine clear glass--crystal, as it is sometimes called--has always gone hand in hand with the rise of great trading nations: Phoenicia, Venice, England, to name a few. West Virginia's rise to prominence as a glassmaker came in the mid-nineteenth century, when our State played a leading role in the manufacturing of pressed glass and in the development of complicated decorative designs for blown glass. Our success was aided by the immigration of skilled European glassmakers, in particular from Scandinavia. Perhaps no other trade requires such a high degree of individual skill in controlling temperature and pressure.

Since batches of molten glass must be kept at a constant temperature, firing the glass furnaces is an important part of the operation. Wood and coal have been used in the past, but current practices call for a gas flame, which can be directed with pinpoint accuracy. The expanding market for pipeline gas is an important reason for speeding up research on the gasification of coal, so that we can supply fuel from our own natural resources for this native West Virginia industry, which has earned for us the title of "Glassmaker to the World."

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

THE UNDERGROUND STOREHOUSE OF MINERALS IN WEST VIRGINIA

Coal is not the only fossil ore that enriches the earth of West Virginia. Millions of years before the vast, swampy forests were beginning the process of changing into carboniferous matter, another of Nature's treasures was being accumulated within the region that is now the Mountain State. During what geologists call the Mississippian Period--a period when clear seas covered this land--huge deposits of nearly pure calcium carbonate were forming the thick, compact limestone of the Greenbrier Series known to us as the "Big Lime." This limestone deposit, largely derived from the skeletons of millions of tiny, prehistoric marine organisms, is the basis of many of our important industries today.

The Big Lime is present in all but six counties of our State, reaching its maximum thickness of 1800 feet in Mercer County, according to the West Virginia Geological Survey. This sedimentary rock produces limestone for Portland Cement, agricultural lime, building blocks, railroad and highway ballast, chemical fluxing, and many other manufacturing processes. The total output of limestone in West Virginia in 1962, as reported by the U. S. Department of Commerce, was over 6½ million tons, valued at more than \$11½ million.

West Virginia limestone for building blocks is often sufficiently compact to take a good polish, and has attractive coloration. Red limestone found in Pocahontas County has become known as a "marble" because of its great beauty as structural material. Genuine marble, mineralogists tell us, is formed by limestone which has undergone a complicated geological change known as metamorphosis, which alters its crystalline structure and hardens the rock. Such marble occurs as outcroppings in Hampshire, Mercer, and Pocahontas Counties. It has

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been used extensively for statuary and building ornamentation, interior decoration, etc. The old-fashioned soda fountain, for example, usually boasted a marble counter top.

The limestone used in industry is called "fluxing stone;" a flux is a substance used to help reduce the fusing temperatures of many industrial minerals, from glass sand to steel. In steelmaking, fluxing stone also serves to collect impurities in the ore at the upper end of the ingot, where they can be removed easily. Some fluxing stone is called dolomitic, which means that it is rich in magnesium.

Agricultural limestone, which brings the highest price per ton, is very important to the economy of our State. Burning lime on the farm is a traditional activity no longer commonly practiced in West Virginia, as it was in the past, when commercially ground lime was not as readily available as it is today. Burning the limestone and adding water produced calcium hydroxide, which was very effective in neutralizing acid soil. Early lime kilns on the farm made possible the growth of profitable crops where previously only poor grasses grew. Lime was also burned in the field to produce mortar for brick work. The standard formula, according to the West Virginia Geological Survey, was to burn three bushels of limestone together with one bushel of coal.

Limestone, along with coal, has provided the foundation for great industries in our State, and the present abundance of this mineral is an open invitation to new manufacturing industries to share our future. The earth of West Virginia is a vast storehouse of minerals the potential wealth of which is only beginning to be realized.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

SPELUNKING FOR GEM STONES IN WEST VIRGINIA

Gem stones are comparatively rare in West Virginia. Geologists tell us that this is so because our surface land is composed mainly of sedimentary rock, which makes fertile soil for agriculture but poor digging for minerals of gem quality. These are usually found in volcanic rock. But there is one type of gem which is native to the Mountain State, and which may be more abundant than has yet been realized: cave onyx.

Cave onyx is a calcium carbonate form of the more familiar quartz-type onyx, very similar in appearance and feel, although of completely different origin. Technically described as a "banded and layered calcite deposit," cave onyx occurs only in caves and underground streams. It "grows" very slowly, by a process of crystalization, with the maximum growth under favorable conditions being approximately a cubic inch a year, according to experts of the U. S. Geological Survey, who rate West Virginia cave onyx very high in the scale of commercial gem stones.

The stone forms in sheets, or folds, occasionally in pillars, and is removed with a steel chisel, or "moil." It is cut to desirable shape by means of a marble-cutting saw, fed with quartz grains. Cave onyx is about as hard as marble, but has a much softer feel, and a translucent glow, emanating from the various bands of colors that are due to traces of metals in the water.

Cave onyx from West Virginia is much in demand as a household or office ornament. This decorative gem is popularly used in pen-and-pencil desk sets, paper weights, table tops, book ends, lamp bases, etc. Fine stones are worth as much as a dollar per pound.

Although known underground caverns are not numerous in West Virginia, experts in the U. S. Geological Survey surmise that undiscovered

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caverns may exist anywhere in the Appalachians. Such caverns are formed by the action of underground streams which "eat" their way through the earth by dissolving soluble minerals, which they later precipitate. The abundance of underground water along the mountain slopes of West Virginia suggests the likelihood that undiscovered caverns do exist in our State. No serious effort has been made in the past to locate them, as they were presumed to be of little value.

However, the sport of spelunking has renewed interest in caverns, and new cave discoveries in the Mountain State might prove beneficial, both commercially and geologically. The places to look for hidden caverns, according to the U. S. Geological Survey, are limestone outcroppings where small "sinks" or depressions exist. The presence of a clearwater pond with no surface outlet may indicate subterranean drainage. Hidden streams may dig mile-long corridors underground without forming a surface opening larger than the size of a man's head.

Searching for hidden caverns could be an exciting pastime for the outdoor lover and amateur geologist which might lead to discoveries of hidden wealth in West Virginia.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

THE POTTER'S WHEEL STILL TURNS IN WEST VIRGINIA

Although in dollar value it ranks low among West Virginia industries, clay pottery is a product identified with the Mountain State throughout the breadth of the land. One reason for this prominence is that West Virginia was a leader in the early development of American pottery.

The first pottery shed west of the Alleghenys was established at Morgantown in 1785. Northern West Virginia became a gathering ground for skilled immigrant potters from Europe, and when desirable clay outcroppings were found in Hancock County, the foundations were laid for what was to become the largest producing center of dinnerware, colored pottery, and china in the United States.

Geologists of the U. S. Department of the Interior trace the history of West Virginia's pottery clays back over 200 million years, to an age when the land was a vast Paleozoic swamp. The movement of a broad stream, something like the Mississippi, carried silt into shallow lagoons. The filling of these lagoons with clayey mud provided the seedbed for the great forests that later were to form our coal deposits. Thus, West Virginia clays usually underlie coalbeds, although they are only worked as surface outcroppings. The surface clay is believed to have been raised up during the folding of the Appalachian Mountains.

The most desirable form of pottery clay is called kaolin, an alumina silicate, plentiful in our State. Early West Virginia pottery, "pioneer ware," is a soft, crude ware, either reddened or yellowed by iron impurities. Later, as better clays were found and better methods perfected for purifying the clay slurry by sedimentation, an impressive "white ware" or "china" was produced, and still later porcelain.

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Clay pottery did not originate in China, as the name "chinaware" suggests, but developed among all early races of men. However, pure white pottery was first made from certain hilltop clays in China, and our best pottery clay still goes by the Chinese name of kaolin (kao- ling, or hilltop). Stoneware--heavy crocks or vats--is made of a denser clay, fired at a much lower temperature than fine pottery.

The art of the potter has always depended on the skill in the potter's hands, on his ability to feel when the clay is at the proper consistency for working and to know how to shape it quickly on the wheel into desired forms. However, modern technology has introduced mechanical means of "slip casting" pottery on a mass production basis, so that the potter, like so many craftsmen who have continued a long father-to-son tradition of proud workmanship, is becoming more of a technician than an artist. At the same time, the American pottery industry is being afflicted by massive imports from abroad, where lower standards of living prevail.

This competition is being met by greater mechanization of our potting sheds. Nevertheless, artistic clay ware still demands a high degree of skilled hand work, both in shaping and in decoration, and the very best products of West Virginia potting sheds still find ready markets in specialty shops and among tourists who visit our State. Handmade pottery has made the Mountain State a mecca for lovers of fine pottery, and we can be proud of the fact that the craft of earthenware, perhaps the most ancient of art forms, has a permanent home on our soil.

The springs of West Virginia vary greatly in their chemical content and activity. Many are highly sulfurated as their names suggest. Some springs are highly carbonated, and are used in producing naturally bubbly soda water and ginger ale, which has been bottled and sold all over the world. Other spring resorts specialize in hydro-therapy for weakened muscles and nerves.

The Federal Government recognized the value of mineral springs as a health adjunct over 130 years ago, when it established a Federally operated hot springs spa in the southern Appalachians. This spa is under the National Park Service today and, curiously enough, still maintains the practice of offering free baths to indigents "suffering from diseases that may reasonably be expected to be benefited by the baths."

Only about a dozen of the springs in West Virginia are classified as "thermal"--that is, as having temperatures above that of the mean local temperature--but some of these range up to 82 degrees. The origin of our springs is said by the U. S. Geological Survey to be meteoric, which means that surface water from the highlands passes through deep underground channels, travels over rocks heated by pressure from the overlying strata, and later emerges at a lower level. The ability of warm water to dissolve various minerals accounts for the high mineral content of the springs.

As an attraction for tourists, properly developed mineral spring resorts could become an important source of revenue to West Virginia. The more intensively industrialized our nation becomes, the greater is the demand for sylvan retreats where body and soul can be nourished by the wellsprings of life, such as abound in West Virginia.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

A WEALTH OF HEALTH IN WEST VIRGINIA MINERAL SPRINGS

One of West Virginia's natural resources that has been little exploited is the wealth of mineral springs in the Mountain State. Although more than 200 such springs are found within our borders, only a handful have been developed commercially, and only one or two of these are well publicized resorts. Yet mineral springs have a world-wide and age-old popularity as a source of relief from many chronic ailments, and as a rejuvenating tonic for the wear and tear of daily life.

Known from the earliest Colonial days, West Virginia's mineral springs first attracted the attention of elk and buffalo, then Indians, and later white settlers. Some legends locate the famous Fountain of Youth sought by the Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon in the Mountain State. Many illustrious Americans, from the time of George Washington to the present, have known and made enjoyable use of West Virginia's "bubbling waters," to which have been ascribed remarkable "cures" for arthritis, rheumatism, tuberculosis, alcoholism, etc.

While medical opinion lacks irrefutable evidence in regard to the therapeutic effectiveness of mineral water, there is solid support for the general beneficial effects derived from visits to well organized resorts. The popularity of these resorts has been restrained in the past, by the difficulties of transportation for persons in a weakened condition. Today, with transportation no longer a problem, the opportunity exists for mineral spring resorts to develop and flourish all over the Mountain State. Most of our springs are located in Appalachian settings of great natural beauty, where the pure mountain air and the unspoiled woods and streams add to the restorative powers of the waters.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

NEW MARKET BEING EXPLORED FOR COAL IN
MUNICIPAL WASTE DISPOSAL

The possibility of a new market for coal in the field of waste disposal has now developed as a result of experimentation being done by the Office of Coal Research, under the U. S. Department of the Interior. Waste disposal has become an increasing problem for population and industrial centers. Coal is the latest substance under consideration as an efficient means of accomplishing the task of reducing waste material so that it can be dispersed in a manner that is both convenient and healthful to our communities.

The Office of Coal Research has awarded a research contract to a private corporation which will attempt to develop one or more integrated waste-settling processes in which certain characteristics of fine-size coal will be utilized. The properties of coal as an absorbent, settling agent, flocculent, and filter aid will be explored for the purpose of speeding and facilitating the removal of sewage and industrial wastes from water.

While coal does not exhibit superior qualities in all these functions, it is believed that its overall usefulness, plus its availability and relatively low cost, may prove it to be the best answer to the municipal problem of waste disposal. Coal has the added value of having a caloric content which should enable it to be used to incinerate the solids removed from water, and at the same time to generate steam which can be used for other phases of the treatment process, or for unrelated purposes such as the generation of electricity.

The agents now commonly used in the process of waste disposal are various chemicals which leach out the liquid, leaving the solid (mainly nitrogenous) matter to be stockpiled as fertilizer, or burned, or dumped in the sea. The large spaces required for drying

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the nitrogenous matter, plus the present surplus of such fertilizer, make this method increasingly expensive. Moreover, the windblown debris from such drying areas contributes seriously to the air pollution in many communities.

Fine-size coal not only possesses the ability to conglomerate particles of waste matter, but also is capable to making incineration possible without extensive drying. The Office of Coal Research hopes to develop techniques and equipment for utilizing coal which can be adopted by major communities, especially those which lie within easy transportation of the principal coal fields.

Previous experiments have shown the value of "Anthrasilt," a form of anthracite coal dust, in sewage filtering. But the present experimentation will study lignite and bituminous coal from the point of view of practical adaptation of such coal to the processing of waste matters. Coal has some of the most complex chemical and physical properties of any natural resource material, and through aggressive research we can make the break-through to sizable new markets that can be created for coal outside of conventional energy uses.

For West Virginians, whose economy has been so closely tied in with coal production, this is welcome and hopeful news.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

FOREST LABORATORY PUTTING A SOLID FLOOR UNDER HARDWOOD MARKET

The strong dependency of West Virginia's hardwoods on the residential flooring market has been revealed in a survey of hardwood sales in the Mountain State over the past decade. The survey, conducted by the newly established U. S. Forest Products Marketing Laboratory in Mercer County, indicates that our hardwood output is closely associated with the housing tastes of new home owners, and underlines the importance of guiding that preference back to the polished parquets of the past.

In recent years, according to the survey, some 40 per cent of all lumber production in West Virginia went into flooring. This industry gave employment to some 25,000 persons annually, not including timbermen. In the national picture, however, oak flooring shipments declined from 1.2 billion board feet in 1955 to .8 billion board feet in 1962, a market loss of about 35 per cent.

During this same period, in new residential construction alone, Appalachian oak's share of the potential residential flooring market dropped from 68 per cent to 38 per cent. The increasing use of concrete slab subfloors in single and multi-family dwellings is considered the most important factor restricting the marketing of Appalachian hardwoods today.

It is believed that the current trend toward "hidden" floors could be reversed, in favor of attractive hardwood surfaces, once the facts were made public regarding the maintenance cost of carpeted surfaces.

Other important factors are: the foot fatigue associated with cement floors, the inferiority of insulation from cold and damp, and the increased structural cost of slab construction in multi-story

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buildings. Through interviews with home and apartment owners, and with actual occupants, the Princeton laboratory will endeavor to discover the comparative costs and advantages of slab versus wood floors.

Preliminary research has suggested that fear of termite damage is one of the major factors that started the swing toward concrete slab floors. In regions (of great heat and moisture) where such danger is serious, research is being carried out to devise economical means of using hardwood flooring over the slab. Certain technical problems remain to be solved before the new home owner can be persuaded that such an arrangement may, in the long run, provide the greatest measure of strength, economy, safety, health and beauty. Before the enchantment with wall-to-wall carpeting will begin to fade, an effective argument must be made in favor of surfaces more easily maintained and more readily varied in harmony with other aspects of interior decor.

One important aspect of hardwood flooring under investigation is the prefabricating of large sections of flooring in order to reduce installation costs. Also important is the development of effective means of easily installing hardwood squares which can be glued down like tiles, with interesting pattern variations.

In any event, it is clear that if West Virginia's oak forests are to enjoy a widening instead of a shrinking market, vigorous efforts must be made to recapture the traditional American preference for the warmth and beauty of natural hardwood floors.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

PRINCETON LABORATORY ATTACKING PROBLEM OF DEHUMIDIFYING LUMBER

One of the problems of West Virginia's hardwood industry which is being attacked vigorously by the new Forest Products Marketing Laboratory at Princeton is the loss incurred during the drying process. This loss, which involves downgrading and actual wastage of lumber, has been estimated to amount to \$50 million annually for the Appalachian region. Even a small reduction of this loss would improve the competitive position of Appalachian hardwood, one of West Virginia's major natural resources.

The problem arises from the fact that certain hardwoods, especially red oak and yellow poplar, undergo serious checking or splitting while being open air-dried, whenever abrupt changes in temperature and humidity occur. Warping may also take place, and, under moist conditions, staining from fungus growths is prevalent. Insects sometimes attack open lumber stacks in serious numbers.

The variability of environmental conditions in open air drying has prompted the search for a method of controlled drying which can reduce these hazards, while, at the same time, avoid the expense of putting green lumber directly into hot air drying kilns. Green lumber, being saturated with moisture, is usually air-dried until most of the free water in the wood cells has evaporated, before being shipped or placed in kilns. However, winter-logged lumber dries very slowly outdoors, and may have to stand six months "on the sticks" before reaching the condition of summer-cut lumber stacked for a single month.

Not only is the lumber subject to disease and weather checking during this long period of exposure, but, also, it represents a lengthy tie-up of capital investment, which ultimately adds to the cost of the finished product--flooring, furniture, etc. The search

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is now on to perfect some kind of "pre-dryer" which would speed up the process of readying green lumber for the kiln without adding seriously to its cost.

Under study by forestry scientists is a low cost, low temperature drying structure that uses solar heat and forced air circulation. The cost of drying hardwood to 20 per cent moisture content by this means, and the amount of interior and surface drying defects taking place, will be compared with the results of open air drying lumber of the same species and thicknesses.

The proposed new dryer will have wooden walls capable of enclosing 35,000 board feet of lumber, and will be covered over with a double layer of clear plastic, sloping to the south. Solar heat will be trapped by the plastic roof, while the buffer of air in the double layer will prevent abrupt temperature changes. Large fans will circulate the air, and hydrostatic vents will automatically open whenever the humidity reaches a set point. Auxiliary heat will be supplied by oil furnaces.

If the new pre-dryer proves to be economically feasible, year-around logging in West Virginia should take on a steadier pace. Disappearance of the "log-jam" that results from delayed drying of winter-cut lumber will enable lumbermen to operate in the Mountain State in closer touch with the hardwood market and without the danger of suffering unexpected losses from freakish weather.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA CONTINUES TO DOMINATE SOFT COAL PRODUCTION

West Virginia continued its domination of the soft coal markets during the past year, according to a report published by the U. S. Bureau of Mines. The report is a preliminary estimate of 1963 mineral production and an examination of trends in mineral output across the nation over the past two years.

Despite the encroachment of liquid and atomic energy fuels on traditional coal markets, the national output of bituminous and lignite coal in 1963 rose 7.1 per cent over the 1962 output, with a healthy total of 452 million tons. The coal mines of West Virginia accounted for more than a quarter of this figure: approximately 127 million tons. This is nearly 8 per cent more than the 118.5 million tons mined in the Mountain State in 1962.

The second leading soft coal state was Kentucky, with 77.7 million tons, followed by Pennsylvania with 71.1 million tons. The vast majority of American soft coal tonnage is mined in the Appalachian mountains.

Nationally the average value of soft coal at the minehead dropped slightly from \$4.48 a ton in 1962 to an estimated average of \$4.46 a ton in 1963. However, the increased production meant that the total value of soft coal mined in the United States in the past year registered a 6 per cent gain over the previous year. Improved mining methods and an aggressive trade policy are believed responsible for the upswing in coal sales. Increasing energy needs constitute another factor, as does the fact that coal is still the most economical energy source for many power and thermal needs.

A glance at the coal situation abroad confirms the impression gained from domestic reports that coal production shows every sign

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of continuing to prosper. With very few exceptions, every major coal-producing country witnessed in 1962-63 a resurgence of activity in the coal mining industry. World-wide production of coal since the end of World War II has, with a slight exception in 1961, shown a steady rate of growth. World production in 1962 reached a record figure of 2.7 billion metric tons, and all indications favor a still higher record in 1963 and 1964.

A study of European industry indicates that most nations have eliminated inefficient coal operations and replaced them with more effective ones, thereby establishing a long range potential market for American coal. With the exception of the United States and Canada, the coal needs of industry everywhere have been rising faster than their domestic supply. American coal exports in 1963, when finally tabulated, may reach 48 million tons, nearly 8 million tons over 1962.

The significant feature of the foreign coal trade picture in 1963 is the abrupt rise in ocean freight rates. Single trip rates to Holland, for example, are now quoted at \$5.75 per ton, as compared with \$2.73 in 1962. In the present year it will cost about three times as much, per ton, to ship coal to South America or to the Far East as it does to mine it in West Virginia.

If we are to maintain our dominant position as world supplier of coal, some consideration might have to be given to steamship subsidies for coal carriers.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA SALT PRODUCTION TIED TO BOOMING CHEMICALS INDUSTRY

West Virginia's salt deposits, which played such an important part in the early settlement of the Mountain State, are continuing to maintain a significant role in the development of modern industry. The saline accumulations that once attracted buffalo, Indians, and, later, white settlers in the Kanawha Valley are now an important source of supply for the chemicals and plastics factories in West Virginia, and the predicted expansion of these industries within the State are related to the abundance of this natural resource.

The salt beds of West Virginia were laid down millions of years ago, in what is known to geologists as the Silurian Age. During this period an arm of an ancient sea was cut off in what is now the Mountain State, and the subsequent evaporation of the water produced salt deposits. Sea water contains about 3.5 per cent of dissolved minerals (leached from the land by rainwater), and 2.7 per cent of this is sodium chloride, or salt.

When the process of evaporation begins, salt is one of the first minerals to be precipitated. According to the Bureau of Mines of the U. S. Department of the Interior, in the case of West Virginia, after the salt was precipitated there occurred a tilting of the earth which decanted the remaining water, thereby leaving a deposit of concentrated brine.

The natural brine beds of West Virginia are located approximately 2000 feet under the surface, although, of course, various surface springs exist. The underground brine is tapped by drilling, and the brine is pumped to the surface. The so-called artificial brine beds lie much deeper, at a depth of about one mile. These beds contain

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a much stronger concentration of salt, which must be diluted before it can be recovered. This is done by drilling and introducing fresh water into the beds; the diluted brine can then be pumped out to the surface.

Production of salt in West Virginia rose from 638,000 short tons (valued at \$3,476,000) in 1955 to 1,042,000 short tons (valued at \$4,635,000) in 1962. The major use of salt is not in human or animal consumption, as in pioneer days, but in the production of important chemicals, such as caustic soda, chlorine, vinyl chloride, and hydrochloric acid.

These chemicals are produced from salt either by electrolysis or by evaporation. Electrolysis, which is the major method used in West Virginia, involves the passage of an electric current through the brine in such a manner as to break up the chemical bonds holding the sodium chloride molecules together.

The year 1963 saw four major companies producing salt in West Virginia. Geologists report that the brine beds in the Mountain State lie so deep as to be virtually inexhaustible. This humble substance, salt, may well prove a great boon to the economy of the State in the expanding future of the chemicals and plastics industries.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

TOURISM PRESENTS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginians who are concerned with the Mountain State's potential role as a recreation Mecca for the urban East will be interested in a report published by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, outlining the changing pattern of American holiday habits.

The ORRRC, which was established by Congress in 1958, prepared its report on the basis of intensive research into the recreation facilities of America and into the desires of the population with regard to the growing opportunities for leisure enjoyment. The ORRRC's findings--that adequate provision is not being made for our expanding recreational needs--indicate that enlightened civic action on the part of West Virginians could result in making tourism our number one industry. As the Alps proved a blessing in disguise for the Swiss, once the people became tourist-minded, so the Appalachians may prove to be the economic salvation of the Mountain State.

The planning of recreational facilities, the ORRRC reported, must take into consideration the fact that what people do for recreation now is not necessarily what they want to do in the future. For example, more than 20 per cent of those interviewed by the ORRRC said that while they do not now go fishing, that is what they would like to do, given an opportunity. Already there are more than 25 million fishermen in America who spend \$2.5 billion annually on this sport.

Water is a focal point of outdoor recreation, it has been learned. No matter where they live, most people seeking the outdoors look for water--to swim and fish in, to boat on, to walk, picnic and camp by, or just to look at. The demand for water-based recreation

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is increasing more rapidly than the demand for outdoor recreation in general. Within the next several decades swimming is expected to become the most popular outdoor pastime in America.

Currently this honor goes to the automobile. Last year nearly a billion auto trips for pleasure were taken by Americans. The advantages of having scenic roadways within the Mountain State are obvious. Driving is a family pleasure undertaking which especially appeals to the leisure-rich elderly portion of our population. The exhilarating views that grace our mountainous State could attract millions of visitors annually, provided that easy access to now hidden hills and hollows existed.

Walking for pleasure is the third most popular outdoor sport in America today, the ORRRC reports. This is followed in order by picnicking, fishing, bicycling, boating, hunting, camping, horseback riding, water skiing, hiking, etc. Over half a billion pleasure walks were taken last year, according to the survey, and this figure will double within a few years, if facilities are made available.

The implications for West Virginia are clear. The cost of providing pleasant woodland paths is a small fraction of the potential return from a stepped-up tourist trade. Improving waterways and roadways will take more funds, but these could be made available in part from Federal matching fund grants, provided that intelligent planning for the development of outdoor recreation in the Mountain State is undertaken. The "lost population" of West Virginia may return to us manyfold, if we begin now to plan for the future of recreation in America.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE, BUT WHERE IS IT ALL GOING?

Our economy is changing so rapidly that resources which are abundant today may be scarce tomorrow. This may be true of as common a substance as fresh water, the abundance of which we generally take for granted, just as we assume there will always be enough air to breathe. But in the foreseeable future West Virginia's gushing mountain streams may be pouring a potential fortune into the sea, unless ever greater measures are taken to conserve this vital natural resource.

Water has often proved to be the making and unmaking of great nations. Western civilization sprang to life in the ancient Fertile Crescent of Mesopotamia when the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers came under irrigation; the great cities on that ancient plain never recovered from the destruction of the irrigation works by conquering vandals.

Similarly Persia (now called Iran) could sustain 115 million people 500 years before Christ, when the land was a well-watered stream basin; now that dusty region can scarcely support 14 million persons, and fresh water is scarcer in some areas than milk or honey.

The lesson for West Virginia is plain. The Mountain State forms part of several great river basins, including the Ohio, the Kanawha, the Potomac, and the Monongahela. Billions of gallons of water rush annually down our hillsides and disappear into the sea. Where uncontrolled, this wasteful runoff endangers the full development of our industrial potential.

Weather Bureau scientists inform us that the three million square mile area of the continental United States receives an annual average rainfall of 30 inches, which is equal to about 4300 billion

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gallons of water each day. Our nation's projected needs within the next two decades average roughly 500 billion gallons per day: how the could we ever run out of water?

Streamflow experts (hydrologists) tell us that over half of the annual water precipitation is lost to us immediately, either by evaporation or transpiration (absorption by plants). Another large portion, perhaps 200 billion gallons a day, percolates into underground storage. The final runoff amounts to between 1100 and 1200 billion gallons a day on the average--or little more than twice our expected demand 10 or 15 years hence.

The potential value of water can be appreciated when one realizes that without flood controls the stream discharge is highly seasonal. During the few months of the rainy season more than two-thirds of the total precipitation may flood its way to the sea, leaving us with less than a minimum supply.

Under these conditions, several decades hence, water could become a costly commodity. A hot bath could cost more than a steak dinner. With a projected average usage of 2,000 gallons per person per day, we could see most of our income literally going down the drain.

The answer to this danger lies in flood prevention by means of stream runoff controls which maintain our river basins as water storage reservoirs. An accelerated program of dam and flood control projects undertaken by the Federal government and vigorously supported on the State and local levels, could turn our State into a well of plenty for generations to come.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

NATURAL HISTORY OF WEST VIRGINIA HOLDS IMPORTANT SECRETS

The rugged character of West Virginia's land is no accident, but a product of the natural history of our State. This "buried" history, according to geological and agricultural scientists, sheds important highlights on the natural resources which have played so important a role in the economic development of the Mountain State, and which may hold as yet unrecognized keys to the future.

The unique feature in the geological history of West Virginia is the fact that the present land mass is composed largely of sedimentary material deposited perhaps half a billion years ago when the area between the Ohio River and the Potomac Plain was the sunken basin of a shallow inland sea. This land mass was later compacted by pressure from the Atlantic coastal shelf and folded into lofty ridges which, after millions of years of erosion, formed the rugged hill and valley terrain we have today.

It is well known that the industrial wealth of our land owes much to the sedimentary character of the soil, in which valuable minerals were deposited during the period when the great depression between the Ohio and the Potomac Plain was being filled with material from evaporating seas. But it is also important to understand the unique agricultural conditions that came to prevail on this fertile land.

The first forests to appear, some 350 million years ago, consisted of primitive pines of great height and luxuriance. The sinking earth literally swallowed up these forests which, under conditions of heat and pressure, formed the great coal deposits which were later pushed back up near the surface by the folding action of the land mass. After millions of years of erosion, this mountainous

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region was weathered down from a jagged Alpine range to a broad corrugation of hills and hollows. This land then formed the seedbed for a portion of one of the richest belts of temperate zone woodland ever known to man--the Appalachian hardwood forest.

In addition to all the important genera of European forest trees, the Appalachian forest of West Virginia contained many trees found elsewhere only in remote Asia, and some found nowhere else in the world. Such species as silver bell, sassafras, redbud and cucumber are found as mature trees only in the Appalachian regions. Moreover, certain very valuable furniture hardwoods such as black walnut, black cherry, yellow birch and yellow poplar reach their maximum development in our forest coves.

Not only did a remarkably wide range of plant life develop on our soil, but also the variety of animals that roamed the woods was truly amazing, according to the fossil remains found in our State by paleontologists. Comparatively recent bones or fossil imprints of elephants, wild horses, camels, musk-oxen, peccaries, bison and many kinds of sloth-like beasts are not uncommon. The amazing variety of the animal population and the luxuriance of plant life are ascribed to the fact that our area was free of ice during the glacial periods.

This fact also probably accounts for the absence of natural lakes or large ponds in West Virginia, since lake beds are usually scooped out by the gouging action of glaciers. Our numerous valleys and hollows are well drained by surface or underground streams, under conditions which apparently provide uniquely ideal growing conditions for certain valuable timbers.

This combination of rich soil, rugged terrain and favorable growing conditions suggests that we are endowed with an enormous natural "greenhouse" which, if properly exploited, could produce as much wealth on the surface of our land as we have found underground.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

LESS GIRTH AND MORE MIRTH MAKE FOR HEALTHY HEARTS

The rising incidence of heart disease, which is responsible for more deaths than any other single ailment throughout the United States (and in West Virginia), has prompted the U.S. Public Health Service to release information regarding the possible connection between heart attacks and the food we eat.

The Health Service tells us that the most important fact about eating, for persons concerned about heart disease, is that they should not do too much of it. Although the factors involved in heart disease are far from being completely understood by physicians, virtually all researchers in this field agree that excess weight places an extra burden on the heart, causing it to work harder and longer. The quantity of food eaten, or caloric intake, appears to be more important than the kinds of food eaten.

We are also told that small meals, even if numerous, are healthier than large meals, since a really full stomach makes heavy demands on the heart for an increased blood supply to digest the meal--and even heavier demands if one has eaten rapidly. By the same token, emotional upsets--especially at mealtime--are to be avoided, since emotions such as anger or fear tend to drain the blood away from the digestive system, producing a competitive demand upon the heart.

Animal fats, which apparently tend to raise the blood cholesterol, may be a factor in arteriosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries, but this is not yet a proven fact. The Public Health Service suggests that dietary changes intended to avoid high cholesterol should be undertaken only upon the advice of a

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physician. Without specific medical advice to the contrary, there is no reason for anyone to give up eating food favorites suspected of containing "saturated" fats.

Sodium (usually in the form of table salt) is another substance which has come to be avoided by persons concerned about heart disease. Most of us have heard that excess sodium retained in the body, owing to impaired kidney function, sometimes causes swelling of the feet, ankles, etc. But here again, Public Health officials point out that since sodium is present in most of the foods we normally eat, it would be unwise, and perhaps even harmful, to embark on a sodium-restricted diet without medical supervision.

Because Oriental countries, where very little meat is eaten, show a remarkably low incidence of heart disease, some persons believe that the avoidance of meat will protect one from heart attacks. The Public Health Service points out that this is a rash judgment, for heart disease is primarily associated with upper age brackets, and the short life expectancy in Oriental countries (as low as 30 years in some Asiatic regions) may be the principal reason why so little heart disease is reported there.

In point of fact, mountainous regions with small populations generally show the greatest resistance to heart disease--a bit of encouraging news to Mountaineers. Another fact to be considered is that heart disease, although statistically high, has not been increasing but has tapered off slightly within the past decade--if the actual rate of incidence is adjusted according to the changing age characteristics of our population.

And while no certain "cures" for heart disease may be envisaged, medical opinion encouragingly suggests that the average individual can do much to protect his own heart simply by refusing to overburden his body with unnecessary pounds, and his mind with dispensable worry and care. Less girth and more mirth, is the prescription for one and all.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

THE OLDEST PROFESSION FOR MEN CARRIES NO RETIREMENT PLAN

The oldest profession in the United States, for men, is farming, according to a recent study of age in relation to work activity conducted by the U. S. Department of Commerce. Of the 340,000 men over 75 who are still active workers, 69,000 are engaged in farming either as owners or tenants. Another 10,000 septuagenarians work as laborers on farms. Whether the great age of farmers is due to the invigorating character of the farming life, or to the meagerness of income which rules out early retirement, is not disclosed. But the facts seem to support the common contention that no one ever dies of hard work at an early age.

The profession with the next highest age group, according to the study, is law, with more than 6,000 lawyers over 75 still toiling at the bar, or serving on a judicial bench. Real estate agents or brokers in this age group number about 5,000. There are about 4,600 active male medical practitioners past 75, and 3,200 clergymen.

Working women over 75 are fewer, numbering 127,000. Most of these women are engaged in occupations connected with home and children: housework, cooking, nursing, teaching, etc. For example, there are some 4,300 women teaching in public and private schools past the age of 75. There are 3,000 practical nurses, and 2,000 registered nurses. And there are 140 elderly women chiropractors.

The figures on farm income support the belief that farmers work longer than others because it takes longer to earn money on the farm than anywhere else. In 1962 the per capita income on the farm was about \$1,430. But nearly a third of this--\$500--was from nonfarm sources, work in town, investments, etc. There were 13.5 million persons living on farms, which means that the total farm income was approximately 12.5 billion dollars.

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Since the average nonfarm per capita income was \$2,440, it follows that the people on the farm earned less than two-thirds as much as town dwellers. The average hourly income was \$1.05, compared with the average hourly factory wage of \$2.39.

The best hourly income for farmers reported was on cotton farms in the irrigated Texas High Plains, where the cotton farmers averaged a whopping \$6.64 an hour. By comparison, cotton farmers on the Texas Black Prairie earned only 59 cents an hour for their trouble.

The most discouraging report came from small grain-livestock farms on the Northern Plains, where a net loss of \$1.15 per hour was reported. Sheep ranchers in the Southwest reported an hourly income of only 9 cents. But sheep ranchers on the Northern Plains earned 71 cents an hour. Evidently the amount of farm income depends a great deal on where and what and how you farm, along with how good your luck is.

Farm prices fluctuate far more widely than the prices in any other industries, presumably due to the age-old nemesis of the farmer--the unpredictable weather. Each year the farm population and the number of farms grow rapidly smaller, while the size of farms and the age of farmers increase. If this trend continues unabated, we may one day find our farmland consisting of one enormous spread where food and fibre are grown entirely by automation, untouched by human hands. If a single, stubborn farmer remains on the land, he may well be as old as Methuselah.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WATERSHED RESEARCH IN WEST VIRGINIA

The recent highly destructive floods from a number of streams draining the central Appalachian Mountains again point up a long-standing and critical problem associated with these very important watershed lands, for land today has new values beyond the production of food and fiber.

The central Appalachian region is the headwater area of several major rivers, including the Allegheny, Monongahela, Kanawha, Potomac, James, Roanoke, and, in part, the Susquehanna. Due to its geographic location, West Virginia is possibly the best drained State in the Union. However, floods in this region are a recurring menace. The flood of June 24-25, 1950, lasted only a few hours but did an estimated 50 million dollars damage in West Virginia. The January 1957 flood in the tri-state area of Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky resulted in 14 deaths and many millions of dollars in property loss. This flood was attributed in a large part to land misuse.

Improved forest land management holds great promise for damage reduction. In West Virginia, there are about a million acres of poor pasture--mostly on steep slopes--and abandoned farm land that should be reforested. These watershed lands, because of past heavy grazing, overcutting, fire, and cultivation of steep slopes, are in poor condition for regulating streamflow. Watershed research must furnish the guides for effective methods of treating these lands to restore their full capacity for receiving rain and melting snow, retarding runoff, and releasing water in the form of stable flows of good "quality" water so important to soil, plants, animals, and man.

Watershed research was started by the Forest Service in this area in 1950, and has been centered on the Fernow Experimental Forest near Parsons, West Virginia. Nine experimental watersheds have been instrumented and used to determine the effects of various intensities and patterns of timber harvesting on water quality, annual and

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seasonal flows, storm-flow peaks, and low flows. Also included are studies to determine how storm runoff and sedimentation may be reduced by reforesting pastured slopes and abandoned crop lands on steep slopes.

Completed studies have shown how to locate, construct, and maintain logging roads so as to keep runoff and erosion at a minimum. This information has been made available in a number of publications and by on-the-ground demonstrations, and results are being put into practice on both public and privately owned lands. Preliminary results of different intensities of timber removal from experimental watersheds show that the amount and timing of water yields can be significantly affected and that the effect of timber harvesting on storm runoff, water quality, and sedimentation is related to the care exercised during the logging operation to avoid disturbing and compacting the soil and to staying out of stream channels when skidding logs.

This research program is providing an ever-increasing volume of research results. A highly significant boost to this important research will be the soon-to-be-completed laboratory at Parsons. This modern facility will provide the Forest Service scientists with the scientific tools they need to do a more efficient and thorough job. When one considers that 65 per cent of the total land area of West Virginia is absorbed as commercial forest area, the importance of this program becomes apparent.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA'S BIG GAME INVENTORY IN HEALTHY STATE

Approximately 15 million hunters took off after game in the United States in 1962, according to most recent figures released by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. The figures on license sales do not accurately reflect the total number of hunters, since the States differ in their licensing requirements. However, 49 States, including West Virginia, reported a total of 13,996,353 hunters who purchased one or more licenses during 1962. In all 50 States, 18,175,396 licenses, tags, stamps, and permits were issued, at a total cost of \$63,983,798, which was \$78,984 less than in 1961. More than 50-million acres of commercial timberlands owned by lumber, pulp, paper, plywood and other wood-processing companies were open for public recreation, with 92.3 per cent of the acreage open to hunting in season.

In West Virginia, approximately one-quarter of a million hunters ranged over a major portion of the 15-million acres of land in the State. This averaged about 60 acres of hunting land per hunter, of which about five acres per hunter were public lands. This acreage is considerably more generous than in many neighboring States, and with West Virginia's hunting season extending over a 3 and one-half month period, more extensive hunting opportunities exist. In 1962, in Monongahela National Forest alone, some 70,000 hunters and fishermen roamed. As a new factor in the national hunting picture, increased participation of women hunters is attested by the recent Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission report that seven million women list hunting and fishing as their favorite outdoor recreation.

Among the animal population in West Virginia considered as big game are the white-tailed deer and the black bear. Also considered in Forest Service statistics as big game is the wild turkey. On the national level, the take of bear and deer increased in 1962, but the take of wild turkey dropped by 13 per cent. The white-tailed deer kill in West Virginia (as determined by checking stations, license stubs, or card returns) was 5,778, of a population estimate of 80,000.

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The black bear kill was 82 of a population estimate of 500. The wild turkey kill was 648 of a population estimate of 10,000.

The wild turkey, 20 years ago generally thought to be doomed, now has made a come-back. Careful stocking and good conservation methods aid in the increase in West Virginia.

The continental population of the white-tailed deer is today far greater than that encountered by the early pioneers. An average deer herd will show a 35-40 per cent annual increase, a reflection of the fact that game populations in favorable ranges produce a crop for the gun despite natural losses. Yet despite the excellent hunting areas in West Virginia and the increasing numbers of eager hunters, an average of only one hunter in every 12 to 15 will kill a legal buck during the season.

It is possible in the future that overpopulation of the white-tailed deer may result in die-offs in the State, as has occurred in the past. To prevent this, management of deer populations to comply with the specific range-carrying capacities may be required. In overstocked areas, it is often imperative that hunters take more animals to preserve a favorable natural balance, or parasites may do the job in an unwanted manner.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA HARDWOODS BATTLE NATURAL
ENEMIES--WALNUT ANTHRACNOSE

The terrible loss to American hardwoods suffered when blight decimated chestnut trees throughout the United States has had an incidental advantageous result--it has helped alert conservationists at the Federal and State levels to the importance of constant action to protect other species of woods. The almost complete damage to West Virginian chestnuts is a matter of history. However, two other major hardwoods found in West Virginia--the walnut and the oak--are threatened by a disease of fungus base.

The Eastern black walnut tree, one of the most valuable hardwoods, is generally found scattered in fields, along fence rows, or as part of hardwood stands. The wood is highly desired for furniture, gunstocks, and cabinet-making; and buyers search continually to bargain for fine individual trees. The nuts are equally desired for food for humans and wildlife.

These walnut trees are threatened by a native disease, fungus in nature, called walnut anthracnose, or leaf blotch. The disease is known to spread rapidly during rainy weather, especially in the spring, with the result that trees become de-leafed. This defoliation stunts growth, often killing the tree. While the wood is fortunately not completely damaged and can be used if salvaged early, the nuts are badly affected.

There is a variance in the susceptibility of individual trees to this leaf-borne fungus, but excessively damp conditions foster spread of the disease among even the hardiest. The

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anthracnose is believed to live over the winter among fallen walnut leaves, and the spores are spread in the spring by the wind and rain. When lodged on a susceptible leaf, under favorable conditions, spores multiply and leaf spots appear in a period of approximately two weeks.

There is presently no known practical and successful control of the anthracnose among walnuts growing under forest conditions; however, one means of control elsewhere is the raking and destroying of old leaves on the ground. Spraying, where practicable, will control walnut anthracnose. Recommended fungicides are zineb and maneb, bordeaux mixture, phenylmercury triethanal ammonium lactate, and dodine.

The Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, should be contacted for information on recommended dosages and most effective usage.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

LUMBER IN THE SOVIET UNION--PRODUCTION
CONSUMPTION, EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Soviet Russia's forest resources are larger than those of any other country in the world and larger than those of the United States and Canada combined. According to United Nations' statistics, Russia has 1,334,210,000 acres of forest lands (19% of total world resources) compared with 1,621,431,500 acres in the United States and Canada (17.1% of world total).

Russia's forests include approximately 80% softwoods, chiefly larch and pine, and 20% hardwoods, chiefly birch and aspen. Timbered areas are unevenly distributed, population-wise, with 77% in Asiatic Russia (with only 19% of the population) and 23% in European Russia (with 81% of the population). The European area has been heavily logged, but the Asiatic area is still untouched, being economically inaccessible for the present. Increasing requirements for industrial development and governmental commitment for better housing will certainly force greater exploitation of timber resources.

Comparison of post-World War II Soviet production and consumption to exports and imports is interesting. From 1946-1957, production increased annually from 8,296 to 33,477 million board feet, with softwood production rising from 7,049 to 28,453 million feet and hardwood production from 1,247 to 5,024 million feet.

Simultaneously, the USSR imported lumber heavily. Imports rose from 119 to 564 million board feet in 1952, gradually declining to 247 million feet by 1957. Hardwood imports rose from 25 to 70 million feet, with the import decrease reflected in softwoods. By contrast, from 1946-1957, Soviet exports mushroomed from 134 million

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feet to 1,457 million feet. This increase was almost totally in softwoods, with hardwood exports declining from a 1949 peak of 29 million feet to 212,000 feet in 1957.

USSR consumption of lumber (production plus imports minus exports) apparently increased from 8,280 million board feet in 1946 to 32,267 million feet in 1957. Since 1952, softwood consumption has been less than production, whereas hardwood consumption continues to exceed production. These facts may have been artificially established, as the Soviet Union undoubtedly could absorb its own output. Nonetheless, with 27.9% of the world's total lumber output, it has steadily accounted for 10% of the world's lumber exports.

The USSR has inaugurated a program of greater production of forest products through mechanization and increased labor productivity. It is able to export softwood lumber in substantial quantities, having a prewar average annual rate of 2,439 million board feet, chiefly to European markets. Current exports have not returned to this level; however, the heavy emphasis placed on forest industries expansion suggests a future surpassing of the prewar level. Because of limited hardwood resources and growing industrial needs, Russia probably will not become an important hardwood exporter.

Although it is believed the USSR can compete economically in world lumber markets, exports may likely be governed by political considerations.

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

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BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

TRAPPING TOURISTS--WEST VIRGINIA'S FUTURE
BIG GAME HUNTING?

"One hundred tourists equal the income from one acre of potatoes, and are a darn sight easier picking." This sage observation, no doubt by an old-timer, a veteran of many an economic battle with his West Virginia soil, is a capsule description of one of the fastest developing businesses in the United States.

In 1965, Americans traveling up and down all parts of this country, many gaily clad in bright sports clothing and heavily camera-hung, are expected to shell out \$15 billion to \$20 billion-- a big "hunk" of economic pie--according to the U. S. Department of Commerce.

What will be West Virginia's slice? What will be your community's "bite"? How can your town cut itself a share?

Consider this tourist statistic--six out of seven tourists travel by car. So, if there's a road leading in and out of your community, you now need only a tourist "trap." Since American tourists seek, first of all, comfort, change, amusement, and pleasant surroundings, the "trap" shouldn't be hard to set, with a little West Virginian ingenuity.

Of course, a bit of "bait", such as a special event, community-sponsored and designed to entertain, educate, or intrigue visitors, would be tempting. As an example, in one mid-western State, a certain community, reputed to be hardly more than a wide spot in the local road, has an annual turkey-calling contest, while still another in that State headlines a clothesline art show. In Iowa, a national hobo convention is held in Britt, with mountains of mulligan stew served to the King and Queen of Hoboes and their

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un-regal court, whilst further over in Cherokee a hotly-contested plowing match takes place.

South Carolina, Georgia, and Mississippi are strong on house and garden tours, with an extra dash of moonlight, magnolias, and monuments to "Our Glorious Confederate Soldiery" on county courthouse lawns. California has Forty-niner and Ramona pageants, kite festivals, and MOUNTAIN DRAMA! For West Virginia, THE MOUNTAIN STATE, with a symbolic rugged mountaineer on its State seal, to permit that Pacific Coast State to earn tourist dollars by plugging "mountain drama" is almost enough to arouse our hardy pioneer ancestors from their peaceful West Virginia mountain graves.

Tourists tour because they want a change--to see and do what they cannot and do not enjoy at home. To polish up, window-dress, face-lift, dramatize, and emphasize your community's attractions, natural or manmade, or to headline a special event, is to recognize and develop your community's hidden assets. Once begun, and carefully maintained, special events can become "traditions"--and money makers.

As proof, in 1963, West Virginia's slice of the tourist pie was \$300 million to \$325 million spent by 9 to 10 million visitors. One community's bite--that obtained by Ripley--came from a five day arts and crafts fair, which attracted 6,500 people to the Ripley area. The State of West Virginia invested \$3,000 to advertise the event, and the tourists who attended spent \$45,000--an appetizing profit!

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA HARDWOODS BATTLE NATURAL ENEMIES--OAK WILT

Oaks are the leading hardwoods in the United States, ranking first for years in lumber production among hardwoods and fourth in total national production. White oaks, preferred for most purposes, are widely found in West Virginia, along with major quantities of other oak species.

In the last two decades, a parasitic fungus in the sap stream of oak trees has spread throughout mountain areas. What may have been its origin is not known, but so rapid and so great has been its damage that it is probably causing more anxiety, and is the subject of more research, than any other forest tree disease in America today.

No kinds of native oak are immune to the fungus growth, which is killing to the tree. However, oaks weakened by unfavorable growing conditions are more liable to fungi infections. Wilt-diseased trees shed leaves prematurely, and death follows thereafter --rapidly for red oaks, but more slowly, perhaps a limb at the time, for white oaks. Oak wilt fungus is known to be spread locally from tree to tree through root grafts. Additionally, it is believed that insects, birds, and small animals act as carriers--such as squirrels in stripping tree bark.

Many States are vigorously pursuing control programs in an effort to suppress oak wilt. Treatments consist of: (1) cutting down diseased trees and poisoning the stumps; (2) girdling the trees into the heartwood; and (3) cutting the oaks, afterwards spraying trunks, limbs, and stumps with benzene hexachloride and DDT in an oil solution. Whether one of these methods is more effective, or whether a combination is better, is not known. Severing root connections, poisoning stumps, or killing a ring of oak trees around the diseased specimen can help prevent

root graft spread. Trees believed to have oak wilt should be reported to a State or Federal forest officer.

Surveys of damage have been made in various States. Fortunately, aerial surveys have proved to be economical, reliable, and greatly effective when followed by ground checking. Cooperation in oak wilt control between the Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the West Virginia Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources has been close. In the calendar year 1963, most of the oak forests in the State were aerially surveyed. A total of 3,937 infested trees were found and treated. Federal funds contributed to this program amounted to \$30,055, whereas the State contributed \$102,401.

As a side benefit of this program, oak wilt control teams were able to perform an additional service to the State of West Virginia. During the 1963 disease study, these teams assisted in surveying West Virginia lands which have been disturbed by surface mining. Following the mapping of areas by trained observers in low-flying planes, and after the plotting of length and location of stripped lands, oak wilt control crews were able to measure the width of disturbed mining areas as they crossed strip mines to reach diseased oaks.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

FISHY FACTS

A distinctive piscatorial flavor pervades some of the news items given recent circulation by Federal agencies.

As a prime sample, the Department of Interior has announced the publication of an angler's guide to sharks. With it in hand, a neophyte Isaac Walton can be prepared to identify readily which of 32 species of man-eater he unwarily may have hooked while out for fishy sport. Fisherfolk not wishing to involve themselves with sharks might want to take care to bait hooks with shark-repellents while fishing on the East Coast between Cape Hatteras and Maine. So numerous have become the shark catches in that northeastern Atlantic area that nearly 300,000 of these unloved elasmobranch fishes were caught.

As another example, an announcement from the District of Columbia states a Texas firm has been selected to "prepare a basic design program" for the Capital City's proposed National Fisheries Center and Aquarium at a cost of \$50,000. The actual architectural design is to be prepared later on by two other firms, one each from the States of California and Wisconsin. Reflecting the high price of fishy living, this fishery center is expected to cost an estimated \$10 million and will exhibit 1,300 different kinds of aquatic life. This means that some fishermen will need to catch an elegant lot of fish to be elaborately quartered in this well-architected fish house.

Assistance toward this goal has already been proffered by Spain, the first foreign country to tender a contribution. The Spanish Inland Fish and Game Service expects to donate living specimens of the Mediterranean cuttlefish, an Old World relative

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of the octopus and squid. The cuttlefish has never been exhibited alive in the United States before, so a news story states.

Additionally, the Department of Interior says there are good indications the Japanese will provide a red tail, an important food fish and a relative of the porgy. It is to be hoped these Asiatic and European fish will maintain good diplomatic relationships, should they become neighbors, and will, moreover, preserve the proper fishy decorum consistent with their family backgrounds.

As added proof that Federal officials are fish-oriented, Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall was honored this spring by the tuna industry for support rendered by his Department this past year. In expressing delight at his award, Secretary Udall praised "the fine product." What effect the acceptance of this award may have had on the Maine sardine trade is not known; but as an interesting insight into the activities of the Bureau of the Census, that agency reported that distributors' stocks of Maine sardines totaled 291,000 actual cases on April 1, an increase of 27,000 cases (10%) from year-ago stocks, whereas canners' stocks at 653,000 (100-can) cases were reduced 41,000 cases (-6%) during the same period. No word has yet come through from the salmon census takers.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA'S GLAMOR INDUSTRY

West Virginia has an insufficiently publicized industry--
fur-producing--which is at once profitable, interesting, and
glamorous in its end product.

The 1962 United States fur catch statistics point up the State's
importance as a fur-producer. Mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, skunk,
civet cat, beaver, and bobcat are all trapped in quantity. It is
the seventh largest fox-pelt producing State in the Union, and gray
and red fox are found in all of its 55 counties. Mink, as its most
glamorous fur, averaged \$7.81 per pelt when sold to registered fur
dealers in the State, and beaver brought in \$7.22 per pelt to the
trapper, during 1962.

The taking of fur for use in covering the human body is one of
the few customs retained from the age of the caveman. His animal
kill furnished him with food and fur for chasing the chill from his
body. In the centuries since, fur has moved from the category of
necessity to that of luxury. It is believed to have been used for
ornamentation in every known civilization. Thousands of years ago,
the Chinese used fur as a badge of esteem. Ancient Greek warriors
were rewarded for the pelts they brought home as spoils of war; and
the Romans, in advancing their culture, swathed themselves in furs
in imitation of the Greeks.

Furs were a leading status symbol in Europe during the Middle
Ages. Italian cardinals used ermine as a symbol of purity. English
nobility inaugurated fur wearing as a symbol of power. In
imitation, lower social groups adopted the custom, with the result
that edicts were issued banning the wearing of the finer furs by

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commoners. Discrimination between the sexes was practiced for a brief period when fur-wearing was limited to males only. Females quickly put a stop to this, after noting the pleasures of fur ownership.

Until the discovery of the New World, most known fur production was in northern and central Europe. Upon the opening of the North American continent, trappers and fur traders came in swarms. By the beginning of the 18th century, many well-known American fortunes were being founded by traders, swapping colored beads and alcoholic spirits with the Indians in return for their winter fur catches. West Virginia fur-bearing animals early attracted settlers into the area. Charleston got its start, along with some other American cities, as a trading post.

As the economy of the U.S. has advanced, fur demands have kept pace, so that an intricate fur industry has evolved, with furs being scraped, washed, soaked, oiled, cleaned, beaten, plucked, sheared, leathered, and manipulated in scores of highly intricate procedures. Many pelts are dyed, and/or bleached, while others are dipped blonde, beige, charcoal, platinum gray, blue, white, pink, yellow, red, and green. As a result, while laws have had to be enacted to protect the consumer, such as the Federal Fur Products Labeling Act of 1952, more varieties of furs are in demand.

Furs remain as a status symbol of the good life, and the world of furs is an enchanting and glamorous one. West Virginia may be expected to increase in importance its own role in it.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

MOUNTAIN MUSIC

"O dear mother, my toes are sore, dancin' all over your sandy floor"; "Leather britches, full of stitches, old shoes and stockings --my wife she kicked me out of bed because I had my britches on"; or "Possum up a gum stump, coonie in the holler, Devil's on the other side--don't you hear him holler?"

These samples of the dancing tunes and ballads--basically traditional melodies--are known variously as "mountain music", "fiddlin' tunes", or "hill-billy music". The vigorous and pleasure-giving art of "fiddlin'", or playing of traditional melodies on a violin, began with musicians of the American frontier and still is current in rural and mountainous communities throughout the United States. Folk dance revivals center around them, with the dance tunes--many of them derived from English, Scottish, and Irish airs--including reels, jigs, hornpipes, hoedowns, jumps and quadrilles.

Each fiddler seems to have his own repertoire, and the titles of some are representative of the speech, background, or locale of those who either dance to the fiddling or are the fiddlers. Cripple Creek, Fire in the Mountain, Sugar in the Gourd, Hell Among the Yearlings, Chicken Reel, Irish Washerwoman, Arkansas Traveler, Buffalo Gals, and Bile Them Cabbage Down--these are some of the favorites.

The fiddles may be "store-bought", mail-order, or home-made. The players, many amazingly skilled, are most generally self-taught and play by ear. Fiddles are held in various positions, dependent upon the fiddler's fancy (or possibly upon the thickness of his mid-section), in the lap, between the knees, against the upper arm or tucked lovingly under the chin.

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Open strings are sometimes used as drones, producing a bagpipe-like sound. Violin bridges are sometimes whittled to a flatter shape, to produce a twanging sound. To supplement the fiddle, or in place of it, the guitar, the banjo, the dulcimer, the fife, and small end-blown pipes are used. However, the chief folk instrument is, without any doubt, the fiddle; and the sight and sound of the fiddler, sawing out tunes "in the old way", "keeping his fiddle full", "dwelling on the notes", and "rough-and-tumbling", is a long-remembered treat.

Mountain music forms a large and important part of a very rich and melodic American folk tradition. In the past, our Presidents have in many instances contributed their part to it. The versatile Thomas Jefferson, who spoke and read French, German, Spanish, Italian, Latin, and Greek, and wrote political treatises, found time as an accomplished musician to entertain neighbors, guests, and family retainers with folk-songs interspersed with classical selections played on his violin. President John Tyler is known to have enlivened political sessions by fiddling out mountain jigs. "Silent Cal" Coolidge is reported to have "tootled" Turkey in the Straw on his harmonica for personal relaxation. Benjamin Franklin was an accomplished player of reels on musical glasses, which he called "My musical harmonica".

To a mountain music lover, a fiddling contest in his community is an event with more life than an Independence Day parade in any metropolis.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

THE FASCINATING WORLD OF THE COMPUTER

Today's computers lead fascinating lives which are tending to develop inferiority complexes in human associates.

Computers spot errors in the instructions that they are given (and type out reprimands). Computers understand English, taking part in conversations, which, while possibly not scintillating, are highly informative! Computer operators are known to believe they can hear their machines talking to themselves, reacting upon recognizing familiar elements by characteristic pulsings and squeals and whines. One well-educated computer, the IBM 7094, has been taught to play checkers and has gradually improved its game. It began playing with an IBM research consultant, quickly learned to beat him, and recently competed creditably in a tournament, playing against a recognized State champion.

Computers have contributed at least two important new words to the English language--heuristically (serving to discover) and cybernetics (comparative study of mechanical electrical control systems). Cybernetics was quickly adopted by the medical profession to discuss the human control system involving brain and nerves. Important new languages have been developed for use in conversing with computers. At the University of Illinois, STRESS is a language with about 100 words which is furthering better engineer-computer relationships.

Another language called FORTRAN is spoken exclusively by the IBM 7090 computer in informing the Post Office Department how to deliver its air mail faster. It chatters its way through 2000 trip segments, including up to 30 transfer points, to come up with the best routes for fastest delivery of intercity mail by air. It

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digests and commits to memory massive piles of facts including departure, arrival, and transfer times, costs, and reliability. It does this, with ease, on a twice yearly basis in the change over to and from Daylight Saving Time. It comes up with a "best" route choice; it can provide a mere "second best" choice, so labeled; and, practically, it can program the "cheapest" routes.

Some computers are known to recognize the "style" as well as the handwriting of the machine operator and are observed to get set to react accordingly. In the world of computer researchers, frequent longings are expressed for "more sophisticated" computers, somewhat reminiscent of newly-arrived college freshmen at a co-educational college. Admired for their brilliance, extra intelligent machines are rewarded with more storage space. Some machines, obviously better endowed than humans, have external as well as internal memories.

Some may also be suspected of artistic leanings, or romantic tendencies. A Florida teen-ager recently made front page news by using an inspired computer to produce poetry. He began by feeding in a limited vocabulary consisting of 15 nouns, 13 verbs, 13 prepositions, and 10 adjective phrases. Poetry resulted, such as the following:

"Darkly the peaceful trees crashed, in the serene sun;
While the heart heard, the swift moon stopped silently."

Twelve years ago there were fewer than 2 score electronic computer machines in the United States. Today there are 16,000 installations, altogether worth approximately \$4 billion. In the fascinating new world of computers, the horizons seem unlimited!

From the Office of UNITED STATES SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

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July 3, 1964

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

FEDERAL DOLLARS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH
HELP KEEP TAXPAYERS HEALTHY

The Public Health Service (PHS), U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, is the Federal agency directly charged with protecting and improving the health of the citizens of the United States. A primary way of discharging this responsibility is in the granting of support for research projects in the health sciences.

A PHS program, designed for this purpose, was begun in 1946 and has since steadily expanded. To carry it forward for Fiscal Year 1963, \$492.8 million was appropriated by Congress. Before expending these funds, careful review is given to every research proposal. Advisory and consultative groups of eminently qualified scientists--designated as Study Sections--examine each proposal, so assurance is provided that the contemplated research is of importance, is efficiently designed in approach to a particular problem, and the recipient researcher is capable of accomplishing the mission. The findings of the Study Sections then are considered by National Advisory Councils, whose members subsequently make recommendations to the Surgeon General, the Federal official charged with ultimate approval or disapproval of an award.

A standard of excellence has thus evolved which nonetheless has permitted freedom for researchers in their work, with maximum accountability established for effectiveness in expenditures of public funds.

Under this program, for FY 1963, a total of \$430,908,322 in research grants was allocated under the National Institutes of Health for 15,233 projects. This was allocated as follows: \$36,225,179, allergy and infectious diseases; \$62,020,844, arthritis and metabolic diseases; \$54,530,138, cancer research; \$8,831,190, dental research;

\$52,118,540, studies in general medical sciences; \$70,960,650, research in heart diseases; \$49,687,797, mental health studies; \$43,143,304, neurological diseases and blindness; and \$53,390,680, research facilities and resources.

The Bureau of State Services received \$18,772,363 for 706 projects, allocated as follows: \$1,655,432, accident prevention; \$2,875,522, air pollution; \$3,993,109, environmental engineering and food protection; \$3,598,409, hospital and medical facilities; \$1,697,136, occupational health; \$1,510,529, radiological health; \$196,046, Office of Research Development; and \$3,246,680, water supply and pollution control.

A total of \$1,100,754 was allocated in research grants for 54 projects in West Virginia, with the University of West Virginia, Morgantown, receiving an institution total of 46 grants, aggregating \$942,441. The University Medical Center had an institution total of 3 grants amounting to \$41,038. Beckley Memorial Hospital-Miners Memorial Hospital Association, Beckley, had an institution total of 2 grants at \$16,175. Charleston Studies Foundation, Inc., and Morris Harvey College, Charleston, each received one institution grant, with \$91,083 allocated at the former and \$3,300 at the latter. In Wheeling, Wheeling College had an institution total of 1 grant at \$6,217.

The largest number of these West Virginia projects dealt with research on heart diseases. Others were concentrated in the field of arthritic and metabolic diseases, allergies and infectious diseases, neurological diseases and blindness, cancer research, mental health studies, general medical sciences, water pollution, dental research and environmental engineering and food protection.

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From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

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July 10, 1964

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

A NEW FRONTIER--CONSERVATION OF AIR

The vital necessity for air to breathe to sustain human life is a basic fact. What is not as well-known is the ever-increasing need for air to sustain our modern American technological life. Approximately one ton of air is required for every tankful of gas used by a motor vehicle. A ton of air occupies a volume of 25,000 cubic feet, and one billion gallons of motor fuel are burned in the United States annually, with the result that 640 cubic miles of air are consumed yearly for motor vehicle operations.

Other fuels utilize comparable amounts of air. The burning of one ton of coal (a fossil fuel) requires 27,000 pounds of air. Burning a gallon of fuel oil requires 90 pounds of air, and burning one pound of natural gas requires 13 pounds of air. Altogether, 3,000 cubic miles of air are needed annually to meet oxygen requirements of the various fossil fuels used in this country.

These combustion processes replace usable air with potentially harmful pollutants, and the capability of the atmosphere to disperse and dilute them, particularly in urban areas where people, vehicles, and industries tend to congregate in greater numbers, is strictly limited. Because, as another basic fact, the supply of air is as fixed as supplies of other natural resources, such as coal, petroleum, uranium, and water, air as a primary natural resource is being threatened with exhaustion, through pollution. The ever-increasing use of the atmosphere as a source of oxygen and a receptacle for waste products by this Nation, and others, is proving costly to our economy and a hazard to our national health.

Nation-wide research has established that four major phases of the air pollution problem exist: (1) The amount of air pollution resulting from burning of fuel to heat homes and buildings, a joint

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problem of residential and commercial segments of the populace;

(2) The emission of solid material into the atmosphere (This burden of emission of particulate matter is primarily industry's problem);

(3) The continuous recirculation of dust (This is a matter of exhausting housekeeping concern and a matter of expense to commercial interests as well as homemakers; and, (4) The "invisible" emissions which come from automotive exhausts, and sulphur discharges from burning of fossil fuels (These offer the most baffling of the air-pollutant problems).

Research has also established that pollution is increasing faster than is our population, because our rising standard of living results in greater consumption of energy and goods per person, and our production and transportation activities increase on both accounts. Dismaying proof exists as to the many physical ailments caused by air pollution, and documented evidence places the economic damage from air pollution at a total of many billions of dollars annually.

Realization by Congress that the rapid deterioration of the quality of our air has reached the point at which more effective control measures can no longer be postponed resulted in the passage of the Clean Air Act during the present session. This legislation is planned to protect the Nation's air resources, and, hopefully, to encourage cooperative activities by State and local governments for control of air pollution, where, inescapably, lies the primary responsibility for development and operation of control programs.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

SEAT BELTS

U. S. traffic statistics reveal 41,000 people were killed and 1,500,000 injured in 1962--an excess of one death every 13 minutes or 160 every hour. At current accident rates, of 70 children born today, 35 will be injured and 1 killed in traffic accidents. For West Virginia, 1964 death tolls, as compiled in early July, reached 217, characterized by a State law enforcement officer as "reaching the proportions of an epidemic."

Realizing an average American adult will yearly spend the equivalent of eight 40-hour work weeks behind the wheel of a car, private organizations, in conjunction with State and Federal agencies, have undertaken safety research programs and education campaigns to discover methods and devices to make driving safer and to reduce the severity of accidents. These participants include, among others, the National Committee on Safety Education, Auto Industries Highway Safety Committee, American Automobile Association, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, American Medical Association, General Federation of Women's Clubs, National Highway Users Conference, Society of Automotive Engineers, and the President's Committee for Traffic Safety.

As a result of research, the installation and continuing use of seat belts is advocated as a foremost device for protection of driver and passenger. The U. S. Public Health Service unequivocally states that the seat belt is the most effective means immediately available to bring about dramatic reductions in highway accident tolls, and that injuries can be reduced more than one-third by using seat belts, which, in emergencies, help hold driver and passenger in place. The restraint keeps the driver at the wheel, helping him to retain car control and reducing

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the chance of injury from sudden stops. Belts are most effective in crashes at moderate speed, and 45 per cent of all fatal traffic accidents occur at speeds under 40 MPH. Thus, a wide area exists for immediate reduction in traffic fatalities by the installation and wearing of seat belts, regardless of the slight nuisance in buckling and unbuckling. Two out of three fatal traffic accidents take place within 25 miles of the drivers' residences, so that buckling seat belts should be as automatic as turning on an automobile ignition.

In general, a good seat belt should be made for only one person. The assembly should withstand a loop load of 5,000 lbs., which would restrain a 167-lb. man going 30 miles per hour, if abruptly stopped. The belt should be at least 2 inches wide, should have a quick release type buckle, easily attached and adjusted, and should be properly installed, to include firm anchorage, fitting comfortably and limiting hip movement to not over 4 inches. Above all, it should be worn at all times!

For 1961, the National Safety Council estimates costs of motor vehicle injuries and death to be 6.9 million dollars or about \$90 per registered vehicle. Growing realization of the value of seat belts in saving lives and dollars has resulted in the adoption of legislation, requiring these, by the following States: Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

QUALITY AT REDUCED COST

The current U. S. defense budget represents 10% of the total national output. The total of the Fiscal Year 1964 programs and budgets submitted by the services and defense agencies amounted to \$67 billion. National concern for reduction in these heavy costs has led to the institution of a broad economy program.

The problem of coping with an intensive cost reduction program, while also meeting requirements for top performance, has resulted in a greater than ever need for defense contractors who can produce quality items, on time, at low cost. In defense, reliability is an absolute necessity.

Early during our national history, it was realized standards must be applied, and requirements as to quality instituted, when expending Federal funds. Visual inspection for Federal contracts first appeared during the Civil War. By 1877, specifications were written containing standards that could be determined only by laboratory techniques. So far have these safeguards advanced that in today's laboratories, as one phase of determining absolute reliability, infra-red testing of electronic components and whole circuits is routine.

Because profit remains, generally, the chief motivation of business enterprise, the basic problem is how industry can give full value for the Federal dollar with a reduction in cost of production. One answer is felt to be the placing of emphasis on value engineering. Industry uses interchangeably this term with value analysis, value assurance, or value control--all of which means greatest quality at lowest cost. The objective would be to guarantee that outstandingly effective and economic performance is met by high profits, mediocre performance by mediocre profits,

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and poor performance by low profits or losses. Governmental procurement practices are forced to be oriented to reward authentic performance and to discourage and penalize substandard performance.

Research and development, test and evaluation, applications engineering, and standardization programs are all elements in the process of producing quality products. However, the most vital element of all remains management's job--that of making things happen--to motivate employees to perform their work accurately, on schedule, and within costs. Many companies suffer almost unlimited reject, rework, and scrapping costs in meeting requirements for delivery of quality products. One way to eliminate this is to develop workers to their peak efficiency--to eliminate the human tendency to make mistakes.

One cause of error--lack of knowledge--can be handled through training and on-the-job followup to make certain the worker is properly qualified. Another cause--lack of attention--is the most difficult to overcome. It is a product of the philosophy that 'to err is human'. To motivate personnel to swing toward sustained accuracy in performance of jobs will result in a progressive improvement in the quality of products. Top management knows to cut costs by reducing worker error is the sure way to increase profits. Those contractors who place the accent on preventing errors rather than depending on later detection of them are most likely to be selling to the Federal government in the future.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

SHAPELIER BEEF

Great publicity is given in the United States to the changes in feminine fashions over the years, including the corresponding change in the female figure. Some experts say these changes reflect the feminine desire to please the American male. Others say it is the influence of foreign fashion experts seeking a constant flow of American dollars. While these conclusions may be debatable, the change in the appearance and quality of meat, the main-stay of the American diet, is certainly in response to the joint demands of Mr. and Mrs. American Consumer, although recent developments indicate it is being paralleled by similar demands in some areas abroad.

The story of the domestic turkey, and its concentrated breeding to furnish more white meat in response to public demand, is well-known. More recently, the beef industry, in reacting to a similar consumer demand, began seeking more practical ways to produce a trim, high-quality beef carcass at a moderate cost.

In one phase of this development, Department of Agriculture specialists have begun a beef improvement test program--concentrating on producing leaner beef and less wasteful cuts. At a test evaluation Center, in the mid-west, animals get ID tags, or weight tickets, when they are marketed. Then each carcass or side of beef is examined and evaluated in the cooler by an agriculture expert. Ratings are given on the thickness of fat, color and texture of lean meat, streaks of fat through the lean, and other characteristics. This report then is provided to agricultural Extension specialists who work with cattle feeders to change the feed or breeding strain of their animals to improve quality.

The ultimate rating of quality--plainly stamped on meat products --is the familiar shield-shaped insignia, denoting U. S. Prime,

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U. S. Choice, and U. S. Good, as the three top grades, and it should not be confused with the stamp following Federal inspection required of all meat and poultry products sold interstate, or in foreign trade, under the Meat Inspection Act of 1906. Not all Federally inspected meat is graded, and the grade, or brand stamp, is a reflection of the conformation, finish, and quality of meat, whereas Federal inspection pertains to the wholesomeness of meat and poultry and is financed by the Federal Government at an annual cost, per citizen, of about 15 cents for the meat consumed by each. About 30% of all meat sold in the U. S. is marked under Federal inspection.

In addition to meeting the demand of the American consumer for trim, high-quality beef carcass at a moderate cost, the steady production of such items may re-open an export market. Joint promotion efforts of State and Federal governments resulted in the shipment, in July, of 700 head of live U. S. cattle to Europe for feeding and slaughter. Valued at approximately \$100,000, and destined for Genoa, Italy, USDA officials believe it to be the first shipment of U. S. feeder cattle to Europe in more than 50 years.

These cattle were purchased by an Italian exporter at recent sales in southeastern States, including Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Georgia, and are grass-fed animals of standard grade averaging about 550 lbs. per head, carefully selected to meet European taste for lean cattle.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

WEST VIRGINIA SHRUBS

Much of the appeal and charm of the landscape of West Virginia is attributable to its native shrubbery, of which there is a wide range and type. Due to the State's very irregular outline, with its panhandles and projections, it offers widely varying topographical areas, temperature variations (since 1890, from minus 37^o in one reading at Lewisburg to 112^o at Martinsburg and Moorefield), and extreme fluctuations in amounts of rainfall and snow.

As a result, botanical explorers have always found West Virginia to be a "Happy Hunting Ground." It is now believed to have been thoroughly explored botanically, and the record of the findings can best be seen in the Herbarium at West Virginia University.

West Virginia is variously listed among northern, western, southern, and eastern States. Nowhere would such a wide choice of listings be more apropos than in application to its plant life. Northern plants such as oak fern, prickly rose, dwarf cornel, Allegheny menziesia, and twinflower are found in colder, mountainous areas. Bog Rosemary is found in Pocahontas County, the southernmost location in which it is known.

Species common on the Coastal plains, and found in some areas of the Appalachian mountains, include bunchflower, Oceanorus, false aloe, American mistletoe, butterflypea, pencilflower, passionflower, woolly Hudsonia, Meadow-beauty, Bartonian, and Wood Ticksea. Other eastern species include hoptree, fringetree, silver-belt tree, and Canby's mountain lover.

At home in the Appalachian upland and contributing to its rich cover, are skunk cabbage, blazing star, colicroot, lizard's tail, mayapple, blue cohosh, magnolia, witch hazel and lopseed. Southern shrubs include cane, trumpet climber, and cross-vine.

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Loss of forest cover, as a result of agricultural encroachments, has created artificial "prairie" conditions, so that some mid-western plants have migrated, including certain grasses and milkweeds, such as triple-awn and antelope horn. Protection of West Virginia forests from fire and other damage has been highly beneficial to the plant growth in recent years.

Names in West Virginia are in many instances derived from its plants, shrubs, and flowers. In the smilax family, the greenbrier shrub has given its name to many topographical features, such as Greenbrier Mountain and Greenbrier River. Ronceverte is French for greenbrier. This woody vine is found throughout the State but most thickly in damper, swampy areas. Leatherwood--low, rounded shrubs with soft, brittle wood but a tough bark--was used by Indians for thongs, cordage, and basketry and its name has been used to label a number of geographic spots.

Laurel has given its name to more than 250 geographic features in West Virginia. American laurels are among the most beautiful of cultivated shrubs and are found throughout most of the State. Blackberry City obviously was named for the berry shrub, and more than 50 species are found in thickets in West Virginia. Cranberry Glades, Pocahontas County, is one of several spots deriving its name from the shrub of similar name. Paw Paw, in Morgan County, is believed to have acquired its name from the tree-shrubs of that name, found in heavy amounts in the area.

No discussion of shrubbery in West Virginia would be complete without inclusion of the rhododendron, the bearer of our State flower. Found in seven species within our State borders, it is classed high among the most beautiful flowering shrubs in the world.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Volume IV -- Number 33

August 21, 1964

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

POSTAGE STAMPS

Philatelists collecting United States stamps are, perhaps unknowingly, also majoring in American history, for American stamps portray graphically our American culture, National progress, famous people, and scenic wonders.

Adhesive postage stamps were first adopted for use by the Post Office Department in 1847, with the earlier postage squares being manufactured by private firms. While records are available on specifications as to stamp size and legend, no records are available on the flavor of the glue used, a subject of much acrimonious comment over the years. After July 1, 1894, the responsibility for printing of stamps was allocated by the Federal Government to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Department of the Treasury, with the exception of the Overrun Countries Commemoration Stamps issue of 1943-44. This series, comprised of 13 stamps, was issued in tribute to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Norway, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Greece, Yugoslavia, Albania, Austria, Denmark, and Korea, which were overrun and occupied by the Axis powers during World War II. A contract was awarded to the American Bank Note Company, New York, to print these stamps on its special multicolor printing equipment.

Our American wars, battles, and heroes have been immemorialized on postage stamps. There is a Philippines Commemorative Stamp, honoring the defenders of Corregidor, a Civil War Series, and an Iwo Jima stamp. The battles of Braddock, Brooklyn, Fallen Timbers, White Plains, Bunker Hill, Monmouth, Gettysburg, Shiloh, and the Alamo are commemorated. War heroes--Farragut, Grant, Houston, Stonewall Jackson, John Paul Jones, Lafayette, Koschiusko, Robert E. Lee, Molly Pitcher, Pershing, Perry, Patton, Oglethorpe,

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Pulaski, Rochambeau, Scott, Sheridan, Sherman, Von Steuben, and Anthony Wayne--are recognized. Forts Bliss, Dearborn, Duquesne, Kearney, Sackville, Sumter, and Ticonderoga are provided recognition. Patriots and Presidents are portrayed, with George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Andrew Jackson, and Abraham Lincoln being issued and re-issued. The branches of the Armed Forces are honored, as are the amphitheater at Arlington, the Grand Army of the Republic, the Minute Man, Confederate Veterans, Freedom, the Indian, Merchant Marine, Rough Riders, the Emancipation of the Slave, and the United Nations.

The Post Office Department has acted to give prominence to its own activities and progress, issuing stamps to commemorate the automated post office, the city carrier, the post rider, post office clerk, railway postal clerk, and the rural carrier. In 1947, it issued a stamp to mark 100 years of stamp issuance since 1847.

Bankers, doctors, cattle in storm, the automobile, Future Farmers of America, American Women, Labor Day, ships, flags, farming, Scouts, Gold Star mothers, the Grand Canyon, Alliance for Progress, baseball, the B & O Railroad, arctic explorations, canals, the Capitol, forest conservation, the Golden Gate, the Gutenberg Bible, malaria eradication, the Liberty Bell, the Mayflower, motion pictures, the NRA, nursing, New York World's Fair, Pocahontas, petroleum, poultry, religious freedom, Statute of Liberty, Swedish Pioneer, the Unknown Soldier's Tomb, Workmen's Compensation Law, the whooping crane, and Sun Yat-Sen are all subjects of stamp issuance.

Many States are honored, with West Virginia having a Centennial stamp issued in 1963. Most graphically, as a mirror of the changing times, the Post Office Department, which once honored the Pony Express with a stamp issue, now has issued one to Atoms for Peace and another to our American Echo I, the world's first communication satellite, placed in orbit around the earth in 1960.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

HOW TO BECOME PRESIDENT

There is no guaranteed formula for becoming President of the United States; however, a review of biographies of our 36 American Presidents reveals some factors which would appear to affect an office seeker's chances.

An aspirant to the Presidency apparently must be able to receive a preponderance of the votes in New York State. In modern times, only four men have succeeded in winning the Presidency without carrying New York; Grant (1868); Hayes (1876); Wilson (1916); and Truman (1948).

It would also apparently help to be born in Virginia, Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Vermont, or Texas. Virginia has given eight Presidents to the United States: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Woodrow Wilson. Seven Ohioans have reached the White House: Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, William Howard Taft, and Warren G. Harding. Four Presidents were born in New York: Martin Van Buren, Millard Fillmore, Theodore Roosevelt, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Three Chief Executives had their birthplace in Massachusetts: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, and John F. Kennedy. North Carolina is represented by two Presidents: James K. Polk and Andrew Johnson; Vermont by two: Calvin Coolidge and Chester A. Arthur; and Texas by two: Dwight D. Eisenhower and Lyndon B. Johnson.

It is evidently almost a necessity that the President be married, or, if not married, be matrimonially-minded enough to marry while in the White House. Our country has had only one bachelor President, James Buchanan. It is not necessary that a

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Presidential aspirant have children, but it would seem to be a favorable attribute. Only five Presidents have had no children: Washington, Madison, Jackson, Buchanan, and Polk.

Being related to a former President would appear to be helpful. John Quincy Adams was the son of John Adams. Benjamin Harrison was the grandson of William Henry Harrison; Zachary Taylor was James Madison's second cousin; Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt were fifth cousins. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the only President to be elected for four terms, has a genealogy showing relationship to eleven former Presidents, five by blood and six by his marriage to Eleanor Roosevelt.

Not being a college graduate has not prevented candidates from securing Presidential election. Nine Chief Executives did not attend college: Washington, Jackson, Van Buren, Taylor, Fillmore, Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, Cleveland, and Truman. However, all of these are known to have pursued lengthy studies to secure educational advancement.

Conversely, being a graduate of an Ivy League College appears advantageous: Five Presidents graduated from Harvard: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy. Two went to Princeton: Woodrow Wilson and James Madison. One to Yale: William Howard Taft.

The surest avenue in running for the Presidency appears to be through election and service in the Congress. Twenty-four Presidents have so served prior to winning the coveted office of President of the United States. Others were Governors or Cabinet members, except four victorious Generals in our Country's Armed Forces: Generals Taylor, Arthur, Grant, and Eisenhower.

As a challenge to patriotic West Virginians, no President or Vice President has yet been a citizen of the Mountain State by birth or voting registration.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Volume IV--Number 35

September 4, 1964

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

DON'T TAKE YOUR MONEY FOR GRANTED

From the earliest days of recorded history, man has needed a medium of exchange. During the Trojan War (900 B.C.), 100 oxen were exchangeable for a suit of golden armor. In Biblical days, wealth was measured in flocks and herds; metals were used for money in ancient Egypt; the American Indian used wampum; and tobacco, salt, grain, and fur pelts were used for trading in our original Thirteen Colonies.

In 2100 B. C., cubes of gold were monetary units in China. By 1300 A. D., when Marco Polo visited China, paper money, printed on mulberry paper, was in use in the court of Kubla Khan, with counterfeiting punishable by beheading of culprits. Usage of paper money in Europe and Asia grew out of the need for protection--to guarantee safety of precious metals from robbers.

Following the Revolutionary War, there was in circulation in our fledgling country English shillings, French louisders, Spanish doubleons, and sundry other units of money. Such confusion developed in trade marts that the ensuing demands on the Continental Congress for a stable monetary system resulted in adoption of the dollar as our money unit and the decimal system for reckoning. By 1793, the U. S. monetary system was firmly established and the U. S. Mint began coining money at Philadelphia. The first coins included gold eagles (valued at \$10), half eagles, and quarter eagles; silver dollars, half dollars, quarter dollars, dimes and half dimes; and copper cents and half cents.

Some additions and withdrawals in pieces have occurred since then. The 5-cent piece (nickel) was introduced in 1866 and is still used; however, the two U. S. Mints now operating--one in Denver, Colorado, the other in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania--no longer issue U. S. gold coins.

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The original paper moneys issued by the U. S. Government during the Civil War were non-interest-bearing Treasury notes in denominations of \$5, \$10, and \$20. Later, other denominations were added to our "greenbacks". Previously, American paper money had been bank notes, not Federally-issued currency.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Department of the Treasury, produces the paper currency and securities of the U. S., with the Secret Service Division charged with suppression of counterfeiting. Interestingly, Emperor Nero of Rome is recorded as the first major counterfeiter. In the U. S., counterfeiting has become a major crime, with many persons caught and convicted each year. Treasury officials caution that the best defense against receiving counterfeit money is to know your money, to become familiar with the workmanship on dollars of various denominations, especially the portraits. Washington appears on all \$1 bills; Jefferson on \$2 bills; Lincoln, \$5 bills; Hamilton, \$10 bills; Jackson, \$20 bills; Grant, \$50 bills; Franklin, \$100 bills; McKinley, \$500 bills. For the truly wealthy, it would be well to know that President Cleveland appears on all \$1,000 bills and President Madison on all \$5,000 bills. The face of Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury during the Civil War, is reproduced on \$10,000 bills.

In handling money, a brief, but careful, scrutiny of each bill will afford an increased measure of protection from counterfeiters.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Volume IV -- Number 30

September 11, 1964

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY INCREASES

More than a half million juvenile delinquency cases were handled by juvenile courts in the United States in 1962, with a reported total of 555,000 cases. However, because some juveniles were involved in more than one case, the total number of children involved was 478,000, representing 1.8 percent of all children aged 10 through 17 years in the country.

The year 1962 showed a 10 percent increase in delinquency cases over the previous year, while the child population, 10 through 17 years, increased only 3-1/2 percent. This upward trend, noted every year beginning with 1949, continues; and, as in every year in the past decade, the increase exceeds the increase in population.

Federal authorities charged with determining factors causing the 1962 sizeable increase have found that the high birth rates during the latter 1940's are now swelling the ranks of 15- and 16-year olds, the ages at which the majority of juveniles contribute most to the volume of delinquency.

The pattern of our decrease in U.S. rural life, as contrasted to our increasing urbanization, may be considered as a factor, although the rural courts are experiencing a greater increase in the number of delinquency cases handled than are the urban courts. The pattern was noted prior to 1960 of delinquency cases increasing faster in rural areas than elsewhere.

As divided between boys and girls, the percentage increases for 1961 and 1962 were the same for both sexes, with delinquency continuing to be primarily a boys' problem. Courts note that boys are referred four times as often as girls and that boys are referred generally for very different reasons than are girls. More than half the offenses committed by girls were for conduct

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characterized as juvenile misbehavior and were not for conduct ordinarily considered a crime. These included runaway, truancy, curfew, and ungovernable behavior. Only 20 percent of the boys were involved in offenses of this nature, while about 50 percent of the boys were referred to the courts for offenses against property--larceny, auto theft, vandalism, robbery, and burglary. Less than 20 percent of the girls were involved in such cases.

Forcible rape represented only two-tenths of one percent of the offenses officially charged against boys, with other sex offenses reported totaling 2.5 percent. Sex offenses by girls were the basis for court action in almost 10 percent of the total cases coming to juvenile courts. Drunkenness in boys and girls was noted as increasing, with 2.5 percent of the charges against boys resulting from this cause and 2.1 percent against girls.

In addition to the 555,000 juvenile delinquency cases, about 312,000 traffic cases were disposed of by juvenile courts in 1962, an increase over previous years. In many communities, these courts do not have authority over traffic offenses, so that the actual total of traffic offenses among juveniles is considerably higher.

Some of the statistics on juvenile delinquency for West Virginia cover those from Cabell County, including Huntington-- showing 182 officially handled cases in 1962--and Kanawha County, including Charleston--showing 768 cases officially handled. Among 53 small courts elsewhere in the State, 1,833 juvenile delinquency cases were handled.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

BACK TO SCHOOL

September--traditional back-to-school month--provides an advantageous point at which to examine the educational state of the Union.

More than 4 million boys and girls are believed to be entering the first grade this September, a slight increase over 1963. The number of children reaching age six in time to enroll for September school entrance has increased by several thousand each year (during recent years) from 3.9 million in 1960 to 4.1 million this year; and it is expected that the annual crop of school beginners will continue to grow for at least another three years, possibly reaching 4.2 million by 1967.

The over-all school enrollment has also shown a steady rise since 1960. In September, 1963, 50.4 million persons were enrolled-- a 3½ percent increase over the 43.9 million enrolled in 1962 and a 66 percent increase over the 30.3 million enrolled in 1950. Enrollment rates were about the same for boys and girls through age 15. Among 16- and 17-year olds, a slightly higher percentage of boys than girls attended school, and at age 13 and over, the percent enrolled was substantially higher among males than females.

Based on present trends, in September 1973 approximately 54 million students will enroll in public and private elementary and secondary schools. This is 7.1 million more than in 1963. Eight million students will enter colleges and universities--nearly double the 4.5 million enrolled in 1963. And there still is not expected to be enough teachers, although probably 2.2 million teachers will be instructing students in public and private elementary and secondary schools--a probable increase of 375,000.

And it will cost more money--a \$9.7 billion increase for

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elementary and secondary schools over the 1963 cost of \$23.3 billion. Also, a probable \$7.2 billion will be spent on colleges and universities above the \$9.3 billion so spent in 1963. (This is, of course, predicated on the 1963 value of the dollar.)

This predicted total of 62 million students in schools and colleges 10 years hence is indicative of a nearly 80 percent increase in enrollments since 1953. Ten years ago, there were 6.3 million students in high schools and colleges. Ten years from now, it is believed 16 million youths will be in high schools and 8 million in colleges.

Of this projected number, an estimated 46.3 million of the 54 million will be in public schools.

For those students mature enough to be interested in the future financial gains from longer, more thorough education, it is worthwhile to note that statistics show that in 1961 males 25 to 64 who had completed elementary school had an average yearly income of \$4,750; those who had completed high school, \$6,102; and those with 4 years or more of college, \$9,530.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

POLLS, SURVEYS, FORECASTS, AND
PROGNOSTICATIONS

In going about its business as fact finder and record keeper for the Nation, the Census Bureau will conduct 37 surveys, 70 censuses requested by communities, and a national census of agriculture during the latter portion of 1964, these in addition to its many regularly scheduled surveys. Actions as a result of the findings will play an effective part in our American national life.

But, pre-emptively, as the first week of November and the 1964 national election approaches, pollsters, fact finders, and prognosticators in ever increasing numbers, will be descending on the American public.

Mr. Average American Citizen and his spouse will be questioned, sampled, sounded out, grouped, listed, forewarned, appealed to, exhorted, counted, ruled out, and reported on. Equally important, Mr. and Mrs. American Voter will be swamped with attention, because he and she are ones of a select group whose opinions really count--they cast ballots. In the 1960 Presidential election, only 63.8 percent of the U. S. civilians of voting age cast their ballots.

In all 50 states, it will become routine to pick up a newspaper showing headlines such as: "Survey Shows GOP Grip on Midwest Growing Stronger;" or "Poll Shows Trend in 14 Western States for Democratic Candidate." Such articles will possibly be credited to a national poll-taking bureau, or to a newspaper syndicate.

Many candidates have their own privately-hired pollsters. Others, remembering how polls have gone awry in the past, will be too skeptical to accept polls at face value.

For those who are not satisfied with private polls, newspaper surveys, TV forecasts, or whatever, but who wish to have some

inkling of the future, there are the stars always available for consultation. Over 5,000 professional star-gazers and myriad moon-lighting part-timers are scurrying to meet demands for personal horoscopes on a regular basis. Many of these will try to make 1964 a bonanza year by competing with regular political forecasters to provide prognostications on political races now being run.

Other star-oriented forecasters have chosen to ignore the political arena and continue to concentrate on predicting sports winners or reporting solemnly on the gyrations of the stock market.

Whatever the action--serving as a planetary pundit, taking a poll, making a survey, presenting a forecast, or announcing a prognostication--it is based on the very human desire of Americans to know what may happen in this great land and on the wish of each citizen to act or react safely and surely as major events occur.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

FOR THE LADIES

Agencies of the Federal Government, apparently well aware of the tremendous force exercised by the distaff half of the American populace, have undertaken to publicize facts and statistics of special interest to the ladies.

For example, the Bureau of the Census reports over twice as many women's shoes as men's shoes are produced in the United States.

The Department of Commerce states that to help keep milady beautiful, electric hairdryer makers sold 7.5 million of their bonnet-type dryers last year, so that beehive hairsets could be coifed to perfection--19 percent more dryers having been bought in 1963 than in 1962.

The Food and Drug Administration officials at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare assert that they are taking action to protect madame's health as well as her beauty by setting official requirements as to color additive mixtures used in cosmetics. The regulations are to cover lipstick, rouge, eye make-up, and any other article that applies color to the body.

And in a long, long-range effort to cheer the female consumer, a Federal publication says that to freshen up the American woman's winter wardrobe in January, \$276 million worth of coats, suits, dresses, skirts, and blouses will be shipped by manufacturers--12 percent more than in January, 1964.

As another cheering forecast, a new kind of detergent is expected to be marketed in 1965. For background as to the merits of this statement, detergents, which have been a special boon to the housewife in her laundering and cleaning, have become

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troublesome in sewage disposal systems, so that "soft" detergents are now being developed to replace the old "hard" detergents. The "softies" are expected to be on the market next year, so that the homemaker can continue her use of detergent cleanser to remove soil and dirt without a "backlash" of non-broken-down hard detergents.

American florists, wishing to attract the feminine eye in greater measure, and thus to expand the floral market, have conducted a national mail survey which provided findings to be used as a basis for industry expansion and development of new markets for floral products. If all goes well, the tired businessman can come home to a flower-filled dwelling without feeling too financially over-burdened to enjoy the increased charm of his surroundings.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Volume IV -- Number 40

October 9, 1964

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

School Lunches

The week of October 11 has been designated as National School Lunch week, as decreed by the Congress, in an effort to gain recognition for the work of the National School Lunch Program. However, any week during the current school year could have been so designated, equally as appropriately. Every school day during each school week, one-third of the Nation's school children line up at noon to eat lunches provided through the National School Lunch Program. Under it, for the 1964-1965 school year, it is estimated that almost 3 billion lunches will be consumed by school children.

As early as 1853, "penny lunch programs" were being operated on a local basis in areas of the United States; however, the depression of the 1930's brought the Federal Government into the operation in an effort to provide wholesome, nutritional daily lunches to school children on a National basis. The nutritional values, the success of the operation, and obvious continued need led to the passage of the National School Lunch Act in 1946. Federal funds are apportioned, under the provisions of this Act, among the States to reimburse schools for expenditures for food. The amount going to each State is determined on the basis of two factors: (1) school lunch participation in the State, and (2) per capita income for the State. Federal funds used in a State for reimbursing schools must be matched with funds from sources within the State, including State and locally appropriated funds, children's payments, donated services and goods, etc., at the rate of three dollars for each Federal dollar.

Approximately 30 percent of the food used in the School Lunch Program is purchased by participating schools on the local market.

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However, the U. S. Department of Agriculture is authorized to buy and distribute foods to schools participating in the Program. These foods generally include frozen and canned meat and poultry items and a variety of canned fruits and vegetables particularly well suited to children's needs.

In anticipation of the requirement for enormous stores of groceries to fulfill its commitment to furnish 20 percent of the foods necessary under the Program, the Department of Agriculture began in mid-summer to make bulk food purchases ear-marked for the School Lunch Program. Some of its purchases are as follows:

On July 20, the Department bought 2,880,000 lbs. of young chickens; July 24--315,000 lbs. of canned chicken; August 3--630,000 cases of canned red tart pitted cherries (approximately 5½ servings per child participating in the program); August 6--157,500 lbs. of canned chicken and 9.5 million lbs. of beef; August 14--2,610,000 lbs. of frozen cut-up chickens and 2,475,000 lbs. of fresh-frozen turkeys; August 18--362,100 cases of six No. 10 size cans of green beans; August 20--2,460,000 lbs. of frozen cut-up chicken; 210,000 lbs. of canned chicken; and 672,850 cases of U. S. Choice Grade canned freestone and clingstone peaches; August 21--4,130,000 lbs. frozen turkeys; September 17--2,250,000 lbs. of frozen cut-up chickens and 365,073 cases of peanut butter. (weighing 15,059,261 lbs.); and on September 24--317,200 cases of 6 No. 10 size cans of sweet potatoes.

Parents who wonder if their hungry children can ever be fed to satiety can be sure they have a partner at school-lunch time-- Uncle Sam--through the provisions of the National School Lunch Act of 1946.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

Voting

On November 3, there will be approximately 114 million people of voting age in the United States with another half million overseas in the Armed Forces, a total increase of 5 million over the 1960 figure.

This total of 114 million is much larger than the actual number of eligible voters, because of the inclusion of 3 million aliens, unable to vote, in addition to those not meeting State requirements, such as registration and length of residence.

Voting age is 21 years in 46 of the States of the Union and the District of Columbia; 20 in Hawaii; 19 in Alaska; and 18 in Georgia and Kentucky. Of the 114 million total, 55 million are men and 59 million, women; 102 million are white and 12 million are nonwhite.

In the 1960 Presidential election, when 69 million votes were cast, 63.3 percent of the U. S. civilians of voting age cast their ballots. A similar percentage voting on November 3, 1964, would produce a vote of nearly 72 million.

In the 1960 election, Idaho was the leading State in percentage of residents voting, with 79.7 percent. New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Utah, all had voting records of more than 78 percent. West Virginia had a voting population in 1960 of 1,076,000, of which 77.9 percent cast a vote for the Presidency. This year, statistics indicate that the total West Virginia population of voting age has dropped a fraction to 1,053,000, one of three States in the United States with a reported reduction in voting populace. The other two such States are Pennsylvania and Iowa.

Efforts are being made at many levels, Nation-wide, to get out the vote--wisely so--with emphasis on the importance of each

(MORE)

individual vote. Statistics as to the importance of "just one" vote are startling. Examples include Charles I of England, who was beheaded in 1649 after a Tribunal of judges voted 68 to 67; Oliver Cromwell, who won control of England in 1645 after Parliament voted 91 to 90; Andrew Johnson, our President who escaped impeachment in 1868 by one Senator's vote; and Thomas Jefferson, who was elected President in 1800--after an electoral tie with Aaron Burr threw the election into the jurisdiction of the Congress, which cast a one-vote majority in Jefferson's favor. Also, Rutherford B. Hayes was elected President in 1876, based on 185 electoral votes to 134; and Adolf Hitler was elected Nazi leader in a Munich beer hall in 1923 by a one-vote majority.

Of special interest, by just one vote in Congress was English kept as our National language. During the American Revolution, because of intense anti-British feeling, a bill was introduced in Congress which would have replaced it with German. The measure was narrowly defeated by one vote. And, because one U. S. Senator in 1845 changed his mind in casting a vote to permit the entrance of the State of Texas to the Union, the Lone Star State became one of the United States.

The inescapable conclusion--one vote counts--every vote counts.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

The American Family

What do you actually know about the American family--of its place in our economy?

In about three years, it is anticipated the U. S. will be a Nation of over 200 million people. Within the next year, forecasts indicate 4.3 million babies will be born and 1.8 million persons will die.

Although the "age-at-marriage" pattern is now more akin to the Asiatic than the European, because so many Americans are marrying while still in their teens, the size of the individual American family is not increasing. Presently, the U. S. households number almost 5.6 million, with the average household including 3.33 persons. While the average American family is no larger than it was a decade ago, the proportion of childless couples has declined. The proportion of elderly relatives living in has declined, also.

Despite the fact that most people have relatives in three or more generations, the 1960 Census found that 30 percent of all U. S. families sharing a dwelling were composed of only a married couple with or without children, or a parent with children. An increasing portion of adults live alone as one-person families, due in large measure to the fact that there are today nearly 13 million older Americans, ranging from those just reaching 65 to approximately 12,000 who have passed their 100th birthday.

Laborers in the lower income and education brackets apparently continue to have the largest families--headed by those in the lumber industry, farm laborers, and coal miners--averaging between 4 and 5 persons per family. This contrasted with the size of families headed by professional or technical workers, which was about the

National average or lower.

Noticeably, sons tend to follow their fathers' occupations. Twenty-three percent of American men 25 to 64 years old had occupations in 1962 in the same classification as their fathers.

The proportion of manless households in the U. S. has increased 50 percent since 1900, and a fourth of the women with children, who head many of these families, have annual incomes of under \$1,000. By contrast, about 2.3 million wives in the U. S. have larger incomes than their husbands, or any other member of their families, approximating 6 percent of all husband-wife families.

American families are becoming more suburban-oriented. Suburbs of the fifteen largest metropolitan areas grew three times as fast as central cities four to one; and, whereas in 1930 farm families comprised 25 percent of the total population, this figure declined to 7 percent in 1963.

And, interestingly, American families are "new-car conscious." It is forecasted that, for 1964, 1 in 12 households will acquire a new car, an increase from 1963 when 1 in 13 householders became new-car owners.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

FOOD IN THE NEWS

Food and potables to accompany food have a built-in attraction for our national news media. Americans, as the best fed people in the world, are kept constantly current on what is new on the food front.

As an example, market reports show that the usage of the humble Irish potato reached an all-time U. S. high in 1963, with 208.6 million hundredweight (cwt.) going to fresh market and food processors as compared to 205.6 million cwt. in 1962.

Inventories of green coffee in the U. S. totaled 4,216,000 bags on June 30, 1964--waiting to be roasted prior to soluble use by American coffee drinkers at Kaffe Klatches, dinner tables, or office desks. This, too, represents an increase in consumption over that of 1963, possibly due to the popularity of coffee hours to benefit political candidates during this election year.

To meet demands by Americans for exotic foods, imports of cashew nuts from India are being stepped up. That country, the source of virtually all imports of cashews, grows only small quantities. Wily Indian merchants import the raw nuts from Africa, have them shelled by hand, and re-export the edible product to the United States.

American melon-fanciers are being advised by fruit dealers that the theory has been exploded that good melons can be judged by poking the ends, by thumping them, or by shaking or rattling the melons for sound. The only sure way (so it is stated) to get a good melon is by smell and sight--if it looks good and smells good, it should taste good.

For snacks, the American dieter is turning more often to fresh Italian prunes and purple plums, grown not in Italy, but in the

western United States. Also in the fruit lime-light, the Department of Agriculture states that cranberry producers will harvest a bumper crop, expected to approximate 1,293,700 barrels.

1964 has been a good year, too, for cherries, so that pie eaters should have frequent access to pastries made with the red, tart pitted fruit.

For gourmets desiring unusual dinner table entrees, the Department of Interior has offered for sale this year 223 live buffaloes, 89 elks, and 91 longhorn. Buffalo will sell for \$200 each on the hoof, and \$220 to \$235 per carcass, depending on the processing, with halves and quarters available, if preferred.

Should the price seem high, the consumer could console himself with the thought of the possible cost of such delicacies in Russia. As an example of the food prices there, one Russian egg retails for the Russian equivalent of thirty American cents.

Other food items with a foreign flavor include the announcement that U. S. roast beef sandwiches made a hit at the recent International Food Fair in Hamburg, Germany, with barbecued chicken and turkey as close competitors. French fried potatoes cooked in U. S. soya oil were immensely popular with fair goers, too, with samples being dispensed at the rate of 1,000 per hour.

And as the piece de resistance of recent food news, government researchers have announced the discovery of an explosive puffing process which produces instant applesauce.

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Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

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11/6/54

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

Commemorative Photographs

Veterans' Day, November 11, is best remembered by many Americans as Armistice Day. Originally established as a day to commemorate cessation of hostilities in World War I, it is now designated as Veterans' Day in honor of all who fought in wars of defense of our Country.

It affords a suitable opportunity to bring to the attention of the American public a program, unique in character, administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Through action by the Congress to provide funds, the Commission will now furnish free of charge, upon request by the next of kin of American service personnel buried in American cemeteries abroad, one 13x17 aerial lithograph, in color, of the appropriate cemetery and memorial where the particular serviceman is buried. Also, it will furnish one 3x5 black and white close-up photograph of the particular grave-site and headstone, with the smaller photograph mounted in the corner of the larger one. In the case of the "Missing", a close-up photograph of the memorial wall, showing the section where the individual serviceman's name is inscribed, is furnished.

Additionally, families of servicemen buried in any of the cemeteries abroad, under the authority of the Commission, can request and receive maps and directions to assist them in reaching the cemetery and grave-site with ease should a trip be undertaken to visit the last resting place of a loved one killed in battle and interred abroad. For such trips, a token fee of only \$1 for each passport is charged by the State Department rather than the normal \$10 fee charged for such service.

As the major part of its unique mission, the Battle Monuments Commission is responsible for the operation and maintenance of

military cemeteries and memorials built by the U. S. Government on foreign soil, as well as certain monuments on American soil. It has no part in the construction, operation, or maintenance of cemeteries in the U. S. or its possessions. After World War I, the Commission erected a memorial chapel in each of the 8 military cemeteries established in Europe by the War Department. These were Aisne-Marne, Belleau, France; Brookwood, England; Flanders Field, Waregem, Belgium; Meuse-Argonne, Romagne, France; Oise-Aisne, Fere, France; St. Mihiel, Thiaucourt, France; Somme, Bony, France; Suresnes, France. After World War I, 14 additional permanent cemeteries were established, including Ardennes, Neuville, Belgium; Brittany, St. James, France; Cambridge, England; Epinal, France; Florence, Italy; Henri-Chapelle, Belgium; Lorraine, St. Avoird, France; Luxembourg; Manila, Philippines; Netherlands, Margraten, Holland; Normandy, St. Laurent, France; North Africa, Carthage, Tunisia; Rhone, Dranguignan, France; Sicily-Rome, Nettuno, Italy.

The graves in these cemeteries represent approximately 39 percent of those originally buried in each particular region. The remains of the other 61 percent were returned home at the request of next of kin. Each grave is marked with a white marble headstone--a Star of David for those of Jewish faith, and a Latin Cross for all others. No further burials are permitted in any of these areas, but these burial grounds are open to the public every day in the year.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

NOW IS THE TIME

With summer gone and fall here, flower lovers and gardeners have need to lay plans for future gardening, or to take action on indoor planting.

For those potting plants to take indoors, government horticulturists say that you should toss out any pots that have turned white. The whiteness is unused fertilizer and will not come off the pot. To put a fresh plant into a white clay pot is like putting the plant into salty water. Fresh clay pots should be used instead.

If you are going to pot a plant or two, it is all right to use some of the soil in your backyard or the nearby woods, but, according to Department of Agriculture specialists, do not use it "as is." Purify it to make it as disease-free as possible. Put the soil in a shallow pan and bake it in your oven at 180- to 240-degrees for 45 to 60 minutes. This will pasteurize it. Next, mix the soil with one-third sand--also pasteurized in the oven--and pasteurized peat moss. Almost anything will be able to grow in this pasteurized soil, uncontaminated from residual plant diseases.

If some of your non-pasteurized-soil-based house plants should happen to be bothered by insects or other pests, it may not be necessary to use a pesticide to be rid of them. Sometimes a bath will do the trick. Washing with soapy water and a soft brush, cloth, or sponge may be all that is needed to remove aphids, mealybugs, and scale insects from broad-leaved plants. Two tablespoons of a mild dish-washing detergent to a gallon of water makes a good formula.

Also, a number of non-bath loving insects can be washed off plants by merely using a lukewarm spray of water. Or, if small patches of aphids and mealybugs have just begun to show, use a pair of lady's eyebrow tweezers to remove them; or, borrow some of

baby's Que-tips (small toothpick-like sticks tipped with a tuft of cotton), dip in alcohol, and swab down--and off--the insects.

Adventuresome gardeners will find that tulips and hyacinth bulbs can be planted until January in areas where the ground is not frozen. Deep planting of these, and daffodils, too, is desirable and will more surely postpone their making any above-ground growth this fall. But these spring-flowering bulbs should be planted in soil with good sub-surface drainage, or in raised beds. These bulb beds may be protected from mice and moles by a generous application of chlordane. Hardware cloth spread over plantings of crocus will protect them from being eaten by squirrels.

And in fall grass seeding, try using sawdust for a mulch. It does not contain weed seed, is not as easily blown about as straw, when kept moist, and is easier for the grass blade to break through. As an extra bit of gardening advice, fertilization of lawn areas should not be neglected, just because the growth and color of a beautiful lawn does not seem as important now as in the summer season. Fall feeding of lawns is preferable to spring feeding.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

The Annual Report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the Fiscal Year 1964 is an absorbing document.

Led for the past 40 years by its Director, J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI has become the greatest criminal investigation body in the history of the world. And its 1964 report points out that its accomplishments reached new highs in many categories during that Fiscal Year. As example, there were greatly increased numbers of Federal lawbreakers apprehended in direct relation to a rising crime rate.

However, special emphasis was placed on the ominous fact that the Communist Party, USA, stepped up its programs on all domestic fronts during FY 1964. Acting to discharge its responsibility for counterintelligence activities and to protect the internal security of the U. S., the FBI, in countering this activity, kept appropriate Government agencies constantly informed regarding these programs, while maintaining a close check on the activities of numerous communist front groups.

In commenting upon the rise in these activities, the FBI report states: "The signing of the partial nuclear test-ban treaty was interpreted by the Communist Party, USA, as resulting from a shift in the world balance of forces in favor of communism and as a turning away from capitalism toward 'socialism'." The report stated also that other aspects of American foreign policy which came under Party scrutiny included the involvement of American troops in South Viet Nam. The Party charged that these "imperialistic policies" have disgraced the United States before the world and endangered world peace. The organization has

conducted an intensive campaign for the withdrawal of American forces from South Viet Nam and has also demanded an end to the "unjust" American policy pursued with respect to Cuba.

The FBI further reported that the Party "worked unremittingly to increase its influence in the racial struggle; to gain new members through an intensive youth recruitment campaign; and to promote the false impression that it is a legitimate political party." The report pointed out that Communist Party leaders during FY 1964 spoke before audiences at nearly 50 colleges in the country and also appeared as guests on numerous radio and television programs. The Party sponsored a youth conference in Chicago, Illinois, toward the formation of a new, broad national youth organization. The FBI report stated further: "That paramount allegiance to the Soviet Union continued to be a fundamental tenet of the Communist Party, USA, was amply demonstrated"

Additionally, the FBI report warned that the Communist Party continued to create and utilize front organizations wherever possible to implement and propagandize the Party's work. It pointed out that the Party made constant efforts to exploit the civil rights issue, and during the August 28, 1963, March on Washington, communists and Party sympathizers sought to involve themselves in every aspect of that demonstration, including the actual participation of approximately 200 Party members in the March. Other recent racial demonstrations were stated as having attracted communists, usually in a hidden role, so that the FBI is concerned from an intelligence standpoint with determining the extent of possible communistic infiltration in civil rights groups.

The Federal agency stressed that organizations which attract communists cover the entire spectrum of the social and labor movement in this country because "there is little of significance in this realm that is not of interest to the Party."
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Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

NEWS IN THE SMALL PRINT

Some news items which make the most interesting reading just are not headline material. These "small print" reports, nonetheless, afford piquant glimpses of life in these United States.

As an example, under the auspices of the Department of Interior, 1,000 prized eagle feathers were collected at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland and shipped across country to various Indian reservations to be used in ceremonial costumes by several Southwest Indian tribes--just in time to alleviate a critical shortage of the adornments. Nothing but eagle feathers would do--because of the importance of the symbolism of the eagle in American Indian culture, with many songs and dances and much Indian history and religion centered around the bird. So strong is the symbolism of the American eagle to the Indian that feathers are often handed down from generation to generation by tribal custom.

And in Savannah, Georgia, the U. S. Department of Agriculture specialists are making life impossible for moths--by humming. The government insect super-snoopers found out a low-continuous sound would keep the moths from reproducing as prolifically as when there is peace and quiet. They, therefore, started a continuous hi-fi humming--which interferes considerably with the moths' reproductive activities.

Also, the American Veterinarian Medical Association provided an interesting tid-bit in a report read at its recent meeting in Chicago--that American women are changing their pet preferences from cats and parakeets. The American vets were alerted that in the past five years the monkey pet population in the U. S. has increased from 100,000 to 750,000, with statistics showing that nearly all the owners are women.

(MORE)

TV-watchers have a number of interesting reports provided for their consumption. For example (although not actually new news), the major complaint against television is the frequent commercials! However, the most vociferous complainers now are the late, late movie watchers. A 2-hour night movie is reported to average presentation of 15 commercials and station breaks--4 commercials before the movie gets going, 7 interruptions during the course of the film, and 4 at the finish. The complaints of the late movie watchers are that they want to hurry up and find out "who-dun-it" and get to bed!

America's "wash-day Queens" are getting some assistance in their constant battle to scrub the blue jeans worn by the small fry to pristine freshness. A Federal Government contract was awarded to a private research laboratory for basic research on how to make cotton fabrics more soil resistant. Also, exploratory research on the behavior of cotton, when subjected to high-intensity sound waves of varying frequencies, is being undertaken at a New Jersey laboratory. Scientists believe information from this study will be useful in research aimed at developing completely new systems for processing cotton into higher quality textiles at lower cost. For example, high-intensity sound waves may prove capable of removing trash from lint cotton before it is processed into yarn and fabric.

Verily, an awful lot goes on that never makes the headlines.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

ALCOHOLISM

Alcoholism (the condition resulting from ingestion of large amounts of alcohol) includes chronic alcoholism (the cumulative effect upon organs and tissues of the body) and acute alcoholism (the results on the central nervous system). At any time or in any form, alcoholism is not an attractive state for the human being, and the physiological and structural changes accompanying the condition represent disorders of magnitude.

Alcoholism is beginning to be considered a symptom of psychic instability, and the problem is receiving study by educational and scientific institutions. Notable among these is the Yale University school for alcoholic studies. The first free clinics in the U. S. for inebriates were established in 1944 in New Haven and Hartford, Connecticut. The Research Council on Problems of Alcohol was formed in 1937 and is now affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. These and similar efforts to help conquer this grievous problem through scientific and enlightened study and treatment represent a new force to bolster the moral persuasion attempted in the past.

Statistics available from the Rutgers Center of Alcoholic Studies, New Brunswick, New Jersey (all in terms of apparent consumption of alcoholic beverages per capita of drinking age--15 years and over) show fluctuations in the U. S. from 1350 (2.10 gallons) to almost the same total (2.11 gallons) in 1962. The lowest point (.97 gallons) during this 112-year period was in 1934. For 1947, the National figure was 2.03 gallons. The West Virginia figure for 1947 was 1.85 gallons, and in 1962, it was 1.33 gallons. Reported highest consumption was in the District of Columbia--3.93 gallons in 1947 and 5.73 gallons in

1962, followed by Nevada with 3.37 gallons in 1947 and 4.70 gallons in 1962.

Among foreign countries, France ranked highest with 25.72 liters (larger than a quart) in 1955, with Italy second with 13.26 liters. (For comparison, in 1962 the U. S. total was 7.99 liters.) Statistics on alcoholism in Communist countries are not readily available, but clinical reports as published by the Soviets reveal that a very high percentage of admissions in patient categories are alcoholics. This is also true in the Eastern bloc of satellite republics.

In total numbers of alcoholics in the United States, in 1960, Nevada led the country, with California second. West Virginia was ranked 27th, with an estimated 23,800 men alcoholics and 4,400 women alcoholics. West Virginia's pattern, according to sex, is considered typical of the alcoholic pattern everywhere, with the number of male alcoholics far exceeding female alcoholics.

The District of Columbia and Nevada led the Nation in the rate of deaths generally attributed to alcoholism in 1960.

Whatever the cause of alcoholism--neurotic pressures, fears, anxieties, depressions, instabilities--mankind's deficiency in relation to alcohol has not yet been solved. Perhaps some hope lies with the tools of science now beginning to be employed.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

UNCLE SAM'S GREAT BARGAIN

Uncle Sam, sometimes called "Uncle Sugar", is nonetheless quite often a canny Yankee bargain-hunter.

One of his best-paying investments has been the expenditures on American veterans under the provisions of the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, popularly-known as the GI Bill of Rights, as revealed by a review of its programs after 20 years in operation.

Signed into law in June, 1944, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, it had heavy and vocal opposition to its passage. A direct product of the concern of responsible American leaders over the potentially explosive reactions of 15.3 million World War II veterans who had their lives disrupted by war service, it provided for loans, education, readjustment allowances for veterans, and expanded veterans' hospitals and employment services. Yet only the remembrance of the horrors of the bonus march in the 1930's, and dread of repetitions of this, prompted many legislators to vote the bill's enactment.

Singled out for particular criticism was the provision for readjustment allowances, derisively dubbed "the gravy train". Yet, surprisingly, less than 10% of the veterans exhausted this benefit. Instead, the readjustment allowances helped 9,000,000 veterans through the initial period after discharge from military service, while they job-hunted. The average veteran stayed on the rolls less than 19 weeks, so that only a total of \$3.8 billion was expended for this purpose during the 20 years of operations of the GI bill. These readjustment allowances were mostly not strung together in payments, but acted as a bulwark against economic need, being spread out over varying periods when veterans were changing jobs, or going from schools out job-hunting, generally adjusting themselves more compatibly to civilian life.

Also, much criticized were the credit provisions of the veterans' housing loan program--with predictions made of the destruction of the credit of the Nation as veterans walked out on their obligations. Contrariwise, veterans have proved, in the main, to be excellent credit risks. One out of every five homes built since the end of World War II has been financed by GI loans. More than 5,268,000 WWII veterans were granted home, farm, and business loans, totaling \$43 billion. The approximately 5,000,000 home loans sparked a housing boom, beginning in the mid-1940's, that has made America into a Nation of home owners. The accompanying wide use of credit gave an enormous impetus to the economy through the purchase of new furniture, new appliances, new cars, and school construction. And 20 years later, more than one-third of the GI loans are already paid in full.

Under the education and training provisions, 7,300,000 veterans --nearly half of all who saw war-time service--received training. At the peak of the program, over 2,000,000 were in colleges with another 3,500,000 in other institutions such as trade and technical schools. About 1,400,000 veterans increased their skills in on-the-job training. Our Nation is vastly enriched today as a result of skills acquired under the GI bill--including 450,000 engineers; 130,000 doctors, dentists, and nurses; 360,000 school teachers; 150,000 scientists; 243,000 accountants; 107,000 lawyers; 36,000 clergymen; 17,000 writers; 711,000 mechanics; 383,000 construction workers; 238,000 metalworkers; 130,000 electricians; and about 700,000 who trained for business and executive careers. The total cost of this vast program of mass adult education is \$14.5 billion --recouped at \$1 billion per year from increased income taxes paid by better-educated, higher-earning GI bill veterans.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

TEEN-AGE DRIVING

The teen-ager is more prone to automobile accidents than is any other segment of the U. S. populace, with the under-20 driving group actually having an accident involvement rate $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the average rate of adult drivers.

Of America's approximately 6,000,000 teenage automobile drivers, about 40 per cent are involved in an accident in any given year, according to national automobile accident statistics. Actuaries, in predicating car insurance costs, use as one element the fact that teenage drivers have about a 90 per cent chance of a crackup over a three-year period.

One large national insurance company, concerned over the dangerous combination of young driver and the automobile, and needing to plan its insurance programs based on expectations for the future, undertook an examination in depth of this problem. Some of the conclusions are startling. Some are discouraging, but others offer real opportunities for constructive action. As an example, it was statistically proven that youngsters who complete a high school driver education course are better drivers and have fewer accidents than those youngsters who receive only parental driver-teaching.

The theory that teen-agers make better drivers because of their youthful ability to react quickly in situations of danger was exploded. This ability was shown to be canceled out by the lack of judgment as to how best to react.

The study proved a direct interrelationship between cars, scholastic grades, jobs, and accidents. Where pleasure driving was permitted for high school juniors and seniors during the week,

lower grades almost inevitably resulted, and the more evenings a week a car was used, the lower the grades dropped. Good students who became "car-conscious" suffered the sharpest drops in grades, and the combination of a car and a part-time job to buy, maintain, or operate it invariably dealt a death-blow to scholastic achievement.

Also, it was noted that the greater use of the car, with less parental supervision and primary insistence to keep up grades, resulted in a feel of "bravado", or the mistaken conviction on the part of the teen-ager of his, or her, own ability to "handle" any situation.

The study pointed out that the automobile, considered a "status" symbol among Americans, provides a focal point in the minds of teen-agers. The pressure to use cars and own cars begins before the youngsters are licensed to operate cars. Parents, realizing well that scholastic achievement is a must to survive in today's highly competitive world, nonetheless begin to yield to the pressures, despite the known threat to lives, property, and scholastic standings.

In summary, the automobile insurance underwriters stated that parents are the key to safer teen-age driving, for by exercising more careful control over their teen-age sons' and daughters' activities, they can decide whether their interests and attentions are directed toward the betterment of scholastic performance, toward future gain, or whether, through the use of time in indulging in outside pastimes, their interests and goals become diversionary.

When the car is allowed to assume a dominant position in a teen-ager's mind and activities, the visits to the hospital, the repair garage, the court, or the morgue are not long away.

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Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

ON BEING SWORN IN AS A UNITED STATES SENATOR

Always awesome, sometimes spectacular, frequently contentious, a symbol of the union of the States, a sanctuary of their individual rights, the arm of their collective power--the United States Senate is all of these things, and much more. From it stems leadership, deliberation, and decision--contributed in varying degrees by its 100 elected members.

On January 3, the 39th Congress convened, and I, having been re-elected to serve the State of West Virginia for a second term of six years in this greatest and most powerful of the world's deliberative bodies--the Senate of the United States--presented myself in good order and was duly sworn in. Called alphabetically in the first increment of four of the 36 Senators to be sworn in--Bass, Burdick, Byrd of Virginia, Byrd of West Virginia--to come forward for the administration of the oath by the venerable Presiding Officer, 37-year-old President Pro Tempore Carl Hayden of Arizona, I proceeded down the chamber's middle aisle, with my colleagues, shortly after twelve o'clock meridian. In such fashion, during the years before me had gone many men of note, some to become illustrious public servants, a few to advance to the Presidency, all to be changed in stature by their Senate service.

Surrounded by the great seals of the 50 individual States, dutifully representative of the peoples back home, with awe and a deep awareness of responsibility renewed within me, I solemnly swore, for the second time in my career as a Senator, to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, to bear to it true faith and allegiance, to take the obligation freely and without reservation, to faithfully discharge all the duties on which I was, once again, about to enter, so help me God.

(MORE)

Having received as a personal gift from the Senate the specially marked pen with which I signed the oath, I returned to my seat, Number 42, to find it temporarily occupied by Vice-President-Elect Hubert H. Humphrey. There to offer his congratulations, he remained to talk a bit, so that I sat in an adjacent seat and had an opportunity to reflect upon the other Senators who had in the past occupied Number 42. First used on the Republican side of the center aisle, which traditionally is the dividing line for the two political parties, with Democrats on the Speaker's right hand, and Republicans on the left, it was occupied in past sessions by GOP Senators Poindexter and Watson, and the brilliant Senator Arthur Vandenberg. As the political complexion of the country began to change in the 1930's, the necessity for assigning more seats to the Democratic side of the aisle resulted in eventual "liberation" of the seat from Republican control to Democratic occupancy, where it was assigned before my present tenure to Democratic Senators Dennis Chavez and Lister Hill, in turn.

From consideration of the chamber, my thoughts traveled to the heavy load of work awaiting me as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which would shortly begin its consideration of the \$100 billion Federal budget for Fiscal Year 1966, and of the need to keep faith, by doing the task wisely and foresightedly, with the more than 193 million American citizens.

And in so reflecting, I found myself, as a student of the law, impressed once again with the tremendous power and great majesty of the law that makes the successful accomplishment of such tasks possible.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

SMOKING

The use of tobacco in its various forms--burning, dipping, or chewing--has had its bitter critics from the time European explorers acquired the habit from American Indians to the present day.

These included King James I of England, who in 1604 tried to outlaw smoking, claiming the practice irritated the nose, caused harm to the brain, and posed a dangerous threat to the lungs. Three and a half centuries later, the U. S. Public Health Service has entered the arena to do battle against the health-damaging plant, and, in so doing, issued a report in January of last year which proved very nearly all of King James' charges against tobacco are dismayingly true.

The report to the Surgeon General, from his Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health, carefully understated in summary, "Cigarette smoking is a health hazard of sufficient importance in the United States to warrant appropriate remedial action." This summary--based on painstaking scientific studies on smoking and its effect on health--is being used by PHS as a basis for continuing research and action. Realizing the enormity of the need to know more of the "how" and "why" of the damage caused by cigarette smoking and other tobacco uses, the Public Health Service last July awarded contracts totaling \$300,000 to support research on the properties of cigarette smoke and its effect on living tissues and in August, 1964, ten grants aggregating \$260,000 to support studies relating to the effects of cigarette smoking on health, including one to gather more accurate data on American smoking habits.

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But this Federal agency is not alone in the battle against the use of tobacco--the causative factor which it believes far outweighs all others in advancing lung cancer in the U. S. to the point that 43,000 persons died of it in 1963, a total death rate ten times higher than in 1930. Last July, twelve national agencies and organizations formed the National Interagency Council on Smoking and Health "to develop and implement effective plans and programs aimed at combating smoking as a health hazard." These included the American Association of School Administrators; Am. Cancer Society; Am. Dental Association; Am. Heart Association; Am. Public Health Association; Assn. of State and Territorial Health Officers; National Congress of Parents and Teachers; National Tuberculosis Association; U. S. Office of Education; U. S. Children's Bureau; and the Dept. of Classroom Teachers.

But the fight will not be quickly or easily won, a fact well realized by the attackers. The smoking habit is deeply rooted in American culture and, as one PHS psychologist points out, based on a calculation that the average pack-a-day smoker takes about 60,000 puffs a year, "There is nothing else the individual does so often or so regularly except breathe. How can he help but be hooked on a habit that he has practiced so long and so well?"

Education to a certain grim fact may be the best tool--that the overall death rate is, in a given age group among Americans, 70 percent higher for smokers than non-smokers. Cigarette smoking is thus clearly indicted not only as a lung or heart problem, but also as a general health hazard. Old jokes about cigarettes as "coffin nails" are perhaps not so funny when repeated in relation to present date mortality tables.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

INAUGURAL ATTIRE

The January 20, 1965, inauguration of President Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th President of the United States, provided some new chapters in the colorful history of male attire for the inauguration of American Presidents. The high excitement generated by his economical wearing of a not-new business suit for his inaugural ceremonies has been widely chronicled. However, on Wednesday, still another record was set--Capitol Plaza in Washington, D. C., was jammed with what is believed to have been the largest crowd ever to have assembled there, and a view of the Plaza from the inaugural podium showed it to be literally a-wash with Stetson hats--ten-gallon masculine Texan style.

This was not the first time hats have figured prominently in inaugural ceremonies. At his first inauguration, President Abraham Lincoln appeared on the platform, stiff, uncomfortable, plainly embarrassed by the unaccustomed gorgeousness of his wardrobe. Included in his Presidential attire were a new silk hat and a heavy gold-headed cane. He managed early to rid himself of the cane, but the disposal of the silk topper left him stumped. He could not stay covered before the crowds, so that he awkwardly stood, at the moment of the oath-taking, searching for a safe repository for his topper. From behind him stepped Senator Stephen A. Douglas, his old political enemy. Having seen Lincoln's embarrassment, he quietly removed the topper from his hand and carefully held it while the President delivered his inaugural address.

As a result of the Lincoln hat episode, it became tradition to watch the Presidential handling of hats. Newspapers dated March 4, 1881, stated that at the inauguration of James A. Garfield, the

last of the so-called Log Cabin Presidents, "General Garfield handled his stovepipe hat with skill!"

President George Washington, among other "firsts," was first in setting a standard of sartorial elegance for American Presidents. On March 4, 1792, for his second inauguration, in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, he was attired in a "full suit of rich black velvet, the short clothes ornamented with diamond knee-buckles. He wore black silk stockings, and his shoes . . . were surmounted with large, square silver buckles. In his hand, he carried a plain cocked hat, decorated with the American cockade. His hair, powdered, was gathered into a black silk bag, on which was a bow of black ribbon. He wore a light dress sword with green scabbard and a richly ornamented belt."

However, President Thomas Jefferson is given honors as having been the most stylishly dressed of all the Presidents on the occasion of his oath-taking. On March 4, 1801, the tall Virginian gave on-lookers a good view of his inaugural clothing, leaving his boarding house on New Jersey Avenue to walk, accompanied by a few friends, to the Senate Chamber of the Capitol. He wore a "handsome blue coat with brass buttons, green homespun breeches, yarn stockings and shoes tied with leather strings." But the most resplendent clothing worn by any American President for an inaugural event is believed to be that worn by President James Buchanan at his inaugural ball on the evening of March 4, 1857. He appeared in a Lancaster suit of black satin, which was made by an artistic tailor from his home town in Pennsylvania. On the lining of this suit were embroidered the coats-of-arms of the 32 States then in the Union.

Interestingly, James Madison used the occasion of his oath-taking to give a stimulus to a budding American industry. He carefully chose a suit made from the wool of American sheep and called attention to this attire as a "walking argument in favor of the encouragement of native wool." Perhaps his action provided President Johnson with a precedence for the practicality which he displayed in choosing his own inaugural attire.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

GROUND HOG DAY

Farmers and gardeners in West Virginia will have an opportunity on February 2 to determine whether to begin spring planting early this year.

That is, if they can locate a specimen of the terrestrial, herbivorous rodent family of the Marmot, and if they can catch sight of him quickly enough, as he emerges from his winter hibernation, to tell whether or not he saw his shadow, or just does not care for the present shape of the world, before he scurries back for another bit of snoozing.

For centuries, the woodchuck, popularly known in northern North America as the ground hog, has been the means by which forecasts were made as to the coming of warm weather. According to an old superstition, on February 2, the ground hog leaves his burrow of many compartments, having nested and hibernated through the long winter months, bear-style, to take a look around. If he sees his own shadow, he promptly says a mental, "Br-rr-r! None of this for me!", and reverses his travels for a rapid retreat underground for another six weeks of good, hard sleeping. Thus a bright, sunny February 2 is automatically supposed to mean six more weeks of winter weather.

This barometer of the seasons, however, has been in question for some decades, as some older European folk claim that the woodchuck (alias ground hog) was scared back into his underground home from the brightness of the many candles used in Candlemas processions, also traditionally occurring on February 2. In many churches, including the Roman Catholic and Anglican, that date is celebrated as the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, it is ceremoniously

observed as the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, and is marked by a procession of candles. On that day, too, for centuries, candles for use in churches and homes for the ensuing year are blessed.

The symbolism of the candle has had a wide range of use in literature and art, as well as religion. The candle is frequently used to represent joy and reverence for the divine. However, it is more often used as a symbol of sacrifice (since the candle spends itself). The lighting of candles and carrying of them in a procession to attend a Mass, where blessings are said, is thus a tradition. And the ground hog, if he emerged from his long slumbers in the midst of a Candlemas parade, might have enough light to see his shadow, with or without the sun to cast it, but he also might be startled at the flickering candles and retreat in fright to his accustomed dark burrow.

Perhaps West Virginians might just wish to give the sturdy ground hog, in his thick, coarse, brownish-hair pelt, such respect as they feel he is due as a symbol and prefer to rely for weather forecasts on their trusty Farmers' Almanacs, or such portents as their elders derive from the effects of the changing weather on their rheumatic aches and pains.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

Volume V -- Number 6

February 5, 1965

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

SMOKING AMONG TEEN-AGERS

Public health authorities have launched a two-pronged attack against teen-age smoking; first, appealing to basic parental concern; and, secondly, attempting to educate teen-agers to the dangers of smoking.

To parents, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare states: "If you don't want your child to smoke, don't smoke yourself!"

To teen-agers, the Bureau says: "There is one way to decide this question--shall I smoke--the only way to reach any decision--look at both sides of the question. First, consider what cigarettes may offer--what pleasures, what benefits. Next, consider scientifically proven, medical facts condemning cigarettes--what is harmful about smoking, and the effects on the body."

Public Health Service statistics show that youths smoking before 20 years of age go on to smoke more and more cigarettes and to inhale more deeply. Early, steady, heavy smokers are the ones who face greatest health risks. Statistics tend to show, also, that among men who began smoking when they were teen-agers, the death rate is one hundred percent higher than for non-smokers, that teen-age cigarette smokers face the risks of becoming invalids while still quite young, and that various illnesses linked with cigarettes are not just older people's diseases, but are sicknesses that may disable young people in their twenties or thirties. Lung and heart diseases make smokers invalids--unable to work or live normal lives.

More immediately, cigarettes can make teen-agers short of breath, irritate throats, cause chronic coughs, interfere with

appetites, undercut stamina for swimming, tennis, football--all athletics.

Some teen-agers feel that smoking makes them more sophisticated, that they don't want to be different from other members of "the crowd", and that it helps them to be less tense. But is there anything "more sophisticated" about stale tobacco odor on the breath and clothes and yellow stains on teeth and fingers? As to feeling that smoking makes one "in", or "belong to", an elite group, some of the smartest, most attractive people in the country do not smoke, or are giving it up after getting the facts on the detrimental health effects. Doctors in great numbers have stopped smoking. Many non-smokers are scientists, famous athletes, teachers, engineers, military men, opera stars, and actors, so that one can belong to an elite non-smoking group in almost any category. As for feeling less tense when one smokes, the nicotine in a cigarette may temporarily calm the smoker but continued smoking adds to nervousness and will damage health, if practiced long enough.

The teen-ager may ask exactly what is in cigarettes that is harmful. The smoke itself is harmful, being composed of a complex mixture of gases and particles and containing tars which irritate tissues in nose, throat, and lungs. It contains nicotine which affects the nervous system--the heart and the blood vessels--and carbon monoxide which blocks the flow of oxygen in the blood stream. Smoke particles contain chemical compounds capable of producing cancer.

Fortunately, no one can make teen-agers smoke. Given access to the facts and support from adults in their environment to avoid the habit, intelligent teen-agers would be expected to find little or no appeal in becoming tobacco users.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

MERIT BADGE vs CRIMINAL RECORD

This week the Boy Scouts of America celebrated their 55th anniversary. Chartered by Congress, this organization annually reports to that legislative body on its activities, accomplishments, and financial operations, and the formal report is published as an official Congressional document.

An examination of this report for 1963, as compared with the Uniform Crime Report for 1963, published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, leads to some impressive conclusions. Primary among these, our Nation has benefited greatly by the constructive and dynamic force exerted by the Boy Scouts of America, the way in which that organization has brought together--to purposefully direct the activities of boys' gangs, which Scouts call dens, patrols, etc.--the good influences of homes, churches or synagogues, schools, and civic and fraternal groups.

The current challenge to Boy Scouts, "Strengthen America --Scouting Can Make the Difference," represents an effort to help solve one of our Nation's most vexing problems, one which becomes every day more apparent--that of the weakening of the moral fibre of our Nation as represented by the rapid rate of increase in juvenile delinquency, in criminal arrests, and in commission of crimes by young Americans.

On December 31, 1963, there were 1,931,130 registered Cub Scouts and 1,771,134 Boy Scouts. In 1963, the FBI report shows Nation-wide arrests for persons under 18 rose 11 percent, for criminal offenses such as homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft. In comparison to the total number of police arrests, Nation-wide, for offenses related to the Crime Index (crimes as previously enumerated), persons under 18 years of age were represented in 46 percent of the arrests.

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For all criminal acts, the male is arrested 8 times more often than the female, so that the area open to the Boy Scouts of America for influential work is, obviously, indeed great. Any influence which can be brought to bear in reducing the establishment of criminality as a way of life for increasing numbers of America's youth is deserving of the full support and encouragement of responsible adult citizenry. As American community life grows and becomes more complex, there is an ever-increasing need to attract young boys and fledgling men to strive for personal goals which will help them better understand their citizenship obligations, the need for community service, the desirability of personal fitness, both physical and moral, the value of the wholesomeness of outdoor living, and the worth of vocational knowledge and social skills.

The Boy Scouts of America has but one business--boys. It is well to help it expand and become an ever-greater success. An Eagle Scout merit badge is worthy of attainment and demanding of accomplishment. A criminal record is not.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE LIFE WHICH YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN

Washington, D. C., has a school which has no student dropout problem. It does, however, have a slogan which is emphasized to achieve the maximum effect on the students: "The Life Which You Save May Be Your Own."

This school--the traffic school for the District of Columbia--held its first session in January, 1948, having been established in an effort to combat the rapidly mounting death and accident tolls in the Nation's Capital, i.e., in 1964, 115 motorists and 55 pedestrians were killed. Planned as a result of conferences between D. C. Commissioners, the Metropolitan Police Force, Court officials, and representatives of other agencies interested in lessening traffic fatalities, the school now has more than 26,000 "graduates." The student body is composed of motorists and pedestrians labeled "volunteers," who are assigned by sponsoring agencies to attend two nightly sessions of three hours each during two consecutive weeks. The instructors are members of the Washington police force.

The majority of the "volunteers" are referred, following traffic violations, by police officials or District traffic courts, and they must attend and complete the course to avoid driver penalties, possibly leading to revocation of vehicle operators' permits. Attendance cards must be presented and punched on arrival and departure, and an examination of 20 multiple choice questions is given at the end of the second session. Anyone failing to pass is referred to his or her sponsoring agency, which most usually sends the student back for a repeat course.

As for the curriculum, the instructors discuss and interpret traffic regulations, emphasizing violations such as excessive speed, failure to give full time and attention to driving, and driving under the influence of alcohol. It is pointed out that the reaction time

for drivers--three-fourths of a second to take action from the time a thought is first flashed through the brain--permits a vehicle traveling at 25 miles per hour, on dry roads, to continue in motion for 60.2 feet before it can possibly be brought to a halt. At higher speeds, and under adverse driving conditions, the statistics are startling.

The entire program is geared to pack a shock tremendous enough to motivate motorists and pedestrians to obey regulations and to drive and walk defensively. The climatic point of the course comes with the 20-minute presentation of a technicolor film, with spine-chilling sounds, of traffic accidents, actually prepared at the time and on the scene of the traffic accidents. Nothing of the pain and horror attendant on the mutilation and mangling of bodies, and of the grief and remorse all too often a part of traffic accidents, is spared to the eyes and ears of the "students."

While statistics cannot be quoted as to the effectiveness of the course, it is sincerely believed that this constructive approach toward encouragement of better, more lawful, more courteous driving, is a strong weapon in combating the rising traffic fatality totals. Representatives of other metropolitan areas throughout the United States might well wish to duplicate the efforts of Washington's Traffic School and to plan such educational guidance in safer, more defensive, driving for their own citizens.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

FOR THE YOUNGSTERS

Dogs have often made front-page news in the past, including ones owned by Presidents, by children of Presidents, and by Vice-Presidents.

But one dog has made postal news and earned the title of "The Postal Dog." One day in 1888, a stray dog, hungry and cold, wandered into the Post Office at Albany, New York, and, unnoticed, made a bed on a pile of mail bags. When finally found by the mail clerks, his pathetic appearance appealed to their sympathies, so that they shared their lunches with him and permitted him to remain in the building to keep warm. As the weeks passed, the doggy visitor continued to make the post office his home, and in his best tail-wagging fashion indicated his love and appreciation to the mail-handlers for their generosity to him. They, in turn, "adopted" him and christened him "Owney."

He became especially attached to the mail bags and, eventually, after watching them come and go, began to make trips with them. He frequently would be gone on a trip for several weeks, however, always returning to the Albany post office. Concerned that he might become lost, the Albany mail clerks bought him a collar with his name and address on it. Subsequently, they fastened a card to the collar asking postal clerks to attach the name of any place where Owney visited. He eventually carried so many tags that the heavy load made the postmaster sorry for him, so he had a harness made so he could carry about his tags less laboriously.

Eventually, Owney went around the world. At one time, he was in Tacoma, Washington, watching mail bags being ship-loaded for Japan and China. When the postal clerks saw him make efforts to join the bags, they provided him with a letter of introduction to

postal people in various parts of the world. On board the ship, Owney was the guest of the ship's captain, being treated as an honored passenger. On arrival in Japan, the Mikado gave him a passport bearing the seal of the Empire. In China, the emperor made him welcome and he saw many leading merchants. Everywhere he went he was an object of great interest. Ultimately, he returned to the United States, landing in New York and crossing the country to Tacoma, reaching his starting point just 132 days from his departure date.

Owney is reputed to be the greatest dog traveler in the world. It was believed that he brought good luck with him. During his journeys, he collected 200 checks, medals, and certificates. No one knows his origin, but after his death in August, 1897, Owney was mounted and is now on display in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C.

The story of his life has been included in school textbooks and in periodicals, and the Post Office Department every month receives hundreds of requests for information on "The Postal Dog."

) From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
) Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

Volume V -- Number 10

March 5, 1965

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

CALENDARS

Men who have trouble remembering wedding anniversaries and wives' birthdays may take heart at the thought that efforts are being made to help solve calendar problems.

A bill to adopt a perpetual calendar has been introduced in the Congress. It proposes establishing a calendar, effective New Year's Day, 1967, with 8 months of 30 days each and 4 months of 31 days, in which a certain date falls on the same week day each year. Additionally, there would be an extra first day of each year, between December 31 and January 1, designated as New Year's Day, and Leap-Year Day, which would fall between June 31 and July 1 each leap year.

The proposed calendar would have a number of attractions. For example, for holiday-ers, New Year's Day and Leap-Year Day would be designated as legal public holidays. For superstitious folk, some fears could be permanently laid to rest, because the new calendar has no Friday the 13th. For marriage-minded maidens, matrimonial aspirations would receive an assist from the romantic proximity of June by having Leap-Year Day follow the 30 days of that traditional bridal month.

The reform of the calendar, so that it is more fixed, orderly, and simplified, has occupied men's minds for centuries. It was the subject of Congressional debate 25 years ago. The basic difficulty in achieving a fully accurate calendar lies with the difference in the lunar and solar systems and the lack of a simple and accurate way to keep lunar and solar calendars exactly in step. An accurate calendar, as a means of measuring and recording the passage of time, must reconcile these two systems.

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The Gregorian calendar was worked out in the 1580's by Pope Gregory XIII, based on the birth of Christ. Prior to then, the Church Calendar, partly regulated by the sun and partly by the moon, was used. Among other calendars, all with imperfections, the Hebrew was started more than 3,760 years prior to Christ's birth. Thus Gregorian calendar year 1965 is year 5726 on the Hebrew calendar. The Islamic Calendar begins with Mohammed's flight (the Hegira) from Mecca to Medina and would be about one day off every 2,570 years with respect to the moon, on which it is based.

Babylonians intercalated, or added, an extra month to their years at irregular intervals when their calendar ran badly out of step. Egyptians used a predominantly solar calendar. The Romans' calendar efforts included one of 10 months and a year of 304 days, so that they apparently just ignored the remaining 60 days, which fell in the dead of winter. Evidently Julius Ceasar felt this to be inadequate, because he ordered a calendar revision based on a disregard of the moon in making calculations. So badly was it off that the year we know as 46 B. C. would have had 445 days. The Romans called it the year of confusion.

If the new perpetual calendar should be adopted, a new bit of doggerel to help out the absent-minded will be needed. The old saying, "30 days hath September, April, June, and November," might give way to "31 days hath March, June, September, and December. All the rest have merely 30."

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From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

Volume V -- Number 11

March 12, 1965

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

PROJECT ENGLISH

Employers, academic authorities, and English-speaking nationals of other countries are often quite vocal in their complaints that all too many Americans cannot properly speak, spell, or use the English language. It has been said that many of our universities turn out graduates who are illiterate experts.

For decades, American students have all too often yawned their way through English grammar courses. One result has been that many high school and college graduates are unable to write a clear, comprehensive letter. The use of English as a tool of communication has failed to draw students and to inspire them to become life-long devotees of the art of broadening, enriching, and enlivening our English language. A substitution of slovenly grammar, beatnik terms, and the like is in vogue in the United States, a practice which represents a national failure. On the personal level, this failure is often reflected in income loss to workers. On a broader level, our Nation finds itself concerned with communicating clearly and effectively with peoples of other countries for commercial, social, military, and diplomatic reasons.

English is the official language, or one of the official languages, in many major areas of the world in addition to the United States and its dependencies, such as Puerto Rico, and the United Kingdom and its dependencies, such as Hong Kong and Kenya. Among these are the United Nations, Australia, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, Cyprus, Ghana, India, Ireland, Liberia, Malaya, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sudan, Tanganyika, and the Union of South Africa.

Approximately 291,000,000 people speak English. It ranks third among the half-dozen languages spoken by over one hundred

million people. They are: Chinese, 510 million; India, 415 million; English, 291 million; Russian, 170 million; Hindi, 150 million; Indonesian, 105 million.

Emphasizing dramatically the international swing toward English, language riots occurred recently in South India which caused the loss of many lives and damages totaling millions of dollars, all in the cause of establishing the use of English as the official language for India. An awakening realization of the cohesiveness and incisiveness in the use of English, as compared with the use of more than a dozen dialects current in the Indian sub-continent, brought Indian students and progressive citizens to the barricades on behalf of English.

Hope for an awakening on the grammar front lies with studies being sponsored by the National Council of Teachers and programs under the auspices of the Federal Office of Education. Also, a group of instructors in Arlington County, Virginia, believing that grammar as traditionally taught does not accurately describe English, are emphasizing how words behave in sentences and how they are a reflection of life and thought. Instead of stressing definitions of parts of speech, they describe how different people use language on different occasions, including the manner in which different speech patterns reflect social distinctions.

Most effective of all, however, would be determined efforts by each English-speaking person to become proficient in the use of the language, both spoken and written, as a personal "Project English." This would be a true indication of the realization of the value and beauty of our language.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

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March 19, 1965

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

PULP, PAPER, AND PAPERBOARD INDUSTRY OF THE
U.S.S.R. AND EUROPEAN SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES

U. S. pulp and paper industrialists are pondering the possible threat posed to our pulp and paper industries by the emergence of the U.S.S.R. as a leading economic power, its increasing activity in the field of international trade, and the capability of European Soviet Bloc countries to influence world markets for pulp, paper, paperboard, and allied products.

The answers are important, because of the need to analyze prospects for future exports to world markets and to determine the wisdom of U. S. ventures into overseas investments. Due to the nature of the pulp and paper industry, heavy initial capital outlays are required, often in terms of millions of dollars. This necessitates long-term planning to cover a minimum period of one or two decades to permit reasonable amortization.

In the past, exports of wood pulp and various grades of paper and paperboard by the U.S.S.R. and its European satellites have been important, but they were not major in size as compared to those of other exporting countries. Much of the trade among these European Communist countries has been inter-bloc, so that import-export figures have tended to remain approximately equal in balance.

Also, while the satellite countries possess important production facilities for pulp, paper, and paperboard, they are handicapped with regard to major future expansion because of limited raw material resources. However, the converse is true of the Soviet Union, as its potential is enormous. With respect to timber alone, it is estimated that the net growth on presently accessible Soviet forests would support a pulp and paper industry based on annual pulpwood production of approximately 66 million cords, or 25 percent

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greater than estimated 1965 U. S. pulpwood consumption. The potential annual growth of Soviet forests and the likely opening of newer, more remote areas, would raise the production capacity to a substantially larger quantity. The factor, presently unknown, which makes the difference in estimating Russia's future production and export capacity is the relative degree of importance assigned to the industry in the U.S.S.R.'s overall economic development plan. Until recently, it has ranked low, and it was anticipated that, for at least the next 15 years, the exportable surplus to world buyers in pulp, paper, paperboard, and products should be negligible, unless the Soviet government directed heavy exports for political reasons despite adverse domestic effects.

It is noteworthy, however, that the U.S.S.R. has announced upward revisions in 1965 production figures. As an example, chemical wood pulp production for 1958 totaled 2,315,000 short tons. The figure for 1965 is 6,312,000 short tons, an increase of 194 percent. Paper and paperboard production in 1958 was 3,259,000 short tons, with 1965 production set at 7,771,000, an increase of 138 percent. The revised figure for 1965 is now 8,543,000 short tons, an increase of 162 percent.

Whether the announcement of the upward revisions revealed action to meet increased home consumption or, instead, an intention to move powerfully into the export market, can be more accurately determined through examination of 1966 production and export figures, when available.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

MUSHROOM GROWING

Commercial mushroom growing in caves and abandoned mines offers a new potential for industry in West Virginia. Mushroom culture, while not new in the United States, has been, in the past, fairly generally concentrated in the States of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New York, near larger, metropolitan areas. Actually, climatic and soil conditions would permit commercial mushroom production throughout the country, except for States of the Deep South, where the necessity for costly refrigeration would make it prohibitive.

Also, past major commercial mushroom production has been in long, narrow, shed-like buildings, designed to permit regulation of temperature, humidity, and ventilation. A more recent innovation in mushroom culture has been the use of abandoned limestone and gypsum mines and caves for housing mushroom beds established on small movable trays of compost. Because these caves and mines can be cheaply modified to provide the year-round conditions favorable for the growing phase of mushroom culture, they offer a special advantage to growers in this highly competitive industry.

Mushroom culture has two phases: (1) pasteurizing manure and the production of "spawn" in primary beds; and (2) growth of the mushrooms in permanent beds. When caves and mines are utilized for housing the growth stage, special sheds for soil pasteurization and mushroom spawning must be built separately from the cavern, for better control of sanitation and heat. The sanitation of the compost and mushroom spawning material--usually sterile manure, rye grain, or tobacco stems--is highly important, as mushrooms easily become the prey of fungus growths, nematodes, mites, and insects. The success of a commercial grower is largely dependent on his ability to exclude or control these pests.

(More)

The two largest mushroom plants in the United States are underground cavern installations, located in New York and Pennsylvania. Illinois has a similar installation. In West Virginia, a mushroom farm is operating in Marshall County, partially utilizing a clay mine, and is producing approximately 2,000 lbs. of excellent quality mushrooms daily, with a high production potential for the future.

However, it is not recommended that investors rush out to buy up a number of West Virginia's abandoned mines in order to go into mushroom production, as a "get-rich-quick" scheme, as many elements militate against such operations. Skill, knowledge, and experience are vital factors in successful mushroom culture; and, although the U. S. mushroom market is rapidly expanding, as a result of rising American standards of living, this demand has resulted in increased production in this country and abroad. Fresh mushrooms are greatly in demand, but the major crop absorption is for canning.

Eighty percent of the mushrooms sold in the U. S. in FY 1963-64 were imported from Taiwan, where the mushroom-growing industry was fostered in the early 1960's through grants and loans in local currency by the U. S. Agency for International Development. Cheap labor on Taiwan and favorable growing conditions have combined to make that country the largest supplier of mushrooms to the U. S. Thus, despite U. S. Tariff Commission findings that imports are not seriously injuring the domestic mushroom industry, the competition from imported mushrooms for canning is certainly an economic factor for prospective mushroom producers to consider before investing.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Volume V -- Number 14

April 2, 1965

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

WHAT'S NEW IN MEDICAL RESEARCH?

Medical research, under the aegis of the U. S. Public Health Service, at various of the Institutes at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, is resulting in significant progress in many areas.

Heart disease, one of the United States' great "killers", is being attacked through a massive research program. The entire area of cardiovascular diseases has been the subject of nearly 2,500 research projects during 1964, many being pursued at the National Heart Institute and others at universities and hospitals throughout this country and in research institutions in a number of foreign countries. So widespread is the interest in research in this area of human illness that the results of the projects appeared in more than 3,000 scientific papers and abstracts published during the year. The most hopeful of the results indicate that stroke and arteriosclerotic heart disease are beginning to show signs of yielding a bit to the steadily mounting research program. The overall death rate from strokes has declined somewhat. Fatalities from arteriosclerotic heart disease in women under 55 years of age have dropped substantially, and deaths from this disease in white males aged 45-65 have been held at a steady level since 1960.

An intensified research and development effort is being mounted this year in the hope of making an artificial heart a clinical reality in the near future. This will represent a giant step forward for medical research and will be both a medical and technological triumph.

In another area of heart disease research, special surveys

conducted as part of the Diet and Heart Disease Feasibility Study, begun in 1963, have revealed that the pattern of mortality from coronary heart disease and cerebrovascular disease among persons of Japanese ancestry now living in Hawaii differs noticeably from that found in Japan and that found in Caucasians living in Hawaii. Coronary heart disease causes nearly 3 times as many deaths among men of Japanese descent in Hawaii as in comparably aged men in Japan. This increased rate is still less than half that found in men of this age in the U. S. population as a whole. These striking circumstances are being investigated by the Heart Institute to determine what changes in patterns of living could be isolated as being contributory.

Researchers at the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases have discovered another possible beneficial use for aspirin, that medicinal aid most frequently found in the American medical cabinet. Recent experimental studies tend to show that incorporating prolonged, large doses of salicylates, such as aspirin or related drugs, over and beyond their pain-killing effect, acts to inhibit protein-digesting enzymes believed to be responsible for cartilage degeneration. This finding suggests, according to these researchers, that salicylates, in continuous and adequate dosages, may have prophylactic value in degenerative types of human arthritis.

One NIH activity which is expected to prove highly valuable has been the regular monthly publication of current-awareness journals on certain phases of medical research. This expediting of cross-communication of scientific findings and clinical data will provide American researchers and practitioners with gleanings from 4,000 biomedical journals published throughout the world.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

Volume V -- Number 15

April 9, 1965

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

ZIP CODE

Progression in the United States carries with it increasing advantages for American citizens--higher standards of living, more educational opportunities, more leisure time, better health care, and a variety of other benefits.

But it also necessitates some changes in mental attitudes, and the acceptance of complexities in daily living, for the average citizen. One of the complexities which Americans are learning to live with is the explosive proportions of the volume of mail which is handled by their Federal postal system.

Postmaster General John A. Gronouski stated on March 25, at the Washington, D. C., conference of the Magazine Publishers Association, that our volume of mail has increased 166 percent since 1940, and in 1964 it reached an annual rate of 72 billion individual pieces--nearly as much as the rest of the world's total volume. And, electrifying, it is increasing at the rate of 2 billion pieces each year.

Obviously, simplified means of handling this gigantic load, and some method of reducing the accompanying manpower requirements, are imperative.

But, because 80% of this mail is business mail, no simple solution such as, "Don't write, telephone!", can be adopted. Utility bills and payments, bank deposits and receipts, insurance premiums, credit card transactions, department store bills and payments, mortgage payments, dividend checks, social security checks, selective service draft notices, advertising matter, magazines, and, yes, income tax returns, travel via Uncle Sam's heavily over-burdened mail service.

(MORE)

Adding to the Postmaster General's headaches, the transportation system within the United States has changed. West Virginia is a clear example of the areas in which mail service by train has sharply diminished. In the past thirty years, on the national level, mail-carrying trains have dropped from 10,000 to 1,100. Planes, trucks, and buses now operate where pony express in past decades was the mail-carrying media.

Thus, in the year 1964, our old American zoned-address system in identifying mail destinations is comparably as outmoded and inadequate as would be the continued use of pony express in place of airlines for mail delivery.

Fortunately, modern day technology has a tool--the computer--ready for use in solving the mail delivery problem. However, the computer can only be as efficient as the persons who feed items to it. By gradually changing over to more mechanized operations, the Post Office Department can move its installations forward to the era of the 1960's. By carefully remembering zip codes, and using them constantly in addressing mail, each American citizen can, more progressively and effectively, move himself, or herself, forward into the 1960's. To look upon the usage of zip codes as a distasteful requirement is to look upon change as an unwelcome necessity instead of a welcome challenge to reap fuller benefits from our atomic age.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

FRUIT AND BERRY RESEARCH LABORATORY
(Part 1)

Department of Agriculture research specialists are wrestling with a knotty problem--where to find fruit growers in northeastern West Virginia who are interested sufficiently in developing research on small fruits, berries, and edible nuts to donate a substantial parcel of good fruit-growing land for establishment of a regional research laboratory. When the Department of Agriculture Fruit Research Station at Kearneysville was established in 1930, some of the local growers organized and obtained money to help in purchasing the land. Hope of Federal participation in a northeastern regional research laboratory exists through the provisions of the Appalachian Regional Development Act if interest in local fruit growers can be aroused to sponsor the project and offer guarantees of approximately 500 acres of good fruit-growing land.

The U. S. apple crop has averaged over 120 million bushels annually for a number of years, with 65 percent sold for use as fresh fruit. Approximately 80 percent of these apples are produced in Washington, New York, Michigan, Virginia, California, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and the New England States. The largest single apple field orchard in the U. S.--1,200 acres--is near Charles Town, West Virginia. Apple growers today are concentrating their efforts on growing the few varieties of the fruit with best customer sales appeal and greatest suitability to area soil and climate. Accordingly, West Virginia's production is now confined primarily to Red and Standard Delicious, Stayman, York Imperial, Golden Delicious, and Winesap. Research has been important in establishing this production choice, for successful commercial apple growing is today a specialized, technical job.

(MORE)

In 1963, West Virginia's total apple crop production was 110,400 tons and was worth \$9,476,000. The peach crop was the only other fruit crop of substantial growth in the State, totaling 10,800 tons in 1963, for a monetary return of \$1,260,000. Also, in 1963, West Virginia's production of other fruits and edible nuts totaled \$180,000, less than one percent of the Nation's total dollar value of those crops. Commercially-grown pears, sweet cherries, grapes, bush fruits, and strawberries continue to be almost non-existent in the northeastern Appalachian fruit belt, including West Virginia, although non-citrous fruits consumed in the U. S. made up 53 percent of all fruits consumed in the last decade, with processed fruits accounting for a major portion.

The American Consumer in 1962 ate 36 lbs. more fruit in one form or another than his grandparents in 1910; and in 1962, he ate 2 lbs. more than in 1961. In regard to strawberries alone, so great was the demand that 3.6 million lbs. of fresh strawberries and 41.3 million lbs. of frozen berries were imported during the first 11 months of 1964, with Mexican imports accounting for 95 percent of the total, and Canada the remaining 5 percent.

The conclusion is thus obvious that because of the growing U. S. population, with its increasing income and concomitant requirement for more fruit, both fresh and processed, a tremendous potential for the northeastern Appalachian fruit belt exists.

The Appalachian area has historically produced large volumes of fruit, and since the middle 1950's, large mechanized packing and storage facilities have enabled Appalachian fruit growers to forge ahead. Research studies on the sorting processes have been immensely helpful, and apple growers, recognizing that they have a vital stake in research at all levels of their industry, have invested privately and in cooperation with governmental agencies to advance research programs, and have reaped income dividends as a result.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

Volume V -- Number 17

April 23, 1965

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

FRUIT AND BERRY RESEARCH LABORATORY
(Part II)

As a sample of what research can offer of benefit to West Virginia in the realm of fruit and nut growing, a recent encouraging announcement was made by the Department of Agriculture to the effect that experimental plantings of a hardy Persian (English) type walnut tree had resulted in one which may be well suited to Mountain State conditions. That agency also reported that this walnut variety may be soon available for limited commercial planting. This development represents a long step forward, for as recently as 1958, a Department of Agriculture report stated: "The loss of trees has been so great and their production of nuts has been so disappointing, in general, that the planting of commercial orchards of Persian walnuts in the eastern and southern United States cannot be recommended."

It is believed by Agriculture specialists that research in relation to selected other fruits, berries, and edible nuts could be expected to produce similar effective results for West Virginia growers, and a research laboratory located in the northeastern area of the State would be most effectively situated for carrying forward the research operations. This location is imminently desirable, for the soils in this northeastern corner are derived from limestone origins which are of the type generally suitable for most fruit crops. This area has the added virtue of being located within easy access of large population centers which provide good markets.

In 1964, over 5,000,000 bushels of apples, nearly a million bushels of peaches, and some sour cherries were grown in this area. It is believed that the acreages of these crops

could be materially increased and that a number of other fruit crops could be grown in the region, if certain production problems could be solved. Primary among these problems are disease and insect control and the need for winter-hardy, good quality varieties adapted to the area.

A recent Department of Agriculture survey resulted in a report that other fruits which could be grown profitably in West Virginia's northeastern area included pears, plums, sweet cherries, strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries. The report further pointed out that these fruits are in short supply and would be readily received in markets if available.

The reasons why these fruits are not presently grown commercially in West Virginia are varied. As an example, a pear industry in northeastern Appalachia is currently non-existent because of ravages of the bacterial fire blight disease, although the area is otherwise well adapted to the culture of that fruit. The Appalachian Region as a whole could profit well if pears could be grown there, as pears grown in other areas are shipped to northeastern Appalachia for processing.

Strawberries, which could be used as a high per-acre income crop for small growers who have other part-time employment, are not grown commercially in West Virginia because of the need for new disease-resistant varieties. Plums suffer from bacterial diseases which prevent production of high quality plums in eastern United States. Raspberry production is limited because of virus diseases. A fruit and berry research laboratory located in northeastern West Virginia would offer potential heavy dividends for fruit growers of the State by operating more effectively in the actual region where the problems need solving.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

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April 30, 1965

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

AMERICAN MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES
--MYTHS OR FACTS?

The total picture on American marriages and divorces is difficult to assess because of the lack of truly comprehensive facts. In view of the importance of the subject, it is surprising that this situation exists in the U. S. in the 1960's. Actually, informed observers point out that our Nation is far behind most countries of Western Europe in the accuracy of its divorce statistics, so that a number of myths, which are hard to refute, as to the status of U. S. marriages may have grown up and been given national circulation.

Why is this situation true? Vital statistics are maintained at much national expense by the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, covering a wide range of subjects. Some of these statistics include non-romantic and somewhat grim figures on U. S. marriages and divorces. However, vital statistics are the responsibility of the individual fifty States, unlike the national censuses of population, which are provided for in the Constitution as a responsibility of the Federal Government.

As early as the first two decades of this century, U. S. births and deaths were not fully reported. That they are now reported is due to a deliberate campaign led by public-health specialists and physicians. American Bar Association members are presently campaigning in a similar manner in support of a central registration of divorces. Social scientists point out that 23 States are not now participating in the Divorce Registration Area Program, so that documentation on marriages by States is generally uniform in preparation, and accurately reported, whereas no truly uniform divorce reporting system is in operation throughout the Nation. At such time as a unified divorce reporting system is firmly established, it is believed that helpful research can be undertaken, in much the

manner of insurance actuaries estimating the risk of death from a study of death statistics. Excellent divorce statistics would make it possible to calculate the risk of divorce from such facts as age at marriage, differences between ages of husband and wife, number of previous marriages and whether they were dissolved by divorce or death.

National statistics, as presently compiled from State reports, reveal 1,577,000 marriages in the U. S. in 1962, an increase of 1.9 percent over 1961. This marriage rate was 8.5 per 1,000 population, the same as for 3 previous years and among the lowest since 1920. By contrast, in 1962, an estimated 413,000 divorces were granted, a rate of 2.2 per 1,000 population. This rate, also, has shown little change in recent years, provided the facts are accurately assembled.

It is reported that for over 20 years nothing drastic has apparently happened to the American divorce rate except for a brief sharp increase caused by the war, followed by a decline. In 1946, when many war marriages ended, the divorce rate was 4.3 per 1,000 of the population, an all-time high. In that year, more than 600,000 couples were divorced. From the provisional figures so far available for the 1960's it appears that the divorce rate for the first half of this decade has apparently leveled off at 2.2 per 1,000 of the population, which, although it represents an increase over the rate forty years ago of 1.5 in 1923, is approximately half of the 1946 peak rate.

Is this a fact or a myth? Only uniformly maintained divorce statistics can offer the answer, and even more importantly, only a careful analysis of accurate statistics can offer the answer as to whose marriages break up--and why.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

Volume V -- Number 19

May 7, 1965

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

AMERICA TRAVELS THROUGH AIR AND SPACE

The 38th anniversary of the historic tran-Atlantic flight by Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh occurs this month. The young aviator departed from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, New York, on May 20, 1927, and 33½ hours and 3,610 non-stop miles later he landed at L'Bourget Airfield in Paris, France, to be welcomed by wildly-cheering crowds.

The accolades which he received, both from the citizenry of his grateful nation and from the many peoples of the civilized world for his great air pioneering feat, were well deserved.

The single-motored plane, The Spirit of St. Louis, in which Lindbergh made his, then almost unbelievable, non-stop flight, is honorably housed in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D. C., where it has been a leading tourist attraction for many years. Also, housed there is the Project Mercury space capsule in which Ham, the Cameroon-born, American "naturalized" and trained, chimpanzee, made his 1961 voyage into outer space. For, on January 31 of that year, the 37½ lb. chimp traveled 5,000 miles per hour into space on a rocket flight of 3½ hours duration. On conclusion, a Marine Corps helicopter fished the capsule, and unharmed quadruped, from the Atlantic Ocean where it landed only 420 miles from its Cape Canaveral launching pad; and the space vehicle now rests in honored juxtaposition to The Spirit of St. Louis.

From the vantage point of the year 1965, a look at these two vehicular products of American engineering, and man's eternal thirst for conquering the unknown, and attempting the untried, cannot be other than almost overwhelming, for these objects are representative of the great frontiers which have been crossed during a mere 60 years since the first manned air flight was accomplished, by an American.

(More)

Lindbergh in making his vision of non-stop, trans-ocean flight a reality must have had some premonitory concept of the tremendous possibilities for man in the air and in space. What may have been the premonitory concepts in the minds of the engineers and scientists of the world when news of the greatest single air venture by man, to date, was flashed to the world on March 18, 1965, is partially recorded in the practical planning which is an every day part of the work of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration here in Washington. The accomplishment on that historic March date by Russian astronauts, Colonel Pavel Ivanovich Belyayev and Lt. Col. Aleksei Arkhipovichi Leonov, in traveling 447,000 miles through space and making 17 revolutions around the earth in 26 hours, was truly remarkable. More awesome was the achievement by Astronaut Leonov, who moved out of, and away from, his capsule and back into it, having safely taken a walk into space as part of that same mission.

Impressively, too, on March 23 of this year, two American astronauts, in a 4 hours, 54 minutes, Gemini space flight orbited the earth for 3 revolutions, traveling approximately 30,000 miles, successfully returning with a mission precisely and effectively accomplished. This giant step toward our American goal of being first in space, in adherence to our firm national policy of "space for peaceful purposes" is evidence to the world of our refusal to rest on our laurels.

One may well speculate as to what not-yet visualized object may some day join The Spirit of St. Louis and Ham's space vehicle in the Smithsonian, as evidence of another American air-space victory.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

Volume V -- Number 20

May 14, 1965

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

AMERICA'S VD PROBLEM

The problem of venereal disease was for many years considered "taboo"--forbidden of discussion. Protected by this general public avoidance of recognition of the damaging range of the problem, venereal diseases often flourished untreated in humans until the ravages were so far advanced when brought to medical attention that no real help was possible for the victims.

However, with advances of modern science and more enlightened public attitudes, greater attention has been given to the problem and, importantly, toward encouragement to victims to take advantage of advances in medical treatment and to seek the benefits of modern miracle drugs. As a result, the VD rate dropped in the United States for over a decade. However, once again, Public Health Service statistics indicate a national rise in the VD rate. Because there is no agent for immunizing the population as, for instance, is the case with small pox, finding and reporting cases continues to be the only feasible means of controlling VD. All of the 50 States require that syphilis and gonorrhea cases coming to medical attention be reported to the State or local health officers.

From 1955-1958, reported new cases of syphilis approximated 6,500 annually. The Public Health Service listed new cases as increasing in 1959 and continuing at an accelerated rate through 1961, with somewhat smaller increases in 1962 and 1963. While some factors, such as better reporting by private physicians, may have contributed to these increases, it is believed that a real increase in incidence in most areas is the foundation for the advancing total.

For Fiscal Year 1963, 22,045 new cases of syphilis were reported, but it is known that the number is understated because not all cases are diagnosed and not all diagnosed cases are reported.

(MORE)

Past estimates of the total incidence of syphilis ranged around 60,000 cases yearly. However, based on a special survey during 1962, by agencies such as the American Social Health Association and the American Medical Association, it is now believed that the actual yearly incident of syphilis is more than double the old estimate.

Shocking? Yes. But consider the hidden threat to community health--the toll imposed by that disease upon the manpower and economy of the country. As a single item, the cost of maintenance of patients with syphilitic psychoses (mental cases) in 1960 was \$50,000,000.

In reviewing U. S. Public Health Service's statistics on reported cases of VD, for FY 1963, it is noted that the District of Columbia, recorded as a separate unit along with the 50 individual States, led the entire list by a large majority, with 262.3 cases per 100,000 civilian population recorded for syphilis in all stages and 1,056.8 for gonorrhea. Totals for the State of New York were 138.0 per 100,000 civilian population for syphilis and 146.6 for gonorrhea. West Virginia's reported totals were 71.0 per 100,000 civilian population for syphilis and 52.5 for gonorrhea.

For 1964, the District ranked second after Newark, New Jersey, in reported cases of syphilis but retained first place among all U. S. cities in case incidence of gonorrhea.

Decidedly not pleasant reading. But avoidable. The public needs to become more aware of the importance of cooperation of all elements of society with health authorities to eradicate these diseases.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

Volume V -- Number 21

May 21, 1965

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

A "MODEL" CITY'S PROBLEMS

Washington, the Nation's Capital City, has been unusually beautiful this spring. The good weather, and the special efforts made toward beautification, such as tree, shrub, and flower planting, have combined to make it--in outward appearance in many areas--more nearly the Nation's "Model City," which the President has expressed as an important goal.

But this tourist-appealing, external appearance is, unfortunately, only a part of the Washington story. There is a grim, non-scenic side to the District, which makes the goal of Washington as a "Model City" not easily attained.

As one element in the non-scenic side--vandalism is common. As an example, it cost \$112,000 to replace broken school windowpanes during Fiscal Year 1964.

Evidences of the rising crime rate in the District of Columbia are all too frequently encountered. For April, the Metropolitan Police announced that the District of Columbia's crime rate had risen again--for the 35th consecutive month--and that this rise had been a substantial one. In March, the number of serious crimes (criminal homicide, rape, robbery, housebreaking, grand larceny, and petty larceny) rose to 2,856, a rise of 11.1 percent over March 1964; and the 1964 total shows a 94 percent increase over the year 1957. The District police state at least one-third of these crimes are committed by juveniles.

This situation is especially alarming because these crimes are occurring despite the fact that the Federal payment and Federal grant-in-aid moneys to the District have been steadily increased to provide for law enforcement officers and to meet school, health, and welfare needs.

(MORE)

U. S. Public Health Service statistics on reported cases of venereal disease for the Fiscal Year 1963 show the District, listed as a separate unit among the 50 States, led the entire list by a large majority, with 262.88 reported cases per 100,000 civilian population of syphilis and 1,056.3 for gonorrhea.

For 1964, the District ranked second among the cities of the Nation in reported cases of syphilis but remained first in case incidence of gonorrhea. Washington's syphilitic rate is eight times the national average. And reported VD cases generally are much less than the actual incidence, so the total may be higher.

The District was second only to California in the rate of deaths due to alcoholism in 1963. It, however, led the cities of the Nation in reported consumption of alcoholic beverages in national surveys taken during 1947 and 1962.

Statistics on pregnancies among unwed school-age females in the District show a reported total for 1962 of 1,647 for ages 19 and under. The rising total for 1963 showed 1,772 pregnancies in the 19 years and under bracket, of which 118 were under 15. Reliable estimates for 1964 indicate 1,100 high school girls under age 18 gave birth to illegitimate children in the District of Columbia, so, the trend is rising.

Figures for January, 1965, indicate more than 15,368 children were elements in the Department of Welfare's caseload records and, of these, 6,274, or approximately 40.8 percent, were illegitimate.

Planting flowers and other efforts to add to the City's beautification can make it more eye-appealing, but the "sores" of society which are deeply festering in Washington must be cured before the appellation of "Model City" may properly be given to the Nation's Capital.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

WELFARE PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In 1961, a special investigation was made of welfare caseloads in the District of Columbia, which resulted in findings of high ineligibility. For example, 59% of ADC cases were not eligible; 58% of general public assistance cases were ineligible; and 39% of the permanently and totally disabled cases were not eligible.

Moreover, among those found to be eligible, over-payments were being made in 20% of the cases. It was evident that millions of dollars annually were being paid in the form of welfare checks to recipients who did not qualify for such checks. In the light of these findings, it is believed that similar situations exist in large cities throughout the country.

Upon the recommendation of the Comptroller General of the United States, based on the "findings" growing out of this investigation, the Congress appropriated moneys for additional investigators, and several thousand persons have been removed from the caseloads in Washington, D. C.

Welfare checks serve a good purpose when they are paid to recipients who qualify under the regulations, but the basic purpose in appropriating moneys for welfare programs should be to rehabilitate those individuals who are capable of employment and who are willing to work, and to provide assistance for persons who are incapacitated.

But it was never the intention of Congress to encourage 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generation welfare families. Welfare should not become a way of life, as evidence indicates it has become for many. Over the past 10 years, the population of the United States has increased 13%, but the number of welfare recipients has gone up 42%.

There is no ceiling on welfare payments in the District of Columbia, and the D. C. Welfare Department spent \$34 million last

year to help Washington's needy. There are families who are receiving monthly checks totaling over \$400. In the recent past, the amounts in some instances have exceeded \$500. In addition thereto, these families can receive surplus commodities valued up to \$71. By contrast, in West Virginia, welfare recipients receive quite different treatment. There is a ceiling of \$165 monthly placed on such assistance.

Welfare programs in the District of Columbia have contributed to the in-migration of undesirable elements and have apparently encouraged illegitimacy. Of 15,368 children in the ADC category in January 1965, in Washington, 6,274 (or 40%) were illegitimate children. A study of welfare records shows one group of 13 mothers with 130 illegitimate children, all on welfare; a group of 14 mothers with 126 illegitimate children, all on welfare; a group of 13 mothers with 144 illegitimate children, all on welfare; and another group of 41 mothers with 287 illegitimate children, all on welfare; and another group of 170 mothers with 350 illegitimate children, all on welfare.

In view of the District of Columbia's rising rates of crime, juvenile delinquency, venereal disease, and illegitimacy, it would appear that appropriations of Federal funds would more properly be expended in cleaning up welfare caseloads, providing for training and rehabilitation of welfare recipients, adding child welfare personnel, increasing law enforcement activities, and importantly, providing for expanded education.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

Volume V -- Number 23

June 4, 1965

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

LEAP FROGGING INTO SPACE

Increasingly spectacular feats by Russian cosmonauts have brought forth inevitable comparisons between Soviet and American space programs, which have led toward various analyses of reasons why the Soviet Russians are ahead in space ventures.

Military experts credit the heavy concentration of U.S.S.R. budgetary funds toward advancing the Red space program for military reasons. Political analysts credit the greater pliability of a totalitarian government as contrasted to a republic. Educational specialists state the Soviets' space advantage lies in the gearing of the Soviet Russian school system to a process called "The Leap Frog Technique"--the selection of some areas of high degree of specialization, for development of certain favored potentials to meet specified needs.

Under this "Leap Frog" system, a very large number of engineers and scientists have been produced, as determined necessary by the U.S.S.R. central government. In the United States, the school curricula are determined by individual States and local school authorities, with no guidance by the Federal Government, and the individual student then majors in a subject of his or her choice.

The Soviets have a heavy commitment to and emphasis on education as the cornerstone for development of their economy. About 15% of their national budget is channelled into education. Over 1½ million qualified teachers are employed--this in a country the population of which was almost completely illiterate at the end of World War I.

The Soviets believe their national destiny is closely linked with science and technology; and, by virtue of the materialistic philosophy espoused by the Soviet government, great emphasis has been placed on the natural sciences and mathematics, from primary,

elementary, high school, and under-graduate levels through graduate schools. This stress is considerably greater than in the U. S.

As an example, education reports indicate a substantial decline in the percentage of American students taking physics in high school.

Reading material is geared toward academic pursuits in Soviet Russia. There are no crime paperback magazines, no comic books, no movie magazines, no cheesecake photography to distract citizens at every turn. The Soviet translating activity of world scientific and technical literature is unmatched by any other country. The Soviets openly boast that they subscribe to every professional journal in the whole world. From these, they have garnered facts on technological advances on which to base a great build up of Soviet industry.

This intensive activity is possible because U.S.S.R. students almost all take a foreign language as a required subject, with instruction beginning in Grade 5 at age 12, although a good many schools instruct totally, beginning at Grade 2, in a foreign language. 95% of all pupils enrolled in grades 5-10 are studying a foreign language.

Soviet students enter school at 7 years of age and go to school for 11 years of intensive training. Beginning at Grade 5, a student is required to spend 10-14 hours daily in study and homework combine

The 2 most dynamic educational societies of our generation are the U.S.S.R. and the U. S. The nation which, in the future, is ahead in its grasp of the physical sciences, and which has a major reservoir of graduates in the areas of science, engineering, and applied technology, will be ahead militarily.

BYRD'S EYE VIEW
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

WHAT WILL THEY THINK OF NEXT?

For years, folk have marvelled at the wondrous new things brought to public attention with each new age. As a favorite way of expressing such wonderment, the question, "What will they think of next?", is asked.

Recently the hypothetical "they" have thought of some truly arresting things. As one example, a gadget has been advertised of particular interest to summertime porch sitters. It not merely arrests, but traps and kills insects--including mosquitos and other annoying pests. This new, motorized, insect trap, is said to lure insects with its miracle "black light," drawing them into its powerful fan chamber and depositing them into a handy, disposable, escape-proof, plastic, replaceable bag. All this without using harmful sprays or powders--using nothing which would harm children, pets, and birds.

To avoid arrest, motorists who exceed speed limits and have formerly been helpless against radar detection, and resulting traffic fines, can now buy and install a radar detector on the family auto. As the radar beam is picked up, the detector emits a steady beep to remind the driver to slow down and remain within safe, non-arrestable, driving limits. An "anti radar" radar!

Also, for the motorists traveling the Nation's pay-as-you-go super highways, a new gun has been designed to shoot coins into the collection baskets of the highway toll booths, so no traveling time need be lost in stopping to aim the coins into the baskets.

For the golfer, two new items are available which are guaranteed to lower his or her score. A new Range Finder has been developed which enables the golfer to determine the exact distance from his ball to the pin, thus simplifying the choice of the correct club to

use in order to make the proper shot. Another newly developed item, possibly a natural companion to the Range Finder, is the atomic energized golf ball. These balls are advertised as having been treated with a special gamma energized process--at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, "The Atomic City"!

If the golfer's game does not improve by using these gadgets, perhaps he will need to hire a helpful caddy--to "accidentally" kick or drop the errant ball into the cup.

For new parents, many steps to listen to the new progeny's breathing can be saved by installing, on the wall above the baby's crib, an ultra sound sensitive instrument which will act as a watchful eye, or, more exactly, ear, to alert the anxious parents to any unusual sounds.

Among the titillating publications, which come under the "What will they think of next?" category, is a book of advice to instruct tall men how they should dress, including words of wisdom on what specific neckties will do the most for taller males. What action must be taken if Christmas gift neckties from relatives do not meet the specifications is not known.

Indeed--what next is a good question.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

Volume V -- Number 26

June 25, 1965

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE MODERN SAGA OF POULTRY

The old school-boy puzzler--"Which came first, the chicken or the egg?"--is no longer of concern to even a small segment of the American public, because Americans are demanding both, simultaneously, in increasing quantities, as part of the national diet.

An estimated 400 eggs and an average of 30 pounds of chicken are consumed annually by each person in the U. S. In addition, an American eats an average of more than 5 pounds of turkey yearly.

This means millions of chickens--fryers, broilers, roasters, capons, and egg-layers--must be produced to satisfy chicken-loving Americans. Poultry raising, including turkey and duck production, is big business in the U. S.--year round business--absorbing the talents, energies, and time of farmers, poultrymen, accountants, bookkeepers, hatcherymen, veterinarians, Government agency employees, feedmen, and publishing companies.

Poultry marketry is the basis for lucrative advertising accounts for New York's Madison Avenue ad-men. It is the basis for a hard-to-win merit badge award by the Boy Scouts of America. It is the basis for substantial profit-making in many areas of American life, although the cost of poultry and poultry products to the American buyer (in ratio to present monetary values and to other cost-of-living items) is approximately one third less than it was two generations ago.

And West Virginia is receiving its share of the profits. The State's three leading farm products in terms of national ranking are: apples, poultry, and buckwheat. There are 2 to 3 times as many chickens and turkeys as there are people in the Mountain State. A number of West Virginia farms are broiler farms and depend upon that specialized poultry crop for the total income. Averaged with other

farm products, on a statewide basis, about 15 cents out of the West Virginia farmer's dollar comes from the sale of eggs. Turkeys are being raised in increasing quantities, and many have made their way from turkey farms to school lunches for the Nation's students under the National School lunch program. A typical school meal costing a child 27 cents would include turkey, mashed potatoes, spinach, cherry pie, milk, and a roll.

And the American-grown chicken has become a complicating factor in our relations with some foreign countries. U. S. poultry-raisers, with typical Yankee enterprise, have begun to export frozen chickens abroad to help fill expanding demands in some food uses. In certain areas of Europe, the price of locally-produced poultry runs higher than the American mass-produced and processed product. As a result, native growers have protested the unfair competition.

It might be safely said, "You can't keep America's chickens down on the farm after Patee has seen them!"

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Many people in thinking of animals speak of the dog as man's best friend; and, indeed, as a social species, he is a good friend--serving as a pet, assisting in hunting, offering protection from, and warning of, adverse elements.

However, with respect to usage for research purposes, in ways designed to prolong man's life and to add a greater measure of health, the dog has strong competitors. Hamsters, monkeys, mice, rats, chickens, rabbits, and even the raccoon, among other specimens, have served nobly as subjects of research.

The search for new and better drugs for treating cancer was organized on a national, cooperative basis 7 years ago by the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health. Since then, more than 70,000 synthetic chemicals and 100,000 natural products have been tested in laboratory animals. In the interest of research, tumors have been produced in mice, rats, and hamsters, including cancers of the lung, colon, and pancreas, in which, to date, drug treatment is only occasionally beneficial.

Monkeys are being used for a variety of purposes; in studies on the transmission of parasitic diseases; in studies dealing with the brain and nerves (including Parkinson's disease and cerebral palsy); in studies of facets of pregnancies and newborn life; in studies on the identification of viruses (such as poliovirus); and in studies developing vaccines against virus-produced diseases, such as influenza.

Colonies of germ-free guinea pigs, mice, and rats have been used to study various immunologic and disease processes in humans. Also, rats and hamsters are valuable allies in research on oral diseases, including damaging tooth decay and pyorrhea. Rabbits are

much used in testing biological products for safety, purity, and potency before they are made available to the physician for use in the prevention, treatment, or cure of diseases or injuries to men.

The raccoon, an unusual research tool, is used by investigators of neurological anatomy because its "hands" are thought to be specially sensitive to vibration.

And man's "best friend"--the dog--has been helpful as a subject in developing a new method for measuring cerebral circulation as part of the attack on cerebrovascular disease and strokes. Also, many infants owe a vote of thanks for healthful diets to unknown canine friends who have had new baby foods first "tried" on them.

But in one area of research, the dog offers man his best opportunity to determine facts on genetics which are applicable to his own future. Dogs have gone through approximately 4,000 generations since their domestication while man has gone through only 400. The possibility exists that the genetic consequences of civilized living should be intensified in the dog, and therefore the dog should provide some estimate of the genetic future of mankind, under future conditions similar to the present. In short, the dog may be the genetic example for the human race.

What does the future hold for man genetically, under his present free choice in marriage, leading to assortive mating? Is a period of scientific breeding of human populations yet to come? Studies, already begun, of his "best friend"--the dog--may provide the answers. If so, the appellation "best friend" will be undeniably deserved.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

For two decades, the question of providing medical care for the American people, under the aegis of the Federal government, has received attention by Congress. Many bills have been introduced, embodying various approaches to medical assistance programs, with some advocacy of compulsory health insurance as a logical progression of the social security program, enacted into law in 1935.

Under that program (the Social Security Act) approximately 20 million men, women, and children (1 out of 10 Americans) are now receiving social security benefits every month. During 1964, about 77 million earners paid social security contributions. Over 85 percent of the people past 65 are either getting benefits or will be entitled to benefits when they or their husbands retire. About 53 million workers have worked long enough in covered employment so that they and their families have disability insurance protection.

The original Social Security Act set up a system of contributory social security, affording protection against loss of earnings in old age because of retirement, with the program restricted in coverage to industrial and commercial employees. It provided for contributions by both employers and employees during the earning years of the eligible workers, so that a portion of income would be insured when work earnings ceased. The Act also enabled the States to make more adequate provision for aged persons, blind persons, dependent and crippled children, maternal and child welfare, public health, and the administration of their unemployment compensation laws.

The Act has since been broadened so that today practically all kinds of employment and self-employed are covered, and benefits are provided for wives and children of retired workers and survivors of deceased workers. Totally disabled workers and dependents are also covered, the law having been so amended in 1950.

In 1956, a public assistance program was incorporated in the Social Security Act, to serve needy people by providing income to supplement inadequate resources. In 1960, the Act was further amended to add medical assistance for the aged as part of the public assistance program, through Federal grants to States of from 50-80 percent of program costs. The Medical Assistance Program for the Aged, however, is a voluntary arrangement which the States may accept or reject, and there are still 15 States which do not participate.

Yet it is an established fact that the need for medical care generally increases with age, and that many more dollars are used to pay for health and medical care for the aged than for people under 65. Retirees with incomes normally adequate for their needs often cannot meet rising costs of illness.

As the First Annual Report of the Social Security Board, in 1936, pointed out: "The quest of security is a task for the whole of the people. It must be worked out within a system which is distinctly American...We cannot achieve security for a nation without promoting the security of the groups which make it up..."

It is against this background that the Congress continues its attempts to legislate wisely in the areas of increased monthly social security benefits for eligible persons, more realistic retirement age eligibility, and medical care for America's older folk.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

COOLING

As temperatures soar and the humidity begins to play havoc with normally equitable dispositions, it becomes harder to remember that most of the United States lies in the "temperate" zone. July and August heat waves give many Americans the feeling that "torrid" zone would be more descriptive; and inevitably, as the mercury climbs, individual thoughts begin to revolve around ways to keep cool.

As one approach, Orientals try keeping cool by conditioning their thinking. They place "wind chimes" (small, hollow bamboo sticks on strings) where air movements will cause them to make a pleasant, tinkling sound. They concentrate their thoughts on cool-sounding place names, and they focus their eyes on visually restful colors and objects. They often arrange to have the constant, light, rippling sound of water nearby to create an illusion of coolness.

Americans desiring to try the Oriental approach might, therefore, mentally picture our country, stretching 3,000 miles from the steely, gray Atlantic Ocean on the east, to the blue, breeze-freshened Pacific on the west. They might recall that incorporated in our country's 5,625,000 square miles are mountainous altitudes that include the perpetually snow-capped reaches of the Rocky Mountains, the State of Alaska, much of which is Arctic in nature, and the 50th State of Hawaii, wonderfully touched by cooling trade winds.

If water shortages prohibit the use of running water for cooling sound, they might resort to an imaginary review of the 11,875-mile system of waterways in the center of our country, formed by the Mississippi-Missouri Rivers and their tributaries. If this does not result in sufficient coolness, contemplation might be given to the names of cool-sounding American places, such as Cold Harbor, Virginia, of Civil War battleground fame; Cold Springs, Kentucky, with its granite quarries; or Ice Mountain, 16 miles north of Romney, West Virginia, where ice is found along North River often

throughout the year, even on the hottest summer days.

However, as practical folk, Americans will most probably seek, in the future as in the past, more practical ways of securing coolness and cold to ease living problems. American engineers early pioneered in the process of refrigeration, moving us from the simple process of lowering perishable goods into damp cellars, where light evaporation of water cooled the enclosed area, to mechanical refrigeration. Americans have progressed far from our Nation's earlier days when a spring of cold water often determined the site of a pioneer's home. They no longer find it practical to build a springhouse over flowing water, directing the cooling fluid through troughs in which crocks of butter and cream may be placed.

Today, mechanical refrigeration for food preservation is almost uniform in American homes, and air conditioning is an integral part of the construction of almost all U.S. office buildings. Our Nation has moved forward from its first use of cooling and conditioning of air in the 1900's in the textile industry to a general recognition of the great importance of air conditioning and refrigeration in chemical and pharmaceutical plants, in hospital surgical areas, and in places where large public gatherings occur. The reduction of air contamination, humidity, and temperature beneficially affects manufacturing processes, is important as part of the life-saving techniques employed in modern surgery, and offers a more wholesome environment where the public congregates. And advances in engineering techniques and mass production have placed air cooling and conditioning devices easily within the reach of the average American consumer.

To seek practical means of lowering body and environmental temperatures is, therefore, not merely a selfish act, but a wise expression of man's instinct toward a better, longer, more healthful life.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

SOCIAL SECURITY HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS FOR THE AGED

Amendments to the Social Security Act have recently been passed by the Congress which represent major advancements in our national social security program.

Included in these are two health plans, geared to the needs of American citizens 65 years of age and over, providing for hospital and medical care. One of these is a basic hospital care plan for elderly citizens without regard to their eligibility otherwise for social security status. The second plan provides an opportunity to participate in a voluntary supplemental plan to pay for many kinds of doctors' bills and medical services for a small monthly premium.

The BASIC HOSPITAL INSURANCE PLAN, to become effective July 1, 1966, except for nursing care which becomes effective January 1, 1967, covers:

- (1) Benefit Duration--60 days of hospital care for each spell of illness, after the patient pays the first \$40 hospital charge, with an additional 30 days with a \$10 coinsurance for each day;
- (2) Posthospital Extended Care (in a skilled nursing home)-- a maximum per illness of 100 days, with a \$5-a-day coinsurance for each day in excess of 20;
- (3) Posthospital Home-health Visits--100 visits authorized after hospitalization;
- (4) Outpatient Diagnostic Services--available on a 20 percent coinsurance basis, with an allowance for a \$20 deductible as an incurred expense under the voluntary supplementary program (for deductible and reimbursement purposes);
- (5) Psychiatric Facilities--60 days of psychiatric hospital care with a 190-day lifetime limit;
- (6) Christian Science Services--Christian Science sanatoria

services for 60 days with a \$40 deductible, plus 30 additional days at \$10 coinsurance per day, as hospital service, plus an additional 30 days in a Christian Science sanatorium as extended-care facility services with a \$5 per day coinsurance feature;

(7) Scope of Specialists' Services--medical doctor services, excluding such services in the field of pathology, radiology, psychiatry, or anesthesiology. These services are excluded under the basic hospital insurance plan but may be paid for under the supplementary medical insurance program;

(8) Drugs--certain standard drug formularies; those approved by hospital pharmacy and drug therapeutics committees; and the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia.

The VOLUNTARY SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN, also to become effective July 1, 1966, makes available benefits to all persons 65 years and older who enroll in the plan and pay a \$3 monthly premium. Individuals eligible for social security payments (who elect to be covered by the plan) would have the premium deducted from their monthly checks.

The voluntary supplementary medical insurance program would provide for payment of physicians', surgeons', and certain dental surgeons' services, and some other medical and health services, including: diagnostic x-ray and laboratory tests whether in or out of a medical institution; x-ray, radium, and radioactive isotope therapy; some ambulance services; surgical dressings; splints; casts; and prosthetic devices; rental of iron lungs, hospital beds, oxygen tents, wheelchairs, etc., in patients' homes.

These are merely some of the major provisions of the two health plans for aged persons. For more specific details, and detailed information as to how to proceed in qualifying for participation in either, or both, plans, individuals should contact their local social security offices.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

MEDAL OF HONOR

The decoration generally recognized as the highest honor this Nation bestows upon a member of the Armed Forces--for gallantry and intrepidity in combat above and beyond the call of duty--is a symbol of bronze widely known as "The Congressional Medal of Honor". In actuality, there is no such single medal.

In July, 1862, an Act of Congress authorizing "medals of honor", for Army personnel, was signed by President Lincoln, to follow logically a Congressional Resolution during the previous year authorizing 200 Navy Medals of Honor. Under these and other subsequent Congressional Acts, the President is empowered to present "A Medal of Honor" to individuals of the Armed Forces whose deeds deserve it and meet certain rigid specifications. However, the Army and Navy have, over the 100 years since the establishment of the first Navy award, conferred separate medals, so that there is presently an Army Medal of Honor of a design distinctive from the anchor-trimmed award conferred as the Navy Medal of Honor. Public listings of the awards are now kept as "Army-Air Force" and "Navy-Marine Corps".

From President Lincoln's 1863 action until the Centenary of Medal of Honor winners proclaimed by President Kennedy in 1963, a total of 3,169 of the almost 131 million Americans who served in our Nation's Armed Forces have been distinguished by receiving this award, many posthumously. Of that number, 25 have gone to identifiable citizens of the State of West Virginia, with some others going to persons serving in West Virginian military units, whose residences and places of birth cannot be established.

It is not widely known, but in 1917, a group of 911 names were stricken from Medal of Honor records. Of these, 864 were in one group--a case in which the medal was ordered given to all the members of a single regiment, through confusion and clerical error in the Civil War. These awards properly were rescinded. Among other

names also removed from the record during this 1917 clarification action were those of William F. Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill, and Mary Walker, A Civil War surgeon, and the only woman ever to receive the honor. The provable circumstances of the awards did not measure up to the established standards.

Case histories of the various awards make poignant reading and effective commentaries on the times in which they were earned. As one example, James F. Adams, a West Virginian born in Nineveh, Virginia, served as a private with the 1st West Virginia Cavalry during the Civil War and distinguished himself for valorous action leading to the capture of the State Flag belonging to the 14th Virginia Cavalry, Confederate States of America.

Medal of honor rolls include the names of Indian Scouts such as Blanquet, Chiquito, and Nannasaddi, whose birthplaces and homes are unknown, but who daringly served the United States against the Apaches. Among the several hundred foreign-born recipients are Heinrich Behnke of Germany, Claus Clausen of Denmark, Demetri Corahorgi of Greece, and Benjamin Lloyd, a coalheaver from England--all ordinary seamen who served in the U.S. Navy in an extraordinary manner. One Medal of Honor winner, not a West Virginian, whose bravery cost him his life but greatly honored the name of West Virginia, was Captain Mervyn Sharp Bennion, the Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. WEST VIRGINIA. It is reported that, mortally wounded during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he refused to leave his bridge in order to fight with "my gallant WEST VIRGINIA which today is giving all in honorable service of the State whose name she bears".

Wherever military service in our Nation's interest has been required, West Virginians have deserved to stand as recognized equals among the elite band of those who gave full measures of devotion to their country.

) From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
) Room 342, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

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Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE CHALLENGES OF THE WEATHER

The popular remark "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it", may be in the foreseeable future completely "passé", a good diplomatic term for out-of-date. Modern meteorologists, armed with electronic devices such as radar, laser beams, and computers, are making more and more accurate predictions as to the weather, and may eventually be able to modify the weather itself, thus possibly altering man's natural environment and changing the course of civilization.

But, at present, the natural forces of nature, as represented in weather elements, are basic parts of man's environment and, as such, are ever present to be dealt with.

And, in the United States, some types of weather require and receive more "dealing with" than elsewhere in the world. In this grouping falls the tornado, a traveling whirlwind, the name of which comes from the Spanish "tronada" (thunderstorm). Tornadoes occur in many parts of the world, but they occur more often and more violently in the United States than elsewhere. Each year 5-to- 6 hundred of them storm across our land, occurring most usually in the afternoon after the peak noonday heat passes. They encompass thunderstorms and massive whirlwinds.

An average tornado has a central core approximately 250 yards in diameter. It may cut a narrow swath along the ground, ranging from less than 100 feet to over 100 miles in breadth. Generally, a funnel-shaped cloud accompanies it; and, as it advances, it grabs up and hurls forth trees, automobiles, buildings, people, and animals. Stories of freak happenings in tornadoes are a part of American folklore in many States. It is an established fact that tornadoes regularly denude chickens of their feathers.

The peak speed of a tornado's whirlwind has never been measured -- the instruments never survive. Meteorologists think it probably averages 400 m.p.h., and may reach 600 or 700 miles an hour -- approaching the speed of sound.

Another destructive manifestation of nature's force, a massive threat to U.S. life and property, is the hurricane, a whirling windstorm of tremendous power, mysteriously arising in the tropics and raging wildly northwest for thousands of miles. Atlantic-area hurricanes, about 10 per year, have, since 1900, cost the lives of 12,000 U.S. citizens and destroyed about \$15 billion worth of U.S. property. The loss might have been greatly reduced if man had known more about what makes "weather", and how it functions. Weather specialists are toiling mightily to penetrate nature's weather mysteries for this and many other pressing reasons.

In the U.S., weather reporting has become a major function. The U.S. Weather Bureau has an intricate system for collecting and verifying weather data. It has its own Federally-supported stations; it regularly collects data from farmers, seamen, and aviators; and it receives reports from one million volunteer observers, on watch for tornadoes.

A lot is indeed being "done" in the U.S. about the weather.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

AMERICA'S YOUNGSTERS VIEW CAREERS

By the end of the 1960's, 15 times as many young people will be entering the labor force as in the 1950's, according to the Bureau of Labor statistics.

Because America's businessmen need to understand the thinking of youth in estimating its economic impact, a study was made by a public opinion research organization of a cross-section of high school graduates, as to their career plans and expectations. The use of 1964 high school graduates as basic interview units was determined because U.S. corporations generally seek -- as a minimum requirement -- an employee with a high school diploma.

This classification represented (as of 1963 figures compiled by the Department of Labor among those aged 16 to 21) 49.9 percent of America's white youths and 34.3 percent of Negro youths who completed high school. Findings of the study revealed a deeper maturity of thought than the public might generally have anticipated.

In explanation, one dominant characteristic of today's high school graduate was revealed as a drive for a good education, because (as the youngsters generally expressed it), "Education beyond high school has become a necessity." They pointed out that the jobs for the less educated, as held by many of their parents' generation upon their entrance into the labor market, are becoming non-existent.

Surprisingly, fully half of all the high school students interrogated stated they expect to graduate from college and also secure an advanced degree. Yet, statistics reveal that, in the past, only about half of the high school graduates who actually have gone on to college stayed to receive a first degree. Importantly, this expectation of more advanced education is not unrealistic in light of the massive Federal programs to increase higher education

opportunities.

And 1964's realistic high school seniors are under no illusion that success is a matter of luck. The index study revealed 90 percent of the graduates stated that acceptance of responsibility was the best way to get ahead in a job today. Less than 2 percent stated a belief that blind luck was the key.

Additionally, the index substantiated something that American companies have learned from experience -- that they must use different approaches in recruiting manpower at the college level than at the high school level, for the college-bound students have stressed job values beyond the material benefits in stating their career objectives. By contrast, those ending their education at high school gave greater attention to pay, advancement, security, fringe benefits, and working hours. The college bound also rated advancement high, but, in addition, gave more stress to job challenges, independence, and opportunities to be creative.

A large proportion of the young college-bound Americans stated a preference for a school or college as a first choice of a place to work, with careers with corporations, or "big business", following as a second general choice. The third high grouping was comprised of those interested in work at the Federal or State governmental levels.

Optimistically, teenagers revealed high confidence that they will be able to find the jobs they want, and the higher the students' academic standing, the greater was the confidence that they will be able to find the job they want in launching their future career.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES

Many of the major benefits under the Social Security Amendments of 1965, enacted in July by the Congress, have been over-shadowed by the wide publicity given to the precedent-setting enactment of medical and hospital benefits for elder citizens. Among these were important changes of great value to younger families and accredited beneficiaries under other programs authorized by the Social Security Act, such as:

(1) The benefit provisions of the Federal old-age, survivors, and disability insurance system were increased by 7 percent across the board with a \$4 minimum increase for a retired worker at 65, effective retroactively to January 1, 1965. (The minimum individual benefit would thus be \$44 and the maximum \$135.90, with maximum family benefits also increased);

(2) Benefits for a child in school were continued beyond the present 13-year age limit to age 22 for full-time attendance at a public or accredited school. (No mother's or wife's benefits would be payable for this period);

(3) Widows can now receive benefits at age 60, provided they elect to accept actuarially reduced benefits to cover the longer period of eligibility, effective in September, 1965;

(4) Qualified widows who remarry after age 60 will thereafter be eligible for whichever benefit is larger--one-half retirement benefits of former husband, or a wife's benefits based on earnings of present husband, effective September, 1965;

(5) A divorced woman, 62 years or older, is now entitled to a wife's or widow's benefits if she was married to an entitled worker at least 20 years before the divorce date, or if the divorced husband was making a substantial contribution to her support when he became entitled to benefits, became disabled, or died;

(6) Disability provisions have been liberalized to permit payments to an insured worker disabled for 12 consecutive months, or

whose disability is expected to last at least 12 months, effective in September, 1965.

(7) Eligibility requirements for persons 72 years or older have been liberalized to provide a basic benefit of \$35 to certain persons with a minimum of 3 quarters of coverage at any time since 1937. Certain wife's and widow's benefits would also be authorized on a similar basis;

(8) The earnings ceilings for persons receiving monthly benefits has been (as a general rule) increased to \$1,500 yearly without any loss of benefits and with a loss of only \$1 in benefits for each \$2 in earnings between \$1,500 and \$2,700. Above \$2,700, the recipient would forfeit the \$1 in benefits for each \$1 earned. Some exceptions exist, and the effective date is January 1, 1966;

(9) Self-employed doctors will have professional earnings counted toward benefits for self and family, effective for taxable years ending on or after December 31, 1965;

(10) Self-employed farmers are permitted to report two-thirds of gross rather than net earnings from farming, for social security purposes, effective after the year 1965;

(11) All clergymen now have the right to elect to be covered by social security with the close-off date for filing of notice of such election presently set at April 15, 1966;

(12) Maternal, child health, and crippled children programs were expanded and appropriation authorization substantially increased;

(13) For public assistance programs, administered by the States, the Federal share of payments was increased more than an average of \$2.50 monthly for needy aged, blind, and disabled persons; and an average increase of about \$1.25 was authorized for needy children, effective January 1, 1966.

Numbers of other beneficial provisions were included in the constructive Social Security Amendments of 1965.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICES IN WEST VIRGINIA

Because of the great range of benefits provided by Congressional enactment of the 1965 Amendments to the Social Security Act, it is expected that there will be a widespread desire for information by persons becoming eligible for increased social security benefits (20 million men, women, and children now getting social security payments will be automatically processed), or becoming eligible for the first time for such benefits, or desiring to participate in new programs providing for hospital and medical care for the elderly.

For example, persons 72 years of age or older may now be covered who have only three quarters of earnings credit. Under this provision, it is anticipated 350,000 elderly persons will be seeking to establish their eligibility.

A listing of the available sources of social security assistance for West Virginians has, therefore, been prepared, and it is suggested that readers may wish to clip it for future reference.

Individuals seeking detailed information on specific cases should consult personnel in their nearest Social Security Administration District Office. Those offices located in the State of West Virginia are as follows:

<u>Beckley</u>	P. O. Box Y; Room 2; Masonic Building; 110 Howe Street
<u>Bluefield</u>	P. O. Box 4160, Federal Station; Room 3213, Federal Building; Federal Street
<u>Charleston</u>	P. O. Box 1733; 1206 Quarrier Street
<u>Clarksburg</u>	722 West Pike Street
<u>Huntington</u>	P. O. Box 2165; 1415 Sixth Avenue
<u>Logan</u>	Farley Building; 417 Main Street
<u>Morgantown</u>	273 Spruce Street
<u>Parkersburg</u>	963 Market Street
<u>Welch</u>	P.O. Box 392; 20 McDowell Street
<u>Wheeling</u>	Room 112-3, Methodist Building; 1060 Chapline Street

There are also several out-of-State social security service offices for border areas of West Virginia. These are located at Cumberland, Maryland; East Liverpool, Ohio; Staunton, Virginia; Steubenville, Ohio; and Winchester, Virginia.

Additionally, contact stations are open one day per week, or for a few hours during a week day, in various smaller communities in West Virginia, to assist persons in areas where transportation is limited. Information on the schedules of operation of these may be secured by interested persons by calling, or writing to, the nearest District Social Security Office.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

CONGRESS REVIEWS IMMIGRATION LAW

Legislation to provide changes in our national origins quota system is under consideration by the Congress. Indeed, a bill to eliminate this system as a basis for the selection of immigrants to the United States has already passed the House of Representatives.

The major provisions of this measure are stated as designed toward:

(1) abolition of the national origins quota system, which is predicated largely on the birthplace and ancestry of immigrants into the U.S. and uses the 1920 Federal Census as a basis;

(2) establishment of a new system of preferential admissions of immigrants based on close family relationships with U.S. citizens and permanent resident aliens. (It is also stated that this would provide priority for immigrants with special skills and talents, for persons of exceptional ability in the sciences or arts, and for some workers to fill jobs in short supply);

(3) placement of a 170,000 limitation, including 10,200 refugees, on the number of immigrants who could be admitted to the U.S. in any fiscal year, with the exclusion of "special immigrants" or immediate relatives, and immigrants from Western Hemisphere countries. (This proposed "total" is therefore greatly unrealistic);

(4) elimination of the present law's Asia-Pacific triangle provision, which restricts immigration from countries in that area. (Congressional action has already rescinded most of these restrictions);

(5) establishment of safeguards to protect the American economy from job competition and adverse working standards.

The bill is additionally stated as designed not to change or relax existing qualitative criteria for admission of immigrants on the basis of mental, moral, health, economic, and national security

requirements.

As historical background, the principle of a national origins quota system received enactment into law in 1924, with the operation of the system based on the 1920 census. It was felt that the allocation of a percentage quota, in relation to the countries of origin of the persons already settled in the U.S., would maintain to a desirable degree the ethnic composition of the American people. It was believed that some nations are far closer to the U.S. in culture, customs, standards of living, respect for law, and experience in self-government, because the bulk of the previous settlers in the U.S. were from these countries. It has since been charged that this system favored inhabitants of the Northern European countries.

The proposed legislation to revise the immigration law would abolish this existing quota system effective July 1, 1968.

As a matter of record, there is general agreement among proponents and opponents of the pending legislation that its passage would raise the number of immigrants to the U.S. yearly, probably to a total of 340,000 persons as compared to an annual average of 281,900 during each of the last 10 years. Concern is, therefore, expressed by many thoughtful Americans as to the effect this annual increase may have in relation to our own ever-increasing population requirements. Also, the possible adverse effects on our own employment needs from an increased annual influx of foreign workers is causing great anxiety to many U.S. labor supporters.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

MEN AND STRONG DRINK

Men and the strong spirits which they often drink have, through the centuries, provided subjects for much controversy, lengthy records, and occasional humor.

Men and their drinking have caused problems, at personal and governmental levels, in various civilizations. Historical accounts reveal that the problem of drinking intoxicants has been given official attention by almost all of our presently known religions. As one example, precepts of our present-age Christian churches on this subject have, as a basis, numerous references in the Bible stating censure of drinkers of intoxicants and makers of strong drink. References variously warn that drinkers shall come to poverty, be barred from heaven, should be shunned by others, and must be punished. Perhaps the peak in censure of drunkenness can be found in Deuteronomy, Chapter 21, verses 20-21, where it is directed sternly that a person who is a glutton and a drunkard shall be stoned by all the men of his city until he dies. That stern old code is not adhered to today--fortunately, perhaps, in view of the rising statistics on habitual drunkenness.

Nonetheless, strong drink, and its attraction to all too many men, is recognized as a major problem in our modern society.

In assessing the perplexing situation, it is notable that many nations and areas have what amounts to a "national" drink. In Ireland, where whisky is reported to have originated, the word "whisky" translates in the Gaelic to mean "water of life"; and apparently a major portion of the Irish feel this to be an apt description, as, by international repute, the drink is much beloved by the Irish.

In Japan, sake is the chief alcoholic beverage. Made principally from rice, it is fermented by a kind of mould cake called "kojo". In other Far Eastern countries, "arrack" is concocted from fermented juices or grains and was the standard drink for many years

before the introduction of European wines and spirits caused a decline in the arrack manufacturing industry. No one should mourn that industry's demise, however, as the primitive methods of distilling the palm toddy to yield raw spirits resulted in a concoction highly injurious to drinkers because of a high content of fusel oil and acids.

In Mexico, tequila is the well-known national drink, being distilled from the juices of the roasted stems of a century plant. It is popularly used as the major ingredient of a rose-colored concoction entitled, "Tequila Sunset Cocktail". Many samplers say that the cocktail is aptly named, as the sun apparently sets and all other things pass rapidly out of focus for any over-indulger.

In the early 20th Century, the Swiss began manufacture of a drink called "absinthe"--an emerald-green, toxic liqueur--70 to 80 percent alcohol. Some years ago, when France and Switzerland acted to bar its further manufacture, it was officially pointed out that excessive consumption of absinthe affects the digestive organs and nerve centers of drinkers and may produce delirium and idiocy.

The Greeks drink ouzo, reportedly made from fermented raisins, and retsinas, which many imbibers state tastes as if it were made from licorice. The Russians are the national sponsors of vodka, and the Czar's government in the late 19th century, for reasons of public finance, instituted a state monopoly on it, enriching itself on the thirst of its people. Also, the Russians tried a period of prohibition long before the Great Experiment was attempted in the U.S. However, prohibition miserably failed in Russia, as it did in the U.S., and was abandoned there at the end of WW I at about the same time it was instituted here.

There are many other forms of alcoholic beverages, and many liquor laws--legislation designed to restrict, regulate, or totally abolish the manufacture, sale, and/or consumption of strong spirits. Passage of liquor laws have been prompted chiefly by the desire to prevent immoderate use of intoxicants, but sometimes also in the interest of raising revenue.

However, the fact remains, some men are all too often tempted to over-indulge in strong drink.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The term "Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area" is one which West Virginians are going to see mentioned increasingly, as will citizens elsewhere in the United States. The passage by Congress during the week of September 15 of legislation establishing this recreation area, and authorizing its funding through use of provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Act, will secure permanently for the American public the valuable outdoor recreation resources of the 100,000 acres of scenic lands included in this project and located in the headwaters of the Potomac River in West Virginia.

Federal officials have pointed out that this is indeed a "unique" project--the first of its kind--because, up until this time, there has never been a national recreation area established on the national forests.

Divided into two units, as indicated by its name--Spruce Knob and Seneca Rocks--the former included more than 18,000 acres of national forest lands, and is named for Spruce Knob, the Mountain State's highest peak, which is located in the southerly portion. The Seneca Rocks unit includes more than 74,000 acres, and within it lies some of the most spectacular scenery in the Allegheny Mountain--clear, free-flowing streams, a rugged natural gorge, the vertical rock formations of Seneca Rocks, and the Smoke Holes famed from the days in West Virginia's history when Indians cured their meat in the caverns. These are but some among many natural attractions included in the Seneca Rocks unit.

So great are the potentialities, that authorities of the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture have estimated that within this century possibly 5 million tourists annually will visit the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area. West Virginians may well take heed of the economic advantages expected to be derived from the development and operation of this area, for these are forecasted to be tremendous. Only about 40 percent of the total

lands authorized for inclusion are presently Federally owned. Additional lands will be purchased to protect the scenic qualities and the natural beauty of the area and to provide for public use. Scenic easements will be used, wherever possible to protect roadside beauty; and a substantial acceleration of physical development of the national recreation area to accommodate the anticipated steady increases in uses will have to be undertaken on a planned program to meet the advancing demand as the area becomes more fully utilized.

Public recreation facilities are almost non-existent at present, particularly in the larger of the two units, the Seneca Rocks portion. Roads to provide improved access are to be designed and built. Facilities are to be constructed, to include many additional family camping and picnic units, recreation trails, scenic drives, viewpoints, stream improvement structures, and visitor information . . . services.

But to residents of Grant and Pendleton Counties, and to West Virginians throughout the State, the firm fact is that the process of establishing and developing the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area is anticipated to bring in substantial economic benefits. Communities of these two counties and contiguous counties are expected early to begin to feel some effect of an inflow of money from land acquisition and accelerated development programs. As fringe opportunities, privately owned motels, restaurants, stores, and other service facilities for recreationists and tourists in and about the national recreation area--either on private lands or on public lands--are anticipated as materializing through concession agreements. A firm economic base and a high level of local economic activity are realistically expected to result from the opening up of this project in answer to national need for increased outdoor recreation opportunities.

Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area is expected to become the symbol of the linking of beauty and practicality for the overall public good.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

CONSUMERS ALL

A perennially popular volume--not to be found among the top sellers on any commercial publisher's list--is the Yearbook issued annually by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Sure to top all previous ones in popularity, the 1965 volume was "unveiled" at ceremonies in the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C., on September 17. Present for the midmorning occasion were the First Lady, Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, the Secretary of Agriculture, and other notables. Not there, other than in spirit, was the Average American Consumer, the "hero" of the fact-not-fiction compilation.

Entitled "Consumers All", the 496-page Yearbook is filled with thousands of how-to-do-it facts to make modern living easier and better for Mr. and Mrs. American Consumer and their progeny. A perusal of the pages reveals the enormous range of consumer services provided by the Department of Agriculture, as an instrument of the Federal government, and perhaps causes the reader to wonder what may have been left uncovered.

The subjects treated include: the foods Americans eat; the clothes Americans wear; the dwellings in which Americans live; the outdoor surroundings of the dwellings in which Americans dwell; the water Americans drink and bathe in; and the outdoor recreation Americans seek. All of these and a myriad others are thoughtfully presented. One notable section--that on outdoor cookery--would probably add much to the efficiency of the patio-steak-broiler experts among America's suburban set and is highly recommended reading before next summer's barbecuing season ensues.

Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman expressed his view, in his dedicatory address, that the 1965 Yearbook would be "a standard reference book for the homemaker and handyman for years". As a footnote to that remark, it might be added, after examining its contents, that an individual copy of the book will never last that long, because it offers such effective material that Mr. and Mrs. Average American may well wear out their volume much earlier from frequent

usage.

The area on fire protection (pages 184-186 for those owning a 1965 Yearbook) offers a representative treatise on a vital subject.

It points out that the average number of unwanted fires in American homes each year is 550,000, and that they cause 6,300 deaths, 250,000 other injuries, and property damage of 329 million dollars. Of these unwanted fires, 37 percent of the home fires occur in living rooms; 22 percent in kitchens; 13 percent in bedrooms; and the others in attics and basements. The section lists the major fire causes as faulty heating equipment--24 percent; smoking materials--18 percent; electricity--14 percent; children with matches--10 percent; mishandling flammable liquids--9 percent; cooking equipment--5 percent; and miscellaneous causes--2- percent.

Additionally, the section advises what fire extinguishers to use for fighting varied type fires, showing illustrations of these types. It states, in concluding, that every house should have one or more fire extinguishers of approved types as standard equipment.

This material is only a minute portion of the tremendous bulk included in the 1965 Yearbook of Agriculture. There is something in it for every consumer.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE CIRCUS

The Circus--an institution begun during the earliest days of pagan Rome and kept alive as almost the sole recreational medium during Europe's medieval dark ages, reached its highest peak and brightest luster, through Yankee ingenuity, in America. Perhaps no form of entertainment has been more loved nor is more representative of early American social life than the circus. Introduced by Englishmen to English colonies in North America before the convening of the First Continental Congress, the circus literally grew and expanded as did our country.

Circus caravans preceded and followed covered wagons. Animal-drawn wagons were replaced by railway cars. Railway cars gave way to motorized trucks--all brightly painted and lavishly decorated to titillate the fancy of old and young Americans, in small towns, big cities, and rural areas, drawing them wide-eyed to the ringside. The "Big Top", and all that was part of its make-up -- spirited horses, big canvas tents, wild animals, sad-eyed clowns, crimson and gold wagons, unshaven roustabouts, spangled-garbed trapeze artists, somersaulting dogs, gay bill posters, and shrill calliopes--is legendary in America. Circuses are a dearly loved part of the dreams of many school boys. Indeed, throughout the years, the American circus has remained a family show--loved by children and adults alike. It bears the unique title in the art annals of our Nation of "The Clean Art", for no circus performance has ever been threatened with official censorship.

Circuses and their people have consistently been miniature United Nations--with stellar performers coming from Europe, Australia, Asia, South America, and Africa, and including many of our own native American Indians. And famous circus names, those of owners and skilled and daring performers alike, attest to the basic American tradition that talent and ability combined with hard work bring just rewards. Ringling Brothers, Sells-Floto, Buffalo Bill Cody, Annie Oakley, the

Flying Wallendas, Clyde Beatty, Emmett Kelly, Barnum and Bailey, Hagenbeck-Wallace, Lilly Leitzel, "Poodles" Hanneford, Earl Bradna, Hans Jahn, the Christiani's, the Cadona's, Fanchon and Marco, and Gargantua (the Gorilla), and Frank "Bring 'Em Back Alive" Buck, are all names brought to prominence through their connection with circuses.

The stories and anecdotes of circuses are myriad. It was one of America's great circus entrepreneurs who is credited with luring the great operatic star, Jenny Lind, to the U.S. billing her as "The Swedish Nightingale"; and it was the wise old showman, P. T. Barnum, who enriched American folklore by coining the phrase, "Suckers-- there's one born every minute."

Many folk who have responded happily to the fascination of circuses have, in recent years, mourned the apparent passing of the art. But, in doing so, they have reckoned without the spirit which made the circus great. For today, the circus is finding a new forum--color television--and is refurbishing its techniques so that many of the same much-loved and greatly-admired acts and talented circus performers are being witnessed, and are slowly building a personal following through television.

Just as the circus has been refined from the days of the Circus Maximus in Rome, when Christians were fed to lions and the blood afterwards callously sprinkled over with sand, to keep wrestling gladiators from slipping, the modern medium of color television is providing a new opportunity for refinement and adaption of circus techniques in both indoor and outdoor arenas. Eventually all that may be missing from the show will be the pungent smell of elephants and peanuts!

Thus, while the setting may change, the circus will go on as long as the young in heart are there to give it an audience.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

This season of the year heralds the appearance on the U.S. market of the 1966 models of American manufactured automobiles. Many American families will proudly purchase their new 1966 car, rightfully rejoicing in the prospect of many hours of driving pleasure and carefree mobility, without too great thought to the economic impact of each purchase.

Other Americans will become new car owners because of the necessity for transportation to and from work, for about 41 of the 50 million U.S. workers commuting daily to work use automobiles as the major mode of transportation.

There will be ample 1966 models manufactured in the U.S. to meet the bulk of new car demands--totally outside of foreign imports--for the American auto industry in 1965 has been building cars at an unprecedented rate--approximately one million monthly. Nonetheless, European producers say the American market for their car models is expanding fast. Apparently, many Americans like imported models, just as, in turn, many persons abroad buy American autos. In 1962, U.S. automotive exports totaled \$5 billion.

But new car buying is only a part of the American automotive-oriented economy story. U.S. motor vehicle registration last year totaled over 82 million units, representing an increase of 46 per cent in the last 10 years. The world's motor vehicle registration in 1962 was 146 million, with approximately 60 percent of the world's passenger cars located in the U.S.

In 1963, nearly \$12 billion in motor vehicle taxes were collected from motorists. Approximately 793 billion vehicle miles were rolled up by Americans; and, in doing so, they used some 64 billion gallons of highway motor fuel, resulting in excellent tax collection opportunities for the individual States. West Virginia collected approximately \$37 million in gasoline taxes, and with its projected increases in highway construction and expanded tourism, it

stands to benefit even more.

Also, in 1963, automotive retail sales totaled \$67 billion; and the automotive replacement parts business was reported at \$9-billion, at the retail level. As estimated general average of 79 million cars are presently operating on American roads, and parts are marketed through every conceivable channel--260,000 gasoline service stations; 104,000 independent repair garages; 38,000 franchised car dealers; and 17,000 wholesalers.

The stimulus of increased car and automotive parts production is felt throughout our national economy. In 1963, the auto industry purchased approximately one-fourth of all the steel produced in the U.S. 40 per cent of all American produced radios were auto sets, and \$22 billion were extended in auto credits for that year. One business in every six is automotive, and approximately 12 million persons are employed in highway transport industries, including 110,000 in West Virginia.

The benefits of increased car production accrue to carmakers, their workers, dealers, repairmen, suppliers of car production-lines manufacturers, suppliers of parts for car factories, tire makers, gasoline sellers, writers of auto insurance, roadside restaurants and motels, engineers, highway construction firms, chemical manufacturers, metal fabricators, and rubber, glass, and plastic firms. They are felt by air conditioning manufacturers, for nearly one million units were included in passenger cars in 1962.

A well-known automobile manufacturer, later a Cabinet member, once remarked that what was good for his automobile manufacturing firm was good for the U.S. Possibly, facts such as the foregoing influenced his thinking.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE U. S. RECORD INDUSTRY

Many long suffering parents in the United States have, on occasions, fled in nerve-quivering distress from rooms resounding with the "yea, yea, yea" of rock 'n roll music endlessly played on phonographs by their teen age progeny.

But in fleeing the room with the revolving "pop" disc, parents who hoped for a change of sound and tuned in on a radio station were, in all probability, doomed to disappointment, because 1963 statistics reveal that more than 81 percent of the average hours per week were devoted by AM Radio Stations to playing general popular music. And if the parents left home to get away from it all, they very probably were equally unsuccessful, for juke boxes in taverns , bars, cocktail lounges, restaurants, diners, and the like, used more than 66 percent "pop" music.

Nonetheless, these sounds, the performers and musicians who produce them, the music composers, and all the employees, owners, dealers, and operators involved in the production, sales and distribution of phonograph records--singles and LP's , "pop" and "long-hair" -- contribute to a complex industry the product of which has sales now exceeding half a billion dollars annually, with increases reliably predicted. The estimated figure for 1966 retail phonograph record sales, based on activities during the first six months of this year, is \$300 million.

"Yea, yea, yea", and the names of performers and musical groups, such as the "Cookies", "Crystals, "Bobby B. Sox and the Blue Jeans," "Chiffons", and the like--artists and recording groups which succeed one another as top sellers in the latest teen age record fad--all represent dollars being rung up on cash registers. They also represent dollars being paid out in pay rolls, as, according to Bureau of Census figures, the phonograph record manufacturing industry--merely one of the trades which have sprung

an annual payroll last year of more than \$45 million.

However, it is necessary to be factual in reviewing statistics on phonograph record sales, to give appropriate credits, and to point out that other types of music than "pop" are reproduced. To American parents who feel that nothing but "yea, yea, yea", or "pop" music is being "waxed", a modicum of good news is available. Statistics reveal that, although more than 80 percent of the single records--of which more than 5 million were sold in 1964--were "pop" in nature, 11 percent of the total production was of spiritual records, 1.8 percent rhythm and blues, and 1 percent polkas and Latin American music, along with fractional percentages of other kinds.

On LP's, only 38 percent of the records were "pop" discs. And to American fathers and mothers who are confused as to what "LP": really means, this is the official abbreviation used by the record industry for long-playing records. The "yea, yea, yea" single discs merely seem to be the long-playing ones!

Anyone wishing to know more about this money-making activity can secure the latest "scoop" from the "pop" record industry's own publication--"Billboards's Hot 100 Charts"--which is as authoritative in that industry, serving as a reporter and arbiter, as Webster's Dictionary is in the American classroom. The industry is also heavily organized, with varied association names running alphabetically from such organizations as American Record Merchants and Distributors Association, through Record One Stop Association, to the Songwriters Protective Association, to mention a few. Because these organizations are most frequently referred to in abbreviated form, their listing--ARMADA, ROSA, SPA, and others--has the appearance of an early New Deal directory of Federal agencies.

The record industry is indeed an intricate one--with its roots deep in the American home, where it is well nourished by teen-age allowances of spending money.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

ATOMIC SLEUTHING OF GLASS SECRETS

A writer, in discussing West Virginia's glass manufacturing, said, "From lowly sand and common chemicals, through the use of a 2500-degree clay-covered holocaust, man produces a material of great beauty and utility -- glass. From 80 furnaces in West Virginia come all kinds and types of this most ancient plastic in the form of things as useful as glass bricks and as delicately jewel-like as hand-blown crystal for the President's table...and each glass house guards its formulae like crown jewels...".

But the secrets of these glass manufacturers now can be unlocked for historians--just as the past secrets of thousands of years of glass making are slowly being unlocked by researchers--by subjecting glass specimens to modern atomic analysis, in combination with related techniques.

At Brookhaven National Laboratory, Long Island, N.Y., operated for the Atomic Energy Commission by Associated Universities, Inc., chemists are using neutron bombardment of glass samples to make certain atoms radioactive, without damaging specimens, subsequently analyzing the radioisotopes to reveal each element in the glass. Neutron activation, as the process is called, can detect and measure quantities of elements as fractional as a few parts per million million, and is one of the few processes sufficiently sensitive to measure rare earth ingredients of glass, such as metallic elements of cerium and europium.

This atomic "super-snooping" has brought to present day glass manufacturers a new realization of the technical skill of the ancient glass makers and the sophistication of their art. One researcher has stated of the Brookhaven work, "We have analyzed pieces of layered, multicolored, sculptured, and mosaic glass that most modern factories would be hard put to duplicate--if indeed they could match them at all."

And, importantly, the glass "sleuthers" have set up a new and comprehensive classification system for recording for modern usage the finds from ancient glass. The studies on glass, begun in 1955, are, of course, only some of the many other projects carried on at Brookhaven Laboratory--a leading American center for fundamental nuclear research--but already between 400-500 examples of ancient glass have been analyzed. The study, time-wise, was established to span 27 centuries of the glass-making industry, starting with the earliest known Egyptian flasks and goblets of about 1500 B.C. to a cut-off point at the end of the 12th Century A. D., when, in the judgment of glass historians, glass making entered a modern era, with the beginning of glass blowing in Italy.

As an example of the effective work possible of performance by use of an atomic reactor, a first-century Roman drinking vessel, found in London after WW II, was analyzed and revealed a high antimony content, typical of glass produced from the sixth century B. C. to the fourth century A. D. in lands under Greek and Roman rule. Other such comparative analyses of samples of ancient glass have established that Roman glass of the time of Christ consistently contained close to one percent of magnesium oxide and averaged less than one half of one percent of potassium oxide.

Ancient glass makers understood little of the chemical composition of glass, their truly marvelous and intricate art having been a "hit-and-miss, try again" development, through endless experimentation. These artisans simply came to know what things in nature--sand, rock, ashes--combined to produce certain results. But because today's glass manufacturers now have a new ally--the atomic reactor--to serve as a Sherlock Holmes for them, a tremendous potential exists for adaptation of some of the secrets of the ancients to improve, to make more valuable, or to create more uniquely their own glass products.

Byrd's Eye View
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POST OFFICE LEASE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The Post Office Department might be said to have a continuous gigantic headache--that of efficiently housing its mail handling operations. For obvious reasons, a single standardized housing policy cannot be established which will successfully stretch to cover postal operations in large cities, such as Chicago, and those of small 4th-class post offices in rural areas where receipts perhaps run \$50 monthly.

The greatest concentration of mail in the U. S. is in the very biggest cities of the Nation. As an illustration, the amount of mail regularly processed in Greater New York City is as much as that for all of Great Britain. By contrast, the new Postmaster General was recently sworn in at ceremonies, attended by the President, at a 4th-class post office in Texas which serves a rural area of approximately 200 citizens and which had receipts for FY 1964 aggregating only \$630.

To meet efficiently its varied housing requirements, the Post Office Department has developed specialized programs. Well known to American citizens is the program under which the Department operates United States Post Offices in thirty-two hundred Federally-owned buildings. Not as familiar, perhaps, is the Department's leasing program, under which approximately one-half of all space used for postal purposes is located in nearly 25,000 buildings rented or leased from private owners.

The buildings constructed through private enterprise include post offices of all sizes, general office quarters, and specialized installations necessary in support of the complex national mail moving operation. When a new building becomes necessary to provide proper postal space, the Department makes a study of the needs of the particular area, including mail volume, transportation, population growth, carrier routes, site availability, and related matters.

Necessary plans and specifications are determined, and, generally, an option is taken on a suitable site. The Regional Real Estate Office then advertises for bids, based on standardized plans and specifications for a functional, multi-purpose building. The bidder provides the site on which the structure will be erected, and a construction contract is awarded on a competitive basis. Upon acceptable completion of the building, a leasing agreement is executed and rent is paid by the Post Office Department, with the title to the property remaining with the bidder.

For a larger building, however, standard plans and specifications cannot be used, so that, following a final site selection, the Department prepares individual plans for the building based on the chosen site.

In all cases, contracts are awarded to the lowest suitable bidder providing the most attractive annual rental for the basic lease term, with a lease period of ten years most frequent for small post offices and 20 or 30 years for larger facilities.

For FY 1964, recurring payments for leased and rented buildings amounted to \$88,360,000, with the great advantage that an estimated \$15 million of that amount was returned to State and local governments through real property taxes.

From January 1959 through May 1965, agreements to construct and lease new buildings in West Virginia were entered into by the Post Office Department covering 102 projects, encompassing 237,502 square feet of space, at an estimated cost of \$4,329,383. Included among these were the facilities at Berkeley Springs, Beckley, Glen Dale, Melton, Paden City, Buckhannon, Welch, Chester, Madison, Sprague, Grantsville, and Romney, to name a few.

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HISTORICAL PROJECTS AS TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

A recently issued study by Wheeling College, undertaken under a Federal grant, provides analysis of tourist and recreational possibilities of certain archeological and historic sites within West Virginia.

Eleven sites have been proposed for development, following review of their historical backgrounds to determine merits for preservation as antiquities. These are located within approximately 15 to 50 miles of major tourist attractions or facilities--located or under development--at Hawk's Nest, Canaan Valley, Bluestone, Grandview, Cacapon, and Twin Falls State Parks.

Among these projects are: a museum and summer stock theater at Cass--the old lumbering village in Pocahontas County; a chemical museum at Malden--to depict Kanawha Valley's chemical industry; development of Camp Allegheny as a Civil War battleground attraction--on the Parkersburg-Stanton turnpike; preservation of facilities at Berkeley Springs--the first mineral resort in America; and establishment of a museum to complement the exhibition coal mine in Beckley and improvement of the museum and coal mine tour area around Stotesbury--making the project an historical attraction of national importance. Others are also recommended.

Sagacious and effective development of the proposed Beckley-Stotesbury complex, to illustrate the history of coal mining in West Virginia from the time Indians wore coal lumps as jewelry through the evolution of coal mining commercially, with the accompanying rise of unionism, would serve to provide a unique project in the United States similar in concept to that recently announced for the Rhondda Valley of Wales, the famous coal mining area in the British Isles.

The now bleak Rhondda Valley, denuded of trees, with slag heaps defacing the hillsides, the river running black with coal dust, and with abandoned coal colliery workings everywhere predominating, was the background for author Richard Llewellyn's book "How Green Was My Valley", and later served as the scene of the world famous movie of the same title, which directed international attention to the stark tragedy of industrial depression in coal mining areas.

The Rhondda Borough Council, local authority for the region, plans to make Rhondda a new tourist spot, with picnic and camping sites among thousands of trees soon to be planted for restoration of mountain forests, and trout and salmon running heavily in the unpolluted river. The present long rows of bleak, terraced miners' dwellings are to be torn down and replaced with modern units, and a new center with modern buildings is being devised for location at Porth.

Just as far-sighted civic planners in England are taking action to capitalize on the fascinating history of coal-mining, as a magnet for tourists, so should our State act to reap economic and historical dividends by combining its assets--its own dynamic history of coal mining, its established rank among coal producing regions of the world, and its great natural scenic attractions--to create a unique historical complex in the Beckley-Stotesbury area.

Byrd's Eye View
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A WASTE OF LIFE

Americans have been horrified by recent spectacles of adult citizens of our Nation making human torches of themselves, apparently in voluntary protest against our Viet Nam policy.

Such self-immolation--by fire--is foreign to our way of life--alien to the customs and mores of our modern free and open society. The mode of this violent act of self-killing--by making a human torch of one's self--has its origins outside of our Western-bred culture; and it is significant that this idea originally came to recent worldwide attention in connection with "Buddhist" protests in South Viet Nam, having been violently utilized by fanatics to bring pressure against the officially established Diem government. An obvious similarity exists between those public actions in Saigon and actions by persons in the United States who, ostensibly, seized upon this method of self-destruction as a means of publicizing their protests against the military policies of our Nation in Viet Nam.

As one facet of the problem, students of mass movements have long noted that acts of suicidal violence seem to have a fascination for persons of deep frustrations and poorly adjusted personalities. Often a suicide of a particular type will apparently trigger a wave of similar acts. In Japan, Mount Fujiyama, the high volcanic peak in Central Honshu, has been a traditional goal of pilgrimage for the Japanese; and its volcanic crater (the last eruption having occurred in 1707) has, on occasions, had an apparent irresistible attraction for disappointed lovers, with youths hurling themselves to death in its depths. One such action sometimes seems to set a pattern for others to follow.

In past centuries, suttee--the compulsory suicide performed out of loyalty to a dead master or spouse--has been practiced in India. In ancient China, similar behavior was expected of a dead emperor's favorite courtiers.

However, self-killing is expressly condemned by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and attempts are punishable by law in various countries of the Western society. Attempted suicide has been classed as a felony in England since the 11th century. In the U.S., attempted suicide is classified in some States as a misdemeanor, a felony, or no crime at all, with penalties seldom enforced. Pyschiatric custody is regarded as the preferable treatment, but severe punishment is provided for those who advise, or abet, suicide. Because of the similarity of "fiery torch" actions in the United States (such as that at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.) to those organized in South Viet Nam, the question arises as to whether these actions in the U.S. are a result of a "triggering" of such thoughts in the minds of frustrated, or sociologically disturbed, persons, or whether these actions have instead been the results of deliberate planning by elements hostile to the welfare of our Nation.

Persons who become a part of a power-hungry mass movement without a humanitarian basis, having freed themselves from any vague stirrings of decency, feel free to go to extremes of cruelty and ruthlessness--to exploit others whenever it is considered advantageous.

Whatever the origin of the fiery suicides in the United States, the wholesome protest of the general American public--the strong condemnation of such self-immolating actions--would appear to provide the best climate for discouraging such acts.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

The autumn of the year is apt to move West Virginia old-timers to nostalgic reminiscing, and to recounting tales of past fun and work to youngsters. "Workings", such as land-clearings, log-rollings, cabin raisings, corn shuckings, and quiltings, were eased and made happy times by community participation and sociability and the inspiration of hill music.

Many of the social activities recounted are no longer generally seen. Olden time "bean-stringings" or "leather britches stitchings" provided occasions for many gay hill gatherings. In the fall of the year, farm folk often picked, by the bushels, what were called "cornfield beans"--large, white beans grown in the fields between rows of corn. Thereafter, the area young people would get together in some family's cabin, coming equipped with darning needles and thread to string the beans. These cornfield beans, still in their pods, were later hung on cords, in rows, from the cabin's rafters, to dry for winter cooking and eating. The work was most often hurried along by the lively sounds of singing and banjo picking, with favorite tunes being played and replayed and new verses improvised for old ballads.

The same warm community spirit prevailed at autumnal cane boilings, usually held after the first frost had bitten into and "sweetened" the sorghum cane, and the harvest moon was full. Cane molasses, an important staple in the winter diet of many hardy Mountain State families, quite frequently served as a spread for cold biscuits for youngsters to eat for their school lunches.

Any successful "Lasses Lickin" required neighborly assistance to "spell" the watching and tending; and, coincidentally, offered some good "courting" opportunities for the young people. Juices extracted from crushing the cut stalks of cane were set to boil, 24 hours a day; and while the elders skimmed the foam from

the boiling mass, the young folk played games and sang along with the fiddlers such much loved pieces as "Pig in the Parlor", "Going to Boston", or "Skip to My Lou". An almost indispensable feature of any "Lasses Lickin" was having some unwary youth fall, or be pushed, into the molasses skimmings, afterward emerging smeared with green scum to provide a high point of hilarity.

"Cidering off" time in the fall, after apple harvesting, offered another eagerly seized opportunity for sociability. The head of the family, supported by more mature male members, would invite his cronies in to finish off the cidering task--completing the expressing of juice from the apples. A necessary part of the operations included repetitious sampling of older, or hard cider, or even dandelion wine, ostensibly for comparison in quality with the new batch of cider, so that the alcoholic content of the hard cider, or raisin or dandelion wine, not infrequently caused an extremely elevated state of relaxation, indignantly characterized by family matrons as being "high". As for the cider, the colder weather of autumn often afforded a fortuitous opportunity for increasing cider potency by freezing it.

While the older males were diligently involved in their "men's work", which on occasions might be stretched to include the running off of home brew (cooked and distilled from corn squeezings in a nearby still), the women and young people were involved in gathering and cutting apples, for making into apple butter, or for stringing and hanging on a dry-rack. The rows of apple slices, arranged on the wooden rack in front of the cabin fire, were covered with a quilt and slowly dried out for winter cooking. The work and frolic were also enlivened by singing and promenading to tunes picked out on banjoes or "bowed out" on fiddles.

Most understandably, the good old days are lovingly recalled.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR

This December 7, 1965, the slogan, "Remember Pearl Harbor", is receiving renewed emphasis, for the naval installation at Pearl Harbor, on the island of Oahu, is the scene of quickening activity. Along with other U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and Air Force bases in the Hawaiian Islands, that island bastion is serving as a springboard in the readying and deploying of American military units to regions of the Far East, where our national interests are under vicious attack. American fighting men departing to Pacific areas, for combat against hostile forces, is an old story at Pearl Harbor. Hawaiian Islanders have learned well and remember vividly the horrors of the days, less than 25 years ago, when Asiatic power interests, in a naked bid for conquest, slashed at island defenses in an effort to cripple fatally our military defenses.

The sunken battleship "Arizona", lying in Pearl Harbor with its entombed hundreds of American fighting men, serves as a constant reminder -- with the daily raising and lowering of the American flag keeping vivid the principles involved--that ceaseless vigilance is the price of life--that aggressors can only be stopped through cold military strength wisely guided by the will to act decisively to protect our national security wherever threatened.

The Pacific National Cemetery, in the Punchbowl crater of an extinct Hawaiian volcano overlooking Pearl Harbor, is the final resting place of almost 20,000 American military dead, and also of Ernie Pyle, the war correspondent, whose grave I visited while en route to the Far East as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. This memorial cemetery is eloquent proof that GI's, naval "gobs", and U.S. airmen have died on Pacific lands and waters, keeping the enemy far from our home shores. In the interim since WW II and the Korean Conflict, through functioning of divisions of the U.S. Army, hundreds of bodies have been reclaimed from places such as Saipan, Leyte, Okinawa, and Korea for final interment at

Punchbowl. And as the casualty lists from Viet Nam mount, another sad chapter in the history of the cemetery is being written. The tremendous tablets of the War Memorial to be dedicated at Punchbowl, in Honolulu, Hawaii, in early 1966, will doubtlessly have engraved on them the names of American fighting men who have lost their lives in protecting our latest "first line of defense"--in Pleiku or the Mekong Delta--thousands of miles from their home land.

From their bases in Hawaii, elements of the 1st Marine Air Wing and the U.S. Army 25th Infantry Division have already been deployed to bolster U.S. fighting forces in Viet Nam. U.S. Air Force B52's, under command of Pacific Headquarters at Pearl Harbor, and based on Guam, regularly raid Viet Nameese battle areas. Guam-based nuclear powered submarines, manned by men whose families await them in quarters at Pearl Harbor, and who have perhaps taken refresher training in the diving tower at Pearl Harbor's submarine base, stand poised as silent, but lethal, emissaries dedicated to holding the enemy far from our home territories.

Pearl Harbor is this century's stark example to be pondered by thoughtful Americans -- that war, always grim and dirty, seldom can be fought at a time and place of a Nation's own choosing, if that Nation is indeed honorably and truly dedicated to peaceful pursuits. There are two hard lessons which Pearl Harbor has taught -- that our national security has its outer perimeters far across the Pacific in the lands and waters of the Asiatic Continent and that the vicissitudes of war are infinitely more unendurable for our citizenry when it is fought on American soil. Whether dangerously irresponsible and fuzzy thinking elements like it or not, the reality of Pearl Harbor is that it is possible for the United States to be attacked and critically injured.

Demonstrators parading in condemnation of our national policy in Viet Nam could more profitably employ their time studying contemporary American history--to remembering the lessons of Pearl Harbor.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS

'Tis the season for reviewing things past and predicting things to come. With the ending of a year and the opening of a new calendar with twelve unmarked months, many persons feel moved to forecast coming events, to predict turning of tides in human fortunes, to prognosticate on national and international crises.

It does not take great acumen to foresee one coming event of special importance to all Americans -- due in accordance with Federal statutes to occur this fall -- the biennial national election. However, it does take a brave, or perhaps rash, person to predict with any conviction at this point the manner in which the American voters may act come November.

Certain factors exist which offer clues which may help solve this riddle for those whose needs require them so to do. Among these factors, of particular significance is the analysis of the American voter in the 1964 presidential election (recently released by the Bureau of the Census based on its sample survey of the civilian, noninstitutional, population of the U.S.) taken two weeks after the November election.

Who were the voters? Who stayed away from the polls?

Of those interviewed, it was estimated that 69 percent of the voting age population voted on November 3, 1964. More women than men voted; and the young people (under 25 years of age) and the elderly (75 years or older) reported the lowest exercise of their right of suffrage. Persons 45 to 64 years of age had the highest voting rate -- about three-fourths of their numbers.

An estimated 71 percent of the white population of voting age said they voted, as compared with 58 percent of the total nonwhite population.

More than 80 percent of persons 21 and over who had completed one or more years of college said they voted, while only 51 percent of those with less than an eighth grade education did so.

Unemployed men of voting age were reported as having voted to a significantly lesser extent (57 percent) than employed men (74 percent).

The amount of income a family had was shown to have a marked influence on voter participation of its members. Only one-half of all persons 21 and over living in families with incomes of less than \$2,000 were reported as voters, but 85 percent of those in families with incomes of \$10,000 or more reported voting.

It would thus appear that over-all increases in standards of living (based on income advances) and rising educational levels would act to swell the total number of voters coming to the polls. But the answer to the questions, "What will they think?", and "What will determine the manner in which they cast their votes?", will perhaps remain unknown until next November 8.

The war in Viet Nam, the state of the national economy, and individual personalities of public figures are among some of the elements likely to influence the American voter. In turn, the approaching election itself will perhaps cast its shadow well before the election date, influencing to an unknown quantity, at present, national and international events during 1966.

Byrd's Eye View
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Senator Robert C. Byrd

DOCTOR-NURSE SHORTAGES

As a result of increases in population, the institution of Medicare, the trend toward greater use of hospitals, and the expanding national economy which permits citizens to purchase greater amounts of health care, significant shortages in professions associated with health and medical care are developing in the U.S. and indeed already acutely exist in a number of States.

As merely one example of our ever-increasing national needs, it has been estimated that 25,000 new radiologic technicians will be needed in this country this year.

A recent report by a Commission appointed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, West Virginia's "twin" State, points out that, of 13 major medical and health professions, about half already are significantly deficient in numbers as considered necessary for meeting Virginia's state-wide needs.

In West Virginia, the same general situation exists and has been further compounded in recent years because of the movement out of the State of a significant percentage of the general population.

A review of statistics on the out migration of West Virginia's population shows that the movement outward of the general population has been greater than that of doctors and apparently of nurses. No similar data is currently available on medical technicians. However, this apparently favorable factor actually is only one element in the total picture.

The birthrate in West Virginia exceeds the death rate so that the annual decline in population of the State is due to a net out migration. This migration was estimated at 113,000 persons between 1960 and 1963. On the other hand, the number of physicians has increased from 1,633 in 1959 (a rate of 1 doctor per 1,132 persons) to 1,833 in 1963 (a rate of 1 doctor per 939 persons). This means, of course, that the drop in the size of the Mountain State's population, coupled with the rise in the number of physicians, has

resulted in an improved physician-population ratio.

Unfortunately, this factor does not furnish much encouragement, for West Virginia's physician-population ratio is far below that of the country as a whole. For example, in 1963, the U.S. physician - population ratio was 1 doctor per 652 persons, as compared with the 1 doctor per 939 persons in West Virginia.

The nurse shortage in West Virginia is even more acute. In 1962, West Virginia had approximately 4,415 active graduate nurses, a nurse-population ratio of approximately 1 nurse to each 400 persons. Additionally, there are acute shortages of dental assistants, dental hygienists, certified dietitians, medical technologists, physical therapists, psychologists, and speech therapists in relation to the known needs in the State.

The demands of the future in all likelihood may change the classification of West Virginia's shortages of medical and health personnel from "acute" to "critical".

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

S.O.S. FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT

A unique opportunity exists to bring to national and international attention West Virginia products, native materials, and historical possessions--an opportunity which may have particular appeal to manufacturers within the State, Chambers of Commerce, clubs, and private citizens.

In a diplomatically-worded S.O.S., the State Department has let it be known that it needs help in furnishing its Diplomatic Function Rooms, a task assigned to a Special Fine Arts Committee headed by Secretary of State and Mrs. Dean Rusk, with 35 advisory members including Director of the National Gallery of Art John Walker, Miss Eleanor Sayre of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Mrs. Perle Mesta (former Ambassador to Luxembourg), and Dr. Richard Howland of the Smithsonian Institution. These rooms are being furnished by means of gifts and loans from public-spirited citizens and friends of the State Department, as official funds are not available for prestige furnishings, paintings, and decorative objects appropriate for these important chambers, located in the Department of State building on Northwest Virginia Avenue in Washington, D. C.

These handsome diplomatic function rooms, three large and two small, are furnished at present by use of many fine items on consignment from American business establishments and private owners in order to fill out the plan of furnishings. Thus far, gifts and loans do not fill nearly all the requirements. The very large Diplomatic Function Rooms include the John Quincy Adams State Drawing Room, the Thomas Jefferson State Reception Room (which has walls of green Vermont marble), and the Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room. It was in these three rooms, thrown en suite, that President Lyndon B. Johnson received the heads of State and representatives of nations of the world following President John F. Kennedy's funeral in November 1963. It was in these rooms, also, that the reception for the American astronauts, including Colonel

John Glenn, was held, so that, as a result, television viewers of the ceremonies on these memorable occasions may have some familiarity with their appearance. It is in these rooms that all major diplomatic functions hosted by the Secretary of State are held, and it is in these rooms that ten crystal chandeliers from France are hanging, having been purchased at an approximate cost of \$45,000 each and presented as a gift to the State Department by then Under Secretary of State C. Douglas Dillon and Mrs. Dillon.

The two small reception rooms, the James Monroe Reception Room and the James Madison Dining Room, are used for smaller functions.

For all of these rooms, the Fine Arts Committee urgently needs funds to make selective purchases and is seeking gifts of appropriate furnishings and room accessories, such as crystal chandeliers; gold, crystal, silver, or brass candelabra, wall sconces, and table ornaments; antique mirrors and clocks; paintings of typical American scenes of all periods; collections of antique American porcelains; American-made furniture of historical value; and varied examples of American decorative arts. In its appeal, the Committee, practically and diplomatically, has pointed out that gifts of funds and valuable objects are tax-deductible, with contributions of funds deductible in the year in which they are given. Gifts of items are tax-deductible in the amount of their appraised value, in the year of presentation, or over a period of years.

Inquiries in response to the S.O.S. may appropriately be directed to the Department of State in Washington, D. C.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

U. S. CANINES SERVE WELL

The recent announcement by the Department of Defense that 2,000 sentry dogs are being flown overseas, to serve on sentry duty and to help guard American military bases such as those in Viet Nam, has focused greater public attention on U.S. canines.

The news item provides a considerably more favorable "public image" than is inspired by current commercial advertisements such as: "You can keep your dog comfortable on cold nights with an electric warming pad that has a heating element (similar to the type used in electric blankets) safely imbedded in tough, thick vinyl which is impervious to scratching and digging." It also attests to the realization that dogs are effective both in searching out the enemy and protecting against attack and that certain physically and temperamentally suitable canines can be trained and utilized as an effective instrument of our national defense.

The Armed Services have selected German shepherd dogs for military usage because of the aggressiveness, size, strength, and intelligence of the breed. Experts say these dogs have the average IQ of a 7-year-old child, the ability to learn 100 commands, and a bite equal to 700 lbs. per square inch of pressure, enough to rip off a man's arm.

In Viet Nam, officials say, the dogs are highly effective in protecting our American servicemen from Viet Cong ambush and in flushing out hidden enemies during patrols. Thus America's canines are again being enlisted in the organization dubbed by WW II GI's as the "K-9 Corps". However, the District Metropolitan Police Department has already founds its own, daily reaffirmed, value from the use of German shepherds as an adjunct of its law enforcement forces.

Currently, the District Police Department is authorized 100 dogs for patrol duty, with 92 presently in use or in training, including 5 dogs assigned exclusively to patrolling the grounds surrounding the Nation's Capitol and Congressional office buildings.

The Metropolitan Police Canine Patrol was established in 1960 and is modelled after the Canine Corps operated by the London, England, police department, including having a former police sergeant from London as a trainer. Each dog has a qualified police officer with whom he lives after his original 14 weeks of training and with whom he works exclusively in patrolling assigned areas. With feed and veterinary bills, it is estimated that the daily cost of individual canine maintenance is 60¢ per day. His value, after being trained for street duty, is estimated as equivalent to the cost of a new police cruiser.

The principal benefit of Washington's Canine Patrol appears to be the deterrent factor, which is difficult to evaluate statistically. However, for more than four years the over-all crime rate in the District of Columbia has steadily risen, except in those areas patrolled by dogs. This evaluation is documented by reports from handlers and from the various Precinct Commanders; and, based on it, the funds were appropriated by Congress to underwrite the cost of canine patrolling of the Capitol grounds, following an epidemic of crimes on Capitol Hill, such as assault, pocket-book snatching, and robbery. It is believed that this daily canine patrolling has made a substantial contribution to the safety of tourists visiting their Nation's Capitol and the safety of Congressional employees often working long hours.

America's canines deserve accolades for their services as defenders of our military security at home and abroad and preservers of law and order within our communities.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

LISTENING

Current emphasis in our American society has tended to focus the attention of the public on the importance of education, self-development, and sociological and cultural advancement.

Adults and young folk alike are exhorted to continue their education, to broaden their reading abilities, and to patronize the arts. Little has been said, however, on the almost unlimited opportunity which each individual human has for self-development--simply increasing his own listening capacities.

Researchers in the field emphasize that approximately three-quarters of each person's waking hours are spent "communicating". Other studies have been performed which go even farther than this basic finding, with the results proving that the average American spends less than 10 percent of his, or her, conscious time writing, approximately 15 percent of the waking hours reading, 30 percent talking, and the remaining 45 percent listening. (No information is available as to what category covers the hours the "average American" spends immobilized before television sets, nor did the researchers venture any commitment as to whether the American male is a better listener, or talker, than the American female).

However, these studies prove something which professors, preachers, and after dinner speakers have long noted--to their frustration--that listeners seldom really listen, that bad listening is the mode, and that poor retention is the norm, with less than 25 percent of the output by the speaker retained by the listener. All too often a listener takes in the first few remarks a speaker makes and decides that the subject is too dull, or "old hat"; that the speaker is personally sloppy in appearance or has a poor delivery; that the speaker has no business taking such a stupid, biased position, or that the material is too difficult to follow; and, having made some such arbitrary determination, he tunes himself

out and goes off on some mental tangent, closing his ears and mind to all that the speaker is saying.

If indeed less than 15 percent of the average American's time is spent reading--and there would appear to be no reason to doubt the findings--as compared to 45 percent spent listening, it would appear that, as individuals, we are missing the boat in our efforts to learn more of the ever-increasing store of knowledge around us. We, more profitably, should place ourselves where we can listen to people who have something of value to say. We, more advantageously, can cultivate the art of good listening, which is not a relaxed, passive art, but a disciplined, energy-burning, concentrated effort--just plain hard work.

Any person sincerely wanting to improve himself can seize his built-in opportunity for listening and can determine to become a better listener. He can open his ears to speakers of worth; he can concentrate on absorbing what speakers say; and he can later test himself by conscientiously reviewing and assembling in his own mind those things which the speaker has said. The ultimate increased proficiency in listening would result in measurably greater comprehension and beneficial retention of more and more facts.

In summary, an effective lecturer might well state, in categorical terms, "A storehouse of knowledge awaits any American who uses good listening as a key to open its portals"; a wise parent might succinctly exhort inattentive children, "Try listening for a change"; or a member of the beat generation might say to a fellow beatnik, "Like, man, don't send when you should ought to be receiving". However it may be phrased, good listening is a valuable tool to have at one's command.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
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ANTI-DRAFT PROTESTS

Selective Service announcements that the Department of Defense has asked for a March draft call of 32,900 men were made simultaneously with warnings that, should draft quotas remain over 30,000 monthly, the Selective Service would tighten college student deferments. Criteria (test scoring and determination of class standing) would be employed similar to that used during the Korean War, when monthly draft calls peaked at 30,000.

The prospects of increased levies and tightening of deferments would appear to raise the possibility of increased anti-draft protests. Many thoughtful Americans have been alarmed by the highly publicized actions of the 1965 draft-and-war protestors, and criticisms have been widespread of the character and moral structure of the individuals and groups involved.

That compulsory military service has often met with popular protest in this country is confirmed by many historians. Riots occurred in opposition to conscription into the Union Army during the Civil War, with a candidate for the governorship of Ohio involved in one violent display; and there were vociferous protests voiced by so-called "pacifists" and "America First-ers" when the first peacetime draft was passed in 1940. By contrast, there does not seem to have been any concerted action on any scale to thwart the registration of young American males during the First World War.

The nature of the opposition to the draft today has been the subject of many articles and studies, at private and official levels. It is apparent from facts developed and generally available that there is a definite political basis for the beliefs of some groups opposing military service since the crises in Viet Nam and Santo Domingo. Many of these groups are composed of general critics of American foreign policy and American society who are on the far left end of the political spectrum. And extreme gestures have been

made by some individuals and groups, which have been played up by the daily press, and which have become regarded as reflecting a generally mounting spirit of lawlessness in the entire anti-draft movement.

Also, some strong amounts of organization among these protestors have been noted by authorities, with close scrutiny being made to determine any proof of a general direction of the campaign by communistic, or other subversively dissident, elements within our country.

For the general public, with responsibility for helping to determine our national policies, and for those American youths faced in increasing number with a call to military service in defense of this Nation and its conscientiously determined policies, it is well to reflect that 20 million Americans have mothballed their civilian garb to wear the uniform of their country since that September day in 1940 when Congress passed the Universal Military Training and Service Act, and that our reservoir of manpower, and the instruments for its effective and timely use, have contributed to keeping our Nation strong at home and abroad and our citizenry at an all-time high level of social and economic security.

The watchword should be: "Think where the moral and humanistic values truly lie."

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

GO METRIC

Legislation has been recurrently proposed to the Congress to make the metric system the official basis for standardization of weights and measures in the U.S. A request for a study of the French metric system was originally made by George Washington; and, at the close of the Civil War, the Congress legalized the optional use of the metric system in this country.

Currently, a movement to "Go Metric" has gained impetus, with legislation introduced in the Congress to provide for appropriate studies, by either the National Bureau of Standards or the Secretary of Commerce, to determine the feasibility of a change over from our present commercial, or English, system (using the inch, gallon, pound, and degree Fahrenheit as basic units to measure length, volume, mass, and temperature, respectively) to the metric system.

For a variety of historical and commercial reasons, the nations of the world today employ one of these two basic systems of weights and measures. The English system is used more extensively in world trade and commerce than the metric system, with more than half of the world's engineering production in inch sizes. A large amount of capital is tied up in plants and equipment which are geared to the English system. Thus, conversion to the metric measure would involve enormous costs and problems and would require that industry retool while maintaining the present tool set-ups for existing equipment and products. Re-education of all English-speaking people accustomed to the English system of weights and measures would be required, and learning a new system of measures is anticipated as being as difficult as learning a new language and would require time-consuming and costly retraining of labor and consumers.

Presently the metric system (using the meter, liter, gram, and degree Celsius--Centigrade--as fundamental units of length, volume, mass, and temperature) is in general use by 80 to 90 percent of the nations of the world, with the U.S. and many British Commonwealth

Nations being the major exceptions. Both the English and metric systems are thus obviously adequate to the needs of a complex, technical society; but the metric system is undeniably easier to handle. For instance, in stating distances, kilometers can be converted into meters by multiplying by a factor of 1,000, while the comparable English conversion from miles to feet requires use of a factor of 5,280.

The metric system is the universal language of weights and measures for scientists all over the world. The pharmaceutical industry and most scientific research already employ it exclusively. Also, it has been stated that U.S. exports to 16 metric system countries declined by 2 percent between 1957 and 1963, with the complications of using differing systems of weights and measures given as a major adverse factor. Proponents of the metric system point out that our Nation has embarked on a tremendous enterprise -- building and industrializing a world free from war and free from economic hardship. They assert our system of measurements, because of its difference from the rest of the world, is hindering us, hampering our trade, slowing down our technological development, and needlessly burdening our school curriculums.

Byrd's Eye View
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BIRDS IN THE NEWS

News-conscious Americans may well be forgiven befuddlement when, in tuning in radios and televisions to daily newscasts, they hear reports on the activities of doves, hawks, owls, ostriches, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, and the like. Bewilderment justly may arise as to whether a news account has reference to ornithology, foreign affairs, or sporting events when one hears: "A fiery confrontation between doves and hawks shook the Nation's Capitol yesterday."; "Steps were ordered to save the American Eagle."; "The hawks and doves have now been joined by the owls."; "Fouling by the Hawks proved costly."; or "The Falcons will suffer next season from this latest freeze."

A glossary of terms would thus appear helpful to have on hand before attempting in-depth deciphering of current news. The following pocket-sized translations are therefore offered, as partial aids to finding one's way through the political aviary:

A HAWK--currently applicable to persons who advocate all-out efforts for victory in Viet Nam. Originally used in reference to those who counseled the late President Kennedy to bomb Cuban missile sites;

A DOVE--applicable to opponents of the hawks. Generally considered to refer to those who favor withdrawal of American forces from Asian mainland, and sometimes categorized as "fluttering" or "twittering." This term also was sired during the Cuban missile crisis;

AN OWL--refers to one who gives unswerving support to the Administration's Viet Nam policy but is capable of solemnly assessing the future. This is a new bird term hatched during recent heated debates on Viet Nam crisis;

AN OSTRICH--a bird who traditionally sticks his head in the sand without regard to his exposed derriere, or, in American

parlance, he who cannot yet locate Viet Nam on a map of Asia and is more interested in putting a third car in his garage;

A YELLOW BELLIED SAP-SUCKER--anyone too stubborn to agree with an orator's own analysis of U.S. policies;

AN EAGLE (BALD OR GOLDEN)--used frequently by opponents of continued U.S. foreign aid, who claim: "Foreigners have picked the American eagle bald."; or "Those natives must think the American eagle is a solid golden one--made of nothing but money." (Listed on ornithological family tree of eagles as rich uncle of West Virginia eagles.);

OTHER BIRD TERMS--i.e., Atlanta Falcons and Baltimore Orioles--for the present these may be safely assumed as referring to American sports teams encountering their own vicissitudes with no assistance from Hanoi, Peking, or Moscow;

STILL OTHER ORNITHOLOGICAL DESIGNATIONS--whooping cranes and starlings--noteworthy by wide variance in attitude of Federal government towards these feathered creatures. All-out efforts are being made to help along the whooping crane propagation, while (by great contrast) research is being heavily underwritten to contain the starlings' population explosion, distastefully noted because of adverse effects on the appearances of public buildings in Washington, D. C.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

MARCH 31 IMPORTANT DATE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The last day of March this year is also the deadline for enrollment by American older folk in the voluntary doctor insurance plan provided under the Medicare program enacted by Congress last year.

Despite extensive efforts by the Social Security Administration, supplemented by Office of Economic Opportunity drives and vigorous campaigns by other governmental and private groups, many potential elderly beneficiaries apparently misunderstand or are not aware of this program, for by the most recent count less than 11 million of the 19 million eligibles had signed up for the \$3-a-month voluntary health insurance program.

It is generally agreed that some degree of confusion has existed as to the actual free benefits provided under the widely publicized, long awaited, Federal Medicare program. In actuality, this program as incorporated under social security has two major parts. The first part makes available--without charge--payments, as stipulated, for hospital bills, starting July 1 of this year, to nearly everyone aged 65 or over.

The secondary portion of the Medicare program offers optional "doctor" insurance benefits. Persons presently 65 or older must apply to the Social Security Administration--by March 31--for enrollment in this voluntary program, which, upon payment of \$3 per person per month, makes the participant eligible for Medicare doctor bill payments beginning July 1. Basically, these payments cover approximately 80 percent of doctor, surgeon, and other specialists' bills, for services at home, in the hospital, clinic, or nursing home.

Although legislation has been introduced in the Congress to extend the enrollment deadline from March 31 until September 30, no action has as yet been taken on it. Therefore, as the law now

stands, the failure of a senior citizen, otherwise eligible, to enroll by March 31 means that the chance to enroll in this voluntary doctor insurance program has been forfeited until October 1967; and, as a result, that person cannot receive any benefits until July 1968. (Of course, for those reaching 65 on and after January 1 of this year, the seven months enrollment period is effective beginning three months before the month of the birthday until three months after it.)

Moreover, actuarial experts have warned that those persons not enrolled under the voluntary doctor insurance program will almost surely not be able to secure any reasonably priced doctor bill insurance through private insurers, or under company or group health policies, for it is anticipated that private policies now duplicating the soon-to-be effective Medicare programs will be rapidly modified to provide only coverage not offered by Medicare, or, possibly by some companies, cancelled altogether.

Senior citizens who have not yet applied for participation in the voluntary doctor insurance program under Medicare should contact immediately, by card, letter, telephone, or visit, their nearest social security office, seeking enrollment assistance. Likewise, relatives and neighbors of persons over 65 years of age should encourage and assist them in such enrollment. The March 31 deadline is an important one to the health and economic well being of our American elders.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

MOUNTAIN STATE ART AND CRAFT FAIR IS GOOD TOURIST BUSINESS

West Virginia artists and craftsmen are registering this month for participation in the Fourth Annual Mountain State Art and Craft Fair scheduled June 30 through July 4 at Camp Cedar Lakes near Ripley. The focal point of this year's fair will be "The Show of Quality", highlighting the State's finest arts and crafts. This fair, now an annual event, offers an exhibition of products and skills of West Virginians exclusively, with many items available for purchase, periodic demonstrations of talented craftsmen and artists scheduled daily, and exhibitors offering for sale original kits or patterns that will allow the buyer to exercise his own creativity and originality in arriving at the finished product.

From its inception, the fair has incorporated a range of attractions designed to appeal to all members of the family, with a true flavor of West Virginia mountain life and its echoes of frontier days in America. It is well realized that Grandmothers enjoy seeing the old crafts practiced which were a part of every day life in past decades, and that moms and dads can be lured into returning time after time by having their interests catered to in displays of art and interesting hobbies among exhibits and sales booths.

Planners know that viewers are fascinated as trade secrets are revealed while handcrafting is performed. They are cannily aware that many homemakers are happy to succumb to temptation in buying treasures produced by mountain folk who are true artists and craftsmen. They insure the availability of a range of attractions not easily duplicated elsewhere in the United States, for among the arts and crafts featured are rug hooking, stone polishing, quilting, fly tying, wood carving, whittling, glass making, dulcimer making, leather decorating, tole painting, cornshuck art, silk screening, block printing, sketching, tray making, glass decorating, pottery making, weaving, wood sculpturing, basket making, oil painting, doll making, metal workings, blacksmithing, broom making, spinning.

jewelry making, and stone sculpturing.

Moreover, added attractions for fair visitors are available, such as mountain music, folk singing, fishing for the youngsters, and quantities of good food, including such delicacies as country ham, buckwheat cakes, homemade ice cream, sweetened corn pone, and salt rising bread.

The Mountain State Art and Craft Fair at Camp Cedar Lakes, under the sponsorship of the West Virginia Departments of Commerce, Education, and Agriculture, the West Virginia University Extension Service, and other State agencies, and art, craft, and business groups is an excellent example of a tourism promotional program. It is one which well might be emulated in many communities and areas of West Virginia, for it offers to tourists a change--a chance to see and experience something they do not have at home. It combines effectively the three major categories of attractions which tourists are known to seek--natural attractions, manmade attractions, and special events.

The future of the tourist business in the U.S. is wide open. The numbers of pleasure-bent tourists have doubled, redoubled, and redoubled, and the boom has not yet even begun in relation to West Virginia's potentials. As our U.S. population grows, the per capita income will increase, and the economy will expand. West Virginians need to plan, foresightedly, to cash in on the great American potential of more tourists, more time for travel and vacations, and more tourist money to be spent.

Byrd's Eye View
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Senator Robert C. Byrd

HOW TO BE A SUCCESS AS A FISHERMAN

Any Johnny-Come-Lately to the sport of fishing might find himself justifiably startled by some of the suggestions for selection of equipment guaranteed to insure his success as a fisherman.

Among these, soap, bourbon, salt, sugar, tobacco, tape measures, pickle jars, 16 millimeter films, record players, and 33 1/3 RPM records, are some of the items seriously mentioned by various knowledgeable anglers as part of the "secret" of their success in making record catches.

The 33 1/3 RPM record and companion record player have importance to some Isaac Walton types because the platter "How To Catch Fish" carries a narrative by a champion fisherman revealing all his fishing secrets--where to find game fish, how deep to fish for them, which baits to use, proper casting technique, and special top-notch-security tips for hooking the big ones. And the 16MM films, proceeding somewhat in the tradition of the U.S. Army's GI training films, offer--mostly in sound and color--instructions on fly-,bait-, and spin-casting and the proper usages of varied fishing tackle.

As a substitute for all this equipment, any veteran West Virginian fisherman could suggest an obvious alternate for equally effective fishing--subscribe to the West Virginia Conservation magazine and go fishing in West Virginia.

The soap is suggested to assist the earnest fisherman in catching minnows with which to catch larger, more sporty "finny" creatures. Using the soap to work up a lather in the water in which minnows lurk, the fisherman can, after a slight pause to allow time for soap bubbles to attract schools of minnows, then scoop up a mass of wiggling bait for catfishing, bass catching, and the like.

As for the bourbon, salt, sugar, and tobacco--these are for the fisherman to drink, eat, and smoke, not just merely to keep him well fed and happy, but to keep the fish from smelling that he is a man. Lest anyone suspect that this is just another tall fish tale, the facts are that serious-minded researchers say the fishy denizens of our Nation's waters not only can "smell" men but they do not care for what they smell. Instead, they are attracted by the odor of sugar, salt, tobacco, and bourbon on the fisherman. The biologic explanation given for this preference in fragrances is that a certain amino acid secretion called serine is found on men's hands which warns the piscatory creatures that anglers are lurking about. The sugar, salt, bourbon, and tobacco are believed to camouflage the natural smell of man, so that the poor, pleased fish snaps happily at the fisherman's sneakily dangled bait and so shortly ends up in the frying pan.

The use of the tape measure is easily guessed--for measuring, on the spot, one's catch, so that once caught it may stay caught, provided it is within the legally-established sizes. It furthermore provides a guarantee of the length of the championship fish which did not get away. However, the pickle jars are not so easily guessed at. These are for use by any frustrated angler who spends a whole vacation fishing but never really catches anything. He then can return home and incubate fish eggs in the old, once-empty, pickle jars and hatch his own trout, muskies, or walleyes.

With these fishy tips available, any fisherman surely may now expect to achieve success as an angler.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd
WHAT TIME IS IT?

A problem of national, international, and outer-space relevancy--time--is shortly going to receive additional time and attention by the Congress. The Senate and the House of Representatives already have expressed time-consuming and differing views as to what time it should be in the United States. In 1965, the Senate passed one bill setting uniform dates for the beginning and ending of daylight saving time each year, for such States as wished to save daylight hours; and the House has recently passed a nationwide uniform time measure not in complete timing with last year's Senate bill.

Practical clock-watchers throughout the Nation have variously expressed yearning for the total abolition of daylight saving time, or, conversely and by vast numbers, have written their Congressmen importuning establishment of a Federally-directed daylight saving time period for six months out of the year, from approximately May 1 to November 1. Whatever may have been prospects of getting immediate uniformity in action on daylight saving time in every State, city, and hamlet in the country, they seem likely to have already been "ticked" off, for both Senate and House versions of the time saving bill permit State options.

The subject of daylight saving time has ever been a controversial one, having been variously labelled "fast time", "slow time", "the airliner's nightmare", and "the golfer's delight". It has been derisively called "Roosevelt's funny time" by opponents to any and all Franklin D. Roosevelt programs, despite the fact that Benjamin Franklin first outlined the daylight saving concept during the 18th Century. Whatever the title given to it, undeniably daylight saving time has become time consuming, time absorbing, and just plain time-confusing for those who are involved in dealing with communities in one State out of time with sister communities in another segment of the same State, or in a neighboring State. The State of West Virginia itself served as a

basis for some Congressional comment on the pending daylight saving time legislation, it having been pointed out that, prior to the Mountain State's adoption of daylight saving time as mandatory in 1962, one could go through seven separate time changes in travelling 35 miles between Steubenville, Ohio, and Moundsville, West Virginia.

Whatever may be the ultimate steps taken toward resolving our national daylight-saving-time problem, this is not the only timing problem confusing modern Americans. Rapid jet-age travel, whether by sunlight or starlight, or a combination of both, frequently has been noted as resulting in disorientation on the part of the traveller, with the disrupting effects deepening in relation to the number of time zones through which the voyager was transported. Scientists have explained the phenomenon by pointing out that Mother Nature has efficiently provided a built-in timer within each human which adjusts each person to time cycles of body functions, among which are sleeping and waking, and the rising and lowering of body vitality. The telescoping of hours of time by rapid travel "discombobulates" jetsters, and their reactions on arrival reveal that their abilities to reason and function efficiently are lowered to individually varying degrees. Suggestions have been advanced that important governmental officials should be provided some hours for rest and sleep and time-orientation before being called upon to make important decisions after long distance jet travel.

The old slang expression, "He doesn't even know what time it is", may well have a modern application.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

1966 CHANGES IN SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM

The recent passage by Congress of the Tax Adjustment Act of 1966 added another liberalizing chapter to the history of the Social Security Act. One of the sections of that bill permits blanketting-in under the Federal Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance program every individual who has attained the age of 72, or who attains it before 1968, where not otherwise eligible for social security benefits. These persons may, by filing for benefits under this new provision, and offering proof of age and citizenship (or required residence in the United States), qualify for a \$35 monthly benefit. Eligible applicants with a spouse aged 72 or over may also qualify for \$17.50 for such spouse.

Persons receiving any Federal, State, or local pension, or Railroad Retirement Checks, will not be eligible for this benefit unless the amount of that pension is less than \$35, in which case they could receive a benefit in an amount equal to the difference between the pension and \$35. Also, persons who are receiving cash assistance under a Federal-State aid program will not be eligible for this benefit for any month that public assistance payments are received under a State plan, unless such payments are being officially terminated during such month. Those eligibles receiving cash assistance can elect to receive the \$35 in lieu of cash assistance.

Additionally, a special "transition" provision was included, specifying that persons reaching age 72 after 1967 may qualify for the benefit with fewer quarters of coverage than required by present law: e.g., for persons reaching age 72 in 1968, 3 quarters of coverage would be required.

It is estimated that about 300,000 people will be eligible for benefits under the new provision.

Over 1½ million citizens over the age of 65 prior to January 1, 1966, were not eligible for social security benefits under past coverage, a great number being retirees from some of America's most

necessary occupations, such as farming. Many retired or were no longer able to work before their jobs were covered by social security, perhaps having lived and labored hard during a lifetime of marginal existence without having the opportunity to participate in social security programs. A number of occupations were not covered during the days of the infancy of our Nation's social security structure.

In concert with the passage of this measure, the Administration has announced its intention of completely reviewing the Social Security Act, possibly to be followed by introduction in the 90th Congress of modernizing legislation. Among the measures likely to be brought forward again is my amendment which was passed by the Senate in 1965 (but not accepted by the House) to provide for voluntary retirement at age 60 under social security by acceptance of actuarially reduced monthly benefits. The Social Security system that covers practically all Americans must be maintained in an actuarially sound condition; it must still preserve the heritage that everyone should plan for his own security; and it must continue to provide sufficient protection against the risks of a society increasingly industrialized.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
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UNCLAIMED POSTAL SAVINGS

On March 28, the President signed into law a bill providing for the discontinuance of the Postal Savings System, effective thirty days thereafter and outlining provisos for orderly terminating the business, settling and paying accounts, liquidating assets, discharging obligations, and otherwise winding up the affairs of the System prior to June 30, 1967.

The passage of this law represents a culmination of efforts by public officials for more than 15 years to bring to a conclusion this antiquated system, now necessarily expensive in operation to the Federal government and increasingly ignored by the citizenry. When the Postal Savings System was established by act of Congress on June 25, 1910, it was designed to serve small depositors whose savings were insufficiently protected under the private banking systems operating in the U.S. and to provide savings deposits facilities in areas where no banks existed. Today, private banking systems, credit unions, and savings and loans associations are readily accessible throughout the Nation. Also, the establishment by the government of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation has provided the necessary guarantees and security of deposits on savings in commercial banks which were not available when the Postal Savings System was inaugurated.

The history of the system reflects the financial development of the Nation. The System grew from 12,000 depositors with deposits totaling \$677,000 in 1911, to a high of 4.2 million depositors with deposits totaling \$3.4 billion in 1947. Thereafter, the System's activities started on a downward spiral, with withdrawals annually exceeding deposits. At the end of FY 1965, there were only 997,029 depositors and the principal to their credit totaled \$344,233,788. This principal, as provided by law, drew interest at only 2 percent

per annum, so that knowledgeable investors felt no attraction to leave money on deposit at 2 percent interest in postal savings when commercially operated banks and savings institutions pay from 4 to 5 percent on money deposited in savings accounts.

However, as a curious sidelight on the operations of the System, it is estimated that there are thousands of inactive accounts, many inactive for decades. As of June 30, 1965, there were 169,144 unclaimed accounts which had been inactive 20 years or more.

Coincident with the abolition of this System, depositors and/or their families should seek information on their accounts. Inquiries on accounts believed to have once existed should be directed to the Board of Trustees of the Postal Savings System by persons entitled to secure settlement and payment of such savings accounts, including the interest thereon. Funds not claimed prior to July 1, 1967, will be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in a trust fund receipt account entitled "Unclaimed moneys of individuals whose whereabouts are unknown".

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
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U.S. NEWSPAPERS GROW

Our fast-growing U.S. is a varied Nation with an ever-expanding population developed from a potpourri of immigrants with a goodly seasoning of its first inhabitants, the American Indian.

Many methods of estimating growth, and varied yardsticks of national development, are used to measure its rate of progress and to forecast its future course. These include Bureau of Census figures, crime statistics, political polls, and a vast range of sampling techniques standardized for selective purposes.

One such measure of national development -- a survey of the American newspaper industry -- casts an especially revealing light on our Nation's economics, social and historical progress.

Presently, more than 58 million copies of daily newspapers and approximately 48 million copies of Sunday newspapers are printed. And some of the Sunday editions are such "blockbusters" they take weeks of leisure time for thorough perusal. As one example, The New York Times on September 13, 1964, printed a jumbo-sized edition of 754 pages, with the newsprint consumption running into the thousands of tons.

There are an estimated 1,800 daily and 9,000 weekly newspapers (give or take a few as suburban-type newspapers are born and expire with regularity). But, as a real measurement of our steadfastness to our basic principles as a Republic, the Nation's newspapers are privately owned. They may support political parties, but neither the parties nor the Government may own them.

The character of our U.S. newspapers reflect our changing times. Here in our English-speaking nation there are more than 600 foreign-language newspapers and magazines, including 80 daily papers printed in 40 languages. And there are some 200 newspapers and magazines published by and for Negroes.

To support this tremendous thirst to know all the news, U.S. newsprint consumption has grown from 4.3 million tons in 1946 to an estimated 8.3 million tons in 1965.

It is enormously significant in relation to our Nation's development to note that the newsprint industry has doubled in the past two decades, for the newspapers which it feeds have undergone a rough period of high competition from new communications media, with a resulting change in national reading habits. Television's phenomenal growth rate has forced newspapers to make steady adjustments to meet changing circulation, advertising fluctuations, rising costs of operations, and related complexities.

Today, specialists in the field point out that new relationships are developing which indicate newspapers will grow twice as fast in the next decade as they did in the past ten years. If so, newspapers will enter a new period of prosperity, based on the American hunger for all the news.

Byrd's Eye View
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TRACHOMA

Trachoma, a disease of the eyes (not to be confused with glaucoma), is staging a devastating comeback on Indian reservations and is a major health problem among American Indians.

In 1964, a total of 7,043 cases was reported, exclusive of Alaskan Natives. The disease, a form of keratoconjunctivitis, is a major cause of blindness among Indians and the greatest cause of visual impairment. Trachoma is a crushing personal tragedy for its victims and has been a prime contributor to the economic plight of American Indians, for the visual impairment and blindness caused by the disease are impediments to the acquisition of skills required to improve their economic lot. As one example, in the State of Arizona, approximately 23 percent of the blind-aid recipients are Indians, and one-third of these are blind due to the ravages of trachoma.

The basic tragedy of this situation is that trachoma is entirely a preventable disease. This eye infection is due in large part to the scarcity of water on many reservations and to the lack of health education concerning proper hygienic practices in the home. Moreover, once contracted, the victims can often be cured of the disease in a matter of weeks by the use of modern "miracle" drugs.

With the introduction of sulfanilamide, in 1938, a crash program of treatment for all the Western Indian tribes was instituted, and trachoma on the reservations was almost eradicated. This program, unfortunately, was interrupted by World War II and not reestablished since. As a result, the rate of infections now exceeds pre-war levels. Currently, it is estimated that on some Indian reservations, possibly 43 percent of the populace 9 years and older may be infected. Statistics compiled in the Window Rock health area bordering the Navajo Indian reservation indicate a rating of 15 out of each 100 school-age children (5-18 years) suffering from active trachoma.

This present and growing crisis has been brought to the attention of Congressional committees, and funds have been requested for appropriation to permit immediate institution of a five-year Comprehensive Trachoma Control Program in two phases--first, the treatment of all known cases with anti-microbial drugs, and second, a sound health education program.

However, it has been emphasized that, to be effective, this program must be accompanied by the provision of an adequate supply of readily accessible uncontaminated water.

Our American citizenry may well find the history of this disease among Indians a basis for serious thought. The known and potential dangers of unchecked pollution of our Nation's water resources include just such threats on a nation-wide basis.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

FISH MEAL - FISH FLOUR

Recent developments in the manufacture of fish meal--fish flour in the United States hold great potential advantages for West Virginia.

This high-protein flour, made from the whole fish, has formerly been opposed as "esthetically objectionable" by various citizens' organizations and was labelled "polluted and filthy" and "not fit for humans" by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Now new processes of cleansing the flour with hot and cold baths in isopropyl alcohol have been perfected, and experts at the National Academy of Sciences and National Research Foundation have extensively tested the "new" flour and reported it as "pure and wholesome". It is presently believed that, if given Federal clearance, the manufacture of this flour could offer an effective way of realizing our Nation's commitment to help feed the world's hungry people, as sufficient capacity for manufacturing the fish flour could be developed to meet the protein requirements for 1 billion people at a base production cost of one-half cent per day per person.

In the past, the manufacture of fish meal from commercial fish, such as menhaden, has proved to be a highly lucrative industry in the U.S. The inclusion of fish meal and fish solubles in poultry feeds has meant a great deal in revolutionizing the poultry industry which ranks high in dollar value in many States. However, the gradual decline in natural supplies is opening the way for profitable establishment of commercial fisheries and allied development of manufacturing facilities for fish meal, poultry feed, and fish flour for human consumption.

A Department of the Interior study estimates a plant could produce 10 tons per day of safe, nutritious, wholesome, fit-for-human-consumption flour at a cost of 18 to 20 cents per pound, or 50 tons daily for as low as 14 cents a pound.

The post-war demand in Europe for increased poultry in national diets has advanced demands for exports of fish meal for use in scientific poultry breeding. If the U.S. does not move to fill its own needs, and to meet the post-war demand by European countries for increased tonnages of poultry feed for scientific chicken breeding, other nations will. In South American, Peru already is operating the world's largest fish meal industry, based on its anchovy catch.

Our Federal government has already indicated its willingness to underwrite some of the costs of developing commercial fisheries in West Virginia. In light of the advancements occurring in the fish meal - fish flour industry, it would appear advantageous to explore all the potentialities of economic benefit through such a new industry for West Virginia.

Byrd's Eye View
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FLYING SAUCERS

"Fact or Fiction", "Now You See 'Em--Now You Don't", or "Is They Is--Or Is They Ain't" offer good choices as subtitles for labeling the Dept. of Air Force's "Project Blue Book", its report of findings on unidentified flying objects (UFO's).

A quick subtitle choice would certainly be in order, for the Air Force has taken the report off the shelf and is undertaking to prepare a sequel to it. It is enlisting the services of civilian experts, such as university professors and astronomers, in tracking down the springtime crop of reports on sightings which, along with the daffodils and cherry trees, have blossomed profusely this year.

The Air Force, through its "Project Blue Book", categorized those persons reporting flying saucers and other UFO's as generally sincere, solid citizens who saw something. But in its summary of findings, the Air Force attributed all but 646 of 10,177 UFO reports received since 1947 to pranks, mirages, or natural phenomena, such as methane gas from swamps. In a recent Congressional appearance, the Secretary of the Air Force reaffirmed "Project Blue Book" findings and reassured the American public that there is no reason to believe that any of the unexplained sightings represent security threats, extra-terrestrial vehicles, or any development beyond present-day scientific knowledge.

Since then, his statements have been reinforced by noted U.S. astronomers and scientists of other nations, such as officials of one of England's major scientific establishments, the Jodrell Bank. These internationally known authorities refuted the possibility of visitations from outer space, quoting calculations of thousands of light-years of travel which would prohibit little men from Mars from dropping in for a bit of quick snopping--earthly style.

However, 1966's heavy volume of sightings reports on colorful awesome, blinking, streaking, hovering, weaving, floating, weird,

and "popping" objects--saucer-shaped, pear-shaped, pyramidal-shaped, etc.--all in need of identification, led the Air Force to renew its inquiries, soliciting the aid of civilian experts in the field and calling on its fellow Federal agencies, such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, for appropriate contributions of knowledge.

Whether UFO's are imaginary, or have natural explanations, and whatever may be one's own personal convictions in the matter, fortunately, no one has found any evidence thus far that the objects are unfriendly!

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

FADS IN FASHION

The current trend in women's clothing--less and less material to cover the same anatomy--is providing a basis for much controversy among the ladies (whether to raise hems a lot or a little) and much conversation among the males (whether the viewing of the good knees counterbalances the shock of sudden visual exposure to the knobby, lumpy ones).

Any red-blooded American philosopher could devote long hours of dissertation to the changes in female fashions in the 20th Century, ranging from the serge suits and crepe de chine blouses of pre-World War I, the middy blouses and bloomers of the suffragettes of The War Years, and the flapper fashions of the Hectic Twenties, to the "New Look" of the post-World War II period. To all these fashions, and many others too numerous to recount, a single comment in summation could be stated as each made its appearance, "This, too, will pass", for the ladies could be counted upon to make a change. Whatever might be their motives in adapting to fashion's every-changing decree, whether simply on edict by Paris dressmakers, to clothe themselves to please their husbands, or, primitively, to show up their competitor females, the ladies efficiently revised their wardrobes in conformance with the prevailing mode.

Thus, the ladies always have changed; and change, doubtlessly, the ladies always will.

But the men--therein lies the rub. Ever more conservative in dress, refusing for decades to revamp their attire once accepted, still clinging to the same basic style of coat, shirt, and tie after almost a century, men have never easily cast off a style of dress.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

NOSTRUMS AND CURES

Folk cures and folk medicine are as old as time itself; and, as one wise man stated long decades ago, nature opened the first drugstore, with primitiveman and the animals dependent on preventive use of its stock of plants and herbs to avoid disease and maintain health and vigor.

While it is a certainty that many excellent herbal cures and practical modes of doctoring helped preserve the health of past generation of Americans, a goodly number of nostrums and cures, once considered highly efficacious, today merely serve to evoke gentle amusement as part of our Nation's folk-lore. However, one can only feel sympathy for an old-timer suffering accutely with rheumatic pains who was advised that putting raw, skinned herring under his left foot would rid him of his aches, or that he must wear a tight brass belt to cure his rheumatism. Sympathy must also be felt for the "reumatiz" victim, as well as all those around him, when another old--and odiferous--cure is recalled--that of rubbing skunk oil on the patient's aching joints, afterwards heating it on the skin by applying hot packs.

Rheumatism cures existed ad infinitum, and included such items as getting dirt from a graveyard and walking over it for ten nights, after which the pain would disappear; sleeping with a dog who "caught away" the rheumatism from the patient; walking around with copper plates in one's shoes; and bathing in tincture of cat.

Cats also figured prominently in cures for other ailments. For example, youngsters with sties were told to rub them with the tails from black cats. Another bit of olden advice for curing a sty on an eye was to walk to the first corner and repeat, "Sty, sty, go off my eye, and take the first that passes by." Afterwards, one had to be careful not to be the first to go by that corner in order not to get the sty back.

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Among miscellaneous cures for assorted ills, it was believed that a pebble rubbed over warts would cause them to disappear after the pebble was buried; that egg white rubbed on a patient's abdomen would cure dysentery; that a piece of salt pork tied on infected surfaces would effect a cure; and that eating quantities of watercress as a salad would cure lung trouble. One startling prescription--to cure quinsy, gargle gunpowder and glycerin mixed--leaves one feeling relieved that nothing was said about "shaking well", because of the danger of a permanent cure, such as could be described by saying the treatment was successful but the patient did not survive.

However, some cures just naturally must have been more popular than others. Almost any sufferer with a common cold would likely have preferred being dosed with liberal quantities of whiskey in which rock candy had been dissolved, or being fed fried onions, to having to drink a mixture of salts, vinegar, and asafoetida. Also, as a cure for a cough, a warm woolen cloth smeared with sweet butter applied to a patient's chest would appear to be more appealing than being rubbed with rancid goat tallow and pepper.

Truly, hardy old-timers concocted an amazing store of guaranteed cure-alls in obedience to the old maxim, "Don't be Ill--Unless you Must."

Byrd's Eye View
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Senator Robert C. Byrd

SPELUNKING ON SUMMER VACATIONS

Cave exploring, or spelunking, in West Virginia offers a really "cool" opportunity to young people to occupy themselves sportingly, excitingly, and usefully during their summer vacations.

"Cool" describes the sport best, both because it is a popular thing to do these days--in a class with dancing the watusi and wearing beatle-style non-haircuts--and because the subterranean world of caves and caverns may often seem chilling in comparison with the temperatures on the earth's surface. Throughout the United States, with the exception of Delaware--which has no caves, and in other countries of North America and Europe, an upsurge of youthful enthusiasm for "caving" has manifested itself.

Young explorers, carrying extra lights and dressed for climbing or crawling, perhaps wearing hard hats, are using their leisure time to explore the world beneath our feet, a world in which the sun never shines. These spelunkers are responding to the age-old urge to penetrate beyond the known limits of their everyday environment on the earth's surface. They find novelty in the conditions under which their foraging for new subterranean frontiers is undertaken, and there is a real challenge to their imaginations in the possibility of making a new "find". The fact that a large store of the world's knowledge of life in past ages has resulted from cave explorations opens tantalizing vistas to many spelunkers, although, in actuality, cave depths generally yield their secrets only to trained speleologists scientifically equipped for researching. Still other spelunkers find the inhabitants of the underworld the irresistible attraction, for as pointed out by the National Audubon Society, some of the earth's strangest creatures live there.

For whatever reason, cave exploration remains a constantly continuing process which occupies the spare time of a large number of people, but mainly the young. There are, of course, many others

who band themselves into organizations which carry forward useful projects in advanced cave exploration, acquiring greater knowledge and experience. It is from these older members that a stimulation toward cave-exploration reaches the young. Thus, as older spelunkers tend to become less active and to drop out with advancing years, youthful cavers fill the ranks.

West Virginia's hundreds of caves offer limitless opportunities for spelunking by young groups; and, wisely, these forays should always be undertaken in properly equipped groups--never alone.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

ANOTHER DEATH DEALER

The attention of the American public is being riveted on the steady rise in U. S. traffic fatalities. However, there is another instrument of transportation which also is an instrument of high human mortality in the States -- the motorcycle.

As pointed out by The Surgeon General, U. S. Public Health Service, deaths to persons from motorcycle, motorscooter, and motorbike accidents have reached a record high, exceeding 1,100 in 1964. Safety experts have flatly stated many of these people need not have died, that the deaths resulted because they failed to wear safety helmets, and that a high percentage of cyclists killed in accidents died from head injuries. Despite these warnings, it is anticipated that mortality rates from this cause may be expected to climb substantially in the future, based on the escalation in total motorcycle registrations which have more than doubled in the last five years and now total more than one million.

This forecast has a paradoxical aspect, for by far the major portion of these motorized machines is imported from abroad. The U. S. relies upon imports for meeting practically all her motorcycle and motorscooter demands, as only one American firm is a significant contender against imports. In 1964, Japanese-made machines accounted for 72 percent of the imports (primarily the Honda, which is reported to be "selling like pizza pies" among American young folk); Italian machines -- 11 percent; British machines -- 7 percent; and Austrian machines -- 5 percent. The total U. S. imports of two classifications of these machines --

motorcycles and motorscooters -- rose from \$13,437,036 in 1960 to \$68,403,385 for 1964. By comparison, the U. S. exported only \$2.3 million worth of motorized cycles, parts, and accessories in 1964. In the U. S. today, the motorcycle and motorscooter business is running around \$225 million annually at retail, representing a substantial outflow of American dollars abroad in detriment to our balance of payments.

The growing U. S. demand for motorcycles, motorscooters, and motorbikes is an acquired taste, being molded after the pattern developed in countries of Europe and Asia after World War II in response to pressing conveyance needs in industry-devastated countries. Here it is a phenomenon of the current times. To many American adults -- who flinch as the souped-up machines roar past with a nerve-shattering varroom -- it appears that the craze to go pounding off into the distance represents a desire to live dangerously or in light of the rising fatality statistics, something closely akin to a death wish.

Byrd's Eye View
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AUTOMOBILE AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

"Appalling", "Shocking", and "Unbelievable" are some of the newspaper headlines describing the report by the National Safety Council in Chicago on traffic deaths and injuries in the U. S. over the 1966 Memorial Day weekend. From May 27-30, a total of 542 persons were killed, and 25,000 crippling or disabling injuries were suffered. For the comparable period, injuries and deaths from military action in Southeast Asia were drastically less in number. The Department of Defense reported that 64 deaths occurred from hostile action in Viet Nam from Wednesday, May 25, to Tuesday, May 31, with a total of 605 wounded during the period May 22-May 28.

Traffic statistics such as the foregoing -- mounting steadily over the years -- have focused national attention on the urgency for greater traffic safety. In the Senate, a drive has begun for legislation to institute measures to insure greater vehicular and motorist safety. The problem, however, is an immensely complex one. Driver education is known generally to be woefully deficient. State requirements for automobile inspections vary widely. In some States such requirements are non-existent or are not vigorously observed.

Other elements complicating the problem are the lack of sound uniform traffic laws on highways and public roads and a recognized need for greater safety in highway engineering.

Also, dramatically forcing itself upon public consciousness has been grim testimony recently presented before Congressional Committees that the design and manufacture of automobiles have been deficient. As a result, legislation proposed under the title of "The Traffic Safety Act of 1966" is expected to be brought forward for

action during this Congressional session. Included in the proposed measure are provisions assigning a unified policy responsibility for promotion of national traffic safety to a Secretary of Transportation and directing the conduct of research on motor vehicle performance to reduce occurrence of highway accidents and to reduce death and injury when accidents do occur. As other parts of the recommended Federal program, grants and contracts for remedial research would be given, with the Secretary instructed to cooperate with States, industry, and others in developing safety standards; support for State highway safety programs would be instituted; a National Driver Register Service would be maintained and made available to States and Federal agencies on listings of ineligible drivers; and increased research in highway safety would be authorized, including construction and operations of research and testing facilities for vehicles and equipment.

Somewhere along the line, hopefully, an answer may be found as to how best to control the factors in this grim death-on-the-highway equation.

Byrd's Eye View
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WHAT DAY IS IT?

'Tis getting harder and harder for the average American to know with any certainty what day, week, and month it really is. Just prosaically checking with a calendar furnishes only the basic facts and does not state all the approved commemorative designations authorized from time to time. And it likely may become more complicated in the future.

For example, the lovely month of June, long wistfully known to young maidens as "Bride's Month", has now had a new label attached to it -- National Dairy Month -- so that news items on wedding rings and cottage curtains are vying for space with "hot" copy of skim milk and cottage cheese. Yet smack dab in the middle of Dairy Month -- and without any apparent connection -- comes June 14, designated as Flag Day. And evidently the patriotic appeal of Flag Day has greatly increased, for recently a bill has been introduced in Congress to designate the entire week of June 14 each year as National Flag Week.

Other special designations for various weeks, days, and months of the year have been suggested for Congressional action through the medium of bills, resolutions, and petitions, posing a problem for Congressmen and Senators in determining the merits of the various proposals. Fortunately, in the Senate a special Subcommittee -- the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Federal Charters, Holidays, and Celebrations has the job of policing such designations.

This subcommittee presently has the prospect of future consideration of proposals to make Columbus Day a legal holiday; to designate the last week of October as National Gifted Child Week; to set aside the first week in May as National Do-It-Yourself Week; to label a

day in October as Free Enterprise Day; to authorize a National Amateur Radio Week; to set aside a day in September as International Literacy Day; to designate a National Teenage Day; to appoint April 22 annually as Queen Isabella Day, a week in March as National Bidy Basketball week, and the whole month of May annually as Steel Mark Month.

The Charters, Holidays, and Celebrations experts have also been asked to turn their thoughts to food -- deciding if the U.S. really needs a whole week designated as National Halibut Week, another annually as National Citrus Week, and a day in May as National Avocado Day. They have been asked to consider whether American fathers should be honored by a whole week each year, should continue merely to have a Sunday set aside, or should not be honored at all because of the commercial aspects of the matter.

And perhaps as a sign that someone really does care after all, a resolution has been introduced to request the President of the United States to designate a special Tax Freedom Day and to set it aside annually as a national holiday.

Byrd's Eye View
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PANAMA'S BIG DITCH

The explosive situation involving the Panama Canal has been generally pushed off the front pages of U. S. newspapers because of other international crises. However, the problem of where, when, and how to supplement existing canal facilities in Panama continues unresolved. Indeed, about the only presently non-controversial facts about the Panama Canal are that this canal -- built and operated by the U. S. -- slices the Republic of Panama in half and is the basis of a unique and only intermittently cordial relationship between these two nations, and that this canal -- which has so effectively advanced the interests of world commerce -- is now largely outmoded.

If Panama and the U. S. were to view their joint canal problems in the light of a divorce court, it might be said that a goodly portion of their troubles arise from incompatibility compounded by interference from their neighbors. Basically, the views of the two nations on the canal vary markedly. The Republic of Panama primarily regards the canal as a source of income, and the U. S. has had, as its continued objective, the efficient operation of the waterway for international commerce at reasonable rates and for defense purposes. And the U. S., which built the canal and planned its operations by the Panama Canal Company, can justifiably take credit for an outstandingly successful operation -- for over the period of its more than fifty years of usage, there has never been a serious accident in the "Big Ditch", as it is known to mariners the world over.

This excellent reputation is a galling irritation to Panama's communistic neighbor, Cuba, and poses a serious challenge to Castro -

encouraged and Castro-trained communistic elements in Panama. To tarnish this reputation, and in other ways to offer evidence to watching Central and South American nations that the U. S. is bungling and autocratic, and that it cannot maintain a genuinely equitable and progressive relationship with the Republic of Panama, would provide the most glossy of feathers for Castro's cap.

In fact, reports circulating in Panama credit Castro with maintaining a camp for training insurgents in the Panamanian mountains, regularly transporting increments of trainees to Cuba for a few months of indoctrination, and subsequently returning them to swell the ranks of Panamanian dissidents, with anti-Americanism their major theme.

Thus the problems involved in selecting a site for new canal construction from over 30 suggested ones (ranging from Southern Mexico to northern Colombia), in determining a mode of construction (using nuclear excavation techniques or conventional explosives and machinery), in deciding continued jurisdiction for canal operations (including matters related to political sovereignty in light of the rising fever of Panamanian nationalism), are compounded by Castro's malignant thrusts.

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THE COST-OF-LIVING

With the arrival of July 1, the U. S. has entered its 65th month of continuous economic expansion and general business prosperity. While this is cheering news, when viewed from the standpoint of the country's over all economic posture, housewives will all too likely add, "But the cost-of-living keeps going up, and I really notice it when I buy food for my family".

Officially, the Federal government has forecasted that the cost-of-living will advance by more than two percent during calendar year 1966. As a capsulated interpretation, this means that, during 1966, it is expected to cost approximately \$11.26 for a typical assortment of consumer goods and services that cost the consumer \$10 in the 1957-1959 period, resulting from the upward trends in cost of food, medical care, transportation, household maintenance, and automobile insurance.

However, Department of Agriculture authorities have added a cheering supplement to this news -- predicting that food prices will be lower by the end of this year, assuming the weather is normal and our international situation does not worsen. In coming up with this report, the Department cites good reasons for its estimate. It cautiously threaded its way through records revealing a sharp rise in meat prices earlier this year, pointing out that these have now been somewhat stabilized and that hog prices likely will be down as much as 25 percent by the end of the year. It stated that, although the price of fresh fruits and tomatoes was offset by higher prices for fresh vegetables, a good crop year is expected to lower prices

of potatoes, citrus fruits, and some commercial vegetables.

It pointed out that butter consumption has fallen and the usage of oleomargarine, the lower-priced spread, is rising. It reported that orange and milk prices were lower during early 1966 than in early 1961, and that, by the end of 1966, the price of poultry and eggs will possibly be 20 percent or more lower than last year, with an estimated cost per dozen of eggs of 52-54 cents as compared with 60 cents in 1961.

As a result, consumer specialists in the Federal service recommend that housewives follow closely the trends in food prices, buying mainly those which show reductions, thus reaping the benefits of the market improvements.

The question then follows -- if the majority of American families do carefully buy food in relation to favorable prices, why is the cost-of-living index not likely to reflect these budgetary savings by dropping substantially? The answer is, as reported by Federal agencies, that the over-all rise in food prices in the last five years has been relatively slow in comparison with the rate of increase in mortgage interest rates, medical services, domestic workers' pay, home repairs and maintenance, and personal services, with the big jump in the U. S. cost-of-living arising from services.

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CAVEAT EMPTOR

"Caveat Emptor", the old Latin phrase which translates, "Let the buyer beware", has taken on renewed meaning today, for the ancient practices of swindling and forgery have recently shown upsurges of strength, according to warnings issued by law enforcement officers. Public attention has been directed to a number of ingenious approaches by predators in raiding the pocketbooks of unsuspecting citizens.

As one example, the increasing emphasis being placed on expanded culture in the U. S. has opened a new vista for art racketeers, for amateur collectors of works of art are natural targets for sales of forgeries and reproductions. This particularly applies to collectors of modern art, for almost all would-be-masterpiece owners know well that genuine works by the old masters are too limited in number and too restrictively priced to likely become available on the open market. But the works of modern artists and impressionists are offering a golden opportunity for faking and selling to the eager amateur. Even so-called experts are not immune to entrapment by clever forgers. Not long ago, newspapers reported that a New York art gallery closed because of the discovery that 30 to 40 of the pieces in its modern art exhibit were forgeries. So widespread has become the art forgery racket that, in an effort to protect the unwary, a bill has been introduced in the Congress to establish within the Smithsonian Institution a National Art Register, maintaining records on the origin, transfer, and ownership of works of art.

Perhaps the average American does not need to concern himself with being a "patsy" for art forgers, but he is all too often made the victim of a heart-rending appeal for contributions to charities or

so-called worthy causes which in reality merely serve as "fronts" for enterprising get-rich-quick operators seeking to line their personal pockets.

Also, all too prevalent are the pressurized approaches toward selling goods and services by telephone or through door-to-door solicitation. The old ploy of lifetime membership in a dancing school may not have much appeal since the introduction of the watsui and the frug, but other rackets have taken its place. Swindling rackets involving shoddy home repairs and fake improvements have been reported as costing American home owners millions of dollars annually.

Door-to-door repairmen and inspectors without sound credentials should be avoided. Telephone solicitations offering bargains in home services should be carefully checked out with reliable authorities before being accepted. High pressure approaches should be regarded suspiciously. Today, as the Latin proverb warned, let the buyer beware.

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NATO

The current North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) crisis involves so many complexities that American citizens can expect lengthy exposure to news reports, communiques, analyses, et cetera, pertinent to negotiations, compromises, multilateral haggling, unilateral expressions of indignation, and the like.

One fact, however, is a certainty -- whatever happens, it will cost Uncle Sam a sizable sum of money -- for immediately ahead is the problem of pulling out of France the thousands of Air Force personnel recently announced by the Department of Defense as being withdrawn and the determination on disposition of certain Air Force facilities and supplies. Due for long term determination is the fate of U. S. Army Forces in France and Europe, including pipelines, Army bases, equipment, and other assets. The total value of all U. S. installations in France has been variously estimated up to \$1 billion, although the Department of Defense, in announcing an immediate withdrawal of Air Force personnel and holdings, stated the cost would be only a fraction of this sum.

Costs will be high to other NATO allies, also. The Belgian government, which has gingerly agreed to accept NATO's military headquarters on its territory, has already stated that a problem exists as to who should shoulder the bill and has warned of the rise in operational and living costs which may result from pouring NATO personnel into already crowded Belgium. And, related to a solution of NATO's future, is the issue of Great Britain's 56,300 troops in West Germany, and the additional 32,500 civilians employed by the British Army of the Rhine. The Bonn government has in the past helped to offset the cost.

of these troops, but it may now have to make a determination on an increase in its own present allocation of 4.7 percent of its national budget for defense.

De Gaulle's eviction notice to NATO, for whatever cold comfort it may bring to Americans and other NATO participants, may eventually prove expensive to the French government financially and costly to De Gaulle politically at home, for also at issue in the rearrangement of alliance forces and assets is the future role of French forces in West Germany. These are reported to total 73,000 troops. Moreover, a question exists as to the continued usage by the French of American equipment of a strategic nature equipping French troops under NATO planning. Importantly, the French government is faced with the possible repercussions on its citizenry of loss of heavy economic benefits from the American presence in France. It is estimated that the shutdown of American installations will mean an annual loss to France of \$60 million dollars in official business (at a minimum), and 16,000 civilian jobs. On an overall basis, France is believed to receive at least \$300 million yearly in foreign exchange from NATO backstops on French soil, which it stands to lose.

Thus, with so much to be resolved, one fact is clear -- moving costs are never light, whether at a family or international level; and dissolving alliances -- at a family or international level -- is always a costly, messy business.

Byrd's Eye View
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HATS OFF TO THE LADIES

Almost jaw-breaking in its title, The Report on Progress in 1965 on the Status of Women, submitted to the President by the Interdepartmental Committee and Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women, is fortunately quite far from being as exhausting to peruse as its title might lead one to expect.

To give well-earned accolades to the ladies, the report deserves tremendous respect for the enormous range of public opinion which it mobilized in its preparation. Those participating in the continuing task of defining and reporting on the current status of women in the United States include members of State Commissions, volunteer organizations, service agencies, professional societies, educational institutions, philanthropic groups, private agencies, and women, women, and more women in just plain, everyday private capacities.

In fact, a review of the listing of participants reinforces the strongest impression conveyed by the report -- that women at all levels of American life can be mobilized in an effective manner to achieve a mutually desired goal. Another impressive conclusion gleaned from this fulsomely titled document is that women -- American women, anyway -- are quite capable of making a frank, dispassionate analysis of themselves and their status as females and citizens and of assessing realistically their own capabilities, needs, and opportunities.

In short, America's ladies have done a job in a thorough, work-manlike manner in the good old American do-it-yourself tradition, and are off and running in the pursuit of status improvement.

However, it seems only fair to America's males to warn them

that, to facilitate an effective reaching of their goal -- improved status -- America's females intend to "mold the entire climate of public opinion so that it will be conducive to direct and positive results", and they are encouraging "the participation of women in volunteer activities and in all facets of public life". These worthy sounding expressions of intent, however, are not the sole product of the status improvement effort to date. On the contrary, the ladies justify the long standing label which they have worn as the most practical sex, for at the outset of their report, they concurred unequivocally in the premise that education is the key to full participation in American life. In this constructive spirit, the report dealt with education, home and community, employment, labor standards, security of basic income, legal status of women, political and social action, State Commissions on the status of women, and international developments.

So, hats off to America's ladies -- their job well done will redound to the benefit of the total U. S. citizenry!

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MALARIA

Malaria, a disease which ranks very high among the debilitating diseases of the world, in terms of the amount of sickness, disability, and economic drain that it causes, is annually responsible for hundreds of millions of cases of the disease and millions of deaths from it, according to the World Health Organization.

Fortunately, up until this time, the U. S., along with Canada and northwestern countries of Europe, has been comparatively free of it. Drainage of swamps and marshes (breeding places of the malaria-bearing mosquito), the use of DDT sprays, and the medical employment of quinine for dosage of humans, has contributed to this success.

However, a new element was interjected in this health picture with the build-up of American Forces in Southeast Asia, for a new, tough strain of malaria, infected hundreds of U. S. troops in Viet Nam, as well as British Commonwealth troops operating in Malaya. This strain -- plasmodium falciparum -- is the most vicious and deadly of 4 known strains of malaria and has proven resistant, prior to this time, to the suppressive drugs formerly found effective in treatment of other strains. As a result of the imperative need to protect the increasing numbers of U. S. Forces in Southeast Asia, the most intensive anti-malarial research effort since the close of World War I has been triggered.

Previously, health authorities had felt that, with the proven success of a chloroquine-primaquine treatment for malaria victims during the Korean conflict, the malaria problem had been solved. Now, however, joint efforts by military medical services, U. S. drug houses, universities, and Federal agencies are being intensively

pushed in the hope of discovering chemical agents, new or old, totally effective against the falciparum strain. The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, in Washington, D. C., is spearheading this attack, and, through the Institute, the Army Medical Service is supporting approximately 90 percent of all such research in the U. S. By the end of 1965, this spending on anti-malarial research had climbed to a level of \$6.5 million per year, and is higher this year. As an encouraging note, optimism has been expressed by medical researchers recently that experiments with diminodiphenylsulfone, a drug effective in the treatment of leprosy, has offered favorable results and may lead the way to the urgently sought break-through.

The compelling need for discovery of an effective means of controlling falciparum malaria among American military forces in Viet Nam is reinforced by the danger of possible reintroduction of malaria into the U. S., because of delayed attacks of drug-resistant falciparum malaria in veterans or others who return from Viet Nam. For these reasons, the Congress provided substantial supplemental appropriations to underwrite the crash malaria research program.

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LAST WILLS AND TESTAMENTS

Last wills and testaments continue to fascinate students of human nature, revealing as they do the complications of life and the diversity of man's personality. Unexpected and unusual wills and last requests are frequent occurrences.

In one recent instance, for example, the Daughters of the American Revolution reported that the organization had been named as beneficiary of an American soldier in Viet Nam should he be killed in action. The DAR had no knowledge of the soldier's background, whether he had any DAR ancestors, or why he had made his unexpected bequest, other than that, at the soldier's request, the DAR had furnished materials to him for making State flags.

Among wills, a perennial favorite for newspaper coverage is the bequest of funds for maintenance of a cherished pet after the death of some eccentric and wealthy pet fancier. Not as often reported, many a last will and testament has been humorously, but nonetheless bindingly, phrased in poetry, or surprisingly stated by poets.

William Shakespeare, England's immortal bard, left a mystery unsolved in after years when he penned in his will that he was leaving his wife his "second best bed". Rabelais, the satirist, said in his will, "I have no available property, I owe a great deal, the rest I give to the poor."

Other unusual wills include the last ultimatum of one father who disowned his son unless he shaved off his mustache. One lover, suffering from unrequited love, ordered that his remains be cremated and the fatty residue be made into a candle for burning by his lady fair. An Austrian banker left a large inheritance to a nephew -- provided the young relative never on any occasion read a newspaper.

A hard-working farmer left his worldly goods to be paid in installments only so long as his heirs arose diligently at five each morning in the summer and seven in the winter.

A will left by a French merchant many years ago assigned a substantial legacy to a lady who refused to marry him in his youth, as a token of gratitude for the happy, independent life which he led as a bachelor. Another Frenchman convivially directed that his body be carried into the corner bistro on the way to the cemetery so that he could "visit once more the table where I have spent so many of the pleasantest hours of my life."

Unusual circumstances and means of inscribing last wills and testaments are often reported. One will, probated during the 1950's, was written on a hatbox and left everything to the writer's common law wife. Also, in the recent past, an American woman, about to take an airplane trip, experienced a premonition of disaster, and, sitting down in the airport restaurant jotted down her will on the back of an envelope. The plane crashed over West Virginia killing 18 passengers, including the writer of the will.

Perhaps one of the most memorable wills of all times was written by Saladin, Sultan of Egypt, and conqueror of much of the civilized world of the 12th Century. In humble realization of the hollowness of war, the vanity of worldliness, and the superficialities of religious differences, he ordered in his will, first of all, that considerable sums be distributed to Muslims, Jews, and Christians, in order that priests of these great religions might implore the Mercy of God for him.

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PRACTICAL HOSPITALITY

West Virginians, long noted as friendly, pleasant folk, have begun to profit handsomely by judicious application of a formula, "practical hospitality", to the economic opportunities of tourism. As one manifestation of the formula's usage, in response to visitor demand, there were 1,218 more motel rooms in the State in 1965 than in 1964.

Tourists by the thousands are pouring across West Virginia's verdant hills and valleys, beckoned on by a broadening network of good roads and expanding air facilities. Tourism in the State has been growing at an annual rate of 7 to 9 percent. To care for this trade, the U. S. Bureau of the Census reports that, in 1963, there were 134 hotels in the State of West Virginia, of which 75 were year round hotels with less than 25 guest rooms and another 5 were seasonal hotels. There were only 3 hotels with a capacity of 300 or more guest rooms, and these reported only 48 percent occupancy. However, there was a combined total of 243 motels and motor hotels, generally reporting 60 to 90 percent occupancy. Worthy of note, more than one half of West Virginia's hotels were built before 1942, whereas only 13 of the motels-motor hotels were built prior to 1942. This motel development would, therefore, appear to be an effective application of the formula, "practical hospitality" -- providing the kind of accommodation desired by the touring public.

In 1964, 12 million visitors enriched the State by \$393 million. In 1965, 13 million visitors provided an income of \$417 million. For 1966, it is estimated that 14 million tourists will provide an income in excess of \$440 million. And it has been predicted that, with completion of the interstate highways, West Virginia can expect the

tourist income to escalate to about 3/4-billion dollars from approximately 24 million visitors.

These monetary returns have not come unearned, nor will they materialize in the future without due adherence to the practical hospitality formula. Merely to issue publicity which is, in effect, an open invitation to the American citizenry, "All of you come and bring your children, and your money, too," is not practical hospitality.

To insure that West Virginia's hospitality is enjoyed by more and more people, more and more often, the spirit of the invitation must be attractively revealed.

Thus, under the formula of practical hospitality, greater numbers of clean, attractive, comfortable sleeping quarters need to be made available in the State through hotels, motels, tourist courts and camps, and related tourist accommodations. More and better quality establishments for efficient service of appetizing, wholesome food need to be opened to the public. Varying quantities and types of goods and services, suitably adapted to differing urban and rural areas, need to be developed. Appropriately, these could include free, off-street parking; public rooms for meetings and banquets; guest rooms on more than one level; recreational facilities (including swimming pools, boating, fishing, golf courses, tennis courts, horse-back riding, skiing); valet and other personal services; auto services and garages, and amusements such as television and movies.

Practical hospitality means emphasis on quality and appropriate diversity of facilities and services, and not merely quantity alone.

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THE DREAM CAR

Americans, as citizens of the world's most car-oriented Nation have begun to exhibit marked symptoms of schizophrenia in their attitudes toward automobile ownership. The all-American dream of personal possession of one's own set of wheels, and of being able to display the newest and latest gadgetry from Detroit or South Bend, is no longer so simple. Now the dream may involve owning several cars to meet varied family needs. Or it may involve an urge to acquire a status symbol foreign car, such as the Gran Turismo, by SAAB of Sweden, or one of the new European experimental fiber glass automobiles.

Also, within a growing sector of our Nation's citizenry, there is a "drool-and-pant" desire to possess an antique car. Thousands now belong to old-car clubs, such as The Horseless Carriage Club of America, and The Antique Car Club of America (whose members toured West Virginia in 1965 as part of the Club's annual trip). These antique car enthusiasts dream of finding a superlative old car and of restoring and driving it. The thought of finding an elderly Ford, perhaps a Model "A", or a Model "T", a 1912 4-cylinder Buick Roadster, or an early 20th Century Franklin, has given new meaning to the word "covet" in the old-car lovers' lexicon.

And the transactions involved in purchasing and restoring these old cars have led to a constantly accelerating market. As examples, an old Stanley Steamer which cost about \$2,500 when new in 1906 is worth up to \$10,000 today; and news accounts report that 1911-Mercers are the most sought-after of antique cars, citing the purchase of one for \$21,000 which the owner then restored to full function for another \$10,000. A 1907 Rolls-Royce was bought by an American millionaire for \$20,000 and another \$20,000 was invested in bringing it to prime

condition.

For Americans who recall the hey-day of American car manufacture -- the 1920's -- when perhaps 88 firms competed in the field, there is nostalgia in remembering the grand old names. The line-up of now defunct "oldies" includes Studebaker, Packard, Pierce-Arrow, Nash, Hudson, Winton, Chalmers, Willis-St. Claire, Haynes, Cleveland, Jewett, Apperson (called "The Jack Rabbit"), Franklin, Stutz Bearcat, Oakland, Duesenberg, Locomobile, Graham-Paige, Willys-Knight, Essex, Marmon, Peerless, Auburn, Durand, and the fabulous Welch. (Former Cord owners now have the opportunity to rejuvenate their old dream of owning a Cord, for the 1960's are witnessing a revival of the Cord, with a 140-horsepower Corvair motor moving it forward into the ranks of crowd-pleasers.)

But, importantly, yet another dream car -- what is hoped to be the ultimate in transportation -- is being sought by a certain segment of American leaders. The U. S. Congress has begun to reveal its own views on a truly all-American car -- the genuine dream car for Americans -- one which is engineered, built, and operated under the highest practicable standards of safety and road-worthiness. And in thoughtful efforts to bring this dream to reality, Congress has begun to seek ways, through appropriate legislation, which will make American-manufactured cars increasingly safe and road-worthy in construction and performance.

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Senator Robert C. Byrd

WHITEWASHING THE FACTS

Citizens of other nations have become accustomed to announcements by Soviet Russia crediting important discoveries and past inventions to its own people; and, in exaggeratedly patriotic fashion, boasting of the superiority of that Nation in varied fields of endeavor.

During the Stalin regime, particularly, it was common practice for the Soviets to publicize claims that selected scientific feats were actually performed by Russians and not, as previously accredited, elsewhere. As examples, Alexander Popov, inventor and instructor in the Czarist navy, was acclaimed by the Russians as having discovered radio before Marconi; Professor Boris Rozing was credited by the Soviet with invention of television; another Russian academician, V. P. Goryachin, was credited with "founding the science of agricultural machinery"; and original work on medicinal uses of molds (basis for modern antibiotics) was claimed by the Russians for their own researchers. They have alleged that the first airplane was built in Russia long before the Wright Brothers' Kitty Hawk experiments, and have claimed credit for inventing "beisbal" (U. S. baseball).

What are the facts? Undoubtedly, scientific discovery and experimentation by brilliant Russians were greatly stifled under the Czarist regime. Equally true, encouragement of scientific and industrial research and development under modern Soviet policies resulted in enormous cultural, technical, and scientific development in the U.S.S.R., as proven by the spectacular Sputnik launchings. However, systematic exploitation of research on ideas, techniques, and data from other countries has contributed to Communist technological advancement, for Western nations have long been primary sources for

the confiscation of knowledge by the Soviets.

Nonetheless, in one area, conscientious Americans will certainly never wish to compete with the Russians -- the field of high incidents of "hooliganism", increased public drunkenness, assault on police by "rowdies", and generally rising crime rates, all reported in both U. S. and Soviet newspapers as rapidly increasing. Nor will Americans wish to have our Republic credited with the invention of police reports of high rates of crime solution when no such success occurs. Yet, again according to recurring accounts from the U.S.S.R., that Nation has a rapidly accelerating crime problem; and, apparently in an effort to preserve a facade of superiority in Soviet officialdom and before the world, Soviet police are alleged to be inventing records indicating 95 percent solution, or higher, to their crime cases, whereas, in fact, a much greater percentage of crimes remains unsolved and unpunished and crime rates continue to accelerate.

The United States, unhappily experiencing its own crime problems and facing growing disrespect for law and order, should not wish to compete with any Nation in whitewashing the facts but should, rather, persevere in its efforts toward finding solutions to its problems.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

ELECTION UNCERTAINTY

Americans already attuned to our national election day, set for early November, may well pause to assess the significance of the political drama currently unfolding in South Viet Nam, and to consider the relationship of the September 11 election in that war-crippled country to our own coming fall elections.

Many, in examining the circumstances prevailing in Southeast Asia, may well wonder whether they can be favorable to the successful election of an assembly to draw up a Constitution (hopefully leading to the establishment of a new government, honorable alike to its founders and advantageous to our National interests, which, because we have taken up arms in defense of the South Vietnamese, are closely involved). They point out that South Viet Nam is reduced to miserable economic conditions, without a working system of laws, without a corps of leaders of recognizable authority, pillaged, torn between brutally antagonistic religious sects, partially ensalved by fellow Vietnamese from the north, and menaced by foreign powers. They point out that terrorism will be brought to bear by the Viet Cong throughout the countryside to prevent honest vote-casting, and that any election returns will be suspect, if, indeed, effective voting can even take place.

They emphasize the vulnerability and political naivete of the vast majority of inhabitants subject to voter registration; and they assert that, should the election produce results considered compatible with American interests, the Communists will make international political hay by claiming intimidation by armed South Vietnamese troops aided and driven on by "imperialistic" American military might.

To other Americans, however, it appears that there never was a period more appropriate for the execution of so important an undertaking.

They say that justice is on the side of the beleaguered South Vietnamese, who have proved their longing for a national identity, and that such a cause is a just one. They say that if, indeed, the South Vietnamese are willing to regulate their own national conduct in the pattern set by other Republics, and so to take another step forward in delivering their country from the rule of foreigners, it is necessary, above all things that they reach an accord and that they launch their own national enterprise. They point out that in every locale the people must go to their communal centers, voice their wishes, name their representatives, delegate power in the name of their nation, and so have an opportunity to act, in equality, under one national banner. They believe the South Vietnamese faith in a national destiny must manifest itself in an immense impulse of concord against the present tremendous odds and, if so manifested, will provide a vital base for survival as a national entity.

It is obvious that the September election in South Viet Nam represents a gamble. Whether it is a magnificent one, or a doomed one, the future will reveal. But the fact of an election in South Vietnam at this point in history is an arresting one. Its outcome may well have significant effects upon our own November elections and upon the future conduct of the war in Viet Nam.

If a relatively strong and unified government should ultimately evolve from this initial step (election of a constitutional assembly) -- a government which could attract the loyal support of the South Vietnamese people in thwarting Communist efforts to gain control of the country, this would be a welcome eventuality in that it could shorten the war and lessen American involvement in that area.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR CHESTNUT TREES

Congress has again passed a bill extending for three years the period during which certain extracts suitable for tanning may be imported into the U. S. free of duty. Behind that action lies the tragic saga of the American chestnut tree (once the most valuable single species in the mixed hardwood forests of the U. S.) and the story of a heavy economic blow to West Virginia, the effects of which may still be with the State for a long time to come.

At one period, the U. S. domestic tanning extract industry was dependent upon domestic chestnut wood and bark for production of chestnut tanning extract, the only vegetable tanning material which has been produced in this country in significant quantity. This material, tannin, is especially valuable for making heavy leather. Today, however, more than 85 percent of the material used in the U.S. is imported.

Earlier this century, the fungus disease known as chestnut blight, the most destructive forest disease known, killed off most of the chestnut trees in the Eastern U. S., with the damage in the Mountain State being especially heavy as one out of every four trees in the State was chestnut. This blight, accidentally introduced in the U. S. on Asiatic chestnut nursery stock, was first discovered in 1904. Because of the disease, which virtually wiped out the chestnut trees in Appalachian forests, domestic firms producing tanning extracts have been unable to secure raw materials. Thus, domestic availability of tanning extracts has steadily declined, and firms which previously engaged in extract production have generally gone into other operations.

However, the national need for tanning substances continues to grow. The 85th Congress, recognizing the need, passed a public law providing for suspension of duties with respect to tanning extracts chiefly used in the U. S. for tanning purposes. Recently, the U. S. Tariff Commission reported to the 89th Congress on the continued need for such duty suspension, pointing out that it had no information that would indicate the consideration which originally led to suspension of duties on these tanning extracts is not still pertinent.

This official statement, simple translated, means that today, almost three quarters of a century later, efforts to discover a blight resistant American chestnut are still continuing, but efforts to bring back the chestnut as a forest-tree species have had only limited success. Treatments with colchicine and irradiation are being tried, in hope of producing a mutant of American chestnut that has blight resistance. Throughout the Nation, Federal and State agencies are collaborating closely in exhaustive studies. In West Virginia, the West Virginia Agriculture Experiment Station has been working since the 1930's on an extensive project, collecting and growing American chestnut seeds, and testing newer seeds as the planted trees produce.

Some day, perhaps, the Congress will hear better news of the chestnut trees of the Nation, hopefully with favorable economic repercussions for West Virginia.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

CHANGING MONEY

The recent announcement that the U. S. Treasury is withdrawing all \$2 bills from circulation once again focuses public attention on the intricacies of the American monetary system. It also serves as conclusive evidence of the weighty effect which human foibles and superstitions can on occasion have on Federal policy, for greenbacks in \$2 denominations have never been popular with the general citizenry. In fact, over the years, these bills mysteriously acquired the reputation of being odd or just plain unlucky.

In the past, Treasury experts in an effort to "sell" the \$2 bills to the public made several attempts to popularize them. These resulted in little success, and the \$2 bills continued to lie idle in bank vaults. At the peak of their usage, the life of the average \$2 bill extended perhaps 3 years, in marked contrast to the 18-20 months use span of \$5 and \$10 bills.

Any Americans taking a last nostalgic look at the vanishing \$2 bills and becoming alarmed that this withdrawal will mean that the image of Thomas Jefferson (reproduced on \$2 bills) will fade from the public eye, monetarily speaking, need not feel any patriotic concern. The Thomas Jefferson 5-cent nickel coin, first released to the public in 1938, is much in circulation. Additionally, the Jefferson portrait is part of the design of not fewer than 12 U. S. postage stamps, which often are used in lieu of coins in transmitting payments for minor charges.

Also, anyone fearing that the loss of \$2 bills will mean a reduction in currency available for public needs can be reassured that the public demand is being met. The departure from circulation of

the ill-favored \$2 bill still leaves Federal Reserve notes being issued in \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 denominations. However, nothing above \$100 has been printed since June, 1946, due directly to lack of public appeal. Convenient, modernized banking practices have made unattractive the habit of carrying around bills of larger denominations. Our American \$1,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000 notes will continue to be paid out by Federal Reserve banks as long as existing stocks last.

Another interesting facet in the variegated history of the \$2 bill arose from the tendency of the American public to nickname its money. Bills of varying denominations have been called "greenbacks", "sawbucks", "fins", "century notes", and the like. In the case of the \$2 bill, the citizenry was not so kind, for an old saying developed, "As queer as a \$2 bill", for application to suspect circumstances or inexplicable events.

But the \$2 bill was not the only paper currency to be unflatteringly labeled. The outstanding example occurred as a result of one experiment authorized by Congress, the issuance of fractional paper currency in denominations of 3, 5, 10, 25, and 50 cents (and a small amount of 15-cent pieces), corresponding to the denominations of token or subsidiary coins. The usage of this low denomination paper money caused the loss in circulation of almost \$8 million to the U. S. Treasury during the 1870's, and the last issue was in 1876. This fractional currency had a low reputation, quality-wise, and was derisively dubbed "shin-plasters".

While it is indeed a fascinating business to study U. S. money changes, many Americans may find it even more arresting to consider the changes in the purchasing value of their American dollars over the years in relation to the fast-advancing national economy.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE HONEY CROP

The often-used, highly descriptive remark, "busy as a bee", conjures up in the minds of listeners a picture of ceaseless activity and evokes instant overtones of industriousness and efficiency.

And properly so, for Mother Nature's highly successful design of a creative and busy insect -- the bee -- furnishes humans with an excellent pattern of working habits.

Here in the United States, the busy bees are officially reported as being highly productive, reproductive, and money-making. The 1966 Bee Census, compiled by an intrepid Crop Reporting Board, reported 5,510,000 colonies of bees busily buzzing around the 48 States on or about July 1. While this represents a decline of 1 percent, for the 2nd successive year, the fault was not that of the bees, who have no interest in colony reduction. Instead, it is estimated that these bee losses are the result of starvation and winter kill, primarily traceable to poorer condition of nectar plants because of the late, cold, spring weather and drought conditions in the late summer. And poor blooming nectar plants means retardation of honey flow.

The South Atlantic States, which include West Virginia in the grouping, generally have been hard hit by drought conditions for the past several years; and, as one of the adverse economic effects in West Virginia, there has been a gradual drop in bee colony count and honey production, with some loss in farm income. In the Mountain State, the honey bee colony count dropped from 103,000 in 1964, to 97,000 in 1965, and 89,000 in 1966. The yield of 23 pounds of honey

per colony in 1964 dropped to 19 pounds in 1965, and is reported to have dropped in 1966 to 63 percent of the normal level -- all as a result of the steady drop in nectar plant growth to a current level of only 48% of former growth.

In West Virginia, the average price per pound of honey in 1964 was 33.2 cents. In 1965, it was 33.4 cents, with a total production value of \$787,000 in 1964, which decreased to \$616,000 in 1965. However, West Virginia farmers received only 15 cents per pound at wholesale prices for extracted honey in both of these years, despite the slight rise in retail price for honey in this form from 37 cents in 1964 to 38 cents in 1965. Generally, chunk and comb honey bring in much higher prices to the farmer at both retail and wholesale levels than does extracted honey. In West Virginia, these latter two honey types returned a uniform 38 cents per pound at both sales levels for 1964 and 1965.

Nationally, prices received by producers for honey averaged 17.8 cents per pound in 1965, as compared with the 1964 average price of 18.5 cents. These averaged prices included all wholesale and retail sales of extracted, chunk, and comb honey from both large and small apiaries owned by farmers and non-farmers.

As another source of revenue from the unflagging industry of West Virginia's busy bees, beeswax earned \$21,000 for producers in 1964 from a 47,000 lb. production, and brought in a like sum from a lowered production of 46,000 lbs. in 1965.

It is not yet possible to assess accurately the financial returns to West Virginians in 1966 from the continuous work of bee colonies, but it is likely to be lower than in past years, in view of the 2 percent decline in colonies and probable lessening of honey and beeswax production. But the records show that the busy bee proves the old adage that hard work, continued despite sometimes adverse circumstances, pays off in the long run, for the U. S. honey crop is a good money crop.

Byrd's Eye View
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U. S. SILVER COINS

The popularity of chocolate-with-white-icing layer cakes in the U. S. is not likely to rub off on the new three-layered coins now being minted to serve as our national 10-, 25-, and 50-cent pieces.

The new dimes and quarters are triple-decked coins, with dark center layers, or cores, of pure copper. Their two white metal exterior layers are of cupronickel, an alloy of 75 percent copper and 25 percent nickel. This cupronickel is the same alloy from which U. S. nickel pieces are made; and the external layers of this material, which are affixed to dime and quarter cores during coinage, are firmly bonded onto the centers in a manner which makes these coins compatible for all uses from dropping into church collection plates, and triggering coin-operated washing machines, to feeding into so-called "one-armed bandit" slot machines in gaming establishments.

However, the new 50-cent piece is, according to the U. S. Treasury, "a more aristocratic mixture", consisting of an inner core composition of 21 percent silver and 79 percent copper. But it, too, is of 3-layered composition, with two exterior coats of 80 percent silver and 20 percent copper bonded to the combination silver-copper core. Thus, the American half dollar presently authorized for minting is, in assay, only 40 percent silver, whereas the traditional silver 50-cent piece had a 90 percent silver content.

The designs of 10-, 25-, and 50-cent coins have been retained without change, and the year markage of all is being kept static at 1965 until such time as all coin shortages have disappeared. But the most frequently asked question about the new non-silver coins is,

"When will the Nation return to the old usage of greater proportional amounts of silver in U. S. coins?" And the answer is, "Most likely, not at all." The same reasons that caused the Federal government to make the changes to non-silver coins may be expected to increase rather than decrease in the future.

In gist, the U. S. greatly reduced the silver content of its coins because there is a world shortage of silver. Based on the demands of a continually expanding world population, there are proliferating industrial and artistic demands for silver, in addition to the tremendous pressure for silver in the form of coins as a medium of exchange. There are already 13 billion pieces of traditional 90 percent silver coins in circulation. These are totally inadequate in quantity to meet the demands; so that, beginning in November, 1965, 230 million non-silver 25-cent pieces were issued for public use, and the present rate of Mint production of quarters runs about one-quarter of a million monthly.

Many persons, well aware of the proliferating needs for adequate coinage in the machine-vending age, and the rising value of silver, have begun extensive silver coin collections. The value of American silver-coin hoards is estimated to run into the high millions. Indeed, some 900,000 numismatists have collections worth \$4,000 and upward.

Already the U. S. Mints in Philadelphia and Denver are on around-the-clock schedules, issuing the new non-silver coins, and a new mint is scheduled soon to become operative in Philadelphia, to enable the Treasury to meet the Nation's coinage needs.

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DRIVE IN

American highly mobile society has given impetus to business innovations not dreamed of in the early decades of the automobile manufacturing industry. The family car, once euphemistically labeled a "pleasure" car, is now more likely to be a highly utilitarian family adjunct.

Ten years ago it was estimated that about 18 percent of the average automobile's use was devoted to the pursuit of entertainment, both social and recreational. Work or business consumed 59 percent of its use; shopping, 15 percent; and a third category (all other), 8 percent. Now the increased usage of the automobile in meeting the complexities of daily living in our modern society has almost outmoded such categorization. Today, the term "drive-in" has been affixed to a number of business operations in a highly functional and successful manner.

The general public can well recall the early popularity of the drive-in movie. Its contribution to the American social scene was substantial, with many young American couples reputedly cherishing fond memories of evenings spent in front of big open-air screens. The drive-in restaurant, in its varied forms, has its own special place in American gustatory and social life, serving foods and beverages ranging from hamburgers, fried chicken, pizzas, milk shakes and cold colas to regional delicacies such as "chitterlings in season" at an occasional Deep South snack shack. The principle of inexpensively serving good food in a quick manner to car occupants has made millionaires of more than one enterprising American businessman. One drive-in hamburgerteria was the cornerstone for what in eleven years became a chain of drive-ins with 710 concessions in 44 States and profits

exceeding \$2-million annually.

But there are other types of drive-in businesses now established for the public convenience. One can drive in and leave off family cleaning and laundry, or arrange for shoe repairs, later returning to pick up finished work, without dismounting from one's auto. Drive-in banking in most U. S. cities is commonplace, with customers able to transact all regular banking business at what is very likely to be bulletproofed teller booths. In Denver, Colo., the world's largest motor bank admits only customers on wheels.

There are drive-in alcoholic beverage sales stores, with the general public doubtlessly hopeful the items purchased while on wheels will not be consumed while on wheels. There are drive-in grocery stores, produce markets, and florists. There are drive-in washeteria's for cars; and the Post Office Department has moved along with the tenor of the times and has set up mailboxes for drive-up posting of mail. There are also drive-in churches, which are really not so new after all, for in frontier days many a devout settler drove up to open air preaching in his sturdy wagon.

To drive in and do it (whatever it may be) is a typically American solution to business complexities -- quick and mobile. But one drive-in activity -- the innovation of drive-in trout fishing, as advertised in one Arizona locale -- is likely not to last too long, for surely the essence of good trout fishing is the leisurely pleasure derived from whole-hearted pursuit of the spritely trout.

Byrd's Eye View
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COAL NEWS

Coal has been much in the news of late, with a spate of items appearing in newspapers, periodicals, trade journals, and governmental reports. Coal-oriented West Virginians have likely found themselves involved in assaying the full import of the facts upon the interests of the State.

As an example, one current industrial report stated: "Bituminous coal continues to be West Virginia's most valuable single asset. West Virginia's bituminous is a high-quality coal, with a wide variety of uses, and the total reserves are estimated at 103 million short tons, about 6.2 percent of all coal reserves for the Nation. Yet, at present, only about half of these are classified as recoverable. A larger fraction should become available over time, as technology continues to improve."

Elsewhere, a newspaper story pointed out that the U. S. mineral demand is anticipated to double the consumption of minerals and mineral fuels in the coming 15 to 25 years. It further speculated as to how long presently known supplies would last, emphasizing that the supply problem is compounded by certain-to-occur population growth and attendant rises in per capita consumption of raw materials and energy. And a current Department of Interior report addressed itself to a similar theme--stating the belief that the world's undeveloped resources are large enough to support growing demands for the foreseeable future, provided Nations "aggressively and imaginatively press the search for knowledge of resources and for ways to discover, extract, and use them more effectively."

In yet another instance, a publication carrying reliable geological prospecting information announced, "Soviet coal resources account for 216,000 million tons out of the 937,000 million tons of world coal resource, with about 140,000 million tons of the highest grade discovered in Siberia. Presently, a substantial part of these deposits are situated in areas difficult to mine, because of the eternal frost and impassable virgin forest. In the U.S.S.R., need exists for development of the technology of mining, preparation, and transportation of coal to permit greater exploitation of coal resources."

West Virginians may well ask, "How does all of this affect our State, and our Nation?"

And the answer is: "Within the United States, and within West Virginia, one of our Nation's major coal repositories, research must be intensified, to permit our citizenry to stay abreast of the demands generated by fast-changing times, both from within our own borders and from competition abroad. Aggressive attention to research in coal utilization is imperative. The Government and industry must increase efforts to improve coal's position in the energy market as international challenges materialize."

The U.S.S.R., a streamlined, automated, industrial giant of a nation has already demonstrated its ruthless drive to higher and greater production levels, utilizing research as a powerful tool to advance the national interests. Can the United States afford to do less?

Byrd's Eye View
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EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Americans are regularly exposed to statistical quotations on educational facts of life in the U. S. Often such reports of percentages, totals and comparative standings are more confusing than illuminating. To set the record straight, the U. S. Office of Education and the National School Boards Association have prepared a summary of vital statistics of U. S. education.

For the school year 1965-1966, 54.5 million students were enrolled in public and private schools and colleges in the U. S.; 35.9 million pupils were enrolled in elementary schools (through Grade 8), of which 30.5 million were in public schools; and 12.8 million pupils were enrolled in U. S. secondary schools, with 11.4 million of these attending public high schools. The number of public schools operating during 1965-1966 was reported as increased over the total of 101,816 operating in 1963-1964, with a total of 1,595,150 classrooms listed as available at the start of the 1965-1966 school year. Additionally, there was a known need for 104,900 additional classrooms, of which 70,000 were scheduled for completion during the year.

A total of 1.69 million public school teachers taught in the 50 States and D. C. during 1965-1966, with their efforts augmented by 235,000 non-public school teachers; 429,000 college and university instructors; 13,784 superintendents of schools; 6,175 assistant superintendents of schools; 98,616 principals and supervisors; 129,585 local school board members; and 484 State Board of Education members.

Expenditures for education on all levels during 1965-1966 reached \$43.3 billion, with \$25.8 billion going to public elementary and secondary schools; \$3.7 billion to private elementary and secondary schools; \$8.1 billion to public colleges and universities; and \$5.7 billion to private colleges and universities.

For the year, the expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public elementary and secondary schools in the U. S. was estimated at \$533. In West Virginia, the expenditures were only \$367, placing the State 45th in the list of States, with only Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina, and Mississippi ranking lower. Yet in percentage of revenue receipts for public schools derived from State governments, West Virginia with 52.1 percent of receipts from the State ranked tenth on the national list, high above the average of 39.1 percent.

West Virginia ranked 34th among the State in estimated public elementary and secondary school enrollment for 1965-1966, with a cumulative enrollment of 437,500. It was the only State in the Union which showed a drop in such enrollment for that year as compared with 1955-1956, ten years previously. Over that ten-year period when the States of the Union averaged an increase of 40 percent in school enrollment, West Virginia showed a drop to minus 4.5 percent. Additionally, the State ranked 45th among the States in the estimated average salary paid to classroom teachers in public schools, paying only \$4,990, almost \$2,000 below the average national pay of \$6,506.

The conclusion, inescapably, is that West Virginia has a long way to go educationally, but that it has shown a will to push forward.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

BEDBUGS AND TERMITES

Bedbugs and termites are among the most noxious of insect invaders of the American home. Fortunately, with the increased sanitation of our more modern age, the prevalence of bedbugs is enormously diminished. However, a prime reason for this diminution is that the presence of bedbugs is early noticeable and is so greatly deleterious that human hosts usually strive promptly and mightily to rid themselves of the critters. By contrast, the stealthy infestation of American homes by termites often goes unnoticed until material damage has occurred. As a result, subterranean, or ground-nesting, termites cost the people of the United States many millions of dollars annually in repairs to homes and in control measures.

Also, whereas modern, more open, home construction tends to discourage the presence of bedbugs, some factors in modern home construction actually serve to encourage termite population. One of these factors, central heating, has made infestations of termites more prevalent because heated basements prolong the period of termite activity. As another, the increased use of concrete and masonry terraces adjacent to foundation walls and the haphazard use of slab-on-the-ground construction have provided favorable conditions for termite development.

The most effective defense against termite invasion is achieved by application of the same formula successfully used in protecting humans against disease--the usage of preventive measures. Such termite-preventive measures are most effectively taken in planning new construction, but they still need to be followed by termite inspection at regular intervals during the life of a structure. Also, home owners who are alert to the appearance of flights of termites are in

the best position to begin a search for points of entry which can be treated and blocked.

In planning construction, homeowners should include removal of all tree roots, stumps, and wood debris from the building site prior to beginning work. Drainage of water should be carefully designed to prevent moisture from accumulating in the soil beneath a building. Furthermore, the inclusion of metal termite shields of galvanized iron, zinc, copper, or terneplate can prevent hidden entry of termites, when properly made and installed in sealing unit masonry foundations. Poured concrete foundations, properly reinforced, are relatively resistant to termite penetration. Hollow-block or brick foundation piers capped with reinforced concrete or filled with cement mortar are also effective against termite invasion. Wooden piers, or posts, used for foundations or supports, should be pressure-treated in advance with an approved preservative. Especially important, the soil underneath concrete slab-on-ground construction should be pretreated with chemicals before pouring the concrete, to keep termites from traveling through the ground and up along expansion joints, around plumbing, and through cracks which may develop. Additionally, these openings should be filled with roofing coal-tar pitch or rubberoid bituminous sealers.

For the do-it-yourself homeowner, among the chemicals recommended for soil treatment are aldrin, benzene hexachloride, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, and heptachlor. The desirable quantities, a recommended liquid for forming the emulsion, and the rates and methods of emulsion application, should be based on authoritative instructions available from commercial handlers of the chemicals, or from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. These same chemicals, used during construction to avert termite attacks on buildings, are effective in checking penetration after termite discovery.

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VETERANS DAY 1966

It is wholly fitting that Americans should annually observe a Veterans Day, in commemoration of military services rendered in defense of our Republic. And this November, 1966, Americans may take special pride in such commemoration, having once again given substantial evidence of their recognition of the value of these military services. Through action by elected representatives in the 89th Congress, the Nation's citizenry substantially enlarged veterans payments and benefits under a variety of programs.

Among these are increases in war orphans' educational assistance allowances; cost-of-living increases and time extensions in subsistence allowances to disabled vets for educational rehabilitation; increases in hospitalization and disability compensation; increases in hospital care capacity; and provision of special indemnity insurance for combat service.

Of greatest potential value to all classes of veterans since the Korean Conflict is the enactment of the Cold War GI bill, providing permanent GI benefits estimated eventually to aggregate \$500 million annually. This sweeping new GI Bill provides educational allowances for veterans serving on active duty for six months or more since January 31, 1955, the expiration date of the Korean Conflict GI Bill. A maximum of 36 months of schooling, equivalent to 4 academic years of training, is provided; and it is estimated that, under these provisions, perhaps a half-million servicemen will be in college in any given month by 1970. Also, private home loans up to \$7,500 are underwritten by the government; or veterans are eligible for direct home loans up to \$17,500 if private financing is not available. Already under these programs over 200,000 Cold War vets entered college this fall and 40,000 housing loans are being handled.

Of special significance, the Cold War GI Bill helps serve as a rebuttal of claims that compulsory military service falls hardest on the poorer young male Americans--those without funds to attend colleges, and the high school drop-outs. Through this bill, our grateful Nation offers to the less affluent the means, as ex-servicemen, to attend colleges and universities as a well-deserved benefit of their military service. Furthermore, the provisions of the Cold War GI Bill are carefully not limited to educational training at the college level but are available for educational training for non-high school graduates.

Americans in commemorating Veterans Day, 1966, may take pride that, through its Federal instrument, the Veterans Administration, the Nation insures nearly 6 million vets at a total policy value of \$37 million; that it operates 165 hospitals, having 16,338 beds, or 7 percent of all hospital beds in the U. S.; that it annually administers home and business loans and educational benefits for thousands of former servicemen; and that it cares for the widows and families of the 10,000 or more veterans who die each year. For all these VA activities, almost \$6 billion was appropriated by the Congress for FY 1967.

In summary, the Veterans Administration, in behalf of the U. S. civic body, serves 25.6 million veterans; and, with an estimated 600,000 persons being separated from the various branches of the Armed Services each year, it may eventually serve more than 30 million veterans.

No other Nation in the world has ever so substantially, wisely, and consistently shown its gratitude for the sacrifices of former fighting men and their dependents.

Byrd's Eye View
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THE RISING COST OF LIVING

U. S. homemakers, concerned at the rising cost of living for families, as reflected in the price tags on food, clothing, medical items and household necessities, have a headache in common with Uncle Sam.

To express a greatly simplified parallel, the Federal agencies officially procuring for the government stand as "housekeepers" for Uncle Sam, helping him maintain his steady pace of activities and effectively provide for the millions of "nieces and nephews" who are his dependents. These agencies often are hard pushed to cover Uncle Sam's requirements when buying in the Nation's highly competitive sales arenas. They find, just as do many American housewives, that steering a thrifty course through the U. S.'s profit-motivated markets is a demanding task.

A fair estimate of some of Uncle Sam's national housekeeping purchase problems can be gained by reviewing trade publications and assessing departmental reports. One recent issue of a defense-oriented publication pointed out that the annual procurement of subsistence items for the four Military Services today surpasses \$1-billion. This subsistence covers perishable and non-perishable items, many in quantities well-nigh staggering to the imagination.

As a military spokesman described some of the magnitudes:

"If the annual requirements for beef for the Armed Forces were provided by one herd of cattle, the head of the herd would be in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, while the tail would be sweeping through Omaha, Nebraska. The 70 million dozen eggs bought annually for the Services would form a string of eggs long enough to girdle the globe,

with several hundred miles to spare; and the 60 million pounds of coffee required annually would provide enough brew to float a fleet of modern aircraft carriers and enough depth to enable all nuclear submarines to hide out indefinitely".

The General Services Administration, which routinely serves as purchasing agent for housekeeping and maintenance items necessary in the daily operations of fellow Departments, reports current annual purchases of 945,000 cartons of paper towels, each containing 7,500 towels, at a cost of \$4.7 million; 1.29 million brooms at a cost of \$1.8 million; and 1.1 million gallons of liquid soap at a cost of \$1.2 million. All of these add up to a lot of shopping for items similar to those checked out at local supermarkets by American housewives.

And the Veterans Administration, which operates 165 hospitals caring for thousands of Uncle Sam's ex-servicemen nephews, estimates that its general medical supplies are now up in cost approximately 3 percent. The VA annually buys enough yard goods, 3 feet wide, to stretch from Washington, D. C., to Denver, Colorado; enough gauze surgical sponges to cover 155 acres of land; enough X-ray film to cover 230 acres; enough bottles of anti-acid so that these, if stacked end on end, would form 1,750 stacks each as high as the Empire State Building; enough beds, if placed end to end, to reach eight miles; and enough disposal hypodermic needles to give one shot to every person in the States of New York and New Jersey (22½ million).

In a Nation founded economically on the principles of free enterprise, good old American management know-how is strongly challenged when buying under the shadow of rising price indexes; and each citizen can be grateful for the abundance of resources which, properly utilized, may, in time, act as a natural brake to upward cost spirals.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

AWARENESS OF BLESSINGS

Thanksgiving Day, celebrated as a national holiday on the fourth Thursday of each November, as authorized by act of Congress on December 26, 1955, is the occasion which is perhaps most perfectly expressive of our national spirit.

It has been described as combining in one concept the essence of American productive enterprise, domestic felicity, and religious devotion. It has been stated as representing the fruits of industry turned to family festivity and sanctified by prayer. It has been lauded as the national holiday dedicated to giving of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Thanksgiving Day, 1966, appropriately should mean all of these things to the citizens of this Nation. It, however, has an even deeper significance to thoughtful minds. To be grateful, in remembrance of great things past and of good things in the present, when all things seem to be working to our advantage, when there is national prosperity, good government, and an atmosphere of promotion of knowledge, and where there is the practice of individual freedom of worship, is not hard. To be thankful for being a citizen of this, the best of all countries, in this much less than perfect world, is not difficult.

But to be aware that, within another decade, the first two centuries of our Nation's history will have elapsed, and that the future, a partial view of which is even now with us, will take us from the simpler existence of youth as a Nation, with seemingly endless abundance, to a far more complicated and differing environment, is to add its own sharpness of awareness of blessings.

For to welcome the opportunity to turn one's intellect and one's good will toward providently using America's great heritage, richly and uniquely the essence of these United States, is to realize the trust placed in our citizenry.

Thus, to be able to feel thankfulness for the charge of administering this trust wisely and righteously is of greater virtue than mere thankfulness for past good fortune. As a great American president stated this charge:

"Ours is the opportunity as a free people to develop to the fullest extent all our powers of body, of mind, and of that which stands above both body and mind--of character. Into our care great resources of nature have been entrusted, and we are not to be pardoned either if we squander and waste them, or yet if we leave them undeveloped, for they must be made fruitful in our hands. Ever through the ages, at all times and among all peoples, prosperity has been fraught with danger, and it behooves us to beseech the giver of all things that we may not fall into love of ease and luxury, that we may not lose our sense of moral responsibility, and that we may not forget our duty to God, and to our neighbor."

Let us then as a people, aware of the blessing of the opportunity, and with unflinching determination, strive with all the strength that is given us to reap the full benefit of the potential diversity of experience and achievement which will inevitably form our common future.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

DELAYED MAIL

Considerable attention has been focused on the Post Office Department's announcement of recent difficulties in clearing up a heavy mailing backlog and of special fiscal arrangements to hire additional mail handlers and to take other hoped-to-be-corrective measures.

Quite likely this report of mail delivery difficulties touched a familiar chord in the memory of Mountain State'ers, for, since the establishment of postal service in the Trans-Allegheny Territory of Western Virginia in 1794 (by the creation of post offices at Morgantown and Wheeling), problems have plagued mail deliveries in the State, due to natural and other causes. Among the early records of delivery mishappenings, an official account of improved mail routes in the State praised the establishment of the "finest route in the country", from New York to Cincinnati, made possible by "railroad service extended to Cumberland, Maryland, thence to Wheeling by four-horse coach daily at a running speed of seven miles an hour". Then, close on the heels of this laudatory announcement came a second, reporting that trouble had popped up at Wheeling to delay mail deliveries. According to the Postmaster General, "Important mail was always detained at the ferry of the Ohio River some 10 to 12 hours because the proprietor of the ferry could not be induced to encounter the danger of crossing the mail stages in the night". At that time, although the Cumberland road had been constructed east and west of the Ohio, no bridge had yet been built across the river.

Another early account commiserated with the Post Office Department because of mail delivery problems in West Virginia,

pointing out that "roads were few and rough; great mountains and vast forests formed obstacles to trusty mail delivery; and numerous bridgeless streams must be crossed at risk of life and limb to the carrier". Reflecting these difficulties, schedules for some of the mail routes in 1850 were as follows: "Mail to Romney from Clarksburg (109 miles), 3 times a week; Wheeling to Parkersburg (95 miles), 3 times a week--by steamboat when possible; Kanawha Custom House to Glenville (76 miles), once weekly; and Morgantown to Wheeling (67 miles), once weekly".

But perhaps the most pungent story of all early mail delivery difficulties in West Virginia revolves around the problems encountered in 1820 by one stage coach firm which, having contracted to carry mail from Greenbrier County, W. Va., to Clarksburg, could not get the mail across the Cheat Mountain country in winter. Eventually, the Clarksburg postmaster reported the defaulting carrier to Washington. Shortly thereafter, an official departmental reprimand went to the owner of the coaching firm, who promptly dispatched a blistering reply. This epistle, later framed and hung in the office of the Postmaster General, read as follows: "Postmaster General-Dear Sir: If the gable end of H--- should blow out and shower fire, smoke, and melted lava for forty days and nights, it would not melt the snow enough on Cheat Mountain so as to get your d---- mail out on time."

Hopefully, all such correspondence is now a part of West Virginia's colorful past history. Today the Post Office Department serves 388 routes covering 17,056 miles in West Virginia, and is delivering mail throughout the State through 38 first-, 105 second-, 361 third-, and 641 fourth-class post offices. Through these 1,145 post offices, and 102 branches and stations, West Virginia's postal development is keeping pace with its progressive sister States.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

MONEY IN MACHINES

There's money--substantial amounts of money--being made by U. S. firms owning and placing in operation coin-triggered amusement devices. This highly lucrative method of earning a living has been reported by 3,074 establishments (all with payrolls) as bringing in total receipts of \$260.6 million during 1963, the most recent year for which such statistics are presently available.

As reported to the U. S. Department of Commerce on the 1963 Census of Business, money-making machines included 138,225 music machines, with \$90 million in receipts; 70,326 pinball machines, with \$47 million in receipts; and 92,478 "other" amusement machines, with \$57 million.

New York State led the Nation with 268 firms in the business in 1963, with receipts reported at \$21 million. California ranked second, with 231 establishments and \$18.4 million in receipts. Illinois, which evidently has a large number of "music lovers" among its citizenry, topped the Nation in "music" machines, with a total of 11,425 reported. Maryland, which has been frequently in the news with public debates on the advantages and disadvantages of governmental licensing of slot machines, obviously had a large number of sporting types among its populace, as it reported only 1,867 music machines in operation in December 1963 as compared with 3,359 pinball machines and 5,390 "other" amusement machines.

In West Virginia, there were 58 coin-operated amusement-device establishments reported as having receipts of \$4,971,000. On December 31, 1963, a total of 3,035 music machines were being operated by these firms for an average annual return of \$457 each.

As of that same date, 2,303 pinball machines were in operation by West Virginia establishments at a return of \$691 per machine; and 1,014 other amusement machines were in function, returning approximately \$607 per machine.

It is noteworthy that these statistics on revenue garnered by machines serving the public were gathered at about the time the tremendous yen for dancing to discotheque music had just begun to sweep the Nation. Subsequent annual reports by the Bureau of the Census should provide an interesting insight into the financial advantages gained from the nationwide vogue of dancing to recorded music, as popularized originally by the Nation's youngsters.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

COMMERCIALIZATION OF CHRISTMAS

Recurrently with the arrival of the Christmas season come public denunciations of the growing commercialization of Christmas.

Various religious leaders, editorial writers, and sociologists have labeled Christmas as "the greedy season", "the department store owners' paradise", and "an orgy of commercialism". Ministers have warned that Christians have become so immersed in the activities which make Christmas pay that they have lost the deeper significance of the season.

A real basis for such apprehension may indeed exist. Certainly it is eye-opening to read published reports that, in the U. S., between \$8 and \$9 billion dollars annually are spent on Christmas gifts; that one-fourth of all sporting goods, cameras, fine jewels, watches, and candy are bought in December; that almost half of all the toys and games are sold then; that between 150 and 175 million dollars are spent on gift wrapping paper and ribbons; that 3 to 4 billion Christmas cards are sold; and that more than 100 million dollars are spent for Christmas trees cut down in a country dedicated to conserving its forests. These are but a few of the statistics quoted to sustain the theory that big business is capitalizing on the traditional symbols of Christmas and that Santa Claus is becoming synonymous with the dollar sign.

But there are other views on the place which Christmas and its symbols truly occupy in the hearts of Americans. Many thoughtful persons feel that the religious aspects of Christmas are more generally recognized in the 20th Century than at any time since

America was colonized. It is pointed out that, not only in the U. S. but also throughout many non-Christian countries of the world, Christmas has become a symbol of a relaxation of human pressures and of a time of grace. It is said that, through the example of this Nation and other similarly dedicated Christian Nations, the period of the celebration of the birth of Christ has become widely observed as a period of goodwill.

Historians have traced the absorption of Christmas customs into the layer of other cultures and have noted the establishment of a tradition of a period of peace and rejoicing as symbolized by the Christian season of Christmas. Many peoples of the East now celebrate Christmas as a festival of birth and as a renewal of faith in the family of man. As one example, in many chapels in India, where choirs sing in Hindi, participants in Christmas season services include Jews and Gentiles, Christians and pagans, Hindus, Moslems, Sikhs, Parsis, Buddhists, and Jains.

Christmas lends itself to gaiety, to the giving of gifts to Christmas decorations, and to wassailing. It also lends itself to the giving of alms, the expression of joyful greeting, the memory of home and loved ones, and the deepest prayers for peace among men.

The fundamental truth of Christmas as it becomes a part of the celebration of every Christmas, everywhere, is that it is not thought of as a season of buying and selling, or merry-making, but that it is a season for immortalizing the soul of humanity--an opportunity for all of the members of the family of man to unite, spontaneously, in dedication to the deepest longing of the human spirit for "peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

INVESTING IN WEST VIRGINIA'S FUTURE

The current vicissitudes of the stock market have brought forth some highly colored language from uneasy investors and have inspired many to seek purchases of more stable investment instruments.

One likely prospect for such investment lies in the purchase of municipal and State bonds. With States and municipalities progressively needing money to undertake programs required to meet the needs of an expanding population, new bond issues regularly make their appearance on brokerage calendars. The prospects for choices of good investments, from among issues open to the public, vary in quality from the more solid (those with least investment risk) to those with increasing investment risk. Generally, the ratings assigned to these securities provide the prospective investor with a simplified system of gradation by which to measure relative investment qualities.

As one authority, Moody's Bond Ratings include a range of rating symbols such as "Aaa", "A", "Ba", "C", and the like, and are accompanied by pertinent background information on the securities reviewed. "Aaa" ratings are given to bonds adjudged to be of the most sterling quality, with descending values listed in descending alphabetical order. There is also a wide variety of other informational material available to the would-be investor, offering an analysis of various bond issues and furnishing clues to investment quality and value changes.

The quality of most bonds is not necessarily fixed and steady over a period of time, but most frequent changes in ratings

are apt to occur on bonds of greater risk. However, a wise investor early learns that a watchful eye is one of his greatest assets, in attempting to invest profitably, enabling him to note quickly any changes in rating status or investment quality of his bonds.

Within the State of West Virginia, the assumption of revenue obligations by various official bodies has brought forward public offerings of a variety of bond issues. Included among these have been revenue bonds of State institutions, such as universities and colleges. Sales of some of these have made possible the construction of dormitories, academic buildings, and library facilities, as well as land purchases. Sales of other bond issues have permitted construction of municipal sewers and waterworks. Moody's Municipal and Government Manual currently lists "Aa" and "A" ratings as investments for many of these.

As an added appeal to would-be investors, all bonds of the State of West Virginia, or its subdivisions, are exempt from payment of the State property tax. For West Virginians, there is additional merit in the fact that investing in West Virginia's municipal and State bonds, issued to help provide for the State's growth needs, is also investing in West Virginia's progressive future.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE STATE OF THE UNION

The coming of a new year traditionally provides an anchoring point for impressive summaries of past national accomplishments and predictions of significant things to come. The major one, of course, is that delivered by the Nation's Chief Executive to the Congress, coinciding with its convening in January of each year.

One vital point which might appropriately be covered in such summaries is the need for Americans to do some soul-searching in relation to the simple, old-fashioned, virtues of hard work and good quality of workmanship.

Business leaders and conscientious workers and public servants alike are concerned with the problems of sustained productivity in the U. S.--a productivity which, while being measured in terms of input and output, Gross National Product, increased personal income, raised standards of living, replacement demand, consumer credit, and similar economic indicators, can best be obtained through continuous, industrious pursuit of excellence in day-by-day work. In 1966, more people received more money for generally fewer hours of work, at a lower Federal tax pay, than in any previous year in modern economic annals. The American worker received the highest wage in the world for production of a greater over-all volume of goods than was produced in any other Nation in the world. In achieving this production, a tremendous treasure of new techniques and materials was utilized.

Forecasts for 1967 generally promise a similar economic miracle. But this rosily projected picture does not reveal a certain growing threat to the Nation's financial equilibrium. A significant part of the past U. S. economic acceleration lies in the spiraling consumer demand, both at home and abroad, for improved products and better services. Yet in many areas of output, productivity is not keeping pace with the increase in pay. In the midst of high employment, there exist significant shortages of skilled labor, and the lack of sustained quality output in various

manufactured products has been increasingly brought to public attention. Recent Congressional inquiries have been instituted in matters dealing with the safety of automobile manufacture, drug standards, and aircraft production.

For sustained growth in the American economy, domestic and international confidence in the product of the American worker is an indispensable element. The economy of the U.S. may be likened to a racing engine, capable of operating at a full pitch of prosperity, which can grind to a jarring halt if sound, safe workmanship is not a regular part of its maintenance routine.

Confidence in the ability of the American worker to turn out quality products and services that people need and want is one of the cornerstones of America's economic might. There is no sophisticated modern formula to replace good old American "know-how" and "can-do". Only continued hard work to achieve excellence in every individual field of endeavor will serve. The state of the Union will remain sound only so long as this and other basic principles are recognized and adhered to.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

TAXES FOR 1967

The old saying, "Only two things in life are certain, death and taxes", should not mistakenly be translated in 1967 to mean higher taxes. Nor should a general climate of pressure for increased taxes be allowed to form, unchallenged, in over-reaction to fluctuations in the U. S. economy.

For months a running tide of advice has surged forth from various quarters of the Nation, touting the advisability of an immediate tax increase. Increases in corporate business taxes have been urged. Dire consequences have been predicted if personal income tax scales were not revised upward, effective for 1966, or beginning in the year 1967. Some theorists have justified urging a general income tax increase as a basis for directly returning a percentage of Federal income to state and local governments, to provide additional financing. Some have urged an increase to act as a brake on the so-called run-a-way national economy, as the surest guarantee against inflation. Some have said financing the escalating cost of the undeclared war in Viet Nam demands it. Others have said the national commitment to long-range welfare programs, basic components of the Great Society, demands higher taxation.

In late 1965, and throughout 1966, such statements regularly have been issued, often accompanied by dire predictions of heavy economic losses if positive steps toward general tax increases were not taken. As a counter-balance, other economists, supported by cool-headed financiers and practical businessmen, have counseled caution, pointing out that excessive pressure on business through a tax increase might cause an unhealthy leveling of growth.

Thus, despite a mounting clamor for higher taxes, the judgment

of more restrained heads prevailed; and, significantly, the year 1966 came and departed with the Nation's Gross National Product (total output of goods and services) increasing, with the rate of employment up, and without an economic crash. Interestingly, voices now can be heard chorusing that it is too late for the Federal government to enact a tax increase in 1967 since such action was not administered as a check to inflationary pressures many months earlier.

It is perhaps difficult for the general public to wend its way through the complicated pro's and con's of technical discourses on economic checks and balances. However, observant citizens are not likely to feel the Nation's economy is ailing greatly when they note personal incomes across the U. S. have continued to advance throughout the year 1966 although the exact opposite was predicted by pessimists. The most recent summary on personal incomes indicated the national gain to be about eight percent for the year, with West Virginia leading the Mid-South States in chalking up a gain of almost six percent.

Based on this one powerful indicator alone (and there are many others equally persuasive), cuts in non-essential Federal spending would certainly appear first to be in order before any Congressional action to boost taxes can be justified. It is hard to believe a strong case of damage to the American economy can be made when the general citizenry is continuing to profit comfortably. At the present time, one might justifiably retort, when a tax increase is urged, "Why rock the economic boat?".

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

HELICOPTERS IN WEST VIRGINIA'S FUTURE

Any dedicated crystal-ball gazer, intent on peering into West Virginia's future, might well envision helicopters darting in and about the State.

The helicopter, one of the earliest "flying machines", formerly was edged out in general usage by fixed wing aircraft, which developed more rapidly. Thus, until recently, few refinements were made on helicopters, and noise and vibration continued as prime deterrents to the public appeal vital for underwriting commercial development.

Currently, 75 percent of U. S. helicopter production is purchased by the Armed Forces, and the helicopter is enthusiastically considered by the Army as a welcome modern replacement for the Army mule. Military usage of helicopters includes a remote area refueling system, evacuation of wounded in Viet Nam, rescue of downed pilots on land and sea, observation and surveillance of enemy operations, deployment of troops, retrieval of downed aircraft, movement of heavy artillery pieces and equipment (up to 14,000 lbs.) and handling of enormous tonnages of military supplies. This tremendously expanded military utilization of "choppers" has given impetus to modifications and new designs, for special services which are in growing civilian demand.

Many persons have urged inauguration of helicopter commuter service as a partial answer to the Nation's urban traffic congestion problem, pointing out that, since 1947, regular helicopter commuter service has successfully operated between airports and communities in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

In some U. S. cities, such as Chicago and New York, the Federal Government in the past subsidized scheduled helicopter operations. Last year Congress passed a bill to provide for scheduled helicopter service in the Washington, D. C., and Baltimore, Maryland, area. Also, the Post Office Department, in modernizing its functions, initiated selective usage of helicopters in speeding mail deliveries to and from airports and major metropolitan downtown post offices.

The petroleum industry makes wide use of helicopters in construction operations, to patrol pipelines and transport men and service rigs. Mining companies use them to get men and equipment into and out of isolated mining locations. Helicopters are well adapted to air mapping, such as surveys for power lines and geological mapping, and for crop dusting and spraying. The U. S. Forest Service uses them in pesticide spraying to avoid contamination of adjacent streams and pasturelands. Helicopters are replacing boats for use in the control of algae and weeds in lakes and reservoirs, and they are useful in fighting and patrolling forest fires and in traffic patrol.

As a great advantage, helicopter landing facilities are relatively inexpensive and simple to construct. Many of the landing spots are just pads.

Experts point out that Greenland (Denmark's possession off the northern Atlantic coast of North America, now has as its public transportation service an all-helicopter airline which serves the entire country--a sort of flying streetcar system. Since much of Greenland's topography can be likened to areas of West Virginia, transportation specialists suggest that the Mountain State could propel itself forward significantly by similarly inaugurating regular intra-State helicopter service.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

WINDS OF CHANGE

Some Kremlinologists (the hard-to-pronounce term used to label persons who watch and weigh developments in the United Soviet Socialist Republics) are making cautious noises about happenings which they label "symptomatic" of an approaching thaw in attitude toward the West. These political pundits cite instances which they assess to be evidential of their encouraging theory.

They call attention to the announcement by the Kremlin, late in 1966, of big advances in wholesale prices to accelerate profit-earning, simultaneously promising not to cause cost-of-living increases to the Russian man-in-the-street.

They cite authoritative reports by aviation experts, privy to Soviet planning to construct a "jumbo jet" (a supersonic transport), that the first such aircraft in operation will be a Russian transport, rushed to completion not merely for the prestige of capturing a world "first" but for the hard practicality of attracting world dollars, both in cash generated by inter-continental travel demands and from tourists traveling within the USSR. It is significant that major efforts have been announced by Soviet authorities to improve tourist accommodations in the hope of expanding Russia's just budding tourism industry.

The analytical Kremlin watchers point out that, in a giant capitulation to that most capitalistic of all symbols--the privately-owned automobile--the Russians are rushing to multiply car production, hopefully quadrupling native Soviet output to an annual figure nearing one million in the early 1970's. Additionally, arrangements have been negotiated for a Fiat (Italian automobile) plant to be built within the Soviet borders, with a capacity of 2000 cars a day. Yet only a few years ago now-deposed

Premier Khrushchev decried private car ownership as a capitalist attitude, not appropriate to Soviet conditions.

The Kremlinologists forecast that concomitant with the crash expansion of private car production and sales in the USSR will come demands for more and better roads. Already, a pressure program has developed to provide more garages. Astonishingly, in the Soviet Union, covering one-sixth of the earth's land surfaces, at present there are known to be only about 200 garages where travelers can secure car repairs. As one eye-opening example, in the major city of Leningrad, there are only three repair shops for the city's almost 50,000 cars.

The coming adjustments to the creeping capitalistic approach of profit-making and to the Soviet citizenry's more and more open demands for better, more modern living conditions, as symbolized by car-hunger, cannot fail to alter the social and industrial life within the Soviet Republics. With public opinion beginning to count and with profit-making becoming an important factor in Soviet planning, the rigid ideological hold of Communism is obviously being subjected to erosion.

Whether or not there actually has begun to be a subtle transition from a political state of uncertain co-existence between the USSR and the U. S. to one of peaceful engagement, it is encouraging to note the outcroppings of signs of permeation of Western influences.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

CLEARING THE AIR

The increasing gravity of America's air pollution troubles is generating urgent demands that the Federal government inaugurate a uniform national program leading to air pollution abatement.

Critics allege that piecemeal efforts on local and state levels have represented hardly more than a beginning effort; that actually the Nation is little better off in its air pollution combat position than it was a decade ago; that 135 million tons of pollutants are annually discharged into the air over the U. S.; and that the present provisions of the Federal Clean Air Act of 1963, and its subsequent amendments, are inadequate to meet compelling national needs.

In late 1966, the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, in announcing the formation of a six-man Task Force on Environmental Health and Related Problems, warned that air pollution was one of the Nation's major problems. The panel appointees were instructed to assess the long-range national needs (perhaps as anticipated through a period of fifty years) and make appropriate recommendations in a report due in mid-1967.

This group of experts is now in the process of holding conferences across the Nation, seeking information as to individual State and regional programs and research efforts, and making inspection trips as well as doing some independent research. Task Force members are expected to visit West Virginia, and among the things they will find is a growing awareness by West Virginians of the increasing incidence of lung cancer, emphysema, bronchitis, and asthma. They will find that Mountain State-ers well realize that smog and air pollution is not merely a problem peculiar to large

metropolitan areas but one that affects small towns and rural areas as well.

They will find that West Virginia has a long-vested interest in combating air pollutants because of the crippling experiences of coal miners. They will find that West Virginia's coal industry is progressively concerned to contribute effectively toward reducing air pollutants which may arise from industrial and home usage of coal as a fuel. They will find that the State's educational institutions are alert to opportunities to advance research in developing anti-smog automobile fuels, in awareness of the U. S. Public Health Service's belief that more than fifty percent of the U. S. air pollution is caused by automobiles.

It is also possible that, at a practical, every day level, the panel will discover that West Virginia housewives are hoping that reduction of pollutants in the air will not only bring important health advances but will also be helpful to the family budget. As a matter of long-term experience, many homemakers have found that curtains, upholstery fabrics, carpeting, and many types of clothing have suffered from atmospheric gases, air-borne acids, and other polluting residues. And what West Virginia ladies have learned from personal experience has been given official accreditation by some research institutes. One such example, the copyrighted pamphlet by the National Institute of Cleaning and Dyeing, in the Washington, D. C., Metropolitan area, reports that scientific experiments prove acid fumes in smoke cause weakening of fabrics and constitute one of the major causes of losses in curtains and drapes in homes.

West Virginians, in common with fellow citizens across the land, have strong reasons for clearing America's air.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S.-U.S.S.R. RAPPROCHEMENT

Current Senatorial hearings on a Consular Convention with the Soviet Union are serving as a launching pad for review of the general range of U.S.-U.S.S.R. relations and reviving the question of a ripening climate for U.S.-U.S.S.R. rapprochement. Among the aspects of this relationship likely to be debated are expanded East-West trade, arms control, aid to backward nations, and world population control.

The Administration has expressed itself as desiring both the Consular Convention and the discretionary authority to reopen certain avenues of trade in non-strategic goods with Eastern nations. This Consular Convention, proposed in form of a treaty between the U. S. and the Soviets, would offer additional avenues of prompt diplomatic access and support to citizens of each of these two Nations who may get into trouble while traveling within the territorial confines of the other Nation.

As a much larger proportion of American citizens annually travel in the U.S.S.R. than Soviet citizens travel in the U.S., this treaty would, on its face, appear to be heavily weighted in favor of the U. S. In 1966, the number of American citizens traveling in the U.S.S.R.--a total of 18,000--compared with a total of less than 1,000 Soviet nationals visiting this Nation, to result in a ratio of 18 Americans to 1 Soviet. Should the consular treaty be ratified, the State Department expects early thereafter to open an additional American consulate in the U.S.S.R., providing expanded facilities for protection of increasing numbers of American tourists.

As a counterbalance of this worthy objective, a Soviet

Consulate would be opened in a major U. S. city providing similar service for Soviet nationals and also offering an expanded base for Communist espionage in this country. While it is true that there would be an equal opportunity for increased intelligence activity by Americans in the U.S.S.R., given the closed nature of the Soviet society as contrasted with the free society of the U.S., the opportunities are less than equal.

Opponents of the Consular Convention are further concerned because, under its provisions, Soviet consular officers and employees would be given immunity from criminal jurisdiction of the U. S., with respect to both misdemeanors and felonies. These opponents believe that this extension of immunity is a prime objective of the Soviets, opening up the way to safe espionage and other subversion on the part of greater numbers of Soviet personnel.

To chart a safe course between the advantages and disadvantages of changes in the present status of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. relations will require astute evaluation of the climate of the times. To assist in this evaluation, it is well to determine what indications may exist that the U.S.S.R. is indeed approaching a point where some increase in contact is more advantageous than disadvantageous.

2-11-67

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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Volume VII - Number

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

A LIFETIME OF PROGRESS

The Statistical Abstract of the United States, published by the Department of Commerce, is a "mine" of information. As a former West Virginia coal-miner's son, it is probably natural for me to think of this handy volume in terms of being a "mine", for I regularly dig about in the annual editions for quick verification of helpful facts.

However, the 1965 edition of this Abstract has given me a definite feeling of nostalgia. When I consider all the changes reflected in this standard summary of statistics on U. S. social, political, and economic organization, as compared with the era of my West Virginia boyhood, I find myself wistfully recalling those years of simpler pleasures and far less complicated existence.

Back in 1927, forty years ago, I remember seeing my first radio, a sturdy set with earphones. It was on the occasion of the second Jack Dempsey-Gene Tunney prize fight, when I was in a gathering of perhaps 50 people in my community clustered around the set to hear the fight. Because of my young age, I was low man on the listening list, and the fight was over before I got my turn at the earphones. By contrast, it is a common sight to see youngsters strolling about the Nation's Capital City, carrying transistor radios and listening to their favorite "pop" music while sightseeing. And, according to the Abstract, in 1963 there were more than 63 million American households equipped with one or more radios and more than 61 million with television.

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Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

The words "What is Past Is Prologue" are chiseled on the imposing stone facade of the Federal Archives Building in Washington, D. C., the repository for our national records.

Poetically phrased, this is a succinct analysis of the value of our American history to our Nation--a summary of the truth that a knowledge of the growth and development of our free institutions and their human values strengthens our ability to utilize these institutions and apply these values to present and future needs and problems.

The President has formally proclaimed February as American History Month for 1967, and the Congress has pending before it a Joint Resolution designating February each year as American History Month. This Resolution points out that the study of history not only enlivens appreciation of the past but also illuminates the present and gives perspective to national hopes and aspirations. It notes that Americans may well honor their debt to the creativity, wisdom, work, faith, and sacrifice of those who first secured our freedoms, and should recognize their obligation to build upon this heritage so as to meet the challenge of the future.

In the belief that it is important to encourage a deeper awareness in all Americans of the great events which shaped this Nation, and a renewed dedication to the ideals and principles established by our forefathers, the Resolution sponsors are seeking the continuing designation of February as American History Month. It is hoped especially that schools will establish a practice of observing this designation with appropriate ceremonies, thus increasing the recognition by young Americans of the value of increased knowledge of our history and the principles which make our Republic great.

Schools in many of our States regularly plan trips for students to the Nation's Capital City, so that they may view at first hand the operations of various Federal institutions and relate the processes of government today to our past. None of the places visited by students exceed in beauty and significance the Capitol building itself.

One Congressman has said that the Capitol and the accumulation of the works of art in this magnificent building represent a paramount and most interesting portion of the history of the Nation, beginning with the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol in 1793 by President George Washington.

Young West Virginians visiting the Capitol will find a fascinating array of art works, such as the "Statue of Freedom", the Rotunda frieze, paintings, statuary, and commemorative plaques and markers, and will take pride in locating the impressive seal of the Mountain State mounted in the Assembly Chamber of the House of Representatives. They will doubtlessly wish to relate the facts developed on tours to the part West Virginia has taken in the growth of our magnificent Nation, perhaps seeking out the marble statues of two of the State's early builders, finding that of Francis H. Pierpont in Statuary Hall and the one of John E. Kenna among eighteen situated in the Hall of Columns. Both of these dedicated Americans were able servants of their State during the early years of its formation.

And all visitors from the State of West Virginia will doubtlessly wish to locate the seats assigned to their two Senators, to listen to their Senators and Representatives as they debate the issues of the day, and to watch as history is being made in the halls of Congress.

(Senator Robert C. Byrd is a co-sponsor of the Resolution designating February of each year as American History Year.)

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
105 Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

Volume VII - Number 8

February 24, 1967

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

WAR ON HUNGER

Additions of new weaponry in the U. S. defense arsenal and changes in defense systems attract widespread comment and arouse national as well as international attention, and properly so. In any well-conceived defense program future requirements are anticipated, new weapons are constantly sought, selected items are contracted into production, and end items are effectively moved into supply channels for instant utilization.

The same principles are applicable to another war, a global, ceaseless war, one which is as old as civilization itself--the war against hunger. And today, there is a growing realization that older, conventional foods, in naturally produced state, are inadequate in volume and kind to meet world nutrition demands. Scientists foresee the day when specialists will be required to study the eating habits, habitat, and nutrition needs of a people and then develop and produce ideal new foods for them.

Today the average American super-market shopper may well ask, "Why should we become so excited? What's the big rush? Statistics show Americans are eating an estimated 8,000 or more kinds of food, and newspapers, magazines, and television programs indicate the food industry is developing ever greater diversity in products." These are indeed true facts, and quite impressive; but even more mind-arresting because it is predicted that in the next ten years approximately 50 per cent of the food sold in the U. S. today will be entirely different, representing something close to a food revolution. The greatly increased use of additives and preservatives, and the development of new products, will be necessary to meet changes in modes of living and population increases and shifts, and in response to technological advances. Researchers have predicted that, eventually,

synthetic foods may form a substantial part of our national diet.

Basically, however, there will always exist the human need for adequate nutrition. An arsenal of foods packed with nourishment must be available to protect the American people just as an arsenal of weapons is needed to protect them from military encroachments.

And the U. S. does not exist in the world alone. Hungry people abound in the underdeveloped countries, and inexpensive products with a high protein value and the virtues of long life and simple usage are sorely needed. One likely prospect for great development lies in fish protein concentrate and in achieving a whole range of fish protein products. Scientists have also successfully researched methods of producing some vegetable proteins, for example, from oilseeds. One forecaster, only half facetiously, has predicted a greater future for soyburgers than hamburgers.

The widening field of food processing, and the related field of research and development of food substances, offers prospects for expansion of commercial production and distribution of food products. West Virginia has potentials for industrial development along this line, with its suitability for development of commercial fish hatcheries, the presence of a container industry, the abundance of power sources, and the availability of labor. It is possible for it to become a prime contractor for manufacture of nutrition weapons in the war on hunger.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

AUTO SHOW WITH A MOTIVE

At the first hint of spring, fashion shows burst out all over the American countryside. There are boat shows, ladies' fashion shows, flower shows, baby shows, horse shows, art shows, furniture shows, sporting goods shows, ad infinitum.

All these displays and viewings are designed to reveal trends in goods and appurtenances, in order to educate and titillate the buying tastes of the American public.

But the U. S. Capitol this year is going to have its own personal spring show--possibly one of the world's most exclusive automobile shows--designed to instruct and titillate the minds of the members of the 90th Congress.

This Capitol Hill auto show will exhibit neither antique cars nor vehicles for docking and maneuvering in outer space. Instead, there will be available for inspection several models of electric cars, all without notable pasts but likely to have big futures. (They are being exhibited under the auspices of the Chairmen of the Senate Commerce Committee and the Public Works Air and Water Pollution Subcommittee. These committees are beginning joint hearings on legislation to promote the development of electric vehicles and to examine other alternatives to the internal combustion engine. They wish to attract the attention of their colleagues as they set forth to make war against the Nation's dirty air.

In seeking weapons and ammunition to win the anti-air-pollution battle, the Committees do not know whether or not the electric car will prove to be an effective instrument of attack. They have been advised in a "staff" study by the Federal Power Commission that short-range electric automobiles could become practical

in the near future and that these smaller, battery powered automobiles could make a major contribution where air pollution is critical, by replacing passenger cars and trucks the exhausts of which are poisoning the air, and where urban congestion is reaching the saturation stage.

But many problems must be solved before the electric car can become available in mass at a reasonable cost. A plethora of research must be successfully accomplished before it is possible to establish a technology capable of producing a long distance battery for propelling passenger vehicles, or otherwise developing a practicable method of automatically recharging an electric automobile system.

It has been estimated that, in a decade perhaps, electric cars can be mass produced which will be superior in silence of operation and reduction in source of air pollution. The prospect for development of electric car usage has powerful implications drastically affecting the American public. A major benefit from mass usage could be a less smoggy land, but economic difficulties are possible as a result of industrial interests in continued conventional car production and usage.

It is not certain that Capitol Hill's spring auto show will be a trend setter, but it is sure to achieve one of its aims--it will titillate the minds of the show viewers and will alert the general public to the prospects of a change in the motoring landscape.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

U. S. BABYSITTING PROBLEMS

Changes in the mode of living in the U. S. are reflected strongly in crime and accident statistics. One area which has not previously been considered as generally involved in either crime or accident statistics has begun to receive increased attention by Federal, State, and local welfare and correctional authorities--that of teenage babysitting.

Today there are considerably more than a million teenage babysitters, intent on earning spending money or ambitiously gathering stakes for purposes such as securing a higher education. The utilization of teenage baby sitters has become the answer to the American family problem of what to do with young children when mama and papa are away from home. Under normal circumstances this solution to the family problem of temporary child care is a beneficial, healthy, and enjoyable solution for parents, children, and teenage sitters. Nonetheless, this solution has itself given rise to other problems which are causing headaches to welfare and law enforcement officials, so much so that the U. S. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare has issued a booklet entitled "When Teenagers Take Care of Children".

This helpful booklet is, for the most part, geared to instruction on how teenagers can be better babysitters and how to avoid accidents, stating as a primary admonition, "Your main job is to watch the child". It reminds the teenager, "As a sitter, you are a pretty important person in the life of the child. He may watch you closely, and copy from you. Be sure you are setting a good example." It adds, "The children in your care must be kept safe and away from harm". It instructs the baby sitter to get in writing from the parents the phone numbers where the parents can be reached while away

and a phone number where a doctor can be located in case of emergency. At one point, it humorously reminds young male teenage babysitters, at a stage in life when their appetites are notoriously gargantuan, "If you have refrigerator privileges, try not to eat the parents out of house and home. It's okay to make a sandwich, but don't eat the whole ham."

But the booklet does more than that. It outlines other admonitions, in the hope of helping teenage sitters and parents avoid certain proliferating hazards of the baby-sitting profession. It states to the babysitter, "For your own sake it is important to let your own parents know exactly where you will be when you take on a sitting job. Also, they should know when they can expect you home. Wherever possible, your own parents should meet and get to know the new families for whom you sit. Sometimes people advertise for sitters in places such as schools and Y's. Also, you sometimes run across ads in automatic laundries, supermarkets, or club houses. Be very careful when you answer such ads. Try to find out about the person who put in the ad. Never agree to take a car ride with a strange person to the place where you are supposed to do your sitting. At night-time it is important to lock front and back doors of houses, and, in case a visitor comes, be careful to make sure who it is before you open the door." It further warns that young female babysitters should insist on being seen home by a responsible adult after a late sitting job.

It is regrettable that the rising crime rates in our Nation make it necessary that these warnings must be interjected into what properly should be an innocent, open, and happy aspect of American family life.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

PROSPECT OF MID-DECADE CENSUS

Plans are already under way for taking the 1970 U. S. population and housing census. This operation will likely mean the opening of a number of part-time jobs in West Virginia, as in other States of the Union, for the necessary period of activity. To accomplish the comprehensive task of census taking in 1960, a general pattern--establishing a separate census office in each of the Congressional Districts throughout the Nation--was followed, with workers filtering the facts into the office as a receiving station. Subsequently these compilations were transmitted to Bureau of Census headquarters in the Washington, D. C., Metropolitan area.

For 1970, there is a good prospect that a mailing system may be used for taking the census in some of the larger cities and towns, such as New York, where established directory systems will make effective coverage possible.

Many citizens, in thinking of the census, think only in terms of a population census. Actually, this mammoth census is now a population and housing census, and it is only one of a large number of censuses taken by the Federal agency. The schedule of major censuses regularly taken is: population and housing, once every 10 years for years ending in 0; agriculture, once every 5 years for years ending in 4 and 9; with drainage and irrigation for years ending in 9; governments, once every 5 years for years ending in 2 and 7; and manufactures, mineral industries, business, and transportation, generally once every 5 years, scheduled in the future for years ending in 2 and 7.

However, the "Big Census" is provided for by the Constitution, which directs that an enumeration of the people shall be taken every 10 years in the manner in which the Congress shall direct, and was established originally for the primary purpose of

apportioning Representatives and direct taxes among the States on the basis of population. A population census has been taken decennially since 1790.

Currently, the decennial census is expected to cover the number, location, and personal and family characteristics of the population, such as age, sex, race, marital status, place of birth, mother tongue of the foreign born, work status, occupation, education, mobility, and income. It, moreover, provides statistics on the number and characteristics of housing units, such as number of rooms, persons per room, year built, tenure, value or rent, vacancy status, water supply, facilities and equipment.

Although the Bureau of the Census takes sample surveys of the population, income, housing, educational statistics, and related subjects for supplementing the decennially-gathered facts, it is beginning to be generally believed that the present time table of decennial census taking is outmoded and inadequate to provide the statistical information vitally important for progressive functioning of the national economy and the related balancing of the social structure of the civil populace. As a result, sentiment is building up for Congressional consideration of the establishment of a mid-decade census, and the introduction of appropriate legislation is momentarily anticipated. It would appear that, with the Nation's rapidly expanding population, and the multiplicity of changes and proliferation of problems arising from increased urbanization of the populace, there is a need for information from a nationwide census every five years to provide a firmer basis for enlightened Federal government.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
105 Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

Vol. VII -- Number 12

March 24, 1967

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

AMERICA'S MARVELOUS TAX HERITAGE

The United States, long labeled the melting pot of nationalities, has acquired customs from many countries of the world. It has also adopted diverse social forms and governmental practices from older nations. English law, as a sterling example, is the basis for our American system of jurisprudence.

Few people, however, are aware that our Republic "inherited" the system of levying income tax from the Italians. It was first imposed as a means of collecting revenue in medieval Italian cities.

However, the practice of taxing personal income apparently did not win hearts even in olden Italy, for it seems to have lapsed for some decades, sporadically being used by an occasional principality to enrich its coffers. Thus the first generally important income tax was levied by the English as a war revenue measure during the 1798-1846 period, after their expensive troubles with their rebellious American Colonies. Independence for the fledgling United States of America cost the British heavily.

Thus, despite continued expressions of distaste by the English wage earner, the British government imposed a permanent income tax on its populace in 1874, and today has an extremely heavy one, as any unhappy British taxpayer will testify. It was also during the latter days of the 19th Century that other European countries, as well as Australia, New Zealand, and Japan, adopted income taxation measures, so that it has become the preferred modern form of taxation.

In the U. S., the first income tax was imposed by the

Federal government in 1864, to help pay for the Civil War. However, it was not a popular measure and was shortly thereafter discontinued. Reimposed in 1894, the income tax law was declared unconstitutional on the ground that it was a direct tax not apportioned according to representative population. With the adoption of the Sixteenth Amendment in 1913, it has become a lawful element in the Federal tax structure, and despite gloomy April filing dates, it is doubtlessly here to stay, with the percentage of taxation remaining an important topic of discussion in almost every American home and business house.

The U. S. income tax is a highly effective, albeit often highly lamented, means of taxation, yielding as much as 59 percent of all U. S. governmental receipts in some years.

As American citizens file their general income tax returns for 1966, they can take consolation, in "paying up" to Uncle Sam, from the thought that, based on personal income reports thus far for 1967 (shown for the month of February as climbing toward an annual rate of \$610 billion), they will have money rolling in from a still prosperous economy to replace any cash with which they may somewhat reluctantly part in completing current income tax payments.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
105 Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

Vol. VII -- Number 13

March 31, 1967

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

AGRICULTURE RESEARCH IN WEST VIRGINIA

From 1959 to 1964, West Virginia's farm acreage dropped from 39.3 percent to 34.3 percent of its total land area of 15,410,560 acres. During that period, the total number of farms dropped from 44,011 to 34,504.

This adverse change in the size of total farm operations in the State is only one of a number of dramatic changes in agriculture which West Virginians have witnessed in the past twenty-five years. Fortunately, some of the changes have been more favorable; and a number of these better changes can be credited to the development of a progressive agricultural research program through joint efforts of local, State, and Federal organizations.

Farm organizations encourage and support the Federal government in improving and expanding farm research programs, well aware that balanced agricultural research programs can make major contributions toward expanding markets, increasing farm income, reducing production and marketing costs, benefiting consumers, and reducing surpluses.

Hopefully, appropriations underwriting agriculture research by the U. S. Department of Agriculture during the coming fiscal year, 1968, can be increased, aimed at improving methods of production, marketing, processing, and distribution, and at encouraging better quality and new and improved processes and products.

Currently proposed figures for West Virginia indicate an increase of \$50,000 for 1968, as compared with 1967, for

the Agricultural Research Service, including plant and animal disease and pest control. The proposed appropriation for Cooperative State Research Service provides an increase of over \$44,000 for the year. Incidentally, for the Extension Service, a similar increase is proposed.

It is also expected that West Virginia will continue to participate substantially during FY 1968 in appropriations for Cooperative State Research Service and Economic Research Service.

In one important area, research on improved marketing and processing of foods and food products, there may be a tremendous potential for development in the State. There are now only limited amounts of food processing activities occurring within the State. Included among these are some canned tomato processing, a little fish processing and frozen fish packaging, some apple product processing, and a small amount of fruit juice processing. There perhaps may be substantially greater opportunities for development in relation to the marketing and processing of poultry, livestock, and dairying products. It is noteworthy that Switzerland, a nation with topography much similar to West Virginia's has an international reputation for production of cheese and chocolates.

Certainly, in West Virginia, as in other States, there is a need for more research toward increased efficiency in meat retailing, poultry processing, and in general farm production. The farmer, producer, and processor, need to earn a more fair return on investments. Otherwise, West Virginia may expect to see continued decline in the numbers and quality of its farms and agriculturally related activities.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

A LIFETIME OF PROGRESS

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Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

INFORMATION EXPLOSION

People talk more and more of the population explosion-- predicting dire results, globally, "if something isn't done."

But the information explosion offers fancier prospects for quick and easy worrying over trebling human woes. A good way to estimate how one's problems may become compounded is to tune in on the information explosion.

As a recommended tuning-in point, pick up a sheaf of government agency press releases and begin leafing through them. One notes such items as the announcement: "Value of fish catch up, total landings down," and can only speculate as to how one can bait a hook to attract not just a common, ordinary, wet, smelly fish, but a silvery, lithesome, expensive one. Since obviously not too many fish are being landed, one's batting average--or more accurately, landing average--has to be high in value.

In speed-reading onward, one encounters a question stated in another release, "Will the schoolboy in the 1970's come to class with a can of oil for the computer as well as an apple for the teacher?", and involuntarily recoils at the prospects of the havoc in the Nation's schools resulting from the combination of thousands of school boys and cans of oil. One can only be thankful that the computer age is also the detergent age, to prevent family washday problems from becoming monumental.

Further along in the mounting stack of information handouts, one sees, "Indian money earning more interest lately," followed by, "Interest rising in water for peace conference". The conclusion to be drawn from these pronouncements is that there is good news today, with several kinds of interest "up" somewhere, if not on Wall Street

And reading further along, one encounters in a several-page release the statement, "The Nation's hot spots...have been outlined on maps for the first time," and thinks, "Now we shall see which college campuses are next going to be the scenes of student beatnik demonstrations." Instead, in reading on, one finds the hot spots are identified as "areas of known geothermal energy, which are prospectively valuable and are not in a withdrawn status. All one can do with that information is to leave it with the experts.

Hastening along, one reads a release with the solemn pronouncement, "The junk auto disposal problem is nationwide in effect," and can only say to that, "Ah, hah! I noticed that!"

But the next releases really cure even the most intrepid reader from perusing any more samples of the information explosion for some time. One statement declares, "This is the last in a series exploring the face of America in the year 2000." It is followed by a related release discussing preparations for the 21st Century. The emotion engendered from encountering these releases is one of frustration, arising from the wish that some of the problems of the 1960's could be solved now before we go nosing around for 21st Century challenges.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
105 Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

April 15, 1967

MESSAGE TO EDITORS:

On July 24, 1964, I sent to West Virginia newspapers a Public Service Column pointing out that, with our national defense and allied agency budgets totaling many billions of dollars, there is an imperative need for assurance of greater quality control by contractors doing business with the Federal government.

I stated, with regard to our Nation's defense, reliability is an absolute necessity.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Apollo disaster has given tragic emphasis to my statements of three years ago.

Robert C. Byrd
U. S. Senator

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE TRAGEDY OF POOR QUALITY CONTROL

The Apollo tragedy is an appalling recent example of a long and historically-documented need for ways of guaranteeing that contractors adhere to quality requirements when performing under Federal contracts.

The Department of Defense, which has a "sister" space program to the operations of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, along with its tremendous other operations, has long been perplexed with the problem of assuring that the maximum returns are obtained with defense dollars. Implicit in the term "maximum returns" is the factor of maximum safety in workmanship in components and completed products.

From the beginning of Federal military procurement nearly two centuries ago to 1967's present commitment of American military might on a global level, some of the same quality control problems have cropped up. As quality control basically means avoiding mistakes and sloppy workmanship, it is easily seen that one of the major factors in quality control is always the human factor.

NASA's Apollo disaster, which resulted in the deaths of three astronauts--Virgil Grissom, Edward White, and Roger Chaffee--has pointed up, dramatically, the necessity for tightening up on requirements on quality of workmanship and products procured under all areas of Federal contracts.

Throughout official reports on the Apollo probe, and repeated frequently in testimony before Congressional Committees, has been a recurrent pattern of charges of numerous shortcomings in quality control in various aspects of the Apollo program. The prime contractor for Apollo, a West Coast aviation firm, is

reported to have permitted deficiencies in the quality of its workmanship and carelessness in manufacture. In plain language, the general belief is that sloppy workmanship and carelessness certainly contributed to the deaths of the astronauts.

When one considers the tremendous size of the proposed Defense Budget for Fiscal Year 1968--\$73.1 billion out of the \$135 billion proposed for the U. S. National Administrative Budget, or about 54 percent--the task of insuring quality control on all defense contracts seems staggering.

Similarly, when one considers the space and aeronautical sciences budget for FY 1968, which includes approximately \$5.3 billion for NASA and \$2 billion for the Department of Defense's space program, a total of more than 5 percent of the National Administrative Budget, that, too, may seem almost an impossible task.

But in light of tragedies such as the Apollo disaster, the reverse becomes true. The expenditures of these funds is too great to risk proliferating carelessness with all the built-in horrors of losses of lives and property which could result.

The principle on which the Federal government should base its procurement practices is the reward of authentic performance and the discouragement and penalizing of substandard performance.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

MOUNTAIN STATE NEWSPAPERS

A lot of West Virginians will recall the various alphabet agencies set up under the Roosevelt New Deal during the depression days of the 1930's.

One of these Federal agencies, the WPA (Works Progress Administration), had a Writers' Program which worked up an American Guide Series. One of the best books turned out under the program (as any West Virginian would agree) was a guide to the Mountain State.

One section of this solid little volume reported on the newspapers printed in the State, pointing out that, in the latter half of the 1930's, there were 31 daily newspapers, 121 weeklies, 2 biweeklies, and 12 monthlies. Today there are almost the same number of dailies but fewer weeklies, perhaps due to the wider access to news made possible by radio and television.

The historical report on the State's newspaper industry makes good reading. One is reminded that the Wheeling Intelligencer, established in 1852, is the only West Virginia daily newspaper established before the War Between the States that has had continued publication. However, the first newspaper published in western Virginia was at Shepherdstown in November 1790 under the name Potomak Guardian and Berkeley Advertiser. That news sheet is described by the WPA writers as having been printed on a piece of paper 9 by 15 inches in size. With the old type, it would appear that once the newspaper printed its name there was little room left for the news. But that newspaper name was lengthily outdone when, at the end of the 18th century, the Berkeley and Jefferson County Intelligencer and Northern Neck Advertiser appeared. Perhaps its name was too heavy a burden for frequent type-setting, for it soon

ceased publication.

Other newspapers have appeared in the State which attest to West Virginians' rugged individualism. These included The Byestander, The Rattlesnake, The Countryman, The Compiler, The Scion of Democracy, and The Log Cabin. At one time, Harpers Ferry had a newspaper called The Ladies' Garland, one of the first papers in the U. S. devoted mainly to women's interest. It concentrated heavily on poetry and household hints.

As another thing noted from this depression-born guide to West Virginia, news of heated political campaigns apparently always has been given good newspaper play in the State, with editorial pages almost invariably dominating the pre-20th century papers. In those days, as now, the editors could be pretty pointed in comments for or against selected causes and personalities. However, as one consolation in reviewing this aspect of West Virginia's editorial leanings, while present day editorial policies, on occasion, may seem rough to hapless victims, the times now appear decorous compared to some of the earlier days. Then it was not unusual for strong castigations by editors, and between editors of rival newspapers, to result in physical combat.

Very likely it all made good reading and aided circulation. As the WPA writers made evident, West Virginia's reputation as a good newspaper State springs from solid roots.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE SUPREME COURT

One history of the U. S. Supreme Court opens its narrative of that highest of American judicial bodies by saying, "The history of the United States has been written not merely in the halls of Congress, in the Executive offices and on the battlefields, but to a great extent in the chambers of the Supreme Court of the United States."

Elsewhere it has been said, "In the largest proportion of causes submitted to its judgment every decision becomes a page of history."

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, in describing the requirement for persons to be deserving of appointment to that tribunal, that potential Supreme Court Justices must be not only great jurists, but they must be also great constructive statesmen.

It is the requirement for being "great jurists" which the American public is probably most concerned about today, at a time when there are prospects of more than one vacancy occurring in the early future. Presidential appointments will be needed, and the caliber of these may have a changing effect on the character of the Court.

The Supreme Court should not be a hallowed entity, separated from the average American citizen and sheltered from the heat generated by the problems of the man in the street. The Court should not be inhabited by abstract and impersonal oracles, for the effects of their judgments upon contemporary American life often reach extraordinary

ramifications. To a great extent, the present social disorder of our times--for example, the rising lawlessness--is believed to have been colored and encouraged by Supreme Court decisions which adversely affected the ability of local law enforcement officers to perform their duties.

And it is a fact that a number of the appointments to the Supreme Court in our current era have gone to men without previous experience as jurists. Realistically, it is probable that one who has had lengthy experience as a jurist in the courts of our country can most likely weigh best the effects of decisions which ease or restrict the administration of justice.

As one measure to control America's spiraling crime rate, appointment to the Supreme Court should be approached with a view to the selection of men with greater judicial experience. Although men of prominence and worth, but without previous judicial experience, have served well on the Supreme Court bench in the past, time marches on. The present days of increasing lawlessness in our city streets, require that ever greater measures be taken to provide effective tools to combat the spread of crime.

The understanding of the problems and intricacies of law enforcement in our American society will most likely come from men whose careers have been developed where law enforcement is daily practiced and who have personal knowledge of where theory ends and common sense and practicability begins. As I recently stated on the Senate Floor, if we want really to come to grips with the wave of crime and violence sweeping over the country, one good place to begin is in the appointments to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

TAKEN FOR GRANTED

Americans have a picturesque symbol of authority-- a tall, be-whiskered gentleman, dressed in a stovepipe hat and striped pants--most generally depicted on recruiting posters in front of community post offices and county courthouses.

Affectionately labeled "Uncle Sam", the keen-eyed old fellow is pretty generally taken for granted by his million of nieces and nephews, as is most usually the way with elder relatives.

Yet good old Uncle Sam's lineal descendants inherit a special largess on being born or adopted (by naturalization) into his American family. This largess includes a range of protection which is so vast that most of Uncle Sam's living relatives never fully reckon its areas of penetration.

Easily noted, it includes defense from alien encroachments, self government, a system of laws (better administered at some times and places than others), opportunities at schooling, access to health services, and prospects for considerable pursuit of recreation and personal happiness. It also includes the satisfaction of adding to personal self-respect by contributions to national upkeep through payment of taxes.

And Uncle Sam is persistent in seeking new ways to keep his growing family safe, healthy, and happy, and in pushing each succeeding generation upward to bigger and

better things.

Lately this avuncular guardian, thinking in terms of his growing family of relatives as a complex body of consumers, has plotted intensive action to keep some of the relatives from grabbing off the best of the family's inheritance, either carelessly or deliberately, to the disadvantage of others.

He is looking into ways and means of solving consumer problems on prices, packaging, pesticides, quality, advertising, clothing and fabrics, appliance repair, product standards, warranties and guarantees, household safety, foods and nutrition, recreational items (including less hazardous toys for children), drugs, cost of health services, cost of credit, return on investments, adequate power supplies, and a range of products and activities which form the essence and stuff of American living.

Uncle Sam's nieces and nephews, as consumers, purchase more than two-thirds of all the goods and services produced by the Nation. And a lot of disagreeable marketplace action takes place in the process. Moreover, a startling lack of shopping skill, plus the inability to buy with cash, and related factors, often handicap large numbers of Uncle Sam's nieces and nephews from getting what they most need to consume.

Uncle Sam is first of all concerned that fraud and deception be limited. With the net financial wealth of American families having risen to \$150 billion annually, he is concerned that a fair shake be given to each consumer, so that eventually the old Latin phrase "caveat emptor"--buyer beware--will have less and less applicability.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

RESEARCH FOR LIVE NOT FALSE TEETH

Huge amounts of Federal funds are annually poured into medical research projects. Some of the major programs are of such vital importance that reports of progress are always highly publicized. Among these are cancer and heart research.

Yet others, not so widely known, offer some mighty cheering prospects for the hard working American taxpayers who underwrite these costs. One such program--under the direction of the U. S. Public Health Service's National Institute of Dental Research--hopefully may some day bring great joy to the hearts of many thousands of Americans.

This program--researching ways of implanting human teeth--is one which any wearer of artificial dentures, bridges, and similar oral appendages will want to watch, doubtless hoping some day to have another chance at teeth on a permanent basis.

Many an accident victim, of sports mishaps or automobile collisions, would be greatly helped by access to tooth implants after losing teeth. Many mothers have wept over children's teeth, accidentally knocked out in childhood play.

Now dental scientists are hard at work to discover how long a tooth, once out of the human mouth, can remain out and still be successfully replanted. They are seeking to determine what process is best for grownups and what methods work best for children, and whether an accidentally lost tooth, if recovered, should be kept wet or dry, hot or cold, until the patient can get to his dentist.

This is but one of the dental research programs under way which optimistic scientists believe will some day bring wonderful news for ever better, longer-lived teeth.

And, while admittedly optimistic, as realists these scientists expect to have to find answers to a lot of questions first. These include an explanation as to why American women are more susceptible than men to dental decay, and why white adults are substantially more susceptible to such mishap than negro adults.

Also, there is need for an answer to why persons with more education have more missing, decayed, and filled teeth than those with comparatively little education. As an interesting fact, educationally, women with less than 5 years schooling have been found to have one-third less decayed, missing, and filled teeth than women with one year of college. Moreover, some correlation is needed to establish the reason for wide variations in numbers of persons with tooth problems in different geographic areas of the nation.

Surprisingly for a country with the high nutritional level of the U. S., there is an average of only about 1 adult in 160 with a full complement of 32 teeth, none of which have been filled or decayed.

A successful, practical means of implanting human teeth would be a medical boon that Americans would highly value.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

POTENTIAL CRISIS IN GLASS INDUSTRY

Glass manufacturers in West Virginia may well feel the old saying, "Take one step forward and drop back two", fits the present glass tariff situation.

In January of this year, the Administration terminated higher tariffs imposed in 1962 on the import of sheet glass, simultaneously with similar action on watch movements.

That action has opened the door for foreign glass manufacturers to pour their products into the U.S. market, with a certainty that there would be an adverse impact on prices. This drop in prices logically could be expected to trigger a chain reaction of reduced sales of U.S. glass, lowered U.S. glass production demand, and rising unemployment in the glass manufacturing industry.

Administration action to roll back these tariffs reportedly was taken on advice of advisors with an eye on negotiations under the Kennedy round of trade agreements in Geneva, currently being concluded. Thus, over protests from concerned members of Congress and the glass industry, glass tariffs generally were rolled back to pre-1962 levels.

In 1962, tariff increases were instituted to protect the U.S. glass industry from the damaging effects of growing imports of cheaply produced glass products from abroad, for the U.S. glass industry has a built-in disadvantage in price competition with foreign manufacturers. Because of cheap labor costs and lower freight charges, foreign producers can sell at a lower price.

As examples of the assistance given by the 1962 protective tariffs, glass duties in some categories of sheet glass were set as follows: for sheets under 2 and 2/3 sq.ft. of surface area,

from .7 to 1.3 cents; for sheets over 7 sq.ft. but less than 15 sq. ft. of surface area, from 1.1 to 1.9 cents; for sheets over 15 sq. ft., but under 16 and 2/3 sq.ft., from 1.4 cents to 2.4 cents.

Then in January of this year, the Administration order rolled back these tariffs, respectively, to .7 cent, 1.1 cents, and 1.4 cents. The import figures for the first quarter of 1967 promptly forecasted the advancing flood.

Import statistics reported receipt into the U. S. of 36,504,787 lbs. in 1966, at a value of \$10,663,007, for sheet glass of over 7 sq. ft., but under 15 sq.ft. For January through March 1967, the figures reported receipt of 10,453,169 lbs., at a value of \$3,461,980 for that glass category. This reflects an increase of approximately one-seventh in volume.

What is particularly notable here is the quickly accelerated rate of increase. The President's termination order was only issued in mid-January. These import statistics seem to represent a virtual leap forward.

The U. S. glass industry--especially vulnerable to imports from cheap labor countries all over the globe--Mexico, Japan, Europe--already has expressed apprehension over future developments.

In West Virginia, the debilitating effect of rolled-back tariffs and increased foreign imports upon the industry raises the spectre of some return to the distressing burden of unemployment borne in past years.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

EVERYTHING'S UP-TO-DATE IN MINING

Anyone apt to sigh wistfully for the good old days can certainly find a good opportunity to do so upon reading some of the latest U. S. mining news.

Gone forever, apparently, are the colorful days of bearded, laconic, tobacco-chewing prospectors packing out into the dry deserts and rocky U. S. mountains to seek their fortunes through mining strikes.

The day of the burro, laden with flour, beans, fat-back, iron frying pan, and shovel, faithfully following some old codger seeking another strike, has vanished into the pages of American history.

Lately the Federal Government has "fancied-up" mining operations with such scientific preparations that it almost seems not to be the same industry.

The latest word is that the U. S. Bureau of Mines will send out research ships this summer, loaded to the deck rails with the most modern of scientific equipment, to prospect for gold on the ocean floor of U. S. coastal waters.

The "researchers" -- note how the classification of "prospectors" now has given way to "researchers" -- will evaluate undersea deposits of this precious metal. They most want to find gold--which is one thing that is not new--but they want to find just as much of anything else valuable as they can at the same time. That, too, is a good old human want of long standing.

But the practice of hunting for gold with ships, loaded with the most modern of scientific instruments, surely represents a giant step forward into the age of technology.

The Federal Government has other tricks up its sleeve for moving the mining industry along to keep pace with tripling modern demands. It is awarding contracts for private firms to get out and hunt for minerals. To encourage domestic mineral exploration, it is participating with private industry to pay costs of exploration for 36 mineral commodities. A major one of the minerals sought is silver. And that, too, is not new. Gold and silver, civilization's two precious metals, are dearer and more precious than ever.

However, in case some adventurous individual still wants to try his hand at prospecting, all by himself, hopeful of keeping what he is lucky enough to find, he can do so in Arkansas, at the site of North America's only known diamond deposit. There he can pay a fee to look for diamonds, keeping whatever gems he finds.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

UNITED NATIONS CRISIS

The apparent inability of the United Nations to move quickly and effectively in a crisis as an instrument for securing and maintaining peace has been revealed once again, ominously, in the current Israeli-Arab confrontation in the Middle East.

The failure of the United Nations to foresee and forestall the belligerent actions of Arab elements led by President Nasser of Egypt is indicative of the serious immobilization of the organization.

Public concern over possible U. S. military involvement is growing in ratio to the support of overt Arab action by Soviet Russia. That concern has led to widening pressure within the United States for the Federal Government to take a hard look at the whole United Nations system, to which it contributes heavily dollar-wise in maintaining U. N. operations. The criticism is not confined merely to U. N. Secretary U Thant's unilateral and overly precipitous action in withdrawing U. N. peacekeeping forces from the disputed Aqaba Gulf area. It includes expressions of spreading doubts of the value of the U. N. as a world peacekeeping organization, as it is presently constituted.

One suggestion to lift the U.N. from immobility was advanced some time ago by a special International Studies Group of Johns Hopkins University. The study was undertaken by a group of experts in the field of foreign affairs, including persons experienced in State Department operations. The plan which was proposed has now been taken off the shelf and is being given more serious thought as a result of the Middle East crisis.

In effect, the general study took cognizance of the impotence

of the U.N. under its present "one Nation-one Vote" policy. A plan for operating on a more fluid level was outlined. It involved setting up a permanent, professional, operational peace observation corps to help in patrolling the world's trouble spots. An estimate of the initial cost of organizing and operating a group of two-to-three-hundred members of the patrol for the first year was set at \$9 million.

The study upon which the plan was based included surveys of dozens of incidents beginning under the League of Nations, almost five decades ago. It indicated that almost always, where time is of the essence, delay is encountered because of the unwieldy, diverse nature of a huge world organization.

A more select, easily deployed, and continuously maintained group to work on a continuing basis in spots where international troubles are indigenous would appear to offer a far better opportunity of warding off overt actions before a crisis reaches a stage such as that which the world is witnessing now in the Middle East.

Further, in the hard realities of world politics, the group perhaps would be more likely to be responsive to the interests of those nations which bear the greatest burden of keeping world peace and, practically, pay the greatest portion of peacekeeping operations.

The plan well might be given more serious examination.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

KIDPROOFING THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME

The good old summertime has been famed in song and verse. Often it is considered by school-age children as just about the only good season of the year. The freedom from school and study, access to the local swimming hole or city pool, and the opportunity to explore new and different places, seem to be the basic ingredients for carefree happiness.

Sadly, for increasing numbers of families, just such care-free spirit among children seems all too often to carry its own built-in threat.

Because common summertime hazards of swimming, diving, entrapment in unfamiliar places, and sudden encounters with moving objects are taking increasing toll in lives of happily summering young Americans, the U. S. Public Health Service has researched many of the summertime accidents to children. Its findings have resulted in an agency campaign to encourage parents to teach their children rules of good conduct which will help insure their safety.

The Federal agency noted as one of its findings a modernized threat to American children--increasing swimming fatalities among children traveling by car with parents on family vacations, with weekly recurrences of reports of drownings in motel pools increasing.

The researchers have pointed out that the inadequacy, or lack, or protective barriers at many motel and hotel pools, the absence of close, alert supervision, the carelessness of conduct among the young, and the failure of parents to teach drowning prevention knowledge and skills, have all conspired to make motoring vacations lead more frequently to tragedy.

Parents wishing to offer their children the best assurance of living to have yet another good summer, and not merely enjoying in a too carefree manner a last summer, are cautioned to teach their children certain rules of good conduct during summer fun.

These rules include obeying commonsense rules of swimming and diving safety; avoiding rough, thoughtless horseplay in and around pools and natural hazards, such as rocky and mountainous areas; never swimming alone; never exploring unknown places without a guide or responsible adult; avoiding heedless walking and riding in streets, alleys, and on highways; exercising care in approaching animals and handling insects; and using restraint in accepting over-exhausting challenges of strength or endurance.

Caution and commonsense in summer fun are indispensable ingredients for a good summer for American families, and teaching children the rudiments of safety is the best way to "kidproof" the summertime.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

AVOIDING LEGAL ENTANGLEMENTS

There is an old saying, "He who acts as his own counsel has a fool for a lawyer."

As is true of many old sayings, there is a hard core of fact in this one. The average American adult is unlikely to be equipped with the knowledge and experience necessary to protect his personal interests unaided in a court of law, so vast is the constantly expanding range of legal statutes.

As just one example of the sheer weight of legal fact which a person unskilled in the law could face in court action, it was reported that the distinguished Judge Learned Hand, at the time he concluded 50 years on the Federal bench, had written close to 2,000 opinions on nearly every conceivable subject from maritime liens to income taxes, from banks and banking to naturalization and citizenship, from labor to trademarks. These are to be found in more than three hundred volumes of the Federal Reports.

On the other hand, it is possible to acquire certain knowledge which will help the average individual to make wise decisions and to take informed actions which will help keep him out of legal entanglements.

With the multiplicity of Federal programs, some of which affect almost every citizen at some point of his activities, there is a ready source of general information available to all. One may write to an appropriate Federal agency for information on a specific subject or otherwise contact a Federal department for leaflets and brochures which are greatly helpful in supplying general information and, often, specific guidance in specialized operations.

One group of leaflets familiar to a great many West Virginians are those issued by the Social Security Administration. These are excellent sources of information on questions puzzling recipients as to their rights for disability, retirement, and dependency benefits. Veterans involved with home and farm loans can secure advice and guidance through the Veterans Administration.

Farmers have access to information on property damage, crop losses, and loan entitlements through the Department of Agriculture.

Often more than one agency will have representatives available to assist in advising residents of rights and requirements under certain programs. An excellent example of this is the close working relationship between the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service and West Virginia's State representatives in development of watershed projects, where property rights are involved.

The Department of Labor often can provide assistance which forestalls legal action involving labor and unemployment claims; and the Childrens' Bureau of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare provides multiple services to mothers and children and tries to help juveniles not to be delinquents.

In gist, American citizens have at hand a first line of prevention of some legal entanglement. They may seek information of Federal Departments and agencies having jurisdiction in the areas where their interests lie. And they should do so, and thereafter familiarize themselves with regulations and provisions likely to be applicable to their future circumstances.

Byrd's Eye View
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Senator Robert C. Byrd

WEST VIRGINIA WEEKLIES MIRROR STATE GROWTH

Experts in the news field have said that West Virginia has a press which will rank with that of any State in the Union, if population is taken into account.

A large portion of this credit certainly goes to the Mountain State's weekly newspapers. They have been faithful reflectors of the State's growth, its creation as a separate political body, and its subsequent maturity.

The weeklies, in general, had their origin because the political evolution within the State of its various counties created the need for news from the local seats of justice. As new counties began to be formed, from the 1830's onward, legal and official notices required publication. New businesses were attracted to the county seats, advertising revenues helped to make publication profitable, and by the outbreak of the Civil War and the formation of West Virginia as a State, almost every county had a weekly newspaper.

The oldest newspaper in the State of West Virginia, continuously publishing and still operating, is a weekly -- the Spirit of Jefferson (Farmers) Advocate. Firmly established in 1844 in the eastern panhandle, at the Jefferson County seat of justice--Charles Town--it has been an excellent prototype of the development of weekly papers in the State. Political thought was naturally more advanced in the earlier-developed eastern panhandle, so that it was logical that a weekly would first spring up in that section of the State.

With the population growth in the central and western Allegheny regions of what is now West Virginia, new counties began to be formed. Their county seats of justice became centers of transportation and commerce and served to generate news of interest to residents in the surrounding countryside. The Wellsburg Herald, in Brooke County,

is a good example of the manner in which growing population, advancing transportation, and developing political thought served to inspire the establishment of a newspaper. Founded as a weekly in late 1846, it has during this century moved over to the ranks of the daily newspapers.

The story of West Virginia's weekly papers is colorful.

Typically, they have been one-man publications, with the publisher in the past performing all the chores--news-gathering, writing, editorializing, printing, and delivering the newsheet. It was a common sight to see an editor mounted on his horse, saddlebags loaded with newspapers, making his rounds weekly among scattered subscribers. It is said that subscriptions were often paid for under a barter system, with one of the best examples of this operation reported as that conducted by the editor of the short-lived Monongalia Chronicle. It is said that he accepted a wide variety of produce for copies of his newspaper, including flax, beeswax, wool, feathers, tallow, and corn.

West Virginia's weeklies, and the editors of these weeklies, have well served the State and continue to do so. Quite a lot of work and worry have been their lot in insuring survival to the present more modern era of news publication.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

WHAT MAKES (NEWS)

The United States, as a Nation with a press unmatched anywhere else in the world, has a good many capable persons constantly busy answering the big question, "What's the news today?"

And in providing the answer, a lot of assessing must be done to determine what makes news.

To varying degrees, present day newspapers provide reports on foreign affairs, international events, actions by the Federal and State governments, expressions of editorial opinions, and assorted special items such as advice to the lovelorn.

But most newspapers which stay in operation very long must provide a substantial quantity of local news. The average, very human, American newspaper reader wants to know all about what touches him in his immediate surroundings. This includes obituaries, wedding announcements, civic events, and a whole range of local happenings.

Looking back over West Virginia newspapers published in past decades, one notes a fascinating range of topics as reflections of local interests.

In the early 19th Century, West Virginia newspapers carried little advertising but were really strong on announcements. They announced the candidacies of local aspirants for public office. They announced the sale of private property. They announced rewards for runaway slaves, and a review of some of the amounts offered as rewards--one cent to three dollars--provides a real shock to persons accustomed to current high cost-of-living prices.

In the early half of the 19th Century, Mountain State newspapers frequently reflected strong local opinions against imbibing strong drink, by reporting fully and often temperance movements, meetings, and stories of dire happenings to drinking men. And it is noteworthy that this was nearly a century before enactment of prohibition in the U. S.

Frequently, W. Va. newspapers reflected a high degree of religious activity in local areas, with some almost earning labels of "religious" papers through their faithful reporting of religious activities. One paper in 19th Century W. Va. became noted for its constant recital of news on sugar beet planting and the manufacture of silk, thus reflecting local efforts to build up these industries.

One early 20th Century W. Va. newspaper became known for its repetitive headlining of news of poor mail delivery in the area, obviously reflecting the disgruntlement of local citizens with the Federal postal system.

During the Civil War years, newspapers accounts of recruiting for military service on the local level, and reports of military achievements of the local soldier boys, proved that then, as now, it is the local hometown boy the homefolk want to know about.

Modern changes in the newspaper trade still have not wrought much change in what the local citizens consider to be prime news-- their communities, their neighbors, and themselves.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

U. S. POULTRY STARS IN EXPORT DRAMA

The American chicken may yet become an international figure attracting considerably more news attention than any fine-feathered jet set member of international society.

The story of the U. S. assault on the poultry markets abroad is about to begin its third phase. Phase one had its beginning in 1956 with a concerted effort to develop a worldwide poultry market. So successful were the efforts of U. S. poultry producers that within a few years this export development was labeled "the U. S.'s outstanding success story in developing a new market abroad."

Since then, the drop from the pinnacle of poultry export sales success of 173 million pounds in 1962 to a current loss of \$46 million in market sales annually has made it necessary for poultry growers to rip off that titling and toss it in the trash can. That dramatic drop was the climax of the second phase of action in U. S. poultry export selling, with sales to West Germany occupying a major role.

Under a U. S. export program which got under way in 1956, West Germany became an excellent market for U. S. frozen poultry. German chicken eaters were enthusiastic buyers of the U.S. chilled birds. From sales of virtually nothing in poultry products in West Germany prior to 1956, the market opened up to absorb millions of pounds of poultry products, including 152 million pounds of frozen poultry in 1962. This was made possible through gradual removal of West German export levies on U. S. poultry products, under pressure from chicken-loving citizens. Then in 1964, the European Economic Community (EEC)--composed of a grouping of major European Nations, including West Germany--instituted a complicated system of levies and charges which acted as a brick wall in blocking U.S. poultry imports. West Virginian poultry growers will recall vividly the news stories of the "Chicken War."

Again using West Germany as an example, in 1962, the German poultry consumer could buy U. S. poultry by paying a 5-cent-a-pound import duty. In 1963, the total import fees were jumped to 13 cents a pound, a highly excessive rate. Obviously, U.S. poultry at 43 cents per pound could not sell competitively with European-grown poultry. The sudden drop off in the poultry market hit the American bird producers hard, as West Virginia poultry raisers can unfortunately testify.

Now another act in the U.S. poultry export story is unfolding. This third phase of the poultry saga involves the yet unanswered question of the effect of changes in tariffs within the U.S. and among those foreign countries which are signatories of the new trade agreements reached under the Kennedy Round of Trade Negotiations just completed in Geneva, Switzerland.

U. S. tariffs on imports from abroad were generally cut by approximately 50 percent. It is not yet fully apparent what reciprocal cuts may have been made by other Nations, but it is stated that, over all, the results with relation to removing barriers to U. S. agricultural exports were considerably more modest than originally hoped.

It is feared that, in translation, this may boil down to mean that U. S. poultry producers cannot expect to recapture the lost European chicken sales market and may have to look elsewhere for a better future.

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Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
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U. S. POULTRY EXPORT FUTURE

The importance of the Kennedy Round of Trade Negotiations economically to the United States cannot be overestimated, and West Virginia will receive its share of the effects, good or bad.

The years ahead will answer the question of how wise were the terms of the negotiations, now concluded at Geneva, Switzerland, which the U. S. accepted. However, American poultry producers very likely cannot wait around for a full assessment with regard to U. S. export sales of poultry and poultry products but possibly need to seek markets elsewhere than Western Europe. In so doing, they may wish to examine prospects for increasing sales to Canada, Japan, and the Central and South American countries.

As for West Virginian poultry producers, they are naturally concerned over future poultry export sales, because of the economic importance to them. West Virginia, as a good poultry producing State, is grouped in a region of States which is currently providing about 39 percent of the poultry export products of the Nation.

Over all, U. S. poultry and egg exports for 1966 totaled about \$90 million, a four percent increase over 1965. However, poultry meat showed a decline, with exports of U. S. baby chicks and hatching eggs accounting for the increase. But, hidden by this export sales figure is the blow to U. S. export health shown by the fall in West German imports from more than 70.3 million pounds in 1965 to 55.5 million pounds

in 1966. The sharp gains in the Japanese and Italian markets were all that kept the situation from undergoing a disastrous deterioration.

A break-down in the total volume of exports of poultry and poultry products for the most recent period available, FY 1965-1966, reveals U. S. poultry exports for that period included 202 million pounds of poultry meat, 10 million dozen hatching eggs, 34 million day-old chicks, and 2.5 million pounds of egg solids.

Who bought these items is the next question in analyzing market demands to determine where good sales prospects lie. For the period from December 1965 through November 1966, Canada purchased almost 8 million baby chicks from the U. S.; over a quarter of a million turkey poult; 4.6 million live head of poultry; approximately 3 million young roasters, broilers, and fryers in fresh, frozen, or cut up form; 1.2 million frozen turkeys; and substantial other quantities of poultry in other categories, such as processed food forms.

During that same period, the Dominican Republic bought 4.2 million baby chicks, Mexico bought 2 million, and Japan purchased almost 2 million. Chile bought almost 5 million whole poultry, cut up in parts for shipment; and Japan likewise purchased almost 9.2 million chickens and broilers, whole, or in cut-up parts.

Obviously, there is a rising demand in many areas of the world for succulent U. S. poultry. With luck, good planning, and hard work, poultry growers may be able to convert the sound of chickens cackling in their sheds into the future sound of cash registers ringing up profits from chicken eaters in foreign lands.

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A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

CHOOSING SUBJECTS FOR U. S. POSTAGE STAMPS

Anyone inclined to point with pride or view with alarm could find good material for taking either position when reviewing current activities in the U. S. postage stamp issue and sales program.

One could well point with pride and pleasure to the neighborly Canadian invitation to the United States to provide issues of U. S. postage stamps, including its Canadian Centennial Commemorative Stamp, for sale to visitors at Montreal's 1967 Expo (World's Fair). One could point with pride to the report by the Post Office Department's Philatelic Sales Unit that it handled 83,651 orders in FY 1965-1966, with a value of \$2,129,088, which advanced to a total sales volume of \$2,605,054 during FY 1966-1967, the fiscal year just ended on June 30.

Philatelic sales, incidentally, are not just plain everyday sales of postage stamps for licking and sticking on the letters going to Grandma and Aunt Jane filling them in on the family news, or for sending in the payments on the washing machine. Philatelic sales are the ones made to stamp collectors who are not nearly as concerned with communicating through the U. S. mails as they are in hoarding a treasure trove of stamps.

Thus, one can point with pride to the Post Office Department's ingenuity in successfully promoting that portion of its stamp sales program. Every dollar gained in sales revenue is certainly badly needed to help counterbalance the Federal postal system's perennially growing deficit.

But one can equally as appropriately view with alarm a

few of the choices of subject for recent postage stamp issues. Without becoming involved in any discussion of the pros and cons of artistic values of some of the recent stamps (and there have been some rather startling looking ones), there have certainly been some controversial subjects chosen for memorializing in postage stamp form.

One decision which resulted recently in the issue of a Henry David Thoreau stamp would be open to some viewing with alarm. Thoreau, long known to high school students of American literature as an American writer whose writings they must study, had a thoroughly anti-social personality. He publicly lambasted the Federal government, refused to pay taxes because of his dislike for civil authority, strongly advocated civil disobedience, and reviled both the U. S. press and elected public officials as "evil".

One might especially view with concern the selection of this subject for commemoration if it were realized that the police forces of the U. S. have never had a stamp issued in recognition of their long and faithful service to the citizens of our Nation--that their devoted and self-sacrificing years of efforts to preserve law and order in the Nation's communities have not yet rated them a place on a U. S. postage stamp.

Yet such a proposal is even now languishing in Post Office Department files.

Yes, one might well view with some alarm a national climate which apparently makes it a better choice to issue a Federal postage stamp commemorating a contentious personality, a man who advocated certain questionable private practices and open civil disobedience, than to so honor the members of our Nation's police forces, who have dedicated their lives to the protection of their neighbors and the preservation of civil law and order.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

MEDICARE

No Federal program has been the subject of more lively discussion during this past year than the medicare program. This is easily understandable when one reads some of the statistics on the scope of operations during medicare's maiden year.

As one startling illustration, the Social Security Administration reported that it received 25 million bills for medical services--primarily for physicians' services--under the voluntary medical insurance program. It paid out \$640 million under that same program. Currently the volume of bills is running at a rate of 700,000 per week, which would increase the second year's total to 36.5 million bills, if the rate is sustained.

As another example, there were 5 million admissions through Federal medicare, involving about 4 million people, for inpatient hospital services during this first year. A total of \$2.4 billion dollars was paid to hospitals for these services. According to the Social Security Administration, this did not represent a vast number of older people rushing to the hospitals for free care under medicare, but represented only a reasonable increase in hospital use.

When one considers that over 90 per cent of the older people of the Nation have signed up for the voluntary program covering doctor's bills, and about 97 percent of the general hospital beds in the country are covered by the program, this does not seem, according to the Social Security Administration, to be an excessive traffic in medical care.

The analysis of the medicare program operations by

competent authorities has, however, pointed up some major administrative problems under the provisions governing outpatient benefits and, to some extent, in the provisions governing diagnostic X-ray and laboratory procedures for inpatients. It is possible that Congress may be able to improve these areas of program operations by appropriate legislation, and the matter is under study.

Another area which is due for reexamination is rising health costs. Federal conferences and studies have started search for some means of achieving a moderating influence on climbing medical costs. However, these cost increases are not alone due to the institution of the medicare program. As analyzed by reliable authorities, medical costs have climbed at a rate of 8 per cent annually. In 1962, an average hospital stay cost 41.2 per cent over the 1957 costs. During 1966, a hospital room, on the average, cost three times as much as it did in 1946.

It is important, also in analyzing rising medical costs, to realize that complex and immensely technical equipment costs sums which are astronomical to consider. Also, new drugs, secured perhaps through years of non-income producing research, are often vastly expensive when they reach the drug market.

But the cheering point to the entire medicare picture is that, while better health care generally is being made available to the entire American public, the older people among our populace, who need it the most, are having it made available to them, through the Federal government's medicare program.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE U. S. APPLE

When one hears talk of tariff reductions and trade negotiations, imports and exports, and balance of payments and gold flow, one does not immediately think of apples innocently lying in a fragrant mellow state in fruit bins and market stalls around the world, or of glistening rows of jams and jellies on pantry shelves of homes of many nations.

But the fact is that the good old U. S. apple has reached a position where it is packing an extremely effective wallop in the fruit export market. It can be bought and munched in many parts of the globe far removed from its native U. S. fruit tree. However, in its position as a well-flavored competitor for world favor, it has to take return knocks as the flow of supply and demand affects its sales position.

U. S. apples have had a golden day of heavy export demand, and may yet again. It is unlikely, however, that the coming market year will provide another such sales peak as occurred last year, because two European countries--Italy and France--are bidding fair to have record large dessert apple crops. France's Golden Delicious apple may end up the winner in the international apple sales competition this year. If so, U. S. apple growers can look back on their tremendous record for 1966-1967 when they exported 6.1 million bushels of apples, an increase of 27 percent over the previous year. This is the largest volume moved by the U. S. in over a quarter of a century.

Who buys U. S. apples, either fresh or processed, other than American fruit-lovers?

The major gain in purchasers in 1966 was in Western Europe.

This happened chiefly because Mother Nature was less than kind to the apple crops in Argentina, Sweden, and the Netherlands. Thus the increased world consumption of apples, whole and in processed form, coupled with crop damages elsewhere than in the U. S., provided an excellent opening for advancing U. S. apple sales.

Presently, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Finland are three of the best customers for U. S. apples. Little Finland imported 456,000 bushels of U. S. apples last year. The Canadians, our northern neighbors, are also big eaters of U. S. apples.

An added factor in developing foreign markets for U. S. apples lies in increased, improved storage facilities, both in continental U. S. and abroad. Also, U. S. Bureau of Census figures indicate exports of dried fruits, including apples, were up 18 per cent last year, indicative of the expanded usage abroad of fruits in various processed forms.

It is interesting to note that U. S. exports of fruits and preparations were valued at \$327 million last year--up \$37 million from the previous year.

While there is no separate breakdown available on just what part West Virginia apples played in those sales, they were significant contributors.

And those dollars sales of fruit abroad were helpful to our U. S. international monetary position as well as our own economic position at home.

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Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

RESERVOIRS IN WEST VIRGINIA'S FUTURE

The U. S. Department of Interior recently issued an excellent report on the Nation's 1,562 larger reservoirs. In announcing its issuance, the Department used a graphic description, saying, "The reservoirs, collectively, have a surface area of 14,831,030 acres--about the size of West Virginia."

Possibly the use of the State of West Virginia for comparative purposes was not merely due to the coincidence of West Virginia's size, but may have been partially inspired by all the planning for potential development of reservoirs in the State.

The reservoir report in itself is a really good little document. It is a 115-page publication summarizing statistical data such as drainage area, storage capacity, types of use, and owner and operator, tabulated alphabetically by State. But it is more than that--it is a report to the Nation of the truly tremendous job being done in irrigation, flood control, municipal water supplies, hydroelectric power, recreation, and navigation. Moreover, it is a moving essay of water's irreplaceable status in man's life and the development of our Nation.

From the opening sentence, "Man has engaged in the control of flowing water since history began", to the closing summary of all the reservoirs in the U. S., listed by State, it provides a stock of readily assimilated information.

The listing for West Virginia is rather sparse, however, as the report was compiled to cover the reservoirs completed and under construction as of January 1, 1963, having a usable capacity of 5,000 acre-feet or more.

Only three reservoirs were thus included for the Mountain State—Bluestone Reservoir, on New River, with a surface area of 9,178 acres; Sutton Reservoir, on Elk River, having a surface area of 3,873 acres; and Tygart Lake, on Tygart River, with a surface area of 3,430 acres.

Not included in the report, but now operationally completed with only some small tasks for tidying up, is the Summersville Reservoir, in Nicholas County.

Elsewhere in the State, the Beech Fork Reservoir in Wayne County has had construction funds allocated to it and is in the 1968 Federal budget for more. The Birch Reservoir, Braxton County, has been in a deferred state but is currently being restudied. The Burnsville Reservoir near Glenville, in Gilmer County, has had funds for preconstruction planning; the Rowlesburg Reservoir, Preston County, is in the preconstruction planning stage; and construction monies have been appropriated for the East Lynn Reservoir in Wayne County, and for the R. D. Bailey Reservoir in the area of Wyoming, Mingo, and Logan Counties.

A restudy is currently under way of the Little Kanawha River, including proposals of a reservoir project on Steer Creek or Leading Creek, and the West Fork Reservoir. The Stonewall Jackson Reservoir in Lewis County is included in the FY 1968 Federal budget for funds to permit preconstruction planning.

Although it may have come late to the field of reservoir construction, West Virginia is picking up momentum and will begin to reap more and more benefits from all that good reservoir planning can mean to a State.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

UNCLE SAM'S LONG MEMORY

Uncle Sam has not forgotten the veterans of past wars.

And he is taking definite action to care for their special problems and to compensate present and future veterans of the Cold War and Vietnam eras for their sacrifices.

Recent action by the 90th Congress on the Veterans Pension and Readjustment Assistance Act of 1967 will provide more than a quarter billion dollars in additional veterans benefits each year. This new legislation broadens and expands the provisions of last session's Cold War GI Bill. This year's major additions include: the extension of wartime rates of benefits for Vietnam veterans and dependents; increased educational allowances and broadened opportunities under the "Cold War GI Bill"; and a cost-of-living increase to non-service-connected pensions similar to increases the 89th Congress voted for those receiving compensation growing out of death and disability.

Now Vietnam veterans are classified as those servicemen with 90 or more days of military service after August 5, 1964, through a future date to be determined by either Presidential or Congressional proclamation. For these Vietnam veterans, Congress has authorized monthly pension payments for non-service-connected as well as service-connected disabilities, with their widows and children similarly eligible. A full wartime compensation rate is provided for service disability, as well as a burial allowance of \$250.

For all veterans who are amputees or blind, and who were in the Armed Forces on or after January 31, 1955, and who received their injuries in line of hazardous duty or directly from performance of military duty, an allowance of \$1,600 has been made for the purchase of specially-equipped automobiles.

Taking cognizance of changing conditions in U. S. housing,

action was taken to provide an extension of time until July 25, 1970, for World War II veterans to apply for home loans and small business financing. For all veterans, an increase was made in the maximum limit on direct home loans by the Veterans Administration from \$17,500 to \$25,000.

Moreover, firm action has now been taken by Congress to protect veterans from any loss in veteran's benefits from increases in social security benefits, and a cost-of-living increase of over 5 percent in pension benefits was enacted.

Constructively, Congress anticipated educational needs of future veterans, acting in consideration and recognition to citizens who have made an extra contribution to our Nation by serving in the Armed Forces during "cold" wars and "hot" hostilities, by voting increased educational assistance allowances. These include increases of approximately 30 percent in monthly educational payments for veterans in school, as well as their dependents; broadened on-the-job training allowances; and programs of three years of cooperative on-the-farm and commercial flight training for veterans.

One particular provision--authorization of full benefit payments under the GI Bill to educationally disadvantaged veterans, so that they can complete high school without losing any of their eligibility for later college education--is an outstanding example of action by Congress, as Uncle Sam's agent, to continually improve veterans' programs by offering opportunities over a broad spectrum of age, economic standing, and social need. Uncle Sam remembers and values a citizen's service in the Armed Forces, whether as a volunteer or a draftee.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

GOOD CHEWING IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

One invention which has stuck in the minds of peoples the world over as being truly American in character is that of chewing gum. Cartoons popular in the years of World War II frequently depicted victorious American GI's being enthusiastically welcomed by natives of foreign countries beseeching gifts of sticks of chewing gum.

As one refinement of just plain old American gum, bubble gum was developed almost forty years ago. The taste of young Americans for chewing and blowing bubble gum, at a penny a stick, grosses about \$25 million annually for manufacturers in the United States. Indeed, one plant recently reported that it makes 4 million pieces daily, enough to reach 15 miles if laid end-to-end. As time has gone along, the appeal to youngsters to buy bubble gum has been further enhanced by providing enticing prizes. And many an American mother who has had to cut remnants of exploded gum bubbles from the hair and eyelashes of her offspring must recoil at the thought of greater enticement for moppets to buy, chew, and blow gum into bubbles.

As one aspect of the chewing gum picture in the U. S., it is notable that the increase in the number of youngsters chewing away on bubble gum has been countered by an apparent decrease in adults chewing tobacco. That once quite popular pasttime seems to have worn down to an appeal to only a limited group of still loyal chewers. This is attested by the diminishing number of spittoons required for public use. In the U. S. Senate Chamber, for example, where there used to be an imposing array of highly polished brass spittoons, easily available for all members, there are now only a handful for

the benefit of a few Senators occasionally enjoying a relaxing chew of plug tobacco.

One bit of chewing, however, that still provides a thrill for persons fortunate enough to have lived in the right time and place in these United States, is the chewing of "swigum". "Swigum", the alliterated term affectionately applied to the chewing substance favored by rural and mountain youths in past decades, can still be found in some wooded spots in various areas of the country.

To find a good "swigum" tree and make regular stops for a wad of the gummy sap for chewing is a 14-carat pleasure which had its origin in simpler and more primitive days. And, often, that stop could be turned to extra good purpose by breaking off a small tree twig, which could be gnawed and frayed at the end to make a dandy little toothbrush, one that could be discarded after it had served its purpose of promoting good dental hygiene.

In the good old days, with Nature's sweet gum available for the collecting, no pennies had to be wheedled from parents to secure a fresh chew. A quick walk over to one's favorite sweetgum tree provided a fresh supply.

And long before so many disposable items--such as the throw-away bottle and disposable hypodermic needle--were being manufactured and urged upon the American consumer, the American farmer and mountaineer knew what tree could quickly supply a fresh, fully disposable brush to aid his tooth care.

The good old days certainly had their appeal.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

EXPORTING U. S. KNOW-HOW, NOT FIREARMS

The U. S. is gradually moving toward a greater export of expertise to underdeveloped countries in replacement of arms sales, a development certain to be economically and politically healthier.

One manner in which the U. S. is exporting "know-how" to underdeveloped countries of the Middle East and Asia, has been highly publicized in recent weeks in connection with the Shah of Iran's latest visit to Washington. Instead of stepping up arms shipments, the U. S. is sending a study team of water experts to Iran to assist in water resource development. This expertise is important to Iran, which has launched an ambitious program of land reforms that cannot be economically successful over the long haul with the vital ingredient--water--missing.

In India, an American geological team is seeking ways of developing what may be a gigantic underground water reservoir. The U. S. AID has proposed a progressive 7-year-long survey, using the most modern American technical equipment, to launch a program for sinking mammoth public tube wells producing 1.2 to 1.5 cubic feet of water per second, plus smaller private wells. With India's famine-stricken populace direly in need of life-giving water, for renewed agricultural production in drought-stricken areas, it is obvious water resource development is a crying need.

The U. S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation is turning some of its 60-odd years of experience in planning and building water resource developments toward advancing the irrigation of the 300,000-acre section of the Helmand Valley in southwestern Afghanistan. Begun about 20 years ago, the program is enabling planning, construction, and operation of an efficient and productive irrigated agriculture, and the generation of vital hydroelectric

power.

Also, under U. S. Bureau of Reclamation auspices, a 42-man team is investigating water resource development through the potential Pa Mong Project in the Mekong River Basin of Southeast Asia.

In the U. S. Senate, a group of foresighted members have given legislative backing to a plan for using nuclear power to provide fresh water for the Middle East, through construction of three nuclear de-salinization plants by an internationally financed public-private corporation similar to COMSAT. It is proposed to be administered under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Primarily aimed at reducing Arab-Israeli tensions through cooperative economic development of Arab States and Israel, the plan, if adopted and put into action, could prove tremendously valuable elsewhere, particularly if the result is to advance technology to a point where the cost of converting sea water to fresh water is sharply reduced.

Even in West Virginia, where it has been estimated that there is currently available for man's use about 7,500 gallons of water per person per day, there are areas and periods of drought when the lack of water is disastrous. Inexpensive desalinization of water through usage of nuclear power would be a tremendous boon to peace and to all mankind.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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*Clare
P. L. H. S.
file*

Volume VII - Number 35

September 8, 1967

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

GONE FOREVER THE OLDEN SCHOOL DAYS

Developments marring the once simple, September back-to-school scene in these United States must seem bizarre to adult Americans who experienced no-nonsense education during their school years.

Getting back to school the first day was a major thrill to most pupils, eager to greet old friends and swap tales of summer experiences. Most males old enough to be useful had been off working dawn to dusk hours on family farms, helping deliver ice on summer rounds behind a horse-drawn wagon, or working hard as delivery and stock boys in local grocery and hardware stores.

And the young girls generally were kept busy assisting with the vegetable and fruit peeling and scalding for summertime home canning, so pantry shelves could be stocked for winter eating.

These tasks left few idle hours for dawdling, with the fortunate result that beer riots at beaches by gangs of vacationing students simply did not happen.

In fact, starting back to school did not necessarily mean the end of work, for all too often the school yard had grown up with weeds which had to be chopped and hoed down--a far cry from the cemented areas of many American city schools today.

And there were no prolonged and bitter community discussions about busing students out of neighborhood schools to complicate the back-to-school push for an education in an intensively competitive world. Transportation to school was a matter of walking two or three miles through the countryside with morning dew on the trees and bushes. In the main, the autumn back-to-school movement in countless small American communities meant young students walking along past familiar homes, noting new paint jobs and evidences of newly-arrived

families; shying away from big, possibly unfriendly, barking dogs; and perhaps warming up a pitching arm for the recess ball game by tossing a handy stone at a cat napping in the morning sun, or at a wasps' nest, or at apples hanging heavily on a drooping limb.

Moreover, in past decades, a teacher strike did not mean something which delayed classroom instruction--a phenomenon occurring this season in a number of major American cities. Instead, it meant a good hard rap by a teacher's ruler across the palm of the hand, or a keen switch applied to the seat of the pants of an unruly pupil.

In the old-fashioned world of education, a return to school was a challenging venture into a world of order and discipline and respect for knowledge.

Pupils and teachers and parents all knew that their major responsibility was to promote the advancement of education with the fewest impediments possible, and there were few problems arising from the lack of ability to relate to themselves, each other, and the community that the old fashioned formula of good will, commonsense, respect for authority, and cooperation for the better good of all could not solve. Today's back-to-school problems, one suspects, might yield more quickly to a wider, more substantial application of that same formula.

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From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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Volume VII - Number 36

September 15, 1967

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column by
Senator Robert C. Byrd

TIME FOR A CHANGE

Rapid world population growth is creating pressures and tensions which are going to force a change in national thinking and individual practices in relation to birth control.

And the time for that change is approaching faster than the public generally has yet realized, despite the fact that a swelling tide of concern over the burgeoning world population, and its political and economic consequences, is daily headlined by news media.

Three great world problems--security, population, and food--have pushed the urgency to establish effective approaches to population control to the forefront of consideration of governments of the Nations of the world. There are no longer any easy solutions possible to these three major problems, if indeed there ever were. The social and political institutions of varied countries, the mores of multitudinous societies, and the private consciences and moral-thinking of citizens of advanced Nations have, in the past, been founded in the main either on the premise that a large family was right and good, socially and economically desirable, or as a simple matter of private, personal choice.

But the stark truth of the matter is that the peoples of the world are fast out-breeding the world's known resources of space, food, and water. Time for ignoring the problem is simply running out.

World population by the end of this summer of 1967 is reported as having reached almost three and one-half billion and is increasing at a current rate of almost 200,000 daily, or approximately 75 million annually. This represents about one-third of

the present U. S. population.

A review of the history of world population growth provides some somber facts. The Population Reference Bureau points out that it took the world a million years for population to reach the billion mark in 1800. During the intervening 167 years (to date) world population has more than tripled. But so rapidly is the growth rate now spiraling that the world population total by 2067--one hundred years from now--will, at a conservative estimate based on present mortality and birth rates, reach about 25 billion.

The low-birth rate countries are generally the industrial Nations of Europe, North America, and Japan. The birth rates of the Nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are at an increasingly high level, yet these are the Nations least equipped to care for their populaces.

Because masses of people cannot be expected to die peacefully of starvation in the years ahead, the stark facts are that the world is headed for terrible struggles toward survival.

Painfully, the truth is that the world will breed itself to miserable chaos, unless the thinking patterns of human beings can be adjusted to effectively devise ways of controlling our own over-breeding. Hopefully, early adoption of modernized birth control measures will provide time in which backward Nations can raise their economic productivity, stabilize food production, and develop better utilization of their natural resources.

Respect for life requires that man not carelessly breed--that he discipline himself through ethical principles and intellect, well aware that survival in the world of the future requires a sharp change in his moral and social thinking and, more personally, in his private practices.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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Volume VIII - Number 1

January 5, 1968

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE STATE OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL CITY (Part II)

Misconceptions have been spread in some quarters as to the exact status of the public welfare programs in the District of Columbia

A number of facts deserve attention which I believe attest to the more effective, sounder application of public funds for welfare purposes in the District since my assumption of responsibility -- as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for the District of Columbia -- for reviewing outlays of Federal funds for welfare in the Nation's Capital City.

The appropriation for the D.C. Department of Public Welfare increased 344 percent over the period FY 1955-1968, with the FY 1968 total reaching \$38.8 million. The number of workers authorized increased to 3,689 persons (257 percent), while the salary costs increased 463 percent.

A few years ago, my Subcommittee was instrumental in instituting a random sample investigation of major welfare program caseloads in the District. That investigation, jointly conducted by the D.C. Dept. of Welfare and the U.S. General Accounting Office, revealed 59 percent ineligibility in the aid-to-dependent children category, 58 percent ineligibility in the general-public-assistance caseload, and 39 percent ineligibility in the aid to the permanently-and-totally-disabled caseload. These findings of excessive ineligibility led the U.S. Comptroller General to recommend a continuing audit of the ADC caseload. Thus a widened program of investigation was instituted, with a present total of 91 investigators now participating in more effective administration of D.C. welfare programs.

Improved surveillance of the welfare caseload in the District has undoubtedly saved the U.S. taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. Although the caseload has again gradually increased, due in large part to a greater usage of welfare services by social service agencies, the
(more)

AFDC caseload as of November 1967 numbered 5,380, or 248 less than in November 1961. It is doubtful that any other major city in the U.S. can claim a smaller ADC welfare caseload in 1967 than in 1961.

As another encouraging aspect of the District's welfare situation, the average caseload by authorized social worker position in the Public Assistance Division has been greatly reduced from 1961-1968 and now stands at 66 per worker, due largely to social worker positions having doubled in number from 285 to 570. The ADC caseload as of April 30, 1967, consisted of 23,716 persons, of whom 19,052 were children.

Average individual ADC payment in D.C. is \$38, which is above the national average of \$36. The average general public assistance grant per recipient in D.C. is \$81, the highest in the Nation. The national average is \$36. In D.C., 67 children per 1,000 population under age 18 receive ADC payments as compared with a national average of 49.

I was instrumental in securing an across-the-board cost of living increase of 13 percent for welfare recipients in the 5 conventional welfare caseloads during FY 1967. This was annualized in the FY 1968 appropriation.

It is feared, however, that improvement in the welfare situation in the District of Columbia in recent years may be negated as a result of a new court order forbidding the Dept. of Welfare from maintaining a requirement of one year of residence in the District prior to eligibility for welfare payments. Removal of this residence requirement may bring in an influx of the needy into the District, for there is no ceiling on D.C. welfare payments in the ADC category, unlike such States as West Virginia, which has a \$165 ceiling. The highest ADC payment to any ADC family in calendar year 1967 was \$471, excluding the food stamp bonus, and some families have been on the rolls in excess of twenty years.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE STATE OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL CITY (Part III)

Any person of character justifiably rejoices as solid evidence accumulates that progress is being made toward a difficult goal.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, I am proud of the progress which has been made in the field of public education in the Nation's Capital City.

The FY 1962 D.C. budget was the first regular budget presented to me as Subcommittee Chairman. Among some of the achievements to be noted since then, using FY 1961 facts as a basis of comparison with FY 1968, are:

The number of professional staff members per 1,000 students has increased from 41 to 58 for that period. This now ranks D.C. as No. 1 among 15 cities of comparable size in the U.S. (500,000 to 1,000,000 population);

Per pupil costs have increased from \$413 to \$745 during this period, an increase of 80 percent. A total of 54 percent (\$636) of this 80-percent increase has come from D.C. appropriations;

The number of authorized positions in the public schools has increased from 5,311 to 9,898 (86 percent) with the salary costs increasing 233 percent during the period 1955-1968;

The number of classroom teachers increased 55 percent, from 4,482 in FY 1961 to 6,952 in FY 1968; counselors increased from 51 to 260, a 409.8 percent increase for that period; and the number of librarians increased from 17 to 140, an increase of 723.5 percent;

Special classes for severely mentally retarded students have been multiplied so that the total student load increased from only 39 in FY 1961 to 444 in FY 1968, an increase of 1,038 percent. This eliminated completely the waiting list, which had been due to teacher and facilities shortages;

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Appropriations of \$126,777,692 from FY 1962 + FY 1968 provided the addition of 2,307 rooms to the public schools. The appropriation for FY 1968 for public school construction totaled \$48,394,600, which included provision for 75 pre-kindergarten relocatable classrooms and 36 demountable units for location next to existing elementary school buildings. Part-time classes have now been eliminated for the first time in 20 years or more;

Pupil-teacher ratios have been substantially lowered throughout the school system, as for example, from 31.3 to 27.8 in elementary schools;

The D.C. Superintendent of Schools testified at FY 1968 appropriation hearings that 117 out of 123 schools reported no books in use with a copyright date older than 10 years -- "an unusual record".

Regular provisions have been made for full funding of the free lunch program in elementary schools, approximately 15,500 students daily during 1966-67 at a cost of over \$1 million. Similar provisions were made for the same period for the free breakfast program -- breakfast for almost 8,000 pupils daily at a total cost of \$178,600 -- and the daily distribution of milk averaged nearly 123,000 servings at a cost of more than \$1 million;

With the D.C. school system fast becoming an all-Negro system as the exodus of white residents from the District continues -- currently, the school population is 92 percent Negro -- I believe it is important to provide every possible opportunity to these children to secure an education.

This will continue to be my goal. It is a compelling need if the District of Columbia is to fulfill its proper role as the Nation's Capital City.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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Volume VIII - Number 3

January 19, 1968

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE STATE OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL CITY (Part IV)

A problem which increasingly is burdening the Nation's Capital City, and one which deserves to be tackled equally vigorously elsewhere in our Nation, is the problem of development of an adequate birth control program.

The D.C. Public Health Department has opened 11 birth control clinics, with one more to be opened in the near future. The clinics provide birth control information and devices to any married woman or any woman who has had a baby. In 3 years, more than 15,000 women have been registered in the program, providing opportunities for people to plan their families.

During the period 1960-1964, the U.S. birth rate decreased 11.4 percent. The D.C. rate decreased 9.7 percent. For the period 1964-1966, the years in which the family planning clinics have been in operation, the U.S. rate continued to decline showing an 11.9 percent decrease. The District of Columbia rate, however, dropped much more markedly -- 16.2 percent.

A special study, providing a specific and scientifically sound estimate of the impact of the D.C. Public Health Department's birth control program, has made available some preliminary summations. For an 18-month period, using two selected control groups, with one group electively using control devices and the other group not participating, a reduction of 58 percent in pregnancies was noted in the family-planning participant group as contrasted with the non-participant group.

I have consistently pressed hard for a strong and adequately financed family planning program in the District of Columbia, and I

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feel that substantial progress is being made. The need for such planning is established by studying the facts concerning illegitimacy in the District of Columbia.

Nearly 28 percent of all resident deliveries in the District of Columbia are illegitimate, as compared to about 7 percent in the Nation.

In the Department of Welfare, as of January 1, 1967, there were 1,961 cases on the AFDC rolls with all illegitimate children. As of March 1, 1967, 42.4 percent of the ADC children were illegitimate. Six mothers had 60 illegitimate children, all on welfare. Fourteen mothers had 126 illegitimate children, all on welfare. Another grouping of 20 mothers had 160 illegitimate children, all on welfare. Another group of 46 mothers had 322 illegitimate children, all on welfare. Another group of 172 mothers had 860 illegitimate children, all on welfare. Another group of 264 mothers had 1,056 illegitimate children on welfare.

In some cases, as many as seven different men were fathers of one women's children.

As I have consistently pointed out, the illegitimate child cannot help his status, but I feel it is imperative that the District of Columbia, and the Nation as well, take every possible step to encourage and foster family planning among welfare recipients.

I believe that, if the general public were sufficiently aware of similar facts in others of our Nation's cities, a majority of the responsible citizenry would strongly encourage the institution of constructive birth control programs through public health departments by supporting necessary appropriations of public funds, just as I have recommended appropriations of such funds for the District of Columbia, the Nation's Capital.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE STATE OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL CITY (Part V)

Reports on various aspects of the state of the Nation's Capital City sometimes catch the public eye whereas less publicized facts often have greater merit in evaluating the present state of affairs in the District of Columbia. Recently, publicity was given to a report that the Nation's Capital has more telephones than any other city in the world -- that Washington's instrument count totaled 788,937 telephones for 833,000 people in 1966, or almost 1 per person.

Less noticed, yet considerably more significant as an indication of substantial social instability within the District, was publication of the fact that in FY 1967 there were 26,525 window panes broken in the District's public schools, at a replacement cost of \$180,202.

Over the period of my service as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, I have concentrated my efforts toward supporting programs aimed at stabilizing community life in the District, with considerable gains having resulted.

Washington, D.C., now leads all cities of comparable size in the U.S. in the ratio of authorized police positions (3100) -- 4.1 per 1,000 population. Appropriations for the Department totaled \$44,884,000 for FY 1968, with 3,572 personnel positions authorized. This constitutes a percentage increase, over the period 1955-68, of 250 percent for total appropriations; 149 percent for salary costs of authorized positions; and 44 percent for authorized positions. From 1,954 police positions in 1950, the D.C. Police Department has expanded to 3,100 positions in 1967, although the District's population total remained nearly static at less than 810,000.

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In a variety of other ways, I have given my unqualified support to the Chief of Police and his men in the increasingly difficult war on crime in the District.

In the field of health improvement in Washington, the following are among major public health accomplishments from fiscal 1961 to fiscal 1968:

The Dept. of Public Health has been reorganized, administrative improvements made, new policies developed, and training programs inaugurated to streamline the approach toward solving public health problems; the D.C. General Hospital has been substantially renovated at a cost of \$13 million; a 425-bed rehabilitation center for chronic alcoholics has been opened and a treatment and rehabilitation program instituted; material and infant care programs have been expanded and improved; medicare and medicaid programs have been established; a home care program for the elderly has been instituted; and a community mental health center has been established in one area of the city with others to follow.

A tuberculosis detection and control program has been started; an expanded venereal disease control program has been inaugurated, including expanding treatment facilities and providing educational programs particularly aimed at the teenage; and more than 25,000 school children have been vaccinated against measles.

In the school health program, the amount of nursing time in elementary schools has more than doubled during the past 2 years. During the year 1965-1966 school year, 86 percent of the defects found among elementary school children were brought to medical care by the end of the school year.

It will continue to be my purpose to support adequate appropriations to meet these great needs within our Nation's Capital City.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

CHANGING TIMES AND CHANGING CAREERS

Recent announcement of the first woman to become a member of the N.Y. Stock Exchange in the 175-year history of the Nation's largest securities exchange pointed up a situation quite familiar to watchers of the changing times. To such observers, the report of this female success in the traditionally masculine world of finance merely provided reinforcing evidence that classifications of careers can no longer be accurately separated into male and female spheres.

Another bit of such evidence, one perhaps particularly noted by West Virginians, was the internationally publicized announcement in December that a young male chef, a West Virginian and a native Charlestonian, was being summoned to the White House to put the finishing touches on the 250-lb., 6-ft. high, bridal cake which starred at the wedding reception for the President's daughter.

The report of the well-deserved artistic recognition accorded to this young West Virginia chef emphasized once more the fact that whereas the thought of expertness in food preparation -- in planning, cooking, and serving -- once properly seemed to fall within the province of the female of the species, this no longer is true. What is even more important, however, is that the whole business of cooking and food service has become "big business" in the U.S., and brings substantial financial reward to participants.

At the time of the 1960 census, there were reported to be 215,978 males and 381,078 females, or a sum of 597,056 non-household, American cooks. Median earnings for the male cooks (or chefs, as more experienced cooking experts are designated) were almost three times higher individually than for the females.

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Interestingly, these expert cooks have their own federation, the American Culinary Federation, Inc. Its members are careful to point out that a good chef is a food business administrator, and that wherever food is cooked in quantity, an executive chef is in charge. These top level cooks are to be found directing food operations in the Nation's largest food processors and canners, in food service organizations, as a part of operations of airlines, railroads, hotels, resorts, steamship lines, in private clubs, in large hospitals and similar institutions, in chain restaurants, and in hotel chains.

To cite a few examples of some of the juicy fringe benefits of cooking careers pursued by American males, one expert chef authored a 717-page cookbook, based on his success in regional cooking, which sold over 100,000 copies. Another well-known American chef gave up a successful career as a concert pianist to teach cooking classes.

The career of master cook is not without its hazards, however, as one 6 ft., 4 inch, American chef can testify about his increase to 275 pounds in weight. It is noteworthy, nonetheless, that he has a fat bank account to go along with his expanded midriff, as he is the author of 14 cookbooks, one of which has sold over 500,000 copies.

Anyone who may still think of cooking as a "sissy's job" needs to be reminded that a former American President, once Commanding General of American military forces, is renowned for his steak-cookery; that Director J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI rises early to cook Sunday morning popovers; and that the Senior U.S. Senator from Louisiana, Mr. Ellender, is famed for his expertise with Creole cooking, with invitations to his personally-cooked luncheons eagerly sought after by other Senators, Federal officials, and foreign diplomats alike.

As an avocation, cooking is personally enjoyable for American males. As a wage-earning career, it offers lucrative prospects.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
105 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

Volume VIII - Number 6

February 9, 1968

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

GENERATIONAL GAP

Frequent discourses on the subject of an existing generational gap regularly star on America's television and radio air waves, provide fodder for heated dinner table debates between parents and offspring, and result in outpourings of philosophy by social workers and news analysts.

Somewhere among all the columnar and other comments, a strong impression seems to have filtered out that parents fail to make enough effort to understand their children and that it is incumbent upon fathers and mothers to bestir themselves toward closer communication with the younger generation.

However, any anxious parents hastening to find ways to bridge the highly publicized generational gap should be forewarned not to expect instant rapport with obviously hep sons and daughters through shared interest in "mod" music. That is, of course, unless there may be a good cipher expert at hand to help decode the message frenetically carried by "mod" music, as rendered by some of the currently popular musical groups, such as "The Yardbirds", "The Animals", "The Bee Gees", and "The Dixie Cups".

To a father who frankly admits to enjoying a good spirited rendition of The Battle Hymn of the Republic by a competent marching band, there is a terrible case of gap-osis ahead when he takes a startled look at a teenage record collection, to say nothing of the state of shock likely of occurrence as he struggles to decode the meaning being pow-pow-pow-ed out by selections such as Concrete and Clay, Over Under Sideways and Down, Gee Baby Gee, Somebody Groovy, Catch Us if You Can, Ha Ha Said the Clown, Skinny Minnie and Its Gonna Be Alright, Fakin' It, We Got a Groovey Thing Going, and Made

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My Bed, Gonna Lie In It.

Papa's and mama's having once themselves been young and romantic, and possibly a bit rebellious, might get the message a bit better from some of the other rock-n-roll tunes, such as Mrs. Brown You've Got a Lovely Daughter, Kiss Me Baby, and Friday On My Mind. And after struggling desperately to become turned on -- teenage vernacular for a high degree of euphoria -- through listening to some of the top money makers, most parents will probably have a better appreciation of another current top tune, Going Down for the Third Time. Certainly the idea suggested by yet another, The Sound of Silence, would have a genuine appeal.

As final words on the generational gap, musically speaking, parents possibly can be forgiven for thinking that the best way to fill the said generational gap is to hurl in all the plastic musical discs being sold to their teenage children under the guise of new music. And it is indeed a cheering thought for any father, as he becomes a drop-out from the Kollege of Mod Music Knowledge, that he can now openly admit to a belief that good old mountain music like Cripple Creek, Chicken Reel, Irish Washerwoman, Sourwood Mountain, Sugar in the Gourd, and Turkey in the Straw are going to be recalled a lot longer and with more musical nostalgia than the electrified steel guitar output of today's commercial successes.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

STRANGER THAN FICTION

Over one and a half centuries ago, the great English poet, Lord Byron, expressed the thought, "'Tis strange -- but true; for truth is always strange -- stranger than fiction."

Since corrupted into the cliché, "Truth is stranger than fiction," the fundamental lesson was given fresh emphasis when the Ford Theatre in northwest Washington, D.C., was recently reopened for public performances of live plays, for it is not likely that any play ever presented on its stage can match in bizarre circumstances the assassination of President Lincoln in that same theatre at the close of the Civil War.

And the saying will be given further reinforcement when the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, now under construction on the banks of the Potomac River, is opened as a forum for cultural arts. It is indeed strangely coincidental that two functioning theatre centers in the Capital City of the United States will be closely associated with the memory of two assassinated Presidents whose deaths were so paralyzing in impact that they dwarf in comparison mere stage dramas.

The Ford Theatre has been newly-restored by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior's National Park Service, as a living memorial to President Lincoln. Henceforth, it is planned to be opened in the mornings for visitors to tour the theatre and the modern Lincoln Museum housed in the basement and to listen to recordings of portions of Lincoln's famous addresses. School children coming to Washington for tours this spring and summer will be happy to learn that admission charges for these tours are suspended for an indefinite period.

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The Ford Theatre will, moreover, now be filling its true role as a functioning theatre, by having its afternoons and evenings devoted to rehearsals and presentation of live dramas, as a continuing part of the cultural life of the Nation's Capital City. Among the thousands of school children coming to Washington this year, perhaps many may get to see a live theatre performance for the first time in the historic environs of the newly reopened Ford Theatre.

Even greater cultural opportunities will be available for all of the Nation's citizens when the 58-million dollar cultural center, authorized before John F. Kennedy became President, and named in his honor by Congressional authorization after his assassination, is in operation. This national cultural center, to occupy an area the size of a large city block, will house an opera, a concert hall, a theatre, a studio playhouse for film showing and experimental projects, and a gallery for an art museum. Towards its development, the Federal government has made a \$15.5 million grant, approved a \$15.4 million Treasury loan, and transferred 7 acres of government-owned land for site enlargement. It is hoped that a grand opening of the center will be possible in 1970.

The Ford Theatre appropriately launched its reopening as a functioning theatre by a dramatic presentation of the epic poem "John Brown's Body", with its close association with scenes in the Charles Town, West Virginia, area.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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Volume VIII - Number 3

February 23, 1968

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U. S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

A lot of Americans can remember quite well when the major family effort toward good grooming consisted of a weekly Saturday night bath. In many homes, only a few decades back, placing the family's big galvanized tin tub before the hearth fire signaled time for family members to line up for turns at dipping in and scrubbing off the week's accumulated grime. Pretty often, too, the same tub of water served the whole family, with maybe a warming up kettleful added as the scrubbing went along.

In those days, the chief beauty aid for the weekly ritual was likely to be a hunk of not-so-fragrant homemade soap. That chief cleansing aid for body-bathing and hair-washing was evolved through mama's backyard labors over a blackened iron pot filled with accumulated drippings of fat, homemade lard, ashes, and lye.

Hair-cutting, using the family shears, with papa and mama joining in the clipping, trimming, and admonishing, served to "neaten up" the family males. The young ladies, as is generally standard for females the world over, usually performed additional beauty rituals, perhaps curling locks with rags or paper curlers and smoothing on a little rose water and glycerin.

Those days, however, must have vanished into limbo, for according to recent wire association reports from New York, American males and females together will sink \$5 billion into their hair this year.

The \$5 billion will provide coloring and un-coloring, curling and un-curling, wetting down and drying out, cutting off and adding on hair. Through these and an abundant variety of related processes, individual Americans will pick and choose what, when,

and how he or she wishes the next hair action to be.

And if the statistics can be accepted at face value--or more accurately, hair value--four out of ten teen-age girls color their hair, with their teen-age male counterparts going strong for a blonding-in, outdoorsy, sun-stroked look to their locks.

But the hair action really mounts among American adults. They are reputed to be making increasingly heavy investments in hair changes, with a goodly portion of the dollars spent on purchases of extra hair. Sales of wigs, falls, and pin-on curls to American women are stated to have reached an annual total of \$300 million. As for America's stalwart males, sales of men's hair pieces have doubled in the last five years to \$20 million a year.

Such statistics make it seem a world away from America's virile pioneering past. While no prudent person would wish to return to old hardships and perils, one might humorously note that, in the 1960's, any scalp-lifting by an American Indian consists simply of his own action in taking off his toupee before getting a good night's sleep preparatory to earning the next day's living, including a few extra dollars to buy a toupee replacement.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
105 Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510

Volume VIII - Number 9

March 1, 1968

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U. S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MOTIVATED AMERICANS

One of the more substantial and better known business publications monthly printed in the U. S. recently carried an item entitled "Motivated Men Made America Great." An obvious inference might be drawn that the business publication had reference to the manner in which the profit motive helped make our Nation the strong capitalistic society which it is today.

But the example which was used, that of the contribution which James Madison made to the development of our constitutional system of government, was in a totally different perspective.

It was pointed out that, long before James Madison became President of the U. S., he had become Father of our Constitution and was principally responsible for drafting both the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Madison, convinced that individual freedoms could be maintained within the framework of a strong Federal union, turned his conviction toward practical guidance of the work of delegates to the Constitutional Convention. Thus motivated by a desire for a United Nation, protected by constitutional guarantees, James Madison helped make our Republic great.

The thrust of that article--the virtue of patriotically motivated Americanism--is one not commonly emphasized today. In this era of mass demonstrations and rioting, open acclaim of strongly motivated patriotism gets little news space. Reports of violent mass movements draw daily headlines, and less and less thought is directed toward the desperate need for more constructive motivation in personal action, in the national interest.

Too few citizens today consciously accept the need for assessment and appraisal of the objectives and commitments of their

own lives, abilities, and energies in relation to our Nation's advancement. All too many Americans are subservient to leaders whose influence needs closer measurement by the yardstick exemplified in James Madison's life, "Is this man truly motivated toward making America great?"

If more Americans applied that yardstick to a number of current leaders of mass movements, it is likely that those leaders would no longer have masses blindly following their exhortations and that, instead, much of the mass efforts would be channeled into paths contributing more effectively to our national security, with greater ultimate individual gain for all.

Thoughtful examination of the motivation of many leaders would mean less need for huge expenditures of public monies for training riot squads, purchasing of armored vehicles, underwriting of costs of deployment of National Guard units, and for restoration of American property damaged and destroyed through violence in city streets.

What our Nation needs is not men motivated toward inflaming the national atmosphere in a selfish grasp for power, or for other, hidden, more sinister reasons, but more American citizens who are motivated to measure all that they see and hear in terms of "Will it make America great?"

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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Volume VIII - Number 10

March 8, 1968

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FALSE SECURITY FROM DIPLOMASHIP

Increasingly heavy outlays of public and private moneys are being poured into the Nation's schools at all academic levels. American taxpayers may naturally be expected to want to know how effective these expenditures are, thereafter attempting to assess the reported results in terms of what they mean to them personally and to their children.

Particularly at this season of the year, when parents and soon-to-be graduating high school students are greatly involved with decisions on moving along to higher institutions of learning, it is well to note some facts recently developed by one of America's great corporations, illustrating the increasing dangers of a trend of thought which that organization has labeled "security through diplomaship".

This corporation, taking note of the heavy pressures to secure a college diploma, which our American society is currently placing upon young people in our beefed up education drive, surveyed 17,000 college men which it employed. The resulting findings serve as a signal beam to parents and young people alike in academic planning and efforts.

First, the survey showed that, more and more, the act of going to college is thought of as a status symbol, with the chief purpose of going to college merely being to get a degree, with the degree expected to serve as a present status equalizer and a future passport to security.

Secondly, it showed that all too many students were under the impression that success in being admitted to a status school

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or big-name university or college automatically served to start a student several rungs up the ladder toward future success in a chosen career field.

Third, the corporation reported that in terms of income gained and success achieved in later life, this so-called diplomaship brought a poor return for national and individual investment of funds. To back up this assessment, the corporation reported statistics showing that it is the level of scholarship which is attained -- as measured by academic achievement -- which provides the key for future gain and greatest return on moneys invested.

The corporation's survey revealed that the single most reliable indicator of a college graduate's future success is his rank in the graduating class. A far greater proportion of high-ranking than low-ranking students qualified for larger responsibilities in their chosen career field. Forty five percent of those surveyed who were in the corporation's top salary level were also in the top academic third of their graduating classes, whereas forty percent of those in the third lowest salary and responsibility level were also in the lowest third in college.

Futhermore, the corporation's figures were checked against college quality, based on nationally accepted institution rankings. These colleges and universities were placed in three groups -- ranked as above average, average, and below average. In appraising the results, the corporation found that top students from average or below average colleges have done better in their adult careers than average or low-ranking students from above-average colleges.

West Virginia students will want to note that the cold facts are that a high level of academic accomplishment in whatever college or university which they attend is a significant indicator of probable high level future achievement. The hard law of diminishing returns for diminishing investment of time and effort applies inescapably in the education field.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

METALS IN THE NEWS

Headlines on speculative pressures on silver at home and abroad, heavy purchases of gold in foreign markets, negotiations toward settling the U.S. copper strike, and charges of improper sale and resales of platinum presently are claiming a big share of public attention.

The current frantic, almost anarchic, rush for U.S. gold in European markets may well bring to American minds remembrance that the quest for gold first stimulated European explorations and conquests in the Western world. As a corollary, events of the 1960's could be likened to a modern predatory raid by the Old World on New World gold.

It is not necessary to be an expert on the intricacies of international finance and national monetary policies to know that gold, the generally accepted means of balancing international accounts, has long been a favored metal for backing currency. One needs, however, to be alert to a certain moral which may be gained from current events.

Today, the Union of South Africa is the country which is the chief gold producer for the world, with the U.S.S.R. and Canada as other big suppliers. However, the steel and concrete vaults of Ft. Knox, Kentucky, as the depository for the bulk of the U.S. gold bullion, constitutes the world's largest single point for gold storage. As a result, American fiscal policy is an integral element in all international political and financial happenings; and, for the same reason, the stability of the Union of South Africa may be expected to be of growing concern to industrialized nations.

But gold is not the only metal which is vitally involved in America's security. In fact, American economic and political

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welfare is intricately intertwined with metals, and through them, with the economic and political life of nations all around the globe just as are metals intertwined in areas of source and usage throughout the world.

Minerals occur in nature generally in close association with one another. For instance, the greatest quantity of silver is obtained in refining lead and copper, and gold occurs frequently in association with silver and other metals. Silver, gold and copper all have adjusted values in relation to one another in units of monetary exchange. Not often emphasized, but of tremendous importance, silver, gold, and copper have high values as conductors of electricity, because of the increasing world dependence on electrical energy. Over one-half of the world's output of copper annually goes into electrical apparatus and wire. Platinum also has its own special merit relative to electricity because of its high degree of electrical resistance.

These metals have other usages which are international in connotation. Silver, for example, has a big usage in high-duty bearings of aircraft engines. To cite a mineral interdependence, copper in many usages must have a tin covering for protection. As another, in the manufacture of tin cans, a thin layer of tin, which is a soft metal but also totally impervious to moisture, is superimposed over iron or steel.

When one stops to think of these and related facts, such as that tin is most plentiful in Nigeria, Indonesia, the Republic of the Congo, and the Malay Peninsula, and that Russia's platinum is increasingly sold at a higher price in world markets, one sees that minerals and nations are unlikely to be effectively isolated and prosperously separated in our modern world. Without oversimplification, until that lesson is wisely heeded in the realm of international finance, the threat of chaos may be expected to impinge recurrently upon world consciousness; and the citizens of the world may best hasten toward finding a cheap method of recovering gold from sea water, where it has been said to greatly abound.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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Volume VIII - Number 12

March 22, 1968

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

EQUINOCTIAL AND POLITICAL GALES

People generally pursue their daily courses without too much thought for the natural forces which control their environment. Yet evidences of one of these powerful environmental forces -- the precession of the equinoxes -- has been quite notable lately.

As salubrious evidence of the arrival of the vernal equinox -- translated in laymen's terms to mean spring is here -- trees are leafing out, shrubs are budding, and flowers are blossoming.

Were these the only evidences of the arrival of the vernal equinox, all would be well. But other aspects require a reckoning.

Back 120 years before the birth of Christ, a scholar named Hipparchus first reported the precession of the equinoxes and described the clockwise progression of the equinoctial points, which are the points at which the sun twice annually crosses the equator. Isaac Newton in 1687 explained the phenomenon by attributing it to the attraction of the moon and sun on the equatorial bulge of the earth, pointing out that the precession results in a continual increase in the longitudes of heavenly bodies while their latitudes remain unchanged.

This precession is actually a motion whereby the earth's axis describes a cone in somewhat the same fashion as the axis of a spinning top, with the completion of the individual cone figure requiring 25,800 years. Difficult as it may be to envision, it is nonetheless a fact that the date and time of the arrival of spring-- or the coming of the vernal equinox -- is set and predictable for any calendar year within this cone of many thousands of years of the earth's motion.

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Annually, this vernal equinox occurs about March 21 and marks the beginning of spring in the northern hemisphere. Conversely, the autumnal equinox is the point at which the sun again crosses the equator but from north to south, about September 23, and marks the beginning of autumn for the northern hemisphere. On these two dates, in all parts of the world, night and day are equal in length, thus the Latin word "equinox" has been adapted to indicate either of the dates when day and night are equal.

The belief has long been widespread that violent storms called "equinoctial gales" occur at the time of the equinoxes, although meteorological science and observations have in recent times challenged this popular impression. However, modern science has established proof of the effects of the climate and weather changes on men and their behavior, so that, while worldwide equinoctial gales may not be the physical weather accompaniment of equinoctial peaking, it is a matter of considerable historical documentation that forces within men are apparently released or "peaked" in relation to seasonal changes.

This year of 1968 has already provided its own corroborating evidence of this in the form of the strong political gales which have swept across the American political scene coincidental with the swing in the equinoctial precession to the vernal equinox. Based on all the evidence now available, the American public may well be braced for a possible violent political gale in relation to the coming of the autumnal equinox later this year, bearing further testimony to the relationship between changing tides of seasons and the affairs of men and states.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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Volume VIII - Number 13

March 29, 1968

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE BUG BITES

Bugs and weevils, grubs and roaches, beetles and worms, mites and ticks, and a host of other pesty things from time to time cause disturbances in human well-being. The magnitude of these problems, however, is usually in direct proportion to the ratio of involvement with each individual's personal interests and comfort.

As examples, it is easy for citizens of the West Coast State of California to be detached when the grub of the sweetpotato weevil burrows around in stored sweetpotatoes in Louisiana and Georgia and feeds away on fleshy-rooted morning glory vines along the South Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. Midwesterners just plain are not going to get too greatly upset when citizens of the New England States fulminate over the loss of tree leaves in their orchards, resulting from the highly conspicuous and unsightly nests or tents of the eastern tent caterpillar. Furthermore, the appearance of the fall cankerworm to decimate trees of Colorado, Utah, Montana, and California, while it causes a blanching of faces among he-man westerners, will mean little to the almost bankrupted vegetable growers in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas who have suffered through past losses from invasions of pepper weevils.

It is true that nobody likes any of the 55 kinds of cockroaches which can infest households anywhere in the U.S.; but, generally, different pesty creatures loom as a threat to the comfort and well-being of residents of differing areas of the U.S. A conspicuous exception to this, however, is one bug whose presence is easily noted all over the U.S., and whose travels know no State line, from Maine to California. That bug -- the political bug -- has a bite with after-effects which are never long hidden.

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While these aforementioned effects are sometimes purely transient, within the classification of Americans called presidential candidates they sometimes appear to be lifetime in duration.

All too often the bite of the political bug may be debilitating to the bitten one, resulting in frantic peregrinations, temporary obfuscation of judgment, great fluctuation in temperature from hot to cold, and a marked allergy to popularity polls.

In some badly-bitten victims it causes hoarseness, even leading to laryngitis. It can also cause a poorly-balanced dietary intake, with over-emphasis on hastily swallowed cold coffee and leathery sandwiches. It can produce motorcade-reddened eyes and receiving -line bruised hands. Even among the so-called uncommitted bystanders known as the voting public it can have a heated effect. It can wreck once good dispositions and sadly strain neighborhood relationships due to differences in views on various candidates and issues.

Verily, the political bug's bite, inevitably followed by a strongly rising political fever, can break up "Damon and Pythias" friendships of years of standing and cause normally happily-married husbands and wives to stop speaking to one another.

Currently, the political fever following the biting of the political bug is mounting in the U.S. to a cyclical peak of a presidential election year. While natural forces such as cold, stormy weather, spiders, birds, and diseases normally help keep living insects and pests under control, it appears that the political bug operates outside the natural balance of forces. This year it is again on a rampage, and wise American citizens may, therefore, prudently batten down the home hatches, resolving to take speeches and news accounts with regular grains of salt and to apply a strong dosage of common sense in judging the issues.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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April 5, 1968

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

CATALOG READERS BEWARE

With all the talk about better labeling of drugs, more honest packaging of food and commodities, and multiple measures to protect the American consumer in his purchasing, it appears that at least one serious oversight has occurred.

It involves the threat posed to the defenseless American gardener by plant and seed catalogs.

Now any old pro at the planting game knows enough to approach spring-arriving seed and flower catalogs with caution. He knows, for instance, that when one reads a label stating that a special kind of seed-starting equipment helps to insure gardening success, what it actually will help to insure is that the purchaser will be lured into buying more and more handy little kits and gadgets in struggling for gardening success.

An old pro may find it safe enough to take a fast look through his seed catalog, checking up on what's new among the hybrids. But if a poor, defenseless newcomer to the gardening game tries to take a quick peek, he is liable to be what can best be labeled "a gone goose". In full view on the catalog back is likely to be pictured the largest, most luscious, smoothest, and deepest globes of red, juicy-looking, hybrid tomatoes that the efforts of man and color photography jointly can produce.

An old pro at gardening knows, too, that provided the seed catalog reader taketh himself sternly in hand and tearth himself away from the luscious mouthwatering visions served up in the fruit and vegetable sections of the mail order catalog, there still remains ahead the double jeopardy of the flower and lawn threat which steadily mounts as the pages are turned.

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The seasoned gardener well knows that no Miss America crowned in Atlantic City could ever match in sheer perfection the glories of the blossoms presented as winners of annual rose awards. He is quite aware, too, that a good catalog maker knows that a mighty challenge is cast to any planter's pride on seeing spectacular photos of a fifty-thousand dollar rose, that it is insidious for any gardener to be urged to imagine his own incomparable giant delphiniums, and that it is enticing to be told that a certain super-duper mixture of grass seeds produces a lawn as velvety as a doe's eyes and as green as the Emerald Isle.

Right then, at that point in his catalog perusing, is when the average gardener needs all the protection he can get, from any source, including the Federal Government. Somewhere there should be cautions and warnings that all the gorgeous, wonderful, unmatched beauties of the seed catalog pictures and adjectives really bloom best in the catalog and in his own imagination. If he succumbs to the planting fever, some future day, as children trample his flowers, as the birds peck away on the delectable grass seeds, and as the aphids thicken on the rose bushes, there will dawn on the once-bedazzled gardener a realization that those gorgeous catalog pictures are really all time high producers of crops of human frustration.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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Volume VIII - Number 15

April 12, 1968

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE TIME IS UPON US

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has provided some thoughtful proposals toward tackling the troublesome problems of America's cities.

At first review, one might question the merit of formulas for urban benefit which emanate from an agency whose mission is oriented to rural advancement. However, experts who emphasize that the upset in the past balance between rural-urban life has given rise to a major portion of our Nation's urban problems believe that some of the approaches which have well served the Nation in rural improvement will effectively adapt to urban-improvement formulas.

They point out that under these formulas 6 percent of our American people now feed the Nation better and cheaper than ever before and that expenditures for food per capita have declined from 28 percent of individual income in 1909 to less than 18 percent in 1968. Thus, a greater portion of American income is freed for use for education, autos, travel, and other items of modern living, and more workers are released for industrial and professional occupations.

Agriculturists further assert that this has been in large part made possible through land grant colleges and universities, the research station system, and the Department's Cooperative Extension Service, which have jointly insured that agricultural know-how moves directly from laboratories and lecture halls to assist farmers with their problems. They believe a similar highly effective system of research, education, and action should now be adapted to a sort of "home-in" attack on urban problems.

They point out that the key to agriculture's contribution to the Nation's rural advancement has been research, whereas all too few centers in the U.S. are concentrating on research on urban problems.

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They contend studies on improvement of farm buildings and layouts of farmsteads, barns, milking parlors, granaries and such, from a view-point of convenience, sanitation costs, and aesthetics, should be duplicated in developing solutions to crowded urban housing.

They propose the same general coordinated research on urban transportation as on the distribution of milk, and the same concentrated research on schooling as on the development of hybrid corn, with this research serving as a basis for a great educational effort to train urban people to meet urban problems.

They envision a corps of trained men and women in a Nation-wide urban extension service--with functions similar to those of agriculture County agents-- carrying directly to the city residents the results of applied research on the problems of urban living and reporting the needs of the people to local governments and universities for more action.

Believing Home Demonstration agents have done much to improve family living in rural America, they suggest urban Home Demonstration agents to assist in making dwellings in America's cities more attractive, to teach basic nutrition, to emphasize wise buying, to help with family financing and child rearing problems.

America's citizens have followed a farm-to-city movement pattern, so that 70 percent of the American people are living on less than 2 percent of the land. If the pattern of movement continues and the Nation's population explosion does not abate, by the end of this century 240 million Americans will be mashed together in about 4 percent of the total land area of the U.S.

America's urban problems assuredly are not waiting for leisurely exploration.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

STORM CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON

Obscured by pressing events, but due to cause some soul-searching among American policy-makers as well as conscientious citizens, decisions relative to the Panama Canal shortly must be confronted.

Already front-paged by a leading American financial weekly and a well known midwestern daily newspaper have been claims of unpublicized negotiations between the U.S. and Panama which may be prejudicial to America's security interests. Reports are gaining momentum that there will be proposed for inclusion in future treaties provisions sharply increasing Panama Canal tolls; bestowing huge chunks of the Canal Zone upon the Panamanians; abrogating the Treaty of 1903, which gives the U.S. "in perpetuity" sovereignty, by substituting provisos for a lease expiring at the end of this century; and displacing primary American authority by a bilateral Panamanian-U.S. steering council.

Certainly due for grave thought is the effect of any changes upon the ability of the U.S. to move rapidly in an emergency to maintain the security of this waterway passage for world trade as well as America's own military transports. Furthermore, as the present Panama Canal is known to be outmoded (the waterway is unable to handle well the bulk, and many types, of modern military and civil ocean transports) there awaits a decision on a new canal, its construction, and the location.

The necessity for this decision brings up yet another problem already widely noted by U.S. journalists -- that the potentially cheapest, quickest, and most practical canal construction in Panama,

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or elsewhere in Central America, is probably going to be a sealevel canal built by use of nuclear explosives.

Yet the U.S.'s own precipitous rush into a total nuclear test-ban treaty now blocks its way to canal construction by use of nuclear explosives.

It is interesting to note that suggestions are beginning to be floated about that the highly-touted U.S. nuclear test-ban treaty may not really have been as good as was once claimed.

At such time as proposals for changes in the U.S. position vis-a-vis the Panama Canal must be acted upon, in a manner requiring legislative action, by treaty ratification or otherwise, it is to be hoped that law-makers and citizens alike will remember that there are lessons to be learned from short-sighted past national actions which may effectively be applied to spare future national grief.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FALSE SECURITY

Americans seem to have a national temperament which permits them to be easily lulled into a sense of security often followed by a relaxation of precautions which have been effective in securing their safety and well-being. Regrettably, events all too often furnish proof of the dangers of such trustfulness.

An example of the national self-indulgence resulting in a false sense of security can be noted in relation to poliomyelitis.

Following the modern-day miracle of the development of vaccines providing protection against the once-dreaded, crippling disease, American families rushed to secure inoculations. However, as the incidence of poliomyelitis became rare, many parents relaxed their vigilance, and a degree of neglect in consistently maintaining inoculations became evident from the gradual edging upward of reports of poliomyelitis symptoms in cases scattered about the country. Now medical authorities are warning American parents not to take poliomyelitis protection for granted but to be provident in taking preventive actions, maintaining a close check on shot records and making certain younger children receive their inoculations.

In much the same manner, Americans ought not to be lulled into relaxing their guard against the continuing assaults of communism here and abroad. They need to be skeptical of the constantly reiterated statements that the Communist threat has been successfully contained, that there is no longer such a thing as a monolithic Communist conspiracy, that the Communist world is split in half between Red-indoctrinated countries--with the U.S.S.R. and Red China heading opposing factions which now prevent international

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Communism from posing a strong threat to the peace of the world.

While such judgments of Communist divisions have a factual basis, in result and practice the internal division in Communist hierarchy does not mean safety for the U.S. and western democracies, and Americans should not be hoodwinked into believing that it does.

True the circumstances of today's world are vastly different from the era which gave rise to Bolshevism, and the period when Stalin was in power in Soviet Russia; but anyone who notes the similarity of recent "happenings" in America's riot-torn cities, the coordinated timing of incidents of civil disturbances across the Nation, and the manner in which student uprisings are disrupting many of the Nation's campuses and universities after published reports of leftist planning for such incidents this spring, would do well to view with a skeptical eye the thesis that only spontaneous elements are involved.

Debates as to how deeply entrenched "New Left" elements are among student movements, whether it is indeed "New" or "Old" Leftists mingling among militant civil rightists, and whether the pro-Moscow or the pro-Mao elements are most dominant in trouble making in the United States do not touch the heart of the matter.

Communism has for too many decades fished in troubled waters wherever practicable all over the world, hastening to grasp opportunities to foment trouble, for Americans to scoff now at the idea that Communism is reduced to the level of "bogey-man". One does well to question who stands to gain the most from the events which are daily, and tragically, occupying more and more of the Nation's energies and resources.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MORE COMMUNIST FISHING IN TROUBLED WATERS

Obscured somewhat by other more pressing developments, recent news reports of Soviet Russia's tactical advances in the Middle East need to be closely scrutinized. The Soviets, long known for their proclivity for seeking gains by "fishing in troubled waters", have made the Middle East, with its constantly trouble-stirred waters, a prime target for Communist advancement.

In the area of the Indian subcontinent, Britain's decision to end its military obligations in the Persian Gulf by 1971 has apparently served as an "Open Sesame" to the U.S.S.R., which today has the second largest naval fleet in the world, one which is steadily growing. Already Soviet moves to increase the size of its Mediterranean fleet have been noted.

This is but one facet of the concerted Soviet drive to increase its sphere of influence in the Middle East. British news sources have persistently reported that a defense pact may be under negotiation between the Soviet Union and India which would provide the Soviets with Indian Ocean bases for warships, on Andaman and Nicobar Islands, in return for Moscow's supply of naval units and other defense items for India.

While Indian sources have denied the conclusion of any such treaty, it is nonetheless true that in 1965 India signed a contract with the U.S.S.R. for the purchase of submarines and other naval units, and Indian personnel are now being trained to man Soviet submarines. Also, India has begun to receive delivery of more than 100 Soviet SU-7 supersonic-jet fighter-bombers.

But the Soviets are not confining their fishing expeditions merely to the troubled Indian waters but are making accelerated over-

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tures in Pakistan. The Soviet Premier, Alexei Kosygin, recently visited there, ostensibly as a return courtesy for 2 visits by Marshal Ayub to Moscow, sparking reports of discussions between these two national leaders on arms, economic aid, and political postures. Already Moscow is committed to furnish \$35 million yearly as part of Pakistan's 5-year improvement plan.

While current U.S. aid to Pakistan greatly exceeds this figure -- and it is likely that the Pakistani government will be cautious in its dealings with the Soviets, now increasing their military aid to the Indian government -- there stands on the other side of the equation the fact that Pakistan has in the past received substantial military aid and equipment from Red China.

It is probable that an increasing Soviet military presence will be seen in the Mediterranean-Middle East area. Already aware of the danger inherent in that possibility, the Congress last session blocked plans for a system of fast deployment logistic (FDL) ships, designed to be stationed strategically to provide necessary provisions and equipment to support U.S. military operations in troubled areas. Although some members voiced fears again this year -- that financing such a system might lead to possible unilateral embroilment in peace-policing efforts -- the authorization for such a system has now been given an apparent go-ahead.

What the American people and their representatives abroad most need to do is to motivate other nations, such as Australia and New Zealand, and so-called uncommitted Asian nations such as Japan, to share the burden of maintaining the peace. Too long has the United States carried the heavy burden of the peace-keeping load, when, in fact, the mission of peace-keeping is of paramount importance to every free nation.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U. S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FACTS ON AID TO THE POOR

Often heard as an accompaniment of Congressional debate on Federal spending programs is a certain statement, "Let's look at the record."

U.S. citizens might wish to adopt that approach in considering demands by pressure groups for instant, massively-expanded funding of programs touted under the banner "Aid To The Poor."

A look at the record of Federal spending for programs already falling within that category would be an eye-opener.

For the Fiscal Years 1960-1969, estimated Federal funds for programs assisting the poor total 138 billion dollars.

The Bureau of the Budget has compiled a table showing estimated Federal funds for programs assisting the poor which breaks down as follows:

1960 (actual)	\$ 9.5 billion
1961 (actual)	10.9 billion
1963 (actual)	12.5 billion
1964 (actual)	13.4 billion
1966 (actual)	18.3 billion
1967 (actual)	21.1 billion
1968 (estimate)	24.6 billion
1969 (estimate)	27.7 billion

This compilation does not encompass all programs which affect the poor, but only those which have a special impact on the poor, so that these totals do not tell the whole story but reveal the force of the long range economic, fiscal, and budgetary planning to sustain and strengthen this Nation's citizenry.

What programs are covered in this eight-year total of 138 billion dollars? Placed in correlation groupings, they are as follows:

Group I -- Programs included 100% in the tabulation and which are aimed at the poor in general or at a specific group of the

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population who are poor (example, Indians) or regionally oriented (such as Appalachia):

Economic Opportunity grants; Title I of ESEA; Work Study; Adult Basic Education; Head Start; Indian health, education, and welfare; Job Corps; Work incentive activities; Neighborhood Youth Corps; Concentrated Employment Program; Public Assistance; Food Stamp Program; Aid to Depressed Areas and Regions; Comprehensive health centers; Day Care centers; and all other OEO programs.

Group II -- Programs aimed principally at low income groups of which the poor constitute a significant proportion, with the major programs being:

NDEA student loans; Health insurance for the aged; Medicaid; Veterans disability pensions; Veterans survivor pensions; Direct distribution and removal of surplus agricultural commodities; Minimum wage enforcement; Grants for maternal and child health and welfare; Low rent public housing; Comprehensive city demonstration program; Ten-year housing program.

Group III -- Programs open to all regardless of income but which are taken advantage of most by low income groups, with the major inclusions:

Vocational education; Manpower Development and Training Act; Selective Service System rejectee program; Veterans Administration hospital, nursing, domiciliary and outpatients care; Grants for vocational rehabilitation service; Grants for neighborhood facilities

Group IV -- Programs open to all regardless of income but which contain specific benefits to the poor or to very low-income groups, with the major inclusions being:

OASDI: Railroad Retirement program; Employment Insurance; Veterans Survivors Compensation; School lunch and special milk programs; Rural housing loan program.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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May 17, 1968

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

SOVIET UNION AND SCANDINAVIA

A Special Congressional Study Mission to the Soviet Union and Scandinavia recently explored developments in that area of the world as related to the Cold War, Vietnam, the continuing Middle East crisis, disarmament, and trade. It turned up some facts which could be helpful in avoiding miscalculations in our U.S. policies.

The Committee stated at the outset of its report on Soviet attitudes, "We observed no evidence of a meaningful detente." It supported that assessment by emphasizing an over-all impression that any major improvement in United States-Soviet relations is still a long way off, that conflicts and tensions which have characterized the entire period of the Cold War have not abated materially, and that they could become intensified in the future.

The Committee reported that one factor indicating the end of the Cold War is not in sight is the impressive military capability of the Soviet Union, including the Soviet variable-sweptwing plane, the Talin ABM system, and the advancing Soviet space and missile achievements. It cited as another grave development the increasing mobility of Soviet military forces, including dramatic expansion of Soviet naval strength, Soviet air-transport capability, and Soviet mechanized divisions.

Warning that all these developments are fully noted in the neighboring Scandinavian countries of Finland, Sweden, and Norway, the Study Mission members pointed out the importance of the impact because the U.S. has heavy mutual interest with Finland and Sweden in strengthening United Nations peacekeeping arrangements; in Norway concerning the prospect of NATO; and in all three, regarding future U.S. policy toward all of Europe -- East and West.

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Due to these special interests, and the resulting need to counteract the continuing Soviet pressures, the Study Mission observed that it would appear to follow that the U.S. would benefit most by emphasizing in Scandinavia the positive aspects of our American society, and our Nation's efforts on behalf of the security and economic development of the free world. This is not, however, the circumstances, the Study Mission reported. Instead, an opposite effect is being created because of the reports carried by the mass communications media of Scandinavia on U.S. domestic and foreign activities.

Violence in the streets, crime, racial strife, "hippiedom", and poverty, as well as the unrestrained criticism within the U.S. of its own policy in Vietnam, are the subjects of the bulk of the reports on the U.S. which one finds in the newspapers, magazines, radio, and television, warned the Committee.

Thus, once again, citizens of the U.S. are provided with an alert that attitudes abroad, shaped by today's reporting of events, will have to be reckoned with in our future national policies, with fundamental consequences to free world security and leadership and, conceivably, to our own national security.

Continued disarray in U.S. national affairs, reflected in destructiveness of action in civic life and individual irresponsibility at many public and private levels within the Nation, are undermining the U.S. position abroad.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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May 24, 1968

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U. S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

GIVEAWAYS

Some pointed remarks on foreign aid by the outgoing President of the World Bank, just prior to his replacement by the former Secretary of Defense, have riveted the attention of world financial leaders and economists.

These comments, made to the second United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in New Delhi, India, revealed views of the retiring World Bank leader not previously generally circulated. That official plainly stated that some aid extended to nations not only was not productive but actually retarded economic growth within the recipient nations.

This, in effect, amounted to an indirect criticism of the foreign policy of the United States, as foreign aid by the U. S., to a vast number of nations around the globe, has been a major premise of our foreign policy since World War II. Elsewhere it is notable that other imminent and knowledgeable public figures have become exponents of substantial cuts in U. S. foreign aid programs, placing their own label on foreign aid, calling it "Giveaways."

Thus the general tenor of the current public dialogue on foreign aid is growing more and more critical, with the thought expressed that foreign aid may be in many areas more harmful than good, and that, from the long-range view, some of the Marshall Plan programs now appear to be less than an unqualified success. Also, critics have said that Food for Freedom and Food for Peace programs --giving away food--have served to keep foreign governments from increasing their own agricultural productivity. As examples, they point out that free U. S. wheat to Chile is believed to have crippled the development of farming there; that in Yugoslavia,

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peasants have reduced their wheat output, putting increasing reliance on American wheat; and that U. S. wheat shipments under Food for Peace to Egypt sustains its war of conquest on Yemen.

It has been asserted that the Marshall Plan in general underwrote continuation of fiscal policies in England which have now proved to be disastrous; that, because it was assured of Marshall Plan subsidies, Great Britain did not transform into long-term obligations its nominally short-term foreign debt--the sterling balances; and that Britain's ailing financial position now reflects the crushing effect of that failure.

Furthermore, it has been pointed out that France, based on huge U. S. outlays of foreign aid after WWII, nationalized its coal and electric power and proceeded to develop high-cost French coal mining with a resulting output that could never otherwise have been competitive in world markets.

Some economists have noted that the massive inflows of foreign aid into India led to economic policies enriching a clique of businessmen who have received special favors and have unwisely launched inefficient industrial projects scattered about throughout that country, to the detriment of sorely-needed agriculture programs.

These and similar charges against U. S. foreign aid programs make it certain that a closer weighing of present and future foreign effects of foreign aid will be done at responsible Federal levels.

The spotlight is focusing ever more strongly on giveaways.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
by U. S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, just passed by the U. S. Senate, might almost be called the "Something-for-Everybody Bill."

A number of its programs, if retained in House of Representatives' action, hold substantial prospects of benefit to West Virginia. Some of these are lesser-publicized programs, which nonetheless have potential suitability for meeting West Virginia's needs.

As one example, the bill adds a new section to the existing Housing Act to permit the Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, to insure supplemental loans to finance improvement, repairs, and additions to multifamily rental projects (including nursing homes and housing for the elderly) and group practices facilities financed with an FHA-insured mortgage.

The Greenbrier County Court, which is sponsoring a long-term care nursing facility, might have had its way smoothed in developing its project, had such a section already been in effect. Also, although the concept is not yet widely understood in the State, there are believed to exist substantial possibilities for better medical care in many areas of West Virginia through development of group practices facilities under the provisions of that section.

For public service districts throughout the State, in areas which have vital need for water and sewage systems, there is hope for consideration of projects which meet HUD's size category and other criteria, through the continuation of the water and sewer development grant program and an accompanying multi-million dollar authorization.

Municipalities in West Virginia, such as ones in Ohio and Kanawha Counties, which have evinced interest in the Model Cities Program, can take a closer look at this concept, as a third round

of participation will be possible through the provision of \$12 million for planning assistance and administrative expenses during FY 1969. This, plus the authorization of \$1 billion for model cities for FY 1970, provides opportunities for soundly-based projects under interested local sponsorship.

Additionally, greatly improved and liberalized provisions for college housing loans, to include a special grant program related thereto, have been incorporated into the existing college housing loan program. In the past, that program has been far short of the need. Now additional funds have been authorized, and it is hoped that this will provide extension of opportunities for West Virginia colleges, such as West Virginia State College at Institute which has twice now sought program assistance.

Another program with potential opportunity for West Virginia under the proposed Act is the Open Space Grant Assistance Program. Some municipalities, such as Princeton, in Mercer County, have shown interest in this program, which is proposed for extension under an authorization of \$150 million for open space grants in 1970.

Of particular significance to West Virginians, a key provision of the new legislation is a national program of flood insurance as a joint venture between the Federal government and the private insurance industry. The bill permits, as an alternative, an all Federal program, and it authorizes establishment of a National Flood Insurance Fund in the U. S. Treasury. Initially planned to be available for one-to-four-family residential properties, extended coverage (based on studies), may go, if feasible, to other residential, business, agricultural, non-profit organizational, and local and State-owned properties.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

OUTDOORS IN WEST VIRGINIA

With summer almost upon us, the thoughts of many families naturally turn to vacations and outdoor recreation.

And while numerous West Virginia families may decide to visit friends or relatives in other states, or perhaps travel to some new city, national park, or historic area, there are still many who feel "there's no place like home."

For these people, and for everyone who simply enjoys taking day trips, West Virginia offers a plethora of worthwhile places to visit and things to do.

If it is camping or picnicking which you like, there are two National Forests, the Monongahela and the George Washington, there is a National Recreation Area at Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks, and there are 29 state parks, and 482 local parks or playgrounds.

In the National Forests, in the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, and in nearly all of the state parks, there are facilities for picnicking, camping, hiking, swimming, boating, fishing, and horseback riding, as well as playground and game areas.

In addition to the above-mentioned areas, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates four reservoirs--Bluestone, Tygart, Sutton, and Summersville--where boating, picnicking, sailing and water skiing are permitted.

It is interesting to note that in the state parks alone there are a total of 192 cabins, 8 lodges, 15 pools or beaches, 5 museums, 2,200 picnic tables, 12 lakes, 147 hiking or bridle paths, and 100 miles of park roads.

Among the local parks and recreation areas, the two largest are Oglebay Park in Wheeling and Coonskin Park in Charleston. Oglebay Park has cabins, a lodge, an olympic-sized swimming pool, a

museum, planetarium, two golf courses, hiking and bridle paths, a lake, and tent and trailer accommodations.

Hunters and fishermen will find that West Virginia has some 800 miles of cold water trout streams and some 18,000 miles of warm water fishing areas.

In addition to this general list of areas, there are numerous other places in the State which are worth a day's visit.

Harpers Ferry in Jefferson County provides a worthwhile "step back in time" to the historic period when abolitionist leader John Brown staged his famous raid on the Federal arsenal.

The U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife operates three fish hatcheries in West Virginia. These are located at Kearneysville in Jefferson County, White Sulphur Springs in Greenbrier County and Bowden in Randolph County.

Each of these hatcheries is open to the public, and visitors can see the young fish in all stages of their growth cycle.

In the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, the Spruce Knob Tower in Pendleton County is nearing completion. To be opened in August, the 25-foot tower atop West Virginia's highest peak gives a commanding view of the surrounding mountains.

For those who want their outdoor recreation "pure," without the press of other campers or picnickers, there is a special wilderness area in the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks park. This section, in the beautiful Smoke Hole region is being left in an undisturbed state with only hiking and bridle paths through it.

These, then, are just some of the many attractions within less than a day's drive of nearly every West Virginian. All are well worth seeing and are easily accessible.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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Volume VIII - Number 24

June 14, 1968

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WEST VIRGINIA SYMBOLS

June 20, 1968, marks the 105th anniversary of the Statehood of West Virginia. And for nearly all that time, a familiar sight to most West Virginians has been the State's Coat-of-Arms upon which is emblazened the motto 'Montani Semper Liberi'--Mountaineers Always Free.

This Coat of Arms forms the main portion of the Great Seal of West Virginia as well as of the State Flag of West Virginia.

The Seal, which is stamped on all official State papers, was designed not long after West Virginia joined the Union.

According to the report of a legislative Committee, made September 23, 1863, the size of the Great Seal was set at 2½ inches in diameter. The Less Seal, was to be smaller but similar in design, but of lesser dimensions. The Secretary of State was designated keeper of the Seals.

The subjects portrayed on the obverse (front) and reverse sides of the Seal are all symbolic of various aspects of West Virginia life. Some are dated, but most are as timely today as they were 105 years ago.

For example, the two men standing on either side of the rock, on which is engraved the date of the State's founding, represent the farmer and the miner. The farmer, whose right hand rests on a plow and whose left hand holds a woodsman's axe, is dressed in a more quaint fashion than we might see today, but with modern styles being what they are, it is hard to tell what might come back into style.

In front of the rock rest two rifles which, according to the legislative report on the Seal, are "crossed and surmounted at the place of contact by the Phrygian cap, or cap of liberty,

indicating that our freedom and liberty were won and will be maintained by the force of arms."

On the reverse side of the Seal, which is not as often displayed, but which is actually quite picturesque, is portrayed a cross-section of 1863 West Virginia life. To one side is a wooded mountain, opposite which is a cultivated hillside with a log farmhouse typical of the times. A railroad trestle runs along the mountain side. According to the 1863 report, this is "a representation of the viaduct on the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in Preston County, one of the great engineering triumphs of the age"

Toward the center of this scene is a factory, in front of which runs a river with boats along its banks. Nearby are an oil derrick and a salt drying shed--equipment used to extract oil and salt in the 1860's. Cattle and sheep, representative of the state's farm industry, are shown, feeding.

All of these are representative of the leading activities and pursuits of West Virginia in 1863. Surprisingly, many of them are valid symbols in 1968.

The State flag of West Virginia, a white banner containing the coat-of-arms of the State bracketed on three sides by a garland of Rhododendron, the State flower, and surmounted by a ribbon containing the words "State of West Virginia", also has an interesting history.

From the time of the State's founding, until 1904, there was no State flag. However, in that year the Centennial of the Louisiana Purchase was held in St. Louis, Missouri, and the Commissioners of West Virginia exhibit found it necessary to have a flag if West Virginia's honor among the States was to be upheld.

Unfortunately, the flag they came up with, while attractive, was found impractical to use inasmuch as the Rhododendron design on one side and the coat-of-arms motif on the other tended to show through and cancel each other out.

Therefore, when West Virginia was invited to participate in the Jamestown, Virginia, Exposition in 1907 a new flag was created. This flag, similar in design to the first, was found visually satisfactory, though too expensive to mass produce for schools and for other necessary uses.

However, it was not until 1929 that the present State flag was designed. Because only one plate was needed to stamp this design on the cloth, low cost reproductions were made possible and this flag has enjoyed continued favor and widespread use.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

TIGHTENED UNITED NATIONS BAN ON RHODESIA

Concern for the preservation of America's character as a freedom-loving and independence-respecting Nation may well be felt following U.S. action in voting for the United Nation's resolution tightening the trade ban with Rhodesia.

This Security Council resolution, introduced and pushed by Britain, was unanimously passed during the last week of May. Designed to cripple the economy of white-ruled Rhodesia, it specifies that all U. N. participants must end all exports and imports to Rhodesia, except for medicine, news, and some educational materials; that Rhodesian passport holders may not travel into U.N. member countries; that all air connections with Rhodesia shall be cut; and that a halt must be made to all investments in the Rhodesian economy. Whether the ban is enforceable and will achieve the aim for which it is intended is another matter. The resolution, does, however, require an August 1968 reporting by the member Nations of all actions taken in compliance with the ban.

It is noteworthy that former Secretary of State Dean Acheson characterized the passage of the resolution as "furnishing a fig leaf of legal respectability for otherwise naked aggression." Speaking before the American Bar Association, he denounced the resolution in the positive terms which it deserves, calling it a vicious substitution of collective aggression for the conception of justice. He charged that, by its action, the U. S. is engaging itself in an international conspiracy, instigated by Britain, and blessed by the United Nations, to overthrow the government of a country that has done the U.S. no harm and threatens no one. He further points out that this resolution constitutes barefaced aggression, is unprovoked, and is not justified by a single legal and moral principle.

In light of these charges, by a respected authority in affairs of State, one may well wonder how this Nation got itself into the midst of what is obviously just another international mess. That answer is that we are supporting Britain, a nation which has done little to bolster our difficult situation in South Viet Nam. We are backing our European ally, Britain, which is trying to force its colonial possession, Rhodesia, to knuckle under to its sovereign will. The Rhodesian regime in power, led by Premier Ian Smith, has reacted by declaring Rhodesia independent of British colonial rule. The British, wanting the Rhodesian government to do as it is told and to fall in line with British plans for eventually giving Rhodesia's black majority control of the government and eventual independence, has succeeded in summoning United Nation's pressure to bear economically against Rhodesia.

The fact of the matter is that the United States has no basic national interest at stake and that it has not been in any manner whatsoever threatened by Rhodesia. In hard practicality, it is gross presumption for this Nation, with its own grievous racial problems, quite obviously unsolved, to interject itself into such problems in another country.

In joining in this United Nations' action against Rhodesia, it would seem, at a minimum, that our Nation is foolishly seeking and fomenting trouble by participating in a British-Rhodesian dispute. At a maximum, it could become a gross tragedy if a bloody civil melee breaks out within Rhodesia, or if an Inter-African war should be sparked between Rhodesia and its neighboring countries.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

OF INFLATION AND THE RIVER

The fact there is inflation and that costs are rising is so taken for granted these days that the actual extent of the price rise often goes unnoticed.

A way to illustrate graphically the extent of this increase, however, is to compare the costs of essentially similar federal projects in the same area over a period of time.

In West Virginia, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is constructing a series of high-lift locks and dams along the Ohio River. These structures, the locks of which measure 110 feet wide by 1,200 feet long, are designed to speed river traffic by replacing the more numerous and shorter low-lift locks and dams.

Construction of each of these locks and dams is a vast undertaking. The work usually extends over a five or six year period. And while the relocation costs, such as railroads and highways, vary with each structure, essentially the cost of each lock and dam is about the same.

The first of these modern high lift structures--the Gallipolis Locks and Dam--was built in 1937 at a cost of about \$9.7 million. (This structure, while considerably larger than the older locks and dams, is only about half as big as the ones now being built and it, too, may be replaced in time.)

The Pike Island Locks and Dam, located near Wheeling, was completed in 1965. It cost \$56.2 million.

The Belleville Locks and Dam, located below Parkersburg, is presently 91 percent complete and should be finished early next year. Its cost will be about \$62.5 million.

Cost of the Racine Locks and Dam, located above Huntington is expected to run about \$68.5 million. This structure is expected to

be complete in late 1970.

Work on the Hannibal Locks and Dam near New Martinsville began last summer and should be finished some time in 1972. The cost--about \$71.4 million.

Finally, construction of the Willow Island Locks and Dam, located near St. Marys in Pleasants County has just begun. This project will not be complete until the mid-1970s at a cost of about \$77 million.

In chart form, the cost increase looks like this:

<u>Locks and Dam</u>	<u>Year of Completion</u>	<u>Est. Cost (\$ millions)</u>
Gallipolis	1937	\$9.7
Pike Island	1965	56.2
Belleville	1969 (est.)	62.5
Racine	1970 (est.)	68.5
Hannibal	1972 (est.)	71.4
Willow Island	mid-1970s	77.0

If we take the 1937 cost of the Gallipolis Locks and Dam as our base cost, then the price of these structures went up almost 580 percent between then and 1965 when the Pike Island project was complete. And the cost will have gone up almost 800 percent by the time the Willow Island project is finished some seven or eight years hence.

Even if we use the more current 1965 cost of the Pike Island project as our base, costs will have gone up 11.2 percent between then and 1969 when the Belleville project is scheduled to be complete. And the increase in costs from 1965 to the time when Willow Island is slated to be finished will be slightly more than 37 percent.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MULE TRAIN

The announcement some weeks ago that a mule would be a part of the so-called Poor People's Campaign conducted in Washington, D.C., stirred up a lot of speculation, in the minds of persons knowledgeable in the ways of mules, as to how the critters could ever be coerced into participating.

Now in a period of time when acquiring status symbols is a big motivating factor in human behavior, it is sort of relaxing to sit back and let one's mind roam over the situation involving a real live, just naturally stubborn, bunch of mules all lined up to go somewhere as a part of a pre-determined human plan.

Right there you arrive at the crux of the matter--getting those mules' attention long enough to get them all moving at the same time and in the same direction--for nowhere will you find a more genuine embodiment of American independence and self-determination than in a bunch of mules. In fact, so legendary is a mule's calloused indifference to human desires that one facetious old prescription for getting a mule's attention is to "hit him aside the head with a handy two-by-four."

And as any West Virginian can tell you who has hitched up a mule and taken him out to do a day's plowing, the fellow following the south end of a mule going north never knows for sure how long the action will last or what will come next. Whether that contrariness is the result of simple stupidity or a surprisingly high degree of intelligence has long been the subject of passionate debate among mule owners.

For comparison's sake, consider the horse. Any thoroughbred horse will, in obedience to human orders, pull and strain, perhaps so hard that he may eventually rupture himself. But not a mule. Whether it is evidence of more sense, or more spitefulness, it is a fact that a mule will just plain quit when he concludes he has had enough. It is another fact that a mule is not likely to overeat, whereas a horse, left without supervision in some lush pasture and river land, may overstuff and founder.

The mule, known to exist in pre-Biblical days, was first bred in America by George Washington. Whether this avocation of the American Army's first Commander-in-Chief influenced the choice of the mule as the symbol of the U.S. Army is not known. However, anyone who has seen the sleekly groomed mules

cavorting at present-day Army athletic events would be apt to suspect that the smart mule knew enough to promote himself from his earlier lowly stage of military pack animal to prominence as a symbol of athletic prowess and superiority.

But there is another aspect of the appearance of a mule train in Washington, D.C., as a symbol of the so-called Poor People's Campaign. That appearance carries something of a paradox with it, for in past years the ownership of a mule represented real substance. Possession of a mule in earlier, less complicated days, was tangible evidence of property ownership, and the sales document on a mule might well be used in time of need to promote a loan from a local bank. That is, provided the bank president had not yet learned the lesson that a mule could just be ornery enough to lie down and die just to disoblige a human being by leaving him without collateral. Thus, whether the mule can be more accurately considered to be a representative of poverty or a symbol of the possession of worldly goods may be as debatable as other facts about the mule.

However, one fact about the long-eared offspring of a mare and jackass is not debatable. Regardless of whether he is considered as a tribute to the perspicacity of the Father of our Nation, as a chattel representing a landowners affluence, or as a symbol of a poor man's ambitions, one fact about the U.S. mule is that he is a uniquely unpredictable critter and as such occupies an unmatched niche in American annals.

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From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
105 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

Volume VIII - Number 28

July 12, 1968

A Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WATER FACTS

Nearly every summer some major metropolis in our country seems to experience a water shortage.

These shortages, which grab so much public attention, might lead one to believe that the world is "running out" of water. The truth is, however, that there is as much water now as ever.

In fact, the world possesses far more water than man might ever hope to need. The difficulty is that most of it is not directly usable and much of what is usable is grievously misused by man.

About 97.2 percent of all the world's water is salty and in the ocean, and another 2.15 percent is frozen in the world's ice caps and glaciers. So, unbelievable as it seems, only less than one percent of the world's water is left for man to use.

What fresh water does exist results from one of nature's most taken-for-granted wonders--rain.

The heat of the sun evaporates water vapor from the ocean and other water bodies. This vapor is borne by the winds until it eventually falls back to earth in the form of rain or snow.

Man taps the world's fresh water by drilling wells or by directly siphoning off what he needs from rivers, lakes, and streams.

This would cause little difficulty if man returned the water as pure as he found it. But such is rarely the case. And every time a stream or lake is polluted it is that much more difficult for nature to perform its miracle of returning the water to its pristine purity.

Disregarding the relatively obvious problems of industrial and urban waste disposal, consider some of these more complex water misuse situations.

--Scientists have just about given up on saving Lake Erie. Relentless pollution has "strangled" this relatively shallow lake. Processes which, in a state of nature, might have taken hundreds of thousands of years have been so speeded up that it may only be a relatively few years until this once magnificent lake becomes a boggy swamp.

--Atomic energy power plants require vast amounts of water to cool their atomic piles. This water is often discharged downstream, steaming hot, killing fish and other forms of water life for many miles.

And even when pollutants are not poured directly into the waters, man may do harm by upsetting the balance of nature.

--When abandoned coal mines fill with water seeping in from the mountains above, the water table in the surrounding hills is often lowered grievously, sometimes causing wells that have run full for years to mysteriously dry up.

--Or consider the case of Lake Michigan which recently was plagued by millions of dead alewives, small trash fish, floating on its surface.

Why did this "fish kill" occur? Because, when the Welland Canal around Niagara Falls was constructed many years ago, lamprey eels were able, for the first time, to come into the Great Lakes. The eels killed off many of the lake trout, the alewives' natural predator. With fewer trout, the alewives multiplied. Only recently has an eel extermination program begun to make headway, with the resultant increase in trout and decrease in dead alewives.

All of these examples are but a long way of presenting a short point: To preserve the treasure of our world's fresh waters, man must be ever vigilant against pollution as well as against disruption of nature's system of checks and balances.

July 19, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 29

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

HATS IN THE RING!

The remark, "Toss Your Hat In The Ring," denoting public assertion by an eligible American citizen of an intent to seek political office, is increasingly conjuring up a vision of beribboned, feathered, and flower-bedecked hats being cast into the political arena by feminine office-seekers.

Beginning in 1916, with the election of Mrs. Jeanette Rankin of Montana on the Republican ticket to serve in the 75th Congress, through the present 90th Congress, there have been 74 women to serve in the U.S. Congress. Of these 74 lady law-makers, only 10 have served in the Senate, and only one, the Honorable Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, has served in both House and Senate. It is further notable that this highly respected New England Senator is also the only woman to be an openly avowed and recognized candidate for the Presidency of the U.S.

However, it is quite probable that the U.S. voting public will see more female candidates campaigning in their own behalf in the future. Thus, female citizens who have some thought of seeking public office may wish to reflect on the past experiences of successful women office-seekers and to review some of the assessments of knowledgeable observers of the U.S. political scene who have watched female candidates win and lose political contests.

As one suggestion, it has been said that more females might benefit by exploiting a strong feminine proclivity for communicating by telephone, thus copying the example of the 2nd woman to be elected to Congress, Mrs. Alice Robertson of Oklahoma, who in 1922 campaigned by telephone.

As another avenue to public office, the ladies have been

advised to choose a husband with strong political interests, as more than one-third of the women members of Congress have been appointed or subsequently elected to seats formerly held by their husbands. As another recommendation, the lady candidate is encouraged to be a persuasive orator while seeking election, but thereafter, in winning favor with, and supporting votes from, male Congressional colleagues, to develop a reputation for few and short speeches.

One astute former Congresswoman once stated certain admonitions for ambitious female office seekers: be feminine, but not too feminine; be friendly--within reason; listen more than you talk; take care of the home folks; and work, work, work! Yet another successful female politician pointed out that a woman seeking a Congressional career would be more successful if she were a "loner", with no family demands to divert her thoughts and energies from service to her constituents back home. However, another long-time Congressional office holder retorted by pointing out that this would almost automatically eliminate the woman office-seeker from aspiring to the Presidency, the ultimate political office, because American voters are totally wedded to the tradition of a President who is a fine husband and devoted father, with a charming, loyal wife, and healthy, attractive children.

As still more advice to the female office-seeker, it has been suggested that she not be merely heavily endowed with feminine instincts for guidance, but that she also have a deep political instinct in order to survive in the rough-and-tumble of political life; that she develop early a hard core of loyal followers as an established political base; and it would help if she were a recognized public figure identified with some popular cause.

As one point in common agreement by all, a lot of hard work is necessary in achieving any successful political career for either female or male.

July 26, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 30

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WOONG THE VOTER

Traditionally an eager swain seeking to win the affections of a fair young maiden will launch a campaign intended to outshine other competitors. That campaign, more romantically termed courtship, might include bedecking himself in attractive raiment, making deep and, at the time, sincere promises, and perhaps spending heavily on the entertainment of the object of his affection, including showering her with gifts. However, as a matter of both history and fiction, sometimes the wealthy suitor brings up heavy financial guns and so overwhelms the maiden, and her papa and mama and aunts and uncles, that he sweeps the matrimonial field and rides off with the prize.

That same plot is more and more beginning to be the story of political campaigning in the U.S., so that poor but worthy candidates may find themselves standing helplessly by while affluent opponents grasp nominations.

Whether or not some of the headgear which candidates are photographed wearing during the heat of political campaigns--such as an Indian Chieftain's feathered headdress, coonskins, and brown derbys--can be considered as attractive raiment, it is a fact that, with each successive presidential campaign, more money is being spent to win the voters.

American citizens getting set to exercise their voting franchise this November would thus do well to acquaint themselves with some of the eye-opening statistics recently issued by the League of Women Voters of the U.S., pointing out the rising outlays of funds by candidates for political office. Thereafter, they may be in a better position to weigh the merits

of the campaigns: being waged in wooing their votes.

Consider this: the total political costs at all levels have been estimated at \$200 million in 1964; \$175 million in 1960; \$155 million in 1956; and \$140 million in 1952.

Interestingly, expenses for political broadcasting at all levels in the 1964 general election were 73 percent higher than in 1960. In fact, the largest single political cost was for broadcasting, with \$34.6 million spent on radio and television. For campaigns at all levels, spot announcements were highly valued, accounting to 60 percent of the expenditures. Announcements on television and radio reportedly totaled 92,300, more than twice as many as in 1960, and the totals for 1968 are anticipated to exceed those of 1964.

One conclusion to be drawn from such statistics is that the day of the lowly, log-cabin-born candidate for the presidency is most probably fading into the annals of past elections. While it may not be necessary for present and future candidates for high political office to be millionaires in order to mount successful campaigns, the high costs make it much more likely that the ultimate prize, the Presidency, will fall to him who hath a full purse or close ties with affluence.

August 2, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 31

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

SELECTING THE CANDIDATES

August 1968 is political convention month in the United States. Meeting first--on August 5 in Miami, Florida--Republicans will choose their candidates for the offices of President and Vice President and build, plank by plank, a party platform upon which their nominees may stand. Then on August 26, Democrats will gather in Chicago, Illinois, to make their selection of hoped-for winners of the Presidency and Vice Presidency.

There is an old saying in the sports world that you "can't tell the players without a score card." Some recently issued pre-convention facts make good aids for the voting public wishing to identify the participants in the convention task of candidate selecting.

For example, participating in the action at the Republican National Convention will be 2,666 delegates and alternates controlling 1,333 votes. Slated to represent West Virginia's GOP members are 4 delegates at large and 2 delegates from each Congressional District, making a total of 14 votes. However, the total delegation present, with alternates, will be twice the number of delegates.

In Chicago, the Democrats will pick their candidates based on 2,622 votes cast by 5,611 delegates and alternates. There to represent West Virginia's Democratic Party members is scheduled to be a maximum delegation of 86, so listed as "maximum" because a maximum number of alternates is included. The maximum total delegation, with national committee members, is 50; and from that group, there will come a total 1968 convention vote of 38.

These West Virginia delegates to the national conventions of the two major political parties in the U.S. were chosen earlier this year in preferential presidential primaries.

Studies by a nationally recognized institution have produced a composite view of delegates, based on presidential convention attendance in the past 20 years.

In general, the average age of Democratic delegates runs around fifty years and that of the Republicans, about 52 years. By sex, the Democrats seem to have almost twice as many women delegates and alternates as the Republicans. By race most of the Negro strength has been relatively minor in the past, coming chiefly from districts in the North with large Negro populations. The 1968 experience is likely to vary, however.

As to education, a questionnaire concerning attendance at one past national convention revealed about one-third of the delegates at both conventions had received one or more years of postgraduate education, in most cases probably in law school.

The income level of convention delegations is largely from the upper income levels of the U.S. population. For 1968, it is believed to be \$15,000 upwards, with a goodly percentage reporting incomes of \$50,000 or upwards, annually.

Most often, the Governor of a State or Territory will be a member of his party's convention delegation, generally serving as delegation Chairman, a position of great strategic importance in convention business. Where a Governor is not a delegation Chairman, quite often a U.S. Senator will so serve his party and State. A majority of U.S. Senators are usually delegates to their party's convention, whereas, generally, only about one-quarter of the current membership of the House of Representatives is to be found in the delegations.

As a rule, too, from 40 to 50 percent of the delegates are repeaters. In convention management and leadership, experience is of tremendous value. The pay-off on all these convention efforts, of course, lies in the success with which the two nominees are chosen--one person to serve all Americans as their President for four years at an annual taxable salary of \$100,000, and a Vice President to back-stop him in leading the Nation for an annual salary of \$43,000, also taxable.

August 9, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 32

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U. S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WASHINGTON'S NOT YET RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM

Washington, D.C., is about to break into the membership of a super-exclusive world club of cities--those with subway systems.

When the breakthrough occurs, and Washington at long last witnesses tourists and Federal workers whizzing about on a rapid-transit system, it will not represent a rapid action. In fact, the fifty-year-old question, "Why not a real subway system for Washington?", has given rise to a continuing scenario with cliff-hanging endings which eclipse the old, silent movies, 13-chapter, serialized thrillers in length and suspense.

Under present projections, and based on the resolution of related transportation planning for the Virginia-D.C.-Maryland area, by 1980, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will be well on the way to operating a regional rapid-transit system of 95.6 miles of lines, nearly half underground, with 81 stations conveniently dotted among residential and business areas. A basic 25-mile rapid rail system largely within the District of Columbia, authorized by Congress in 1965, will be the heart segment of the system.

At a probable cost of \$2.5 billion, the funding is to be shared to the tune of 154 million State-of-Virginia dollars, \$212 million from Maryland, and \$209 million from D.C., prorated on a formula of quality of service, source of riders, and projected population.

The entry of the U.S. Capital City into the world club of subway-operating cities is thus easily recognizable as an

expensive one. It is also a very late entry.

Certainly it will be outclassed in seniority, for the London, England, subway system is the oldest in existence, having celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1963. The Moscow, Russia, system lays claim to being the most efficient in the world, for under the Marxist principles, all operations of United Soviet Socialist Russia just are more efficient than capitalistic enterprises. Leaving political dogma aside, the Moscow subway is certainly apt to be listed as the most monumental in ornamentation, with its museum-like stations. It also may be the most daring, as Russian engineers are currently experimenting with computer-controller trains to plummet Russian travelers ever more speedily along their proletarian way.

But aesthetically and functionally, the French apparently have established world leadership in the subway club. So admired are Paris' clean, well-decorated station platforms, chic blue and beige cars, smooth functioning of train service, and generally high-toned operations, that many world cities are currently shopping with the French for establishment of duplicate service. Mexico City has recently contracted with the French to duplicate the system in the Mexican Capital. Haifa, in Israel, is negotiating with the French, as are Rio de Janeiro, Caracas, Cairo, and Calcutta.

What the depth of world approbation may be following the unveiling of Washington's subway-rapid-transit system is yet unknown.

However, what the Washington Metropolitan Area travelers mostly hope for is not merely another tourist attraction but a sound transportation system which offers greater convenience, higher speed, fewer traffic jams, and lower cost.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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August 16, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 33

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

POSTAL SERVICE

About the only time the American public may be inclined to think the Federal postal services are really efficient is the first of the month when the bills for rent and utilities, installment purchases, and son Johnny's dental work are all-too-faithfully delivered at the family homestead by the U.S. mailman.

At other times there may be a deep conviction that the postal services are not nearly so good as they ought to be for the amount of money which they are reported to cost.

Well aware of public thinking on this score, the Administration established a commission to examine the organization of the U.S. postal service. A report by that Commission--the Kappel Report, so named for the Commission Chairman--has recently been made public. It urges immediate reorganization of the Post Office Department, with Congress to be asked to establish a Postal Corporation to operate the Department on a self-supporting basis. That Corporation would be managed by a 9-man Board of Directors.

Should such proposal ever be presented to it, Congress may wish to "look at the record," to see what past experiences would cast a helpful light on the postal services situation.

One excellent U.S. reference work defines the term "postal services" as arrangements by a government for the exchange of letters, packages, and periodicals, and for related services. Such arrangements have been a vital part of governmental functions for centuries, with courier systems for government use organized in the Persian Empire under Cyrus, in the Roman Empire, and in medieval Europe. Over the centuries, private systems have operated sporadically, being gradually abandoned or incorporated into government service.

Thus, peoples have invariably demanded of their governments that postal services, as a vital communications link, be furnished.

The English postal service, from which our own American system sprang, was an outgrowth of royal courier routes, having been established in 1857. The first organized system of post offices in America was officially created by Parliament in 1710, although as early as 1639 there was a post office in Boston. For decades the mails were carried over a system of post roads. Postage stamps, as revenue raising items to help defray postal service costs, were first used in the U.S. in 1847.

So there one has it--the whole basketful of elements--roads and transportation, postage stamp fees, and expanding need of postal services with a governmental commitment to furnish these to its citizens. These elements, updated to the framework of modern living, circa 1968, currently form the storm center of public controversy over postal operations.

West Virginians perhaps have a better estimate of the part the element of roads plays in the success of the arrangements by the Federal government to furnish needed postal services to its citizens. It is notable that they promptly remind Federal officials when the postal services within the State seem threatened or are adjudged to be inadequate, seeming to desire that their views and protests be given attention at a level of government immediately responsive to them as taxpayers.

And, therein, reflected in varying degrees throughout the U.S., lies the basis for considerable scepticism as to the willingness of the American public to have U.S. postal services turned over to a chartered corporation with independent powers to regulate postal services, determine postal revenues, and manage postal operations in general.

August 23, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 34

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

CLIMBING THE INCOME LADDER

The matter of personal income has a good many sensitive aspects. In fact, what sometimes appears to be good news may, upon closer examination, need a bit of tempering.

For instance, Federal authorities charged with making accurate Nationwide measurements of income levels have reported that personal income in the U.S. has increased 518 percent from 1929 to 1965, or at a compound rate of 5.2 percent annually. These Sherlock Holmeses of the U.S. economic world further report that personal income reached a record high in every State of the Union in 1967, with the 1967 National average of \$3,137 per person up \$174, or nearly 6 percent, from the total of \$2,963. Now these glowing reports are all well and good for any taxpayer to hear, but right away one sort of gets a feeling that if Uncle Sam's hawk-eyed income-watchers would shift their visions a little more from the income side of the picture to the out-go side, there might be a more complete story. Obviously consumer prices are up.

The income-watchers, however, counter that fact by saying consumer prices were only up 2-1/2 percent last year, so that the increase in real per capita personal income was up 3-1/3 percent, on a National basis.

Again, granted that these reports on the National economic situation sound good, West Virginia income earners still need to know where they stand on the Nation's income ladder.

According to the diagrams of the Federal statistical sleuths, West Virginia is one of 12 States placed in a geographical category labeled "The Southeast Region." It is reported that, on a State basis, the largest gains in personal income since 1960 have been

concentrated in this Southeast Region, and that 8 of the 10 States in the U.S. registering per capita income gains of more than 50 percent from 1960-1967 are in this Region. However, any elation over this news is apt to be a bit deflated when it is realized that there is a concentration of low-income States in the Southeast Region and that, of the 12 States with the lowest per capita incomes last year (each one-fifth or more below the National average), 10 are in the Southeast Region. Any improvement noted thus represents a catching up by Southeastern States--a catching up from a long way behind the National average.

Closer examination reveals yet other facts bound to concern Mountain State residents. West Virginians were reported to have a per capita personal income of \$2,341 for 1967, an amount totaling \$796 below the National average of \$3,137. This placed West Virginia very nearly at the bottom of the Nation's income ladder in 1967, with a rank of 47th among the 50 States and the District of Columbia. It also indicated a greater dollar disparity between the West Virginia per capita personal income and the National figure in 1967 than in 1960. The 1960 National figure was \$2,215, whereas the West Virginia figure of \$1,594 represented a level of \$621 below the National average, giving West Virginia a ranking of 44th on the Nation's 1960 income ladder.

So while West Virginia's per capita income has increased, it would appear that it has not kept pace with the National rate.

An obvious conclusion here is that climbing the income ladder is not an easy feat.

August 30, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 35

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

AUCTIONS

Auctions are addictive.

To those who are hooked, they are as irresistible as a jar of home-baked Cookies.

This is hardly surprising, however. For who can pass up a shopping bargain? And if auctions provide nothing else, they do provide bargains aplenty.

Where else can so little buy so much? Where else can a family while away an hour or two, spend a few dollars, and come home with so many genuine "finds" that they may barely fit in the trunk of the car?

Only at the country auction can such diverse items as wagon wheels, old barrels, cider presses, fine cutlery, confederate money, linen, and chinese vases be found in such profusion. And no matter what the heart's desire, if enough auctions are attended, the item sought is bound to come up for sale eventually.

Even if nothing is purchased, listening to the auctioneer sing his siren song to the skeptical throng of buyers is as enjoyable as listening to the lover woo his lady fair at the opera. Auctioneers are folksy and domineering, charming and brassy-- depending on their mood, their audience, and what they have to sell. Some bellow out, disdaining an amplifier, to reach the back rows. Others are barely audible even from ten feet away. Many gesture vehemently with their hands, their hats, their faces, sometimes even with their canes.

No matter what their technique, all are persuasive. They hint at great values and unheard-of-bargains. And no matter how unsightly or useless the object of their attentions, by the end of

the sale, somehow nothing remains unsold.

The crowd of prospective buyers is the auctioneer's foil and complement. At first, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish those who come to buy seriously from those who merely dabble at bidding.

The novice shouts his bid. The cognoscenti acknowledge their intentions with nothing more than a slight nod of the head or gesture of the hand. But when it comes to distinguishing the genuine bid as opposed to a random scratch of the head, the auctioneer generally has sharp eyes.

On a note of caution, prospective bidders would be wise to note the location of their wives at all times. Nothing is more disconcerting, or expensive, than to discover that the person against whom you were bidding is none other than your beloved spouse.

If this should happen and your choler must be quenched, omnipresent are the ladies of the local grange or volunteer fire department who sell cold beverages, as well as tasty sandwiches, and home-baked cakes, cookies, and pastries.

To the auction addict, attendance at a Saturday auction sale can be as compulsive as dropping just one more nickel into a slot machine. However, there is one distinguishing difference that makes auction attendance profitable and slot machines not so. No matter how much is spent at an auction, the buyer can always count on coming home with goods of some value if not greater value than the price he bid.

September 6, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 36

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

APPLE SEASON

Fall is the season for apples and cider.

On a crystal day, the tang of the first bite into a ripe apple is matched only by the bright redness of its skin, a color equal to the brightest fall foliage.

Apples are a big business in West Virginia and in 34 other states from Maine to Oregon. Annually some 130 million bushels of apples are produced in the U.S.

Apple history goes back a long way. Legend holds that the forbidden fruit with which Eve tempted Adam was the apple, though the Bible does not confirm this, one way or the other.

Carbonized remains of apples have even been found in pre-historic lake dwellings. The first apples in the New World may have been brought over from England on the Mayflower and it is recorded that the Pilgrims planted apple seeds and started the first New World orchards.

Today there are some 2,500 varieties of apples in America, though only about 100 are grown commercially. Among the most popular are the Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Winesap, McIntosh, Grimes Golden, Cortland, and Jonathan.

The reason there are so many different kinds of apples is because the fruit does not reproduce "true" from seed. It seems that seeds from an apple do not produce apple trees precisely like the parent tree. Thus every apple seed theoretically produces a new apple variety. To grow a type of apple consistently, orchardists employ the technique of grafting the desired type of fruit branch onto seedlings or other trees.

Interestingly, the Golden Delicious apple was first discovered in Clay County, West Virginia. According to the National Apple

Institute, around 1900 a farmer by the name of Anderson Mullins found the first Golden Delicious tree among the other trees in his orchard.

The apple has long been held to have curative values. King Solomon hailed it as a fruit of healing. And, there is of course the adage, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Science tends to confirm the truth of this.

Doctors have found that infants are happier and healthier if they are given apple sauce or apple juice daily. And children who eat apples regularly have less tooth decay because apples help clean teeth, massage gums, and remove mouth bacteria.

Apples contain vitamins A,C, and some B complexes, thus helping nutrition. Further, for the weight conscious, the average apple only has 90 calories and is high in pectin, a substance which helps the body absorb cholesterol.

Apples can be eaten raw, baked, grated, pressed (as in cider) or as an ingredient in other foods.

About the only time they cannot be eaten is when they are green and unripe. This is because the tannic acid in the fruit makes them bitter to the taste and the pectin makes them hard. Further, indigestible starches cause the green apple to give stomach aches.

As the apple ripens, however, the starch changes into sugar, the tannins decrease, and the pectin changes into a soluble form.

Then the apple becomes nature's wonder fruit; tasty, nutritious, and eye-catching.

September 13, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 37

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

APPROACHING CLIMAX

It may not be easy for Americans in the year 1968 to picture their place in a rapidly accelerating two-part human drama--that of lessening food supplies versus multiplying life on this planet.

Indeed, in the United States during this summer season, in the midst of the abundance of summer food--corn-on-the-cob; home-fried spring chicken; buttered new potatoes; tree-ripened peaches with freshly skimmed cream; juicy home-patch watermelons--it is hard to believe that the period of America's great food abundance, as known in the past, is drawing to a close.

But the hard fact is that, unless the world solves the problem of feeding its people, already a heavily pressing burden in underdeveloped nations, Americans will find themselves inevitably part of a world tragedy with survival as its theme.

Consider these statistics: about 3.3 billion people now inhabit this planet. In 15 years, there will be 4 billion. By the year 2000, less than 32 years away, more than 6 billion humans--two for every one alive today--will be struggling for the earth's food and living space, with many of these scramblers for existence psychologically abnormal because of mind and body-stunting malnutrition and resulting diseases. And the political effects will be incalculable, for as Seneca warned the Roman Senate nearly 2,000 years ago, "A hungry people listens not to reason nor is its demand turned aside by prayers."

One obvious and imperative answer to the dilemma surely facing the peoples of the world is that of population control. Valuable as it may be as a tool, it is only a partial answer.

Increase of agriculture production, especially in underdeveloped countries, is a partial counterforce to the impending

crisis. Yet another solution, that of developing new food growth and types of food, is being heavily researched by governmental, academic, and private segments of our Nation.

Within the State of West Virginia, some interesting proposals have been brought forward which are part of these efforts, and which at the same time have the added attraction of offering prospects of economic development in the selected areas, if the projects become established.

In Taylor County, for example, efforts are being made to develop an industry for a synthetic growth process for tomatoes. Further, the University of West Virginia, in Morgantown, has plans to research the problems in growing greenhouse crops in nutri-culture.

Elsewhere in the State, an enterprising group of businessmen and public-spirited citizens are hoping to research the feasibility of the manufacture of high-protein foodstuffs, based on the use of a process developed by one of the Nation's large flour manufacturers. However, such projects must, in the hard light of daily practicality, offer firm possibilities of being economically viable, with the product having commercial advantages. Thus the whole system--that of producing, processing, and marketing new foodstuffs, synthetic foods, fortified foods, and the like--needs to become a goal of education, research, and private industry--something called agri-business.

West Virginia, and the U.S., may expect to hear more about agri-business as future pressures force redoubled efforts to find pragmatic solutions to an old and vexing human problem--hunger.

September 20, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 38

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MONEY MATTERS

When the cost of mailing a first class letter was increased from five to six cents last winter, the Post Office Department was flooded with an onslaught of mis-stamped mail. Letters had been sent with various combinations of one, two, three, and four cent stamps as well as some to which nickels and pennies had been stuck.

All of this was due to the usual misunderstandings among some postal patrons as to exactly how much was due, as well as from the desire among other patrons to use up all of their old stamps before laying in a stock of the new ones.

The Post Office Department, long inured to such deviations from the norm, however, was fully braced for the mis-mailed missives.

But imagine, if you please, not a mere changeover in the denomination of postage stamp needed to mail a letter, but rather a complete change in the monetary system of the nation.

Imagine that instead of going to the pay window and receiving the usual number of dollars and cents, the clerk handed over a check or envelope containing wages calculated on an entirely different system of money--one in which dollars and cents no longer meant the same thing.

To say that confusion might be the order of the day is an understatement of considerable dimensions.

Yet, such a changeover is taking place in Great Britain. And we in the United States might learn much from the difficulties the British are discovering.

The change-over in Britain is being made in an attempt to

modernize an archaic system of reckoning. Under the old British monetary system, which will remain in force until 1971, one pound (which is worth about \$2.40) is comprised of 20 shillings, each of which is worth 12 pence (pennies).

The new British pound will still be worth \$2.40, but it will only be worth 100 British pennies. In effect, the British are going on the decimal system. Five new pennies will be the equivalent of one shilling; ten pennies, two shillings; and so forth.

The British government is trying to make the change-over slowly to allow people to get as accustomed as possible to the new way of spending and receiving money.

Thus, this spring the new five- and ten-pence pieces, worth one and two shillings, respectively, went into circulation.

That they were greeted with less than public acclaim is evident from the reaction of the typical man on the street when proffered a new coin as change from a purchase.

One man said: "What are you trying to get away with. This ain't no good."

Another said "I can't take it Governor, although it's got the Queen's head on it."

From a third came this reaction: "No mister, I can't take that. I need a real one."

It is evident that the British people will need a good deal of conditioning before they will accept the new currency, just as we, too, might, were we faced with a similar change.

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Whether or not the United States should adopt the metric system of weights and measures to replace the current system which uses inches, feet, yards, pounds, and ounces, has been the object of discussion ever since the French adopted the metric system in 1795.

Actually, the U.S. is on the metric system, at least in a formal way. Our standard units of weight and distance are the kilogram and the meter. Our customary units, such as the yard and the pound, are really only fractions of these metric units.

(The standard meter and the standard kilogram, against which all other weights and measures are tested, actually exist. Made of 90% platinum and 10% iridium, these units are kept in climate-controlled chambers at the National Bureau of Standards Laboratory in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

There is really no rational reason for the use of inches, feet, and so forth. The foot's only reason for being is the fact that several hundred years ago in Great Britain, a certain unit of distance was described as being equal to the length of the foot of the reigning monarch. When a new king ascended to the throne, if his foot size differed from his predecessor's, the standard "foot" changed accordingly.

The metric system, on the other hand, has the virtue of simplicity and precision. One kilogram is equivalent to 1,000 grams. One milligram is equivalent to 1/1,000th of a gram. One kilometer equals 1,000 meters. A centimeter is equivalent to 1/100th of a meter.

Because of this precision, many U.S. industries use the metric system exclusively. A micrometer, for instance, which

is a measuring device to show distance in fractions of centimeters, is a common instrument in any machine shop.

Difficulties would likely be encountered initially among the public at large, however, if any changeover from our customary units of measure were to be made.

For instance, a housewife telling her husband to go out and buy 600 milliliters of cream might baffle him unless she explained-- or he knew--she wanted about one pint, which is the nearest equivalent, in our system, of 600 milliliters.

Or a driver, accustomed to a 50 mile trip, might get a jolt the first time he saw a sign stating his destination as only 80 kilometers away. Yet 80 kilometers is equivalent to about 50 miles.

Yet, these difficulties may, in the long run, be worth the price of the changeover. Nearly every other nation in the world is on the metric system, and it is possible, some experts say, that our export trade may decline, were the U.S. not to make a conversion to the metric system in the future.

Congress this session passed a bill to allow the Secretary of Commerce authority to conduct a three-year study "to determine the advantages and disadvantages of increased use of the metric system."

The results of that study should make interesting reading.

October 4, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 40

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

POLITICAL TINTINNABULATION

The mouth-filling term for bell-ringing-tintinnabulation-- seldom noted outside of a dictionary, may grow to be a familiar household word before the ending of the 1968 political campaigns.

If so, a new chapter--a political one--will have been added to the colorful history of man's usage of bells.

Many legends and traditions are associated with bells, which for centuries have been used for signaling, in dancing, as musical instruments, and as protective charms. Apparently originating in Asia, bells early were employed for religious purposes, becoming intimately associated with Christianity in the 6th Century.

Now, in this, the latter portion of the 20th Century, a political cast for bell-ringing is being forged, for both major U.S. political parties are backing a grassroots tintinnabulation strategy for vote-garnering.

This doorbell-ringing for political gains, while not new in concept, nonetheless attests to a major tenet espoused by both parties in 1968, that there are votes to be won from offering to voters a personal contact with an informed party worker.

Thus, as the tempo of the current political campaigns mounts to a crescendo, there is likely to be a steady swell in the sound of pealing, ringing, chiming, jingling, ding-donging, and bonging of neighborhood doorbells.

However fierce may grow the competition among doorbell-ringing political supporters, this will not be the first competition that has arisen in bell-ringing. In past centuries, principal cities in the western world vied over the size, complexity, and melodiousness of their instruments. But in today's "mod"

United States, the tintinnabulation of party workers will not be directed toward esthetic results but toward tangible political returns in the form of votes cast on election day.

And practical politicians hoping to really ring the bell by getting their candidates voted into political office can secure material prepared as guidelines to assist them in following up effectively on their doorbell-ringing, in much the same manner as a musician using bells for purely musical purposes relies on a musical score in developing his theme.

However, there is one significant difference between the guidelines set forth for political bell-ringing and melodious bell-ringing by a musician. The material developed by political planners in the U.S., for general distribution, offers some tactful suggestions as to the proper appearance and conduct of the volunteer political bell-ringer. Perhaps these suggestions are intended to avoid any sour notes in political doorbell-ringing and to prevent unnecessary jangling of nerves of potential voters.

In any event, the candidate for whom the victory bells ring out on election night is apt to think that political tintinnabulation is indeed a melodious sound.

Space

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
105 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

October 11, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 41

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MAN IN SPACE

The United States has taken many steps forward in the conquest of space, even though the 'space age' is scarcely more than 11 years old.

It was on October 5, 1957, that man's first artificial Satellite, Sputnik I, was orbited by the Soviet Union.

Since that day, both the United States and the U.S.S.R. have launched more than 877 artificial satellites. Most have gone into orbit around the Earth, but some travelled to the Moon, Mars, Venus, and beyond. A total of 59 satellites have been manned shots or tests of manned flight vehicles.

Manned space flight is a tremendously complex achievement. For instance, at the peak of the production schedule for the Saturn V rocket, the booster that is programmed some day to launch a man to the moon, over 300,000 people in more than 20,000 separate organizations were engaged in its manufacture.

The very dimensions of this three-stage rocket give some idea of its complexity. With some 5.6 million moving parts in its systems, it is 281 feet tall and 33 feet in diameter. Its 7,500,000 pounds of thrust at liftoff are so powerful that they could push into earth orbit the equivalent weight of 70 fully loaded passenger cars--approximately 285,000 pounds.

The exploration of space has produced some remarkable technological "fallout" back on earth.

For example, doctors have adapted a "sight switch", originally developed to help astronauts cope with their instrument panels under high gravity forces, to guide motorized wheelchairs for paraplegics. The switch is activated solely by the movement of the eyes.

Moreover, the 'solid state' hi-fi's and television sets which are now on the market owe much of their technology to the miniaturization of parts which was necessary on weight-conscious space vehicles where every pound of payload means many extra pounds of thrust necessary to boost it into orbit.

Additionally, satellites have helped in predicting the weather, in speeding telephone and television signals across the oceans, in navigating ships across stormy seas, and in spying out troop movements and other military activities in hostile nations. In this context, satellite photography is so precise that objects as small as a garden hose can be delineated in a photograph taken more than 100 miles above the earth.

Then there are new materials commonplace today that were unheard of 10 years ago. An example is teflon, the no-stick substance which is now found in every kitchen's pots and pans.

What space exploration is likely to develop tomorrow is anyone's guess, but it is certainly safe to suggest that benefits such as these just mentioned are likely to be on the increase in the next 10 years and beyond.

October 18, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 42

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WHAT TIME IS IT?

Many's the perplexed family which will wake up Sunday morning, October 27, turn on their radio or TV to listen to the 9 o'clock news, and find, lo and behold, that it is not 9 o'clock today, but 8 o'clock, instead.

This is known as the return of Standard Time. What is left behind is Daylight Saving Time (DST.)

(An easy way to remember how to set your clock for this semi-annual shift is by the slogan: "Spring ahead, Fall behind." Daylight Saving Time, by the way, is not gone forever. This device, which allows summer daylight to linger longer, returns the last Sunday in April.)

Time problems have always been be-devilling. In addition to the obvious problems caused by having four time zones in the continental U.S., (Eastern, Central, Mountain, and Pacific,) time seekers around the land have had to contend with the fact that local options allow individual states and communities to stray off the time of the area surrounding them.

This means that a state, city, or town can be on Standard Time, or Daylight Time, depending on its whim, and, further, until recently, could go on or off this time, at whatever date it chose.

According to a Senate Report published in 1965, only "15 states observed Daylight Time state-wide and set their clocks ahead on the last Sunday in April. Parts of 16 other States also used Daylight Time, but set the clock ahead on a wide variety of dates, ranging from April to June. In 19 States, DST was not observed at all. And when fall came, the change over to Standard Time occurred on a score of different dates."

This multiplicity of times not only confuses non-residents, but also costs money. Bus companies report, for instance, additional costs of nearly \$1 million annually. The same is true for the airlines, railroads, radio and television networks.

Some measure of control was brought to this confusion by a federal law passed three years ago which provides that if a state or locality chooses to go on Daylight Time, it must make this change on the last Sunday in April and the last Sunday in October.

And while this may not be much consolation to the man who wakes and finds he could have slept another hour, at least it will take some of the guess-work out of figuring what time it is when it comes to setting the clock back...or is it forward...oh what the heck, why not go back to bed and wait 'til spring....

October 25, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 43

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

VOTING RITES

American voting procedure has come a long way from the days of the New England town meeting when issues were decided in an open forum followed by a show of hands or a tally of the yeas and nays.

Today, in some areas, votes are counted by a computer which can process more than 600 ballots a minute.

These changes have been brought about by technology allied with a desire to safeguard the secrecy of the individual ballot and guard against widespread vote fraud.

Though paper ballots have been used in the United States since 1629, voting by state printed secret ballot was not formally introduced into this country until the latter half of the 19th century. This was known as the Australian ballot, for the country of its origin.

The Australian system was first applied in Kentucky and Massachusetts in 1888. By 1889, it had spread to Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. In 1891, it was adopted in West Virginia.

Only one year after that date, the first voting machines were used in America. They were built by Jacob C. Myers, a New York safe manufacturer.

Today, voting machines are legal in all 50 states and their use will account for 65 percent of the votes cast in the upcoming Presidential election. Interestingly, however, more than half of the country's 168,000 voting precincts still use paper ballots.

There are several types of voting machines on the market. They cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000 apiece. The two most common

involve voting booths in which the voter is shielded from view by a curtain, and he flips levers beside the names of the candidates of his choice.

The vote is registered when the curtain is drawn open. At that time the levers also spring back to their original position. At the close of voting, the tallies on each of the voting machines are added up.

Newer types of voting devices speed the tallying even further. One system uses IBM cards. Each voter receives a card which he places in a special tray. Atop the tray is a booklet which contains the names of the candidates on different pages. As each page is turned, another portion of the card is exposed and the voter punches a small hole in the card next to the name of the candidate of his choice. At the close of voting, the punched cards are collected and taken to a computer for rapid processing.

Voting machines have proved superior to paper ballots for several reasons. Not only are they faster to process, but also fewer people are needed at polling places. Further, they are virtually 100 percent accurate and almost 100 percent fraud-proof.

However, no matter how a person's vote is cast, whether by machine, or by paper ballot, the American voter ought to give careful thought to the choices he makes. In the Presidential race this year, the destiny of not only our country but also of the entire world, rests, in large measure, on the choice made.

November 1, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 44

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

CATCHING...AND CURING THE COMMON COLD

Catching cold is nothing to sneeze at.

Every year Americans catch anywhere from 134 million to 500 million colds which result in approximately 331 million days of restricted activities, 51 million lost school days, and 40 million lost work days, as well as the expenditure of more than \$400 million for remedies, many of which are of questionable value.

Colds are characterized by sore throats, sneezing, stuffy noses, coughing, sniffles, and a general feeling that one could be feeling a great deal better.

Colds are caused by any one of about 100 rhino-viruses. This explains why scientists are continuing to find it extremely difficult to "cure" the cold. Any one vaccine is only good against one specific virus. Since there are so many cold viruses, coming up with one, universal vaccine is proving well-nigh impossible.

You can only catch cold by coming in contact with one of the viruses which cause the illness. Generally, after you have gotten over a cold you are not likely to take sick again from that particular virus. This is because, in fighting the disease, the body builds up antibodies which remain in the system and protect it in the future.

This also explains why you might not catch the cold your wife or children have, if you happen to have natural protection against that particular cold virus, while, on the other hand, you might catch a cold one week after recovering from a similar siege. This is because the second cold might be caused by any of the other 99-odd viruses.

Colds are more likely to be caught in winter than in summer. Scientists don't know why; they only know that's just the

way it is.

Curing the common cold has been a goal ever since man got the first case of sniffles. Unfortunately, there is no cure, as such. The best that doctors can recommend, even today, are drugs and medications that cure the cold's symptoms. Thus, antihistamines, those 'tiny little time pills', are good for keeping down stuffiness in the nose, while an aspirin will help relieve the pain of a headache.

In some ways, even the most scientific cures have nothing on the folk remedies which have been handed down for generations. Hot lemonade has been a staple for many years. One reason it is so effective, researchers have found, is because it is so high in vitamin C, a substance that apparently goes a long way in warding off a cold's ills.

Other folk treatments include steam baths, a method, incidentally, reported by the explorers Lewis and Clark as the remedy used by the American Indian; mustard baths for the feet; staying in bed under heavy blankets to 'sweat out' the malady; and drinking copious quantities of warm liquids.

Whatever cure is tried, the one comfort the cold sufferer can be consoled by is that he is not alone in his misery and that others are working diligently to help alleviate it.

November 8, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 45

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

BIBLE FACTS

The world's number one best selling book never appears on the weekly charts published by the nation's various newspapers.

Why this is so is anybody's guess, but one reason, perhaps, is because having the same book as number one, year in and year out, might get publicists discouraged about touting their favorite author's masterpiece as having "topped the best seller list" when, after all, it was merely number two.

Be that as it may, the best seller of all time is, of course, the Bible.

Not surprisingly, the Bible has been translated into languages other than English. In fact, as of this spring, some or all of the Bible had been translated into 1,875 foreign languages. And while this may seem to have exhausted all further need for Biblical translators, there are still more than 1,000 languages and dialects into which no portion of the Bible has ever been translated.

Some problems have arisen in making these translations. For instance on the island of Bali in the South Pacific, the term "generation of vipers" is considered a compliment, the viper being thought a sacred creature by the Balinese. In parts of Liberia, on the other hand, natives are wont to translate that portion of the Lord's Prayer which reads "And lead us not into temptation" as "Do not catch us when we sin."

The first printed Bible was published in Germany around 1456 by Johannes Gutenberg, the inventor of moveable type.

The first American edition of the Bible, and, incidentally,

the only Bible ever endorsed by Congress, was published in Philadelphia in 1782.

No other Bible had been published in the New World until that date because the British had a ban on the printing of the King James Bible in the colonies; a measure designed, no doubt, to stimulate British exports of the Holy Book.

After the American revolution, however, Robert Aitken, a Philadelphia printer, asked Congress for a commission "to print and vend editions of the Sacred Scriptures." His request was granted and his edition of the Bible was recommended by Congress "to the inhabitants of the United States."

10,000 copies of Aitken's Bible were printed, some in handsome two-volume sets bound in dark green morocco leather, others in plainer, one-volume editions.

Today, American Bibles are printed by more than 63 different religious book publishers, and there are over 500 different editions of the King James Version alone.

Many Bibles are distributed free. The Gideons, an organization of Christian laymen, are known for the Gideon Bibles which they place in hotels, motels, and hospitals, as well as on ships, planes, and trains, and in the hands of school children and servicemen. The American Bible Society, another publishing group representing 69 U.S. religious denominations, last year gave away, or sold, some 75 million Bibles in the U.S. and overseas.

From all of the foregoing, it could probably be asserted, without being too far wrong, that if all Bibles ever published were stacked one atop the other, the cumulative stack of books would probably reach heaven, or, if not that far, come awfully close.

College

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
105 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

November 15, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 46

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

SERVICE ACADEMIES

Every summer, several thousand of the nation's most intelligent and physically fit young men enter into an obligation and a personal adventure which has a vital bearing on the future of our country.

They do this on taking the oath of office as cadets or midshipmen in one of the five service academies which provide personnel for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and the U.S. Merchant Marine.

Of the five academies, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point is the oldest, having been founded in 1802 by order of President Thomas Jefferson. The U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis was founded in 1845, and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, Conn., in 1876.

Of more recent establishment is the Merchant Marine Academy, initiated in 1942, and the Air Force Academy which opened its doors in 1955.

Over the years some 1196 West Virginians have attended the five schools and 364 West Virginia graduates are currently on active duty serving in ranks ranging from Lt. General and Vice Admiral to 2nd Lieutenant and Ensign.

Admission to all of the service schools, except the Coast Guard Academy, is by Congressional appointment or through appointment by the President, Vice President, service Secretary, or from the regular Armed Forces or Reserve. All candidates, must, however, meet rigorous mental and physical standards prior to their admission, no matter what the method of their appointment. Coast Guard Academy appointments are based on an annual competitive examination.

(In making my selection of appointees, designation is determined, most of all, by performance in a preliminary, competitive civil service examination.)

Life at a service academy is far different from the glamour pictured on the movie and television screen.

The entrance requirements weed out all but the most fit, and the rugged pace which is required throughout the four years of attendance is sufficient to cause many more to fall by the wayside before graduation.

There is considerably less emphasis these days on the physical hazing of plebes (freshmen) than in the past. Instead, a rigorous academic and physical schedule is required.

The course of study is designed to produce a broadly educated officer who will be capable of serving in any sector of our country's armed forces. Many graduates of the various academies are permitted to continue their studies, at government expense, in pursuit of advanced degrees.

Upon graduation each cadet or midshipman is commissioned an officer in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Navy Reserve. Generally, he is then obligated to serve a minimum specified period of time; however, since it is the purpose of the various academies to produce career-oriented officers, the percentage who decide to continue in their commissions is high.

West Virginians can be proud of the men who hail from the Mountain State who have attended the various service academies.

Thanksgiving

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
105 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

November 22, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 47

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

TURKEY TIME

When father sits down to carve the traditional Thanksgiving turkey this week, he may not realize how much history is packed between those two drumsticks.

Today's domesticated turkeys are authentically American, tracing their ancestry back to the wild birds on which Indians feasted and which still live today in remote parts of our country, including West Virginia.

How the turkey became everyone's first choice for Thanksgiving, and almost the National Bird, is a fascinating story.

Columbus is said to have discovered the turkey on his journeys to the New World and to have brought it back to Spain as evidence that he discovered a new route to India--the turkey being thought to be a variety of Indian peacock.

This case of mistaken identity, incidentally, is how the turkey got its name. For in India the peacock in question was called "toka" and Jewish merchants in Spain, who merchandised turkeys during Columbus's time, translated this word into Hebrew as "tukki." From that to "turkey" was only a short step as the fowl's fame spread to England and the bird became anglicized.

The turkey almost became the National Bird. It was Ben Franklin's choice, as seen in a letter to a daughter where he said: "I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as a representative of our country; he is a bird of bad moral character, like those among men who live by sharpening and robbery, he is generally poor and often lousy....The turkey is a much more respectable bird and withal, a true original native of America."

Turkeys are big business. Nearly 126.4 million were

raised last year, and West Virginia sells her share. State turkey producers sold \$4.7 million worth of turkeys in 1967. The state ranked 20th among all states in gross income from turkey-growing.

Turkeys are traditionally baked for long hours in a slow oven, but they can be cooked on a spit, fried (if cut into small pieces), and even steamed.

One novel way to cook a turkey is in the fashion of a clam bake. A large pit is dug in the earth and stones are laid into it. A fire is then built atop the stones and kept burning fiercely for several hours. Then the fire is raked out of the pit and the covered pan containing the stuffed turkey, some water, cider, and spices, is laid atop the stones. The pan is covered with burlap, then a layer of leaves, and then sufficient earth to make a tight seal. After a three-to-four-hour wait, the turkey is resurrected and the taste of it is guaranteed to make all the waiting well worthwhile.

But, however cooked, Thanksgiving's turkey is sure to be a treat both to the eye as well as to the palate.

November 29, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 48

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

SHOP BY MAIL

With shopping centers springing up all over the countryside and automobiles a necessity rather than a luxury for most people, it is interesting to remember that it was not always so.

There was a time, back in the 1890's, when the housewife of rural America was limited in what she could buy to those items that were available in the nearest general store, often a long buggy ride away.

It was into this world of the "gay 90's" that the first shop-by-mail catalog, known as the "Consumers Guide", was born. Published by the then fledgling firm of Sears, Roebuck and Co., the catalog advertised 786 pages of wares ranging from carriages to kerosene-lit picture lanterns.

It may be that the advent of rural free delivery had given Richard Sears, a former watch salesman, and Alvah Roebuck, a watch repairman, the idea to mail out the catalogs. But whatever the reason, their success was immediate.

According to their 1897 catalog, Sears and Roebuck were "so anxious for your order, so anxious to show the value we can give, the amount you can save, that you need not send us all the money at once if you don't wish; send one-fourth with your order and pay the balance to the freight agent when the goods are received."

Among the items for sale were surreys with the fringe on top. These cost \$44 for a two-seat model and up to \$175 for an upholstered carriage described as "positively the finest work that is turned out" including "beautiful silver-plated, French-beveled glass lamps."

Other items included a "graphophone talking machine", which

was a forerunner of the modern hi-fi and which used wax cylinders instead of records. For the sum of \$25, a month's pay in those days, a family could receive one of these talking machines plus "one automatic extra loud reproducing diaphragm, one speaking tube, one bottle of oil and one screw driver." For six dollars more, "12 musical and talking records, your own selection" would be included.

Clothing was also sold. Mens "Cassimere" wool suits were advertised at \$6. And, according to the copy, "You would pay others \$10.00 to \$12.00 for such suits and then consider you had a rare bargain."

The 1897 catalog contained some 500,000 words and 8,000 illustrations of items for sale. Strangely enough, the most recent Sears, Roebuck and Co. catalog has 150,000 fewer words and almost the same number of illustrations. The size of the catalog has doubled, however, from 786 pages to more than 1,600.

It is interesting that, despite today's shopping centers and relatively easy access to large city stores, the mail order catalog business still thrives. Some families would shop no other way, in fact.

December 6, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 49

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FOLK REMEDIES

In the days before antibiotics and wonder drugs, doctors and patients alike had to rely on common sense and remedies handed down through the years from father to son and mother to daughter.

Today, these palliatives may seem like nothing more than amusing nostrums, but it was not too many years ago that they were heavily relied on.

For a sore throat, for instance, the Pennsylvania Dutch held that the left stocking, when wrapped around the neck, was a sure cure.

Similarly, it was felt that anything with a sharp or pungent odor would get to the root of whatever was clogging up the head and clear it for more important thoughts. Thus, sachets containing ground horse radish or chopped onion would often be worn around the neck.

Stolen articles were believed to have an especially strong curative value. And one 'never fail' remedy was to hang a black spider around the neck with a stolen red ribbon.

For those who wanted to assure perennial good health, marrying a person with the same last name was reputed to provide a remarkable degree of protection.

If a man was especially venturesome in his quest to ward off illness, he might try on the rattles of a rattlesnake. The cure was held most effective, at least from the standpoint of preventing snakebite, but only, of course, if the rattle was worn detached from the snake.

To prevent croup in children, grandmothers used to tell their daughters to hang a vinegar doused bedsheet in the child's

room at all times. If this preventive was unsuccessful, a lock of hair from the child's head, hung around his neck, was supposed to work well.

And if, after trying all of the above, a person still took sick, he could try greasing his body with warm tallow. Also, by drinking a mixture of boiled onion juice and honey some relief could hopefully be obtained.

The folk remedy to cure all folk remedies, however, is provided by Shakespeare in his tragedy Macbeth. The witches in that play suggest mixing the following ingredients, among others: "eye of newt and toe of frog, wool of bat and tongue of dog, adder's fork and blind worm's sting, lizard's leg and howlet's wing..., scale of dragon, tooth of wolf, witches mummy, maw and gulf, of the ravin'd salt-sea shark, root of hemlock, digg'd in the dark....Add thereto a tiger's chaudron for the ingredients of our cauldron."

The resulting brew is only guaranteed by Shakespeare to be "thick and slab". Whatever curative or other value it may have is likely to be limited strictly to sick witches. The rest of us, if stricken by a cold or similar ailment, ought to stick to staying in bed, drinking plenty of fluids, and waiting out whatever is ailing us.

December 13, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 50

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

CHRISTMAS FOODS

Christmas is one time of year when even confirmed calorie counters take a holiday.

The reason is simple. There are so many good things to eat that it would be a shame not to sample at least a few of them.

These taste-tempting treats run the gamut from honey cakes to suckling pig and from wassail punch to eggnog.

Some recipes have been used and preserved for hundreds of years. One, kept on display at Mt. Vernon, George Washington's home, is a fruit cake recipe used by Martha Washington, the first First Lady. It calls for 40 eggs, 4 pounds of butter, 4 pounds of sugar, 5 pounds of "flower", 5 pounds of fruit, as well as other assorted ingredients. "2 hours will bake it," Mrs. Washington estimated.

Still older is the Oxford, England recipe for wassail punch. It calls for half a pint of sugar, 5½ pints of warm beer, grated nutmeg and ginger, and four glasses of sherry. This brew is stirred well, sweetened to taste, and left to cure for 2-3 hours. A final touch is "three or four slices of bread cut thin and toasted brown."

The main course at Christmas dinner varies with local custom. In West Virginia and throughout the United States, roast turkey with cranberry sauce, or roast ham, most often graces the Christmas table.

In Denmark and Bulgaria, on the other hand, roast goose is the bird of the day, while in some very proper English households, fatted swan is served. In Czechoslovakia, baked carp is popular whereas suckling pig is often seen on Finnish tables. In Norway, a form of dried codfish, rice porridge, and roast ribs of pork often grace the festive table, while Icelandic families often serve smoked mutton.

A colorful main course, not often seen in this country, is roast boar's head, complete with apple. This entree is given special prominence in England in honor of the nameless student at Queen's College, Oxford, who, in the dim past, was attacked by a boar on Christmas day, strangled the beast with a copy of Aristotle, and then calmly took the animal's head back for dinner, proving, perhaps, that Aristotle is not as boring as some would say.

It is dessert which separates those who are truly stupendous eaters from those who merely over-indulge.

With such international specialties to choose from such as plum pudding with hard sauce, mince pie, gingerbread men, honey cakes, marzipan candies, as well as a vast variety of cakes, pies, cookies, and puddings, a tendency to over-indulge would be understandable.

And on leaving the table, after such a dinner, it is entirely proper to wish your host Joyeux Noel, as they say in France, Felice Natale, as in Italy, Boas Festas as in Portugal, Frohliche Weinachten, as in Germany, or, as we say in the United States, Merry Christmas!

December 20, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 51

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

NEW YEAR'S CUSTOMS

While we in the United States traditionally celebrate New Year's Day on January 1 by blowing horns, visiting friends, and perhaps waking up wishing we hadn't celebrated so much, in other countries and in other times, people have celebrated the first day of the New Year not only in different ways but also on different dates.

The Jewish New Year, for instance, is known as Rosh Hashanah and is celebrated during September or October, depending on the phases of the moon. The Chinese greet the New Year some weeks after January first.

Various superstitions are associated with the ending of the old year and the beginning of the new.

Traditionally, bells were rung and horns blown as a way of driving out the evil spirits and clearing the air for the good hopes of the coming year.

Some feel it is unlucky to have your clothes on the line when January 1 dawns. Others believe it brings good luck to leave money on the window sill on New Year's eve. And, in the South, a tradition carried forth to this day is the eating of "hog jowls and cabbage and black-eyed peas." It is thought the man who eats these "will not go hungry during the New Year."

In Belgium, farmers, perhaps in gratitude for good harvests of the past year and in hope for the future, make a point of rising early and wishing their farm animals a "Happy New Year."

In Spain, on the other hand, as the clock strikes twelve at midnight on December 31, it is thought wise to eat 12 grapes, one with each stroke of the hour, as a precaution against witches and evil spirits.

The Japanese celebrate New Year for three days. Doors are hung with lobsters, crabs, and tangerines which, to the Japanese, stand for long life and happiness.

There are New Year's superstitions applicable only to young men or women looking for a spouse. One gives the following advice.

"Dip your thumb seven times in salt and put in your mouth all that rests on the nail. You will dream that your future husband or wife will bring you water. Or, turn your pillow at midnight on December 31 and you will dream of the one you are to marry."

Those girls who want to make doubly certain should say, three times, "Good Saint Anne, good Saint Anne, send me a man as fast as you can" as the clock strikes twelve at midnight.

On New Year's Day in Philadelphia, the Mummers parade through town making light of the past year's events. Named for Momus, the Greek god of mimicry, the Mummers have paraded through the streets of the city for 68 years.

Whatever superstitions you observe, or fail to observe, however, the only thing which really counts is that you and your family have a happy, prosperous, and healthy New Year.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
105 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

December 27, 1968

Volume VIII - Number 52

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

TAX INCENTIVE WOULD SPUR MINERS' HEALTH PROTECTION EQUIPMENT
PURCHASES

A bill which I will introduce will, hopefully, make it possible for coal companies to install improved miners' health protection equipment in their mines at greatly reduced cost.

The bill will provide an extra tax incentive to coal companies which install such health protection equipment.

Presently there is a seven percent investment tax credit applicable on corporate income taxes. It applies on all new investment purchases made by a corporation during the year.

My bill would simply double this seven percent credit when a coal mining firm purchases certified miners' health protection equipment. Thus, on the purchase of dust suppression equipment of the type designed to prevent pneumoconiosis among miners, a coal company would receive a 14 percent tax credit instead of the usual seven percent.

I will sponsor this legislation because the need for additional safety in some mines is unquestioned. There are some people who contend that more coal mine safety laws are all that is needed. I do not believe this is the case. No matter how restrictive the laws, further safety improvements will always be possible and I feel they would often be gladly accepted by the coal companies were it not for the sometimes prohibitively high costs involved.

It is to this problem that my bill will address itself.

As to what would constitute "certified" miners' health protection equipment, this decision would rest with the Secretary of the Interior and the U.S. Bureau of Mines. These men are experts in the mine safety field and will be able to lay down suitable guidelines.

Hopefully, all of these steps will lead to safer mines at no loss of productivity in mining.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Crack Down on Pornographic Filth

West Virginia citizens are understandably incensed over the fact that an increasing amount of unsought and unwanted advertising for obscene literature and materials is being delivered into their homes through the United States mails.

It is bad enough that many establishments where young people gather display an ever greater profusion of lewd, sex-oriented books, magazines, and films.

But it becomes completely intolerable, in my opinion, when this same type of material, or advertising for it, is sent unbidden to violate the sanctity of one's home.

Constituents are writing to me in growing numbers from all parts of West Virginia, complaining of this opening of the floodgates of filth. I share their sense of frustrated outrage at the unwarranted invasion of their privacy.

Virtually all citizens have their names on mailing lists of one sort or another. When unscrupulous purveyors of pornography obtain such lists—and they should be prohibited from doing so—the father, the mother, has no way to keep salacious materials out of the family mailbox.

Many of these lurid advertisements have been sent to my office by West Virginia citizens, who have received them from their letter carriers and post offices. They demand that the Federal Gov-

ernment take effective action to bar the use of the mails to those who seek commercial gain through an appeal to prurient interest.

The number of such letters of complaint—which have been coming to me for a year or more—has increased sharply in the last few months. The writers correctly point out that, whatever loose interpretation may be placed on our free speech guarantees by the Supreme Court, indecent writing and pictures such as now flood the mails should not be allowed to fall indiscriminately into the hands of young and impressionable children.

I agree completely that this abuse of the mails should be stopped, and to achieve that end I am co-sponsoring bills in the Senate to make it a Federal crime to use the mails, or other facilities of commerce, for the exploitation of obscene books, magazines, pictures, and similar materials.

The action that is proposed is based on a New York statute that has already been upheld by the Supreme Court. I believe that the adoption of such measures can be effective in protecting the homes of our people against the smut peddlers.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Keeping the Dropouts In

In America, as in every advanced society, a good education is one of the most important possessions a young man or woman can have. Yet, an alarming number of our students forego a good education by leaving school before graduation.

Current National statistics, for instance, show that 28 percent of the pupils who enter the fifth grade will drop out of school before graduating from high school. In West Virginia, the figures are even higher. State officials report that 32 percent of the students reaching the fifth grade level will never receive a high school diploma.

The problem is serious enough that, in 1968, President Johnson requested \$24 million for the first federally-sponsored dropout prevention program. A House committee voted against the program; but a Senate Appropriations subcommittee managed to salvage \$5 million to launch the attack against the dropout problem.

The budget request for Fiscal Year 1970 is \$15 million; and, although the House has moved to reduce that to \$5 million, I am hopeful that our subcommittee will again be able to increase the appropriations for dropout prevention.

Under the proposed budget request, programs would be aimed at encouraging students to enter vocational training,

rather than drop out of school. Officials of the U.S. Department of Education report that one of the main reasons why students fail to finish high school is that their talents are not properly channeled at an early age. Too much emphasis has been placed on straight academic curriculums, and too little on vocational education.

The dropout prevention program would devote part of the school time to on-the-job training, with some of the teachers being chosen from the ranks of skilled craftsmen. Even the strictly academic subjects could be taught at the site of the student's job, since educators have found that many students respond more favorably in a work environment than they do in a classroom.

The dropout prevention program is a good beginning, but much more work remains to be done in this field. In our state, officials report that 4.38 percent of all the students in grades 7-12 dropped out during last year alone. West Virginia and the Nation need the talent of these young people; and we cannot sit idly by and watch that talent go to waste.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Carbon Monoxide—A Killer On The Loose

It is unlikely that the average person gives much thought to the oxygen in the air he breathes. But the time may be coming when all of us may be forced to pay a great deal of attention to this matter which we have always taken for granted.

The internal combustion engine, which has given modern industrial civilization so much of its thrust, has not been an unmixed blessing to the human race it serves.

It powers our automobiles, buses, airplanes, railway trains, and trucks—but it does so at an enormous cost in terms of polluting the life-sustaining air that all animals and humans on the planet must breathe to exist.

A 65-page report just released by the National Academy of Sciences, which has completed a six-months study of air pollution caused by internal combustion exhaust, concludes that carbon monoxide in the air is a growing menace to the nation's health.

Carbon monoxide—a highly toxic, colorless, odorless gas—is a product of incomplete combustion. In even small concentrations it can be fatal, combining in the blood stream, as it does, with the hemoglobin to destroy its oxygen-carrying function.

Fresh air contains less than one-tenth of one part of carbon monoxide per million. Yet, the streets of Chicago have been found to have levels of 12 parts of carbon monoxide per million — 120 times more than fresh air.

The Academy report says that each day automobile traffic alone produces more than 8 million pounds of carbon monoxide in New York City and 20 million pounds in Los Angeles.

How much carbon monoxide is now in the air nobody knows. But the Academy report says that if there is a threshold at which body damage may occur from carbon monoxide poisoning, it probably begins at somewhere around 10 parts per million.

In less than fatal concentrations, reflexes are slowed, and brain and vital organ damage may result, since the heart has to beat faster in contaminated atmosphere, and the blood flow must be increased, to supply sufficient oxygen to the body's cells.

All of the facts about this new menace to health are not yet known. More investigation is needed, quickly, as America's urban air grows more polluted by the day.

Carbon monoxide tainting of the air is just one more example of how man has poisoned the environment in which he has to live.

Unless effective corrective action is forthcoming, mankind will inevitably have to pay the price of pollution—and in terms which we may not yet even fully comprehend.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Additives May Subtract From Health

The decision of the government to ban all products containing cyclamates by February, 1970, raised a frightening possibility in the minds of all Americans — namely, there may be many equally-dangerous food additives remaining on the grocery shelves after the cyclamate deadline.

As long as this possibility exists, there is a need for the Food and Drug Administration to thoroughly review its list of food additives which it currently labels as "Generally Regarded as Safe." The American consumer is well aware of the fact that cyclamates held that rating for a good number of years.

The list of more than 500 additives was actually compiled by FDA during a one-year period — from 1958 to 1959 — after Congress passed the Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act. There is evidence now that the list may have been compiled too hurriedly, and that very little testing of the additives was conducted by the FDA.

In fact, prior to the banning of cyclamates, only one additive on the list was stripped of its "safe" rating in the past 11 years. That incident occurred in 1968, when a substance called NDGA was found by the Canadian government to be unsafe for human consumption. NDGA, an emulsifier used to make foods smooth, was also found to

have no nutrition value whatsoever.

This lack of nutrition value, along with possible harmful effects, help form the basis for a Senate committee's challenge of the "safe" label given salt and monosodium glutamate (MSG) in baby foods.

Investigators report that monosodium glutamate is added to baby foods to enhance the taste, not so much for the infants, but rather for mothers who quite often taste the food before buying for their babies. Reports also claim that MSG can cause the user to have hot flashes, and facial and chest pains.

An excessive amount of salt in baby foods, according to some scientists, can cause hypertension in infants. And these same scientists warn that too much salt intake can result in the same problems for older children and some adults.

With so much evidence of this nature mounting against some of our more common food additives, the Food and Drug Administration owes it to the American consumer to take another look at its entire list.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Repudiation of Phony Religious Theories

Man does well to take heed of threats to the health of his religious life and to react vigorously in abatement of such threats.

As an example, many devout citizens were justly outraged by the public circulation of "God is dead" claims by self-styled contemporary religious thinkers. We may well take satisfaction from noting reports that the "God is dead" movement is, instead, now itself dead.

One eminent theologian, reporting on the demise of the movement, stated that those who a few years ago became part of the "God is dead" movement soon discovered that, in the response of the average person, God is very much alive. It was also pointed out that, while an individual might be able to define his deity, not in the language of a theologian but rather in the language of his own life, it is very clear that the American consensus supports a position of faith in the transcendent God.

West Virginians will be heartened to note reports that authors and advocates of the "God is dead" movement represented only a tiny minority among some university teachers, in the main, who apparently based their writing upon the mistaken thought

that the experience of God in the life of men today has been diminished or indeed extinguished.

West Virginians will be further cheered to learn that, in theological circles, the "God is dead" movement is regarded by serious thinkers as a mere theological fad which appeared for a moment and then disappeared from the scene.

Instead, today, one notes the dominance in theological circles of references to a "theology of hope" and the re-assertions by leading theologians of a "transcendent God, a sovereign God, who is known by man, who knows man, and who is a God of history and beyond history."

Man seeks a living belief and not a dead theory to sustain him in facing the challenges of the thermonuclear age.

The widespread expression of public sentiment against the U.S. Supreme Court rulings on prayer in the public schools continues to serve as evidence of the deep American desire to practice and thus keep alive personal religious beliefs.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



RECREATION

Inquiries on Federal assistance for development of recreational projects in West Virginia are proliferating.

This rising interest within the State fits the national pattern of mounting public demand for recreation. Yearly, 9 out of 10 Americans—more than 175 million—travel the Nation's roads and byways in search of outdoor recreation.

In so doing, they spend \$20 billion annually for outdoor recreation. In another decade, according to Federal estimates, they will annually spend nearer \$47 billion, creating 200,000 new full-time jobs in small cities and open countryside.

As another piece in the mosaic of national recreation demands, Federal and local governments are spending an estimated \$300 million annually to build more parks and recreation areas in cities and to improve the urban landscape.

Such activities and expenditures are giving a second meaning to the word recreation, transforming it to mean not merely diversion and play, but also big business.

West Virginians wanting to develop recreational projects and needing funding assistance have many prospective channels of Federal aid.

Some are particularly well-suited to Mountain State needs. These include U.S. Department of Agriculture pro-

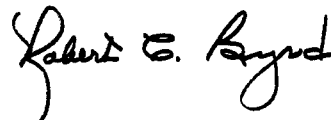
grams, such as loans for recreation enterprises provided through the Farmers Home Administration. Also, within that Department, the Soil Conservation Service has a leadership role for assistance to landowners and operators in developing income-producing recreation enterprises on private lands.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development provides grants for neighborhood facilities needed for health, recreation, social, and similar community activities in selected areas.

The Department of the Interior, through its Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, makes grants for approved public outdoor recreation enterprises, in keeping with the comprehensive Statewide outdoor recreation plan accepted for the State of West Virginia.

The multiple nature of available Federal assistance is attested to by a Dept. of Interior publication comprising 224 pages of descriptive index of outdoor recreation programs and related services of all Federal agencies.

This publication, nominally priced, may be purchased through the Superintendent of Documents, GPO, Washington, D.C.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Price Support Ceiling Needed

When the farm price support program comes up for renewal in Congress this year, a ceiling on the amount that can be paid to any one farmer should be included.

A proposal was made last year, in connection with the Agriculture Department appropriation bill, to restrict maximum farm price support payments to \$20,000. The proposal was defeated.

Politically, a vote for a ceiling on farm price support payments would have been the popular vote, because it does not sound good to say that a farmer gets \$100,000 or \$200,000 or more in payments. However, it must not be forgotten that he surrendered that much acreage. It is not a one-way street.

Moreover, the adoption, in the appropriation bill, of a limitation on farm price support payments would have triggered the "snapback" provision of the Agriculture Act of 1949 regarding cotton, which would require the Government to purchase all surplus cotton at not less than 65 percent, and up to 90 percent, of parity. Therefore, instead of saving the taxpayers money, the price support payments limitation, according to Secretary of Agriculture Hardin, would cost the Government \$160 million more than the existing program and would rebuild the large surpluses in Government warehouses which, in recent years, have been diminishing. There would be additional costs to the Government for trans-

portation, handling, and storage of these large surplus inventories of cotton.

Furthermore, the imposition of a limitation without basic legislative changes would not only cost the Government more, but would also wreck the existing farm program.

I did not believe that the agriculture appropriations bill was the proper place for an amendment such as the support payments limitation. This provision would have substantive ramifications and should properly be considered in connection with basic farm legislation which has received the thorough consideration of the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture. The proper time to accomplish this objective of limiting price support payments will be when the farm price support program comes up for renewal this year, and I hope the Senate and House Agriculture Committees will include such a ceiling. At that time, legislative changes can be written into the basic law to limit the large payments without destroying the remaining markets the farmer has for his products.

The \$20,000 ceiling would not have affected West Virginia farmers. No farmer in the State receives even half of that amount in support payments.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Noise Pollution

While technological advancements have brought about many beneficial changes in our way of life, they have also been responsible, to a large degree, for creating one of the noisiest societies in the history of man—and that overabundance of noise is now posing both a physical and psychological health hazard.

The physical danger, quite naturally, is the possible loss of hearing that can result from exposure to too much noise for too long a period. And, according to physicians, a psychological danger lies in the fact that constant and loud noises can cause extreme tension and nervousness.

Scientists measure the intensity of sound in decibels, with the maximum safe level being set at 85 decibels. They estimate that the average city street during rush hour is around 95 decibels and warn that the volume of noise in America is doubling every 10 years.

However, the problem of noise is not limited to our urban areas. Increasing highway construction and the growing number of automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles have brought once-isolated communities into the path of noise pollution. There are, for instance, over 81 million cars in the United States, as compared with 25 million at the end of World War II. Our highways today are also being travelled by over 2 mil-

lion motorcycles and 16 million trucks.

Airplanes also help to make transportation the leading noise pollutant in our Nation. There are almost 1,200 jet airliners, an equal number of piston aircraft, and over 100,000 private planes currently in service in the United States.

Even the modern home is vulnerable to noise pollution. While the decibel level in the average kitchen averages 56, turning on a dishwasher will raise it to 85. A garbage disposal unit will increase the decibel level to 90, and a food blender produces about 93 decibels.

There is a growing concern about the effects that noise can have on our society—so much concern, in fact, that President Nixon has appointed a panel of Cabinet officers to develop a noise-abatement plan. For its part, American industry is responding with research into quieter engines, for everything from a jet airliner to kitchen wares.

As with every problem, recognition is the first step toward solution. We have recognized the problem and now, with the determination of government and the cooperation of industry, we can move toward its solution.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



What Next After Commencement?

This is the time of year when commencement exercises are being held at our educational institutions. Families and friends watch proudly as the graduates receive their diplomas.

But of those who finish West Virginia's high schools and colleges, what happens after they graduate?

All of the facts, of course, are not available, but those which can be ascertained provide food for thought for all who are interested in the future of our state.

The State Department of Education reports that the number of high school graduates has been declining in West Virginia for the last several years, due largely to the state's loss of population.

A brighter note, however, is that during the same period the number of high school graduates going to college has been increasing, and at a greater rate.

In 1965, 28,171 students received high school diplomas in West Virginia, and 8,560 went on to college, or 30.38 percent.

In 1968, 27,096 graduated from high school, and 10,173 went to college, a percentage of 37.54.

The decrease in the number of high school graduates in the four-year period was 3.8 percent, but the increase in the number entering college was 7.16 percent.

It is encouraging, and a good omen for the state's future, that more West Virginia young people are seeking to further

their education beyond high school. It is good to know, too, that the decline in the number of high school graduates, which was greatest between 1965 and 1966 when the number dropped 801, is tapering off. The number finishing high school this year is expected to be only slightly smaller than that of last year.

But it should be disturbing to all West Virginians, I think, that at a time when the number of college graduates is rising sharply, far too many West Virginians getting degrees do not plan to remain in the state.

The total number of all students graduating from West Virginia colleges rose 60 percent from 1963 to 1968, climbing from 4,743 to 7,748.

But a sampling taken last year by the West Virginia Commission on Higher Education showed that only 40 percent of the West Virginians graduating from colleges in the state planned to stay in West Virginia. Forty-nine percent said they expected to seek careers elsewhere, while 11 percent said they were undecided.

Obviously this poses a serious problem. New efforts must be made wherever possible to provide career opportunities that will keep West Virginia's college-trained men and women in the state.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Helps Refugees from Castro's Cuba

Since 1961, the United States government has spent approximately a third of a billion dollars in helping many of the refugees who have fled here from Communist Cuba.

During that period, the United States has provided a haven for nearly half a million Cubans, a figure equal to about six per cent of the entire Cuban population.

The Federal government operates 10 flights a week between Miami and Havana, each flight carrying about 100 more refugees to our shores. Here they are welcomed, and every effort is made to ease their entry into our society.

Since some of them arrive with literally nothing more than the clothes on their backs, the U.S. government provides financial assistance in addition to the expense of flying the refugees here.

Frequently, this assistance becomes quite extensive because the refugees have no resources of their own. As soon as they sign up for a flight to the U.S., the Castro government confiscates all their property and money.

Also, many Cubans coming here in recent years cannot speak English, are without skills to get a job, or have training in jobs for which there are no immediate openings.

Most refugees arriving have relatives in the United States. Those who leave the Miami

area to live in other parts of the country are given a \$42 resettlement allowance plus traveling expenses. West Virginians may be interested to note that about 160 Cubans have been resettled in our state, eight of them being physicians and one a dentist.

Our government and the American people have been glad to be able to provide this financial assistance to those who wish to flee Castro's Communist Cuba.

However, our government has never borne the transportation and resettlement expense for immigrants from other Communist countries. Therefore, I believe that those refugees who obtain jobs and become self-supporting (or the families of those who don't) should be required to repay the cost of their flight from Havana to Miami as well as any resettlement expenses involved.

I have asked the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, which administers this \$70 million-a-year program, to determine the feasibility of such a requirement.

I believe that the refugees, for their part, would be glad to help bear the cost of a program which has made it possible for them to live in America.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Tax Exemption for Foundations Questioned

Committees of the Congress are taking a hard look at the tax-exempt status of trusts, foundations, and business enterprises that pay no taxes because they are owned by churches and charitable organizations.

In the process, some facts developed may indicate that strong laws are needed to provide effective supervisory controls over such organizations for protection of the public.

As one such fact, although the U.S. Internal Revenue Service in 1966 reported more than 30,000 tax-exempt foundations and charitable trusts, the IRS cannot say accurately what may be the assets and income for these organizations.

Yet, a Congressional Select Committee, which closely studied the operations of foundations and charitable trusts, reports that the ownership of an increasing number of corporations is daily finding its way into tax-exempt foundations, and that the wholesale establishment of charitable trusts in the U.S. is serving as a device for evasion of estate taxes, as a refuge from payment of revenue taxes, and as a means to circumvent anti-trust laws.

That Committee reported that its study of 596 foundations indicated a 1966 gross income of over \$1 billion on assets known to exceed \$15.1 billion. A 20-percent tax on this income would have yielded \$200 million added revenue to the U.S. Treasury.

The Committee further reported that, in the past two

decades, numerous business organizations have become affiliated with, or merged into so-called charitable foundations, with the foundations thereafter having unlimited powers to buy, sell, and speculate in the stocks of such businesses. These enterprises continue to operate under the guise of charity, evading taxes, and gaining advantages over legitimate business enterprises in the same fields.

One U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, in response to Congressional questioning, testified that, under current statutes, foundations can be the source of unfair competition arising from active use of foundation assets by donors or trustees for private business ends, and that there are an infinite number of ways in which foundation assets or income can be used for preferment of one set of private persons over another, or one company over another.

Just such facts as the foregoing have led one congression subcommittee chairman to warn that foundation-controlled enterprises now possess the money and competitive advantages to eliminate the small businessman.

There is growing sentiment in Congress for action to remove the tax-exempt status, and to more strictly regulate and restrict the activities, of foundations.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Vital Ohio River

A review of the Ohio River's history makes it evident that while the term "beautiful" frequently is applied to the river, there is yet another term even more valid of application—that of "vital."

Formed by the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers at Pittsburgh, the Ohio is the chief eastern tributary of the Mississippi River. As such, the flow of its waters significantly influences the course of political and economic events in the Nation.

Following World War II, the steady rise in complex river traffic has caused mounting pressure for modernization of navigational facilities. Since completion of the original canalization of the Ohio River in 1929, traffic has increased from about 20 million tons to almost 100 million tons annually.

Responding to burgeoning demands, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has initiated a modernization and replacement program for the river, ultimately expected to result in a system with only 19 structures, at an estimated Federal cost of \$1.27 billion.

Currently, however, a major traffic crisis is developing in the lower Ohio, just above where the river empties into the Mississippi. In 1955, about 15 million tons of cargo were transported through this gate-

way. In 1968, the traffic reached 39 million tons. Production and shipping contracts for electric utility coal, already concluded, are expected to generate about 45 million tons for passage in another two or three years. Yet, the Army Corps of Engineers estimates the capacity of the four old locks at the Ohio-Mississippi gateway at a maximum of about 40 million tons annually.

The Army Engineers have in readiness construction plans for replacement of vital navigational facilities to eliminate this bottleneck of outmoded locks and dams. These include a new high-lift installation, the Smithland Locks and Dam in southern Illinois, to replace two of the old structures, and a second new one at Mound City, Illinois, to replace the other two.

I shall support these construction projects.

Although they may be located, geographically, many miles below West Virginia's borders, the bottleneck there can hurt the State. Smooth-flowing, low-cost, long-haul transportation of such items as coke, oil, and chemicals on the Ohio River is vital to West Virginia's economic health.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert C. Byrd".

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Con Men and Thieves Use Mails

West Virginians should be aware the envelopes filled with pornographic filth are not the only sinister invaders of our mails.

Each year the mailboxes of thousands of Americans are glutted with fraudulent schemes designed to separate the unwary from their hard-earned cash.

Others are threatened by would-be extortionists and blackmailers, and in one case last year a jealous lover booby-trapped a package and murdered another man.

The 1180 investigators of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service are the men charged with tracking down the often ingenious perpetrators of these crimes, and the regular monthly report of the inspectors' activities makes for fascinating reading.

Some West Virginians may well have been among the approximately 57,000 intended victims recently of a phony "vacation prize" racket intended to fleece the "winners."

In that scheme, all the participants in a contest were sent "winner certificates" for an all-expenses-paid vacation either in Hawaii or Mexico. All they had to do to "secure" their prize was to mail the promoters a \$25 "registration deposit" which was to be refunded when they left for their vacations.

Fortunately enough people's suspicions were aroused and

postal inspectors were able to break up the racket which Federal officials estimated, could have netted \$1.4 million.

A peculiar case recently investigated by postal inspectors concerns the arrest of two employes of a potato chip firm who are charged with trying to extort \$125,000 by mail from the company president in return for a dead mouse.

The employes said they found the mouse inside a package of potato chips and the implication was that the company could suffer great financial losses if the buying public were to learn of the incident.

The files of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service are jammed with details about crooked real estate ventures, phony giveaways, contests, and charities, and offers to sell inferior (or sometimes non-existent) merchandise.

Often, by the time postal inspectors catch the thieves, it is too late to help the unfortunate citizens who have been bilked. So the best advice for West Virginians is to be on guard against letters containing offers that sound just a little too good to be true.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Battle Against Air Pollution

The national battle against air pollution is accelerating.

Complying with the Air Quality Act of 1967, the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare recently reported to the 91st Congress on the battle's progress. Federal responsibility for the attack on air pollution falls on that Department, which established as its instrumentality a National Air Pollution Control Administration.

That Administration (NAPCA) inaugurated comprehensive programs of research and training, giving financial and technical assistance to State and local agencies in pressing abatement and control activities.

In large part as a result of NAPCA's incentives, State and local governments are now spending approximately \$50 million yearly, including Federal funds, for control programs, as compared to \$12 million prior to enactment of the Clean Air Act in 1963.

Since 1965, \$556,000 in Federal funds have gone to the West Virginia Air Pollution Control Commission to improve the State program. Currently, a comprehensive report on air pollution in the Kanawha Valley is expected, resulting from a cooperative study by the Commission and the U.S. Public Health Service.

Of particular note, in June 1965, a \$69,900 demonstration grant went to the Commission, toward a total project cost of \$93,200, for testing a method of extinguishing burning within culm piles, or slate dumps as they are commonly called.

Such piles, composed of slate, and other refuse, have been known to pollute the air for years through emissions from continued slow internal burning.

The West Virginia demonstration project—at Allen Junction, Wyoming County—involved approximately eight acres. Attempts were made to seal off the burning by cutting off the oxygen supply, and considerable knowledge was gained from the project.

The West Virginia Legislature strengthened its air pollution attack by enactment of legislation approving State participation in an Ohio-West Virginia Interstate Air Pollution Control Commission. Following enactment of similar participatory legislation by the State of Ohio, a request for an enabling Act can come to the Congress.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



WATER POLLUTION

Americans for too long have treated their environment—air, water, and land—as a dumping ground for the untreated wastes of their industrial civilization.

The U.S. has now reached the saturation point in nature's ability to absorb these wastes. At all levels—Federal, State, and local—it is recognized that a massive clean-up must be relentlessly pressed.

Already many States have strengthened their pollution control programs. Congress has enacted legislation, the Water Quality Act and the Clean Water Restoration Act, to strengthen the ability of the Federal government to lead a concerted attack on the pollution problem. Also, a bill, S. 7, is presently pending in Congress to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, to include a section pertinent to area acid and other mine water pollution control demonstrations. It is believed that over 4,300 miles of major streams in the U.S. are polluted significantly by acid mine drainage. Estimates vary widely on the cost of controlling this acid drainage, but undoubtedly the eventual cost will be in the billions of dollars.

Realizing that this is a problem involving tremendous costs if a multi-faceted and successful attack on water pollution is to be mounted, Congress directed the U.S.

Department of the Interior to conduct studies on these costs. These studies resulted in initial estimates placing the cost of treating municipal, industrial, and other effluent, during Fiscal Years 1969-1973, at \$8 billion. This would include construction of municipal waste treatment plants and interceptor sewers, exclusive of land and other associated costs.

For West Virginia, capital outlays needed to obtain an adequate municipal waste treatment for its urban population during FY 1969-1973 are estimated at \$55 million.

West Virginia county, municipal, and other public and non-profit bodies wishing Federal assistance with projects to combat water pollution may appropriately contact U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies in Morgantown, including the Soil Conservation Service and the Farmers Home Administration. Or they may contact the Commissioner, Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, in Washington, D.C.

The State Water Resources Board, in Charleston, sets the water quality criteria within West Virginia and is the State agency with jurisdiction in water pollution matters.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



AIRLINER HIJACKING

The U.S. and Cuba ought to take immediate steps to turn free rides to Havana into one-way tickets to a jail cell.

In the period January 1, 1968, to February 7, 1969, 22 U.S. commercial airliners have been diverted to Havana. This piracy not only presents a physical danger to the passengers and crew aboard these planes, but also costs money to the airlines and the U.S. Government. The Air Transport Association estimates the loss to the airlines at about \$18,000 per plane hijacked, which does not take into account any indirect loss through a drop in patronage.

The Federal Aviation Administration is working to halt hijackings. FAA inspectors ride randomly selected flights as armed guards. But they cannot ride all flights, as some 170,000 trips a year operate in and out of Florida. Moreover, a gun battle thousands of feet above the earth could result in a plane crash.

Research is underway to create devices to detect weapons on the persons of boarding passengers, but this research has not gotten far due to difficulties involved, such as differentiating between a deadly weapon and a cigarette lighter, or some other legitimate metallic object a passenger might carry.

Some impractical suggestions include: (1) building an American-based replica of Havana to fool a hijacker into

thinking he had, indeed, gone to Cuba; (2) having all passengers disrobe before boarding a plane and don only a shapeless, pocketless smock on board; (3) having the hijacker drop through a trapdoor into the baggage compartment.

I believe the most feasible measure to end airline piracy may be an agreement between the U.S. and Cuba to return all hijackers for prosecution. The State Department is presently involved in such negotiations, although diplomatic relations have been severed between the two countries.

There is no evidence that Castro welcomes air pirates with open arms. In fact, to the contrary, most are thrown into Cuban jails until the Cubans are satisfied they are not U.S. spies. Even then, the lot of the typical hijacker is likely to be hard labor on a state-run plantation.

Only when it is crystal clear to a potential hijacker that he will be returned to the U.S. to face a possible death sentence, can we be sure of a permanent diminution of plane hijackings to Cuba.

Some positive steps must be taken before an air tragedy occurs from which possible international repercussions could result.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Coal-to-Pipeline-Gas Process Being Explored

One of the more interesting developments in the coal research field is the prospect of turning coal into synthetic pipeline gas suitable for gas stoves, gas furnaces, and the like.

If the commercial feasibility of this work is shown, it could be of benefit to West Virginia.

The reason for a continuing interest in a natural gas substitute is that although new sources of natural gas are likely to be discovered in the years to come, economic projections show that the rate of these discoveries may not keep up with the ever-increasing demand. This means there may well be a market for a commercially priced natural gas substitute.

Work toward creating such a substitute is currently underway, and the Institute of Gas Technology in Chicago is under contract with the U.S. Office of Coal Research to build a coal-to-pipeline gas pilot plant. When complete in mid-1970, it will be capable of converting three tons of coal an hour and will turn out about 1.5 million cu. ft. of natural gas equivalent daily.

If this plant proves that a

gas substitute can be manufactured at a cost which is competitive with natural gas, the impact of the process could be important to West Virginia's economy.

If only five percent—about one trillion cu. ft.—of our nation's natural gas were made synthetically, reportedly it would call for a nationwide investment of about \$1.25 billion in new plant facilities. It is estimated that about 64 million tons of coal would have to be mined annually to produce this quantity of synthetic gas.

Further, it is possible that if the process is found to be commercially competitive, coal-to-pipeline gas plants might be built in West Virginia, thus taking advantage of our state's great coal reserves.

This would not only mean continued employment in the mining industry, but also a great many new jobs in the conversion plants that would be built.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



West Virginia—The Land of 18,000 Lakes

West Virginia, the Mountain State, might not be thought of as a "lake state," but, thanks to the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the state now has more than 18,000 farm ponds, most of which have been built in recent years.

The SCS offers West Virginia landowners technical assistance in the building of farm ponds, and, to date, has assisted in the construction of over 18,000 of them.

Many farmers build ponds to provide an ample and adequate source of water for their livestock and for crop irrigation. But there are many other uses.

Ponds become recreation centers for neighborhood young people—offering swimming in summer and skating in winter. They become havens for wild duck, geese and other fowl. School children have a living nature study laboratory in a farm pond and fishermen often find that the big ones don't always get away.

Additionally, in case of fire a nearby farm pond may save lives and property.

The average West Virginia county has over 300 farm ponds and Greenbrier County leads the state with over 1,300 within its borders.

Persons wishing information about building a farm pond would be advised to contact their local Soil Conservation Service office or the headquarters of their local Soil Conservation District.

The SCS will gladly furnish technical engineering service to help landowners select a pond site, stake it out, and supervise its construction.

Additionally, if the pond is to be used for livestock watering, it may be possible for another agency of the USDA, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, to share the cost of the pond's construction.

I believe the SCS's farm pond program is of inestimable benefit to all West Virginians.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrds-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



ANTIQUe BUYER'S GUIDE

West Virginians, before you sell your Aunt Minnie's favorite chair to that city slicker fellow who says he'll gladly take it off your hands for five dollars, remember—it may be an antique.

And, as such, it may be worth many times the proffered offer. (Of course, it may also be worth much less.)

How to tell antiques from junk is difficult. What is one man's trash may be what someone else has longed a lifetime to own.

Have no fear, that what you have, no one could possibly want. There are collectors for everything; old bottles, cradles, dolls, old mirrors, old magazines and books—even old marbles.

The shrewdest trader is the man who recognizes today what people ten years from now may value as Americana.

There is the story of the wily

mountaineer who collected old bottles in the era when most people felt the only use for an old bottle was as a target on a fence post. His neighbors thought his collection, which filled a good portion of a barn, rather odd, until one day all the bottles were gone and the man had retired on the proceeds of his sale.

The only advice that can be given regarding what to do if you are asked to sell a family heirloom, is to check with a reputable antique dealer to be sure you are being offered a fair price.

Of course, if you are buying, don't be above haggling if the price seems too high. It is all part of the game and you may save money.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Closing the Nutrition Gap

A recent national survey discovered that the diet of the average American household is far superior today than that of a generation ago, and that families at all income levels appear to be sharing in our increased production of food products.

For instance, families in the lowest third of our income scale are now consuming more meat and poultry than America's wealthiest families did in the spring of 1942. In other words, the poorer families today are eating better than the more affluent households of the last generation.

The survey, which was conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, also showed that American men between the ages of 20 and 34 now consume a daily average of 12 ounces of meat and poultry—double the amount consumed by their counterparts in 1948. Women in that age group presently consume almost eight ounces of meat and poultry each day, compared to about five ounces eaten by members of a similar group 22 years ago.

According to the survey, the traditional three-meals-a-day is fast becoming a thing of the past. About 20 percent of our present population in the 20-34 age bracket stops for something to eat or drink six or more times a day, regardless of the economic status. In most cases, these "extra" meals contain significant nutrition value.

There is still a gap between the nutrition value of foods consumed by our poor families

today and the meals eaten by our middle and higher income groups. Today's lower income households are eating better than the wealthier families of the last generation, but the amount of nutrients they receive daily still falls short of the nutrients consumed by our present middle and higher income groups.

However, the national survey showed that sufficient high quality foods are available to properly feed the entire population of the United States. And, in order to meet the goal of a well-fed nation, Congress has updated the food stamp and commodity food programs.

Food stamps were first introduced on a pilot basis in 1961. They now reach 4.5 million Americans. The commodity program, when it was begun 30 years ago, offered a limited variety of foods. It now offers 22 foods, which provide between 80 and 150 percent of the minimum daily required nutrients.

These programs must be expanded where necessary, in an effort to close the nutrition gap. And consumer education programs must be expanded to include middle and higher income groups, because improper eating habits and unwise food purchases have resulted in instances of malnutrition even among these more affluent Americans.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Black Panther Menace

When FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover described the Black Panther party as "the greatest threat to the internal security of the country," he was issuing a warning that all Americans should heed.

By its own admission, the party "is an armed body for carrying out the political tasks of the revolution throughout the entire country." And, while West Virginia and federal authorities have assured me that there is no Black Panther movement in our state, Mr. Hoover's warning has meaning for West Virginians nonetheless.

"We will not dissent from the American government. We will overthrow it," boasts a headline in the party newspaper, while still another issue devotes a lengthy article to the delicate differences between a timed firebomb and "the classic Molotov cocktail."

Two of the required texts for members are "The Catechism of the Revolutionist" and the "Organizers Manual."

The catechism reveals that Black Panthers "know only one science, the science of destruction." For its part, the manual tells members that future Panthers should be recruited "in pool rooms, bars, parties and jails."

Party members, according to Mr. Hoover, "have perpetrated numerous assaults on police officers." In fact, Black Panther Minister of Defense Huey Newton is currently serving a 2-to-15-year prison sentence in connection with the murder of a policeman.

Only seven of the party's 32 top-ranking officials have escaped conviction and one, Minister of Information Eldridge Cleaver, has been hopped-scotching from one communist country to another since he jumped bail in California.

Leaders of the caliber of Cleaver and Newton find it an easy task to adhere to the Black Panther code of conduct, a code that states: "All the gentle, bourgeois, romantic sentiments of kinship, love, friendship, gratitude and even honor must be erased."

Although Black Panthers preach their gospel of hate for society, they apparently are lacking affection for each other as well. No less than four have been assassinated as a result of political infighting.

That kind of camaraderie has kept the ranks of the Panthers relatively thin, and authorities estimate their current strength at "less than 4,000." However, the viciousness of the Panthers' philosophy and methodology makes the threat very real.

It is encouraging that law enforcement agencies from the FBI on down have recognized the danger and have acted accordingly. The number of arrests and convictions should serve as a warning to all radical groups bent on destroying America.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Future Seems Secure for ROTC

The U.S. Department of Defense reports that, despite the militant and sometimes violent opposition of campus radicals, Reserve Officer Training Corps programs are growing at American colleges.

A spokesman at the Pentagon has assured me that the future of ROTC programs is "secure" and that "the actual number of programs and applications for programs has increased slightly in the past few years."

At present, 365 colleges, including five in West Virginia, give students an opportunity to earn a commission in the Army, Navy, or Air Force. In addition, the Marine Corps has the Platoon Leaders' Course, which affords the same opportunity during the summer months.

During the final two years of the four-year ROTC program, officer candidates are paid \$50 per month, which helps to offset their college expenses. There are also several full scholarships available to promising high school students, thus enabling many of our finest young men to get a college education.

But, more important than the benefits to the individual students are the benefits the country receives from ROTC programs. An estimated 33 percent of all Army officers currently on active duty were commissioned from the college campus, and 32 percent of our

active Air Force officers are graduates of ROTC programs. Twelve percent of United States Naval officers received their commissions through ROTC.

In 1968 alone, over 21,000 young Americans—including 167 from schools in West Virginia—received their commissions through ROTC programs. These men, whose military training has been built around their civilian lives, exemplify the true value of ROTC.

The need for well-trained officers would not decrease by eliminating ROTC. But, without such a civilian-oriented program, the military would have to establish its own training programs to obtain its future leaders—programs that would be far removed from any semblance of civilian control.

Many South American countries employ this method of training officers, and the army that is produced has no ties whatsoever with the civilian population of the country. Obviously, there are inherent dangers in such a system.

We must, in this free country of our, always maintain a strong civilian-military relationship. ROTC is designed to do just that.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



X-Rays and Color TV

When color television first appeared in the American marketplace, it was viewed by many as another luxury produced by an affluent society. However, research conducted after its invention showed that color television had the potential to be just as dangerous as it was luxurious.

There are, according to the Environmental Control Administration, about 20 million color sets now in America; and between 10 and 20 percent of those could be emitting harmful radiation beams. Therefore, the ECA has set standards for future production of color TV's and, in the interim, has issued warnings to owners of present-day models.

The danger, which is described as minimal, is lessened if the viewer sits between six to 10 feet away from the screen. Thus, most adults are in no real danger. But anyone who has watched a child sitting for hours, within a few feet of the screen, has to be concerned over the possible harm.

The electronics industry is cooperating with the government in formulating safety measures for their products. In fact, it was the industry which first called attention to the color TV problem.

In December of 1966, a large manufacturer found that 112,000 of its color sets were emitting X-rays at more than the recommended 0.5 milliroentgen an hour. The manufacturer, working with the federal government and local health officials, located and repaired the defective sets.

However, further government research proved that the

problem was not restricted to a single manufacturer—it was industry-wide. A survey in Washington, D.C., for example, showed that 66 of 1,124 color sets produced more than the maximum level of X-rays.

The Environmental Control Administration showed its findings to Congress, which acted by passing the Radiation Control for Health and Safety Act in 1968. Under provisions of the bill, the government has the authority to set standards for any electronics products that could have an effect on public health.

Those standards, which were published in October of this year, set 0.5 milliroentgen as the required, rather than recommended, standard. They also limit the electric line voltage to 130.

In an effort to avoid future defects in electronics products, the Environmental Control Administration is conducting exhaustive research on new products.

Americans can continue to take great pride in their scientific achievements—not only those that led to our adventures in space, but also those that led to such modern-day conveniences as color television. However, we must be aware of the inherent dangers that come with many products; and we must take measures to curb their dangers before we can fully enjoy their benefits.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



"High Noon," for the Schools

The time has come for friends of the public schools to take a strong stand against those who would destroy the educational system in this country.

Already, New Left and black extremist activities have contributed to the mushrooming of a lawless and insurrectionary atmosphere in the academic community. The front runner of the New Left is the SDS—the misnamed Students for a Democratic Society—which has fomented chaos and anarchy on campuses all across America. The disgraceful and obscene behavior of its members has served to undermine the Nation's confidence in itself and in its goals.

Black extremist groups are becoming better organized nationally, and the impact on black students is becoming apparent as black militancy and racial strife in the schools continue to increase.

The SDS laid plans in Colorado last October for subverting our high school youngsters, and passed a resolution to organize in the high schools to move to overthrow the system by the process of confrontation—confrontation designed to provoke disorder, intimidate faculties, and destroy discipline.

The SDS could better be called Students to Destroy Society, and that is what it will try to do if it is able to gain a foothold in West Virginia universities and colleges. Our high schools will

be next on the list.

The troublemakers form only a minority. The vast majority of students still believe in America and still want an education. This majority should rule. But what we have been witnessing on campus after campus is minority rule or ruin. If law-abiding and public-spirited citizens do not soon take a strong and determined stand against this small but militant and rebellious minority, the academic community—and a lawful and orderly society—will have been damaged beyond repair.

To continue to countenance what has been going on is unfair to the students who want an education, unfair to parents who sacrifice to keep their sons and daughters in college, unfair to taxpayers who help support institutions of learning—unfair, in short, to the majority in America.

It is time for parents, boards of education, public officials, and serious-minded students, to demand that militant, insolent students who disrupt classes and disturb the peace and decorum of the colleges and schools be promptly expelled and arrested for disorderly conduct and for destruction of property where this has occurred.

It is time to end minority rule-by-force.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Eradicating the Blight of Organized Crime

The Organized Crime bill which recently passed the Senate hopefully could mark the beginning of the end for the nation's top hoodlums.

The bill could put a real crimp in the operations of such groups as the "Cosa Nostra," which virtually monopolizes syndicated gambling, loan sharking, and drug trafficking.

Eradication of such operations is not the only aim of the bill, however. It also empowers the Federal government to move against gangsters who seek cover of respectability by taking over legitimate businesses and organizations.

People who think that the menace of organized crime and the Cosa Nostra constitutes some kind of fairy tale need to become further informed on the problem.

An estimated 3000 to 5000 of the most hard-bitten gangsters comprise the 26 core groups (or "families") of the Cosa Nostra. The scope of their operations is national, and they have by no means overlooked West Virginia.

Information from criminal intelligence files shows that organized crime in our State is controlled to some extent by the Pittsburgh "family" of the Cosa Nostra.

Cosa Nostra influence in our state is thought to be pretty much confined to casino-type operations in the area near Pittsburgh.

This should not, however, be cause for complacency on the part of West Virginians. Illegal "home grown" operations can breed consequences just as sinister as anything the Cosa Nostra might dream up, witness the recent bombing attempt on the life of the Monongalia County prosecutor following a gambling crackdown.

The violence, fraud, person-

al suffering and corruption associated with organized crime are in themselves terrible things to contemplate, and each year billions of dollars are drained from our economy to support illicit enterprises.

That which we must fear most, however, is the ultimate consequence of allowing organized crime to go unchecked.

The ultimate consequence would be that the czars of organized crime might subvert our entire economy—in the process, corrupting government officials and undermining our democratic institutions.

If this idea seems far-fetched, one needs only to refer to the recent revelations from government files concerning crime and political corruption in one of our Northeastern states. And Senate investigators have found that, in one midwestern city, racketeers control or have large interests in 89 businesses with total assets of over \$800 million and annual receipts in excess of \$900 million.

The citizens of this nation face a long struggle ahead in trying to undo the evils which have already been perpetrated by organized criminals. If the Organized Crime bill of 1970 is enacted into law, the Federal government will be able to play a significant new role in the struggle. But, in the final analysis, it is the individual citizen who can do most to eradicate this blight because it is the individual citizen who creates the demand for the illicit services which the criminals provide.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Americans Need a Tax Break

There is a critical need for tax relief for lower and middle income citizens.

Inflation has made meaningless the federal income tax guidelines that once may have made sense.

For instance, the standard deduction presently allows an individual or a family to deduct 10 percent of the income up to a maximum of \$1,000 without the need to itemize deductions.

(This deduction is not to be confused with the various \$600 exemptions which are also allowed individuals.)

Because 10 percent (and \$1,000) is rather low, considering the high cost of living today, many families spend hours keeping records of their expenditures for doctor bills and the like. By itemizing such deductions, a few dollars can be saved on their income tax.

The procedure could be simplified if the standard deduction were raised to 14 percent, with a maximum of \$1,800.

These figures are much more in line with today's incomes and expenses, and the adoption of such a standard would free many families from the burden of tabulating records for the purpose of itemizing.

Additionally, the minimum standard deduction should be raised from its present level

of \$200 to a more realistic figure of \$600. This would be more fair to individuals whose incomes fall below the Federally-designated poverty level. Presently, a person with an income of say, \$1,300, and no dependents would have to pay income tax, albeit only about \$58. A \$600 minimum standard deduction would lower this tax to zero, giving more money to those who need it most.

The cost of these proposals, which are included in a Bill I have introduced, is not inconsequential. The Treasury Department estimates that raising the minimum standard deduction to \$600 and increasing the general standard deduction to 14 percent, or \$1,800, would mean a loss of tax revenues of about \$2.5 billion. However, this would partially be offset by a gain in tax revenues resulting from increased consumer spending from the extra money that would be put into the pockets of those affected.

I voted against the 10% surtax on income, and I feel that Congress must act to give real relief to the lower and middle income taxpayer.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The ABM—A Watershed Issue

A respected authority on Sino-Soviet relations has termed the approaching U.S. Senate debate on the ABM a "watershed" debate, predicting that its effect on American policy will cause it to be classed by historians as affecting the Nation's future as decisively as States' Rights debates preceding the Civil War, those on foreign aid following WW II, and civil rights debates of the past decade.

Time will determine the astuteness of this "watershed" characterization.

Of immediacy, the question is how American citizens may judge for themselves the merits of the Administration's proposal for nationwide installation of a limited antiballistic missile system—the Safeguard.

Prominent public leaders, on both sides of the political fence, have announced their opposition to Safeguard, charging the completed system will cost nearly \$20 billion—triple the Administration's estimate. They have asserted that the money can better be used for other security and social programs for the nation. Well-known nuclear physicists have charged the Safeguard system will not work.

Other such scientists have charged that the "won't work" argument is specious; that the two principal components of Safeguard, the Spartan and the Sprint missiles, perform successfully; that effective extrapolations of future anti-ballistic missile

reactions prove Safeguard's security value; that a Nation which can fly to the moon is technologically capable of protecting its retaliatory missiles.

Whom can Americans believe? The President and his advisors who have recommended installation of the limited ABM (the second American President who has urgently recommended to the Congress that an antiballistic system is needed now for the future of the Nation)? Or the opponents? Is the issue too complex for laymen to judge accurately, the facts too cloaked by security measures for the average citizen to make an informed assessment?

In reaching personal determinations, thoughtful citizens may wish to weigh a number of unclassified facts long of general public knowledge, facts revealing an increasing capability for warfare on the part of our self-declared enemies. Citizens may wish to carefully examine the stated objectives and military doctrine of world communist powers and to consider possible future need for protection against the possibility of accidental attacks from any source.

Such facts will be among those debated in the Senate when that body focuses upon this major national issue—the proposal for installation of a limited antiballistic missile system for defensive purposes.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



State Well Served by News Media

We sometimes hear the statement that American citizens are the best informed people in the world. Whether they actually are or not is questionable. But they have the means to be, and the effective functioning of representative government demands that they should be.

The average citizen may not realize how well our state is served by the dissemination of information through West Virginia's news media.

West Virginia has 118 newspapers, with a circulation of more than 740,000. There are 32 daily papers, with a combined circulation of more than 511,000, and 86 weekly papers, with an aggregate circulation in excess of 230,000.

Every county in the state has at least one newspaper, and several of the 55 counties have more than one.

Inasmuch as three or four persons may see or read each newspaper, the circulation figures may be interpreted to mean that almost every West Virginian, of whom there were an estimated 1,802,000 last July 1, sees or reads at least one newspaper, and that many families probably read several papers.

Sixty-two of the state's papers are listed as Democratic, fifty-two as Republican, and four list themselves as independent or non-partisan.

Many citizens, of course, get much of their news and information from television and radio. West Virginia has nine television stations and 78 commercial radio stations.

Virtually all of these stations are served by the news wires of the Associated Press and United Press International, both of which worldwide news-gathering agencies maintain well-staffed bureaus in Charleston. These bureaus, of course, serve West Virginia's newspapers as well as its TV and radio stations.

Many of the TV and radio stations maintain their own news staffs for the gathering and broadcasting of local news. The TV stations and many of the radio stations also bring the news programs of the three national networks into the state.

Our state is fortunate in the quantity and quality of its news media. America's representative government cannot function without newspapers, radio, and television to provide wide and full dissemination of news and information. Our citizens thus have the opportunity to be well-informed participants in the democratic process.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Auto Rear Light Standards Needed

The higher speeds and heavier traffic on the nation's growing network of interstate highways have greatly increased the danger of serious rear-end automobile collisions. Chain-reaction type smash-ups, in which many vehicles plow into each other from behind, are increasing alarmingly.

I believe that federal standards governing rear-end lights could help to cut down on such accidents, and the Bureau of Highway Safety of the Department of Transportation is at work on the problem.

Rear-end collisions are not confined to the super-highways. West Virginians driving on our state's mountain roads have had the unnerving experience, I am sure, of rounding a curve on a foggy night and coming upon another vehicle with tail lights out—or encountering a vehicle ahead which seemed to be moving, but wasn't.

The hodgepodge of design and placement of tail lights, stop lights, and turn signals, and the lack of warning devices on the dashboard to indicate when rear lights are out, multiply the hazards of driving for all of us.

One of the possible changes in rear-end lights that is being studied is the replacement of

the present red-on-red system by a green-amber-red system.

Green would mean that a vehicle was moving; amber that it was braking and slowing down; red that it had stopped completely. This would follow the logical pattern of traffic lights.

Other possibilities are also being investigated, such as increasing the intensity of the red light in the stop signal and requiring a standardization of rear light arrangement on all cars.

A report on these studies is expected by the end of this year. It will come none too soon, for I believe that traffic and safety experts agree that the present system is not satisfactory.

I hope that in any new system it will be mandatory to have devices on the instrument panel to warn the driver when tail lights or stop lights malfunction.

The federal efforts to improve automobile design and highway safety can pay real dividends in this area of research. These efforts should be pushed forward without delay.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Adult Basic Education Benefits West Virginians

A potentially beneficial program now underway in West Virginia is the Adult Basic Education program, operated by the Division of Vocational Education, West Virginia Board of Education.

The ABE program is funded by the U.S. Office of Education though it originated with the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Since its inception in 1965, more than 34,000 West Virginians have participated and have advanced their educational level and their potential for gainful employment because of ABE. The total cost of the program has been \$2,975,253.

The ABE program provides courses in reading, writing, and arithmetic as well as assisting individuals in obtaining high school equivalency diplomas. Courses are taught in local school buildings, where possible, and by qualified teachers.

Among the most important benefits that accrue to a participant in the ABE program is a gain in self-confidence. Often this comes as early as the first class when those who have never known how to sign their own names are shown they can do this.

Another benefit of the ABE program is that adults are made more aware of how

much an education can mean to their children. This awareness is one important way to break the chain of ignorance and illiteracy that holds so many people back.

A third benefit of the program is that it enhances an individual's chances of obtaining a job or getting a better position. In 1968, for example, according to ABE officials, almost 3,000 persons in West Virginia were able to get off the welfare rolls because of their participation in the ABE program. New jobs were found for 2,189 persons, and an additional 354 obtained higher paying jobs. Also, 838 ABE students went on to advanced training programs.

Despite ABE's success, much work remains to be done. According to statistics published by the State Division of Vocational Education, there are still almost 300,000 adult West Virginians with less than an eighth grade education.

Every one of these individuals deserves to be helped through Adult Basic Education if he or she so desires.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Old-Time Religion

Americans are churchgoers.

According to the 1969 Yearbook of American Churches, 107,768,322 members of a wide variety of denominations last year attended religious services in 223,482 churches of an equally wide variety of architecture. They contributed \$3,612,671,698 in yet another great variety of offering plates, poor boxes, and missionary envelopes.

This very healthy religious growth had its firm foundation in what has been affectionately labeled, "The Old-Time Religion."

Among the members of older generations of Americans, hearing that phrase—the old-time religion—arouses some wonderful recollections of all-day preaching and dinner on the grounds, or of Sundays in small local churches, of hard seats, and of the hand-tolling of morning church bells, closely followed by sounds of congregation voices raised in strains of hymns such as "Amazing Grace," "Rock of Ages," or "How Firm a Foundation," accompanied by music forcibly produced through the heavy pedalling of a pump organ.

Children then were like youngsters now at any Sunday morning church service, apt to be restless to get away to the more exciting outdoors. Perhaps then they may have had an extra reason for squirming. All too frequently the pinching of "best" shoes, worn only on Sundays, served unexpectedly as reminders that youngsters have a strong tendency to rapidly outgrow shoes and clothes.

Ministers then, as ministers now, carried the heavy burden of getting in strong licks of spiritual counseling during the Sunday morning period, enough to sustain the members of their flocks through the temptations of the week ahead. And, whereas the youngsters inside might be squirming under the heavy dosage of those admonishings, outside the mules and horses, waiting in buggy and wagon traces, were contentedly relaxed for their day of rest from regular weekday plowing and hauling chores.

The spring weather beginning about the Easter season yearly relegated the pot-bellied stove, often centered in the church for winter comfort, to a stolid black quietness.

But that quietness was not likely to extend to the "A-Men Corner" where the gentlemen of the congregation let the pastor know when his hell-fire-and-brimstone preachings hit a responsive nerve.

One may only hope that the gradual passing of the vigorous customs of "A-men-ing" in vocal support of the preacher, the singing of the old songs of Zion, the old-time revivals, and church homecomings—truly symbolic of the old-time religion—does not mean that there will continue to be a gradual acceptance of a weaker code of rights and wrongs.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Census Controversy

When word about the 1970 census first circulated, especially rumors suggesting government snooping into such personal matters as the number of people who share a common bathroom, a storm of controversy broke.

Members of Congress, including myself, have received letters from constituents asking what right the federal government has to pry into such aspects of personal life.

Feeding the controversy is the fact that every person receiving a census questionnaire or interviewed by a census taker is legally obligated to give correct answers to all questions.

Responding to the outcry, the Census Bureau announced plans to reword certain questions in order to remove any implication that the government is interested in prying into one's purely personal affairs.

In addition, the number of households asked to respond to the longer 66-question census form will be substantially reduced. Most families will be asked to answer only 23 questions.

Furthermore, legislation has been introduced in Congress to modify the census approach. Suggested changes would eliminate questions considered to be of a personal or sensitive nature while allowing such questions to be asked when considered necessary.

The proposals would also tighten guarantees of secrecy of census information and increase the fine and jail sentence for any employee of the Census Bureau who gives out

confidential information. Answering the questions would remain a legal obligation on the citizen.

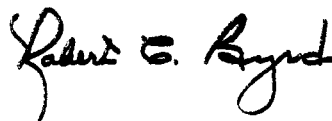
The proposed legislation has not yet cleared the House or Senate. But the likelihood appears that some modifications will be made to meet the objections voiced against the census so long as such changes do not destroy the value of this national institution on which so many federal, state, and local programs depend.

The charge that the census constitutes an invasion of privacy may contain an element of truth insofar as it seeks to do more than simply determine the "enumeration" of the population of the several states, as required by the U.S. Constitution.

However, without accurate and up-to-date population and housing information, the work of certain federal agencies—as well as that of the Congress—would be greatly impaired.

On balance, the advantages of a broader range census would appear to outweigh the disadvantages. Reducing the census to a mere "head count" would leave many needs of our citizens unidentified and, therefore, unmet.

Census information can be used for statistical purposes only. The Census Bureau's record of not revealing individual answers to anyone for any purpose has remained unblemished.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Robert Williams Urges Militants to Kill

Because the nation has just experienced a summer of relative racial tranquility, it is extremely disturbing to note the return to the United States of black militant Robert F. Williams.

Williams, 44, is a vicious, Communist-oriented militant who makes no bones about his preference for the violent approach to race relations.

His terror tactics while he headed the local NAACP chapter in his hometown of Monroe, N.C., caused the NAACP to censure him.

In 1961, after being charged with kidnapping a white couple during racial disturbances in Monroe, Williams fled to Cuba in order to escape prosecution.

To understand the sinister threat Williams now poses to our country, one need only study the content of radio messages which Williams beamed back home from a station in Havana.

Three times a week he would take the air and exhort American Negroes to violence with such statements as, "It is not enough to be willing to die for freedom and dignity. One must be willing to kill."

In another broadcast monitored in this country, Williams told his listeners:

"The time of battle approaches. Remember our traditional weapons of warfare. Prepare the gas bomb, sharpen the razor, stockpile the lye cans . . ."

After a few years in Cuba, Williams moved and was welcomed by Mao Tse-Tung's follower's in Peking where, according to Williams, he was treated royally.

Now, he has left his Communist friends and has moved into Detroit to take control of the "Republic of New Africa," a paper nation which wants to take over the Southern states for the black people.

In the meantime, Williams is fighting extradition to North Carolina, where he still faces the kidnaping charge. If he ever is sent back, he has said, "I am going back for war, to fight."

It seems clear that Williams intends to wage war whether or not he goes back to North Carolina, and it is anyone's guess as to what promises of support he may have been given by his Red Chinese hosts.

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, of which I am a member, will be keeping close tabs on Williams' activities. I am very concerned about his presence in this country, and I believe that he is potentially more dangerous than any previously known black militant.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd

Volume IX - Number 1

January 3, 1969

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

SOCIAL SECURITY INCREASES NEEDED

Now that the 91st Congress has convened, I will introduce legislation which would raise the minimum social security benefit from \$55 to \$80 per month and which would give all social security recipients an across-the-board increase of 8.5 percent.

These increases would be financed by a direct contribution from the Federal government amounting to one percent of the present social security wage base of \$7,800.

The total federal contribution would amount to about \$4 billion. In West Virginia, the increases would favorably affect more than 143,000 retired or disabled workers and their families who are currently receiving social security benefits.

If passed into law, my bill will serve several important functions. First, the \$3.3 billion to be paid out initially will help social security recipients keep up with the increased cost of living. That prices have gone up is not a welcome thought, but it is a fact and cannot be ignored.

Additionally, placing these extra funds into the nation's marketplace will provide a sure buffer against recession. And, while it is true that general tax revenues will be called on to pay for this increase, it is also likely that the expenditure of these dollars by social security recipients will have a "multiplier" effect which will serve to generate many new tax dollars.

As long as I have been a member of the Senate and before that, as a member of the House of Representatives, I have not only favored increases in Social Security benefits, but also a lowered age at which these benefits can be paid to retired persons and their dependents.

In 1963, I was instrumental in getting the retirement age

lowered from 65 to 62, though benefits, of course, must be actuarially reduced. Last year, I was able to persuade the Senate to further reduce this age to 60, although my proposal failed to get approval by the House.

I believe that the Social Security System is one of the most important federal programs benefiting the American people today.

It is my hope that the Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over Social Security legislation, will take prompt action on my bill.

From the Office of United States Senator Robert C. Byrd
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Volume IX - Number 2

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Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

INAUGURAL FACTS

The inauguration of a President is a national event that is changeless, yet, ever-changing.

What has remained unchanged from the inauguration of George Washington to that of Richard Nixon is the oath of office which each new President takes.

The solemn words must be spoken before the President-elect can assume the duties of his new office. The pledge, set forth in the Constitution, is that "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." The closing words, "so help me God," were first uttered spontaneously by George Washington, so moved was he by the responsibilities which he had undertaken.

But, except for the oath, there is little which Washington might recognize in today's inaugural, so numerous are the changes the inauguration day has undergone.

Thomas Jefferson was the first President to be sworn in in Washington, President Washington and John Adams having been inaugurated in New York and Philadelphia, respectively.

James Monroe was the first President to be inaugurated on the steps of the Capitol, Jefferson's and Madison's inaugurations having been held indoors. While holding inaugural ceremonies out of doors has enabled more persons to participate, it has also left the Nation's most important ceremony totally at the whims of Washington's notoriously fickle weather.

In fact, almost half of the inaugurations to date have been marked by deplorable weather conditions. William Henry Harrison,

the ninth President of the United States, caught pneumonia and died within a month, as a result of speaking, without an overcoat, for more than an hour in icy winds and steady rains at his inaugural.

And when President Grant was sworn in for his second term, not only did West Point cadets fall senseless from the cold, but also at the Inaugural Ball it was so icy the refreshments froze and all the guests had to leave their topcoats on.

Other Presidents who scored inaugural firsts include John Quincy Adams, who was the first to wear long trousers and not knee breeches, and Warren G. Harding, who was the first to travel in an auto. One of the most raucous inaugurations was that of Andrew Jackson in 1829. So numerous were his admirers that they did almost as much damage to the White House as the British had done during the War of 1812.

And, while the 1969 inaugural of Richard Nixon may not go down in history on such a note, the incoming President is almost sure to leave some new personal mark on our Nation's inaugural history.

Byrd

Volume IX - Number 3

January 17, 1969

Byrd's Eye View
A Public Service Column
By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WEST VIRGINIA'S PHOENIX

Like the legendary phoenix, the fast developing coal waste industry in West Virginia is proving it is not impossible to rise from one's own ashes--flyash in this case.

In fact, more and more uses are being found for this dusty waste product that formerly couldn't be given away.

Flyash is produced as coal is burned and its most promising use is as a raw material for bricks. A pilot flyash-to-brick plant has been in operation for some time now at Morgantown, West Virginia.

Developed by the U.S. Office of Coal Research and West Virginia University's Coal Research Bureau, the plant has produced bricks that are not only lighter than conventional clay bricks, but are stronger as well, according OCR.

Pilot testing has been enthusiastic, and the first commercial production of the bricks is already on the horizon. Two brick plants are being contemplated and the Coal Research Bureau has been inundated with queries for information on the process.

Another use for flyash is as a grouting material. The flyash is mixed with cement and water and is pumped into structures which, through age, or disaster, have begun to show signs they may collapse.

The flyash, which is much finer than the sand usually used, provides a perfect medium for filling in the numerous cracks, which, if unfilled, would lead to the structure's eventual collapse.

These projects are only examples of the versatility of coal and its by-products. Through continued research I have no doubt even more uses will be found.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Value of Senate Rule XXII

"I may be mistaken." That one sentence sums up the democratic self-recognition of human frailty. It is the utilitarian key to tolerance.

It is because "I may be mistaken" that our republican form of government insists upon the protection of the widest possible divergence of opinion. That is what moved Milton to write the "Areopagitica" and thus fix within our civilization the unanswerable argument for freedom of the press. That is what is behind Voltaire's assertion—apocryphal or not—that while he disapproved of what his opponents said, he would defend to the death their right to say it.

"I may be mistaken." That is the thought that is enemy to all dogma, for if it is not possible for me to be in error, then I may, if I have the power, crush all who disagree with me.

In my opinion, the highest repository of this precious political principle is the Senate of the United States. Here the rights of the states and minorities are protected as nowhere else.

One of the keys to that protection is the right of unlimited debate—the right of the minority to argue at length (filibuster), to delay, to persuade, to force the majority to re-examine its motives and to reconsider the possible dangers of the course it is proposing. It is the majority,

after all, that needs restraining for, by definition, it has the power to act. Rule XXII, as presently written, in effect protects the majority from its own fanaticism.

It is true, as some have contended, that when a minority is permitted to debate at length, the enactment of important legislation may be delayed. But it is also true, as Jefferson once wrote, "delay is preferable to error."

Unlimited debate has served many a democratic cause. In 1863, for example, it helped kill a bill that would have suspended the writ of habeas corpus. In 1911, it helped Arizona to become a state. In 1937, free debate prevented passage of the court-packing bill and, in 1946, the bill drafting railway union members into the army.

The right to unlimited debate protects us all, now and in the future. In the shimmering and shifting kaleidoscope of politics, who knows what tomorrow's majority will consist of?

I have seen how gag rule operates in the Senate once cloture is invoked. This is why I am against the biennial effort to amend Rule XXII to make it easier to shut off debate.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Budget Should Serve The People

In its consideration of the \$200.8 billion budget for Fiscal Year 1971, Congress should place the highest priorities on three urgent needs of our society — tightening federal spending, fighting inflation, and reordering priorities so that a larger share of tax dollars will go into programs that would directly benefit the taxpayer.

To a certain extent, the budget recognizes these needs.

Defense Department expenditures, for example, would be cut by about \$5.9 billion; and appropriations for our space program would be reduced by almost \$500 million. Reductions in both these areas appear to be wise steps toward reassigning our spending priorities.

Every dollar that is needed to defend our Nation should be spent—but the Defense Department is not sacrosanct. Whenever military spending can be reduced without weakening the defense posture of the United States, such reductions should be made.

The same is true for space expenditures.

All Americans were filled with justifiable pride when our countrymen became the first to set foot on the moon—but we can no longer afford to conquer space, while ignoring problems that threaten the very existence of our society. We must solve the problems here on earth before we invest such a large portion of our budget in exploring new worlds.

For too long, the working American has carried the

heaviest load in supporting the government; and, at times, it has appeared that he has received the least amount of benefit from government programs. Out of every dollar received by the federal government, 45 cents comes from the personal income tax paid by working citizens. Yet, in recent years, less than 30 percent of federal programs were designed to develop human resources.

The current budget would still depend on personal tax returns for 45 cents out of every dollar, but it would devote 41 percent of its total expenditures to making our society a better one in which to live.

Increases for pollution control, for instance, would total \$330 million, and appropriations for fighting crime would rise by over \$310 million. Keeping our environment clean and our streets safe are obvious needs that should be given undivided attention at every level of government.

The President, when he presented the budget to Congress, said that "We have begun to travel a new road." As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee which must approve the funds, I am hopeful that the end of that road will result in economic stability, world peace, and a better life for all Americans.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Ammunition Sales Rules Too Tough

It is not surprising that many store owners, farmers, hunters, and sportsmen in West Virginia are disgruntled over new regulations governing the sale of rifle and shotgun ammunition.

Extensive record keeping now accompanies such sales as a result of Treasury Department regulations issued in the wake of the 1968 Gun Control Act.

The Treasury Department requires that storekeepers note the name, age and address of an ammunition purchaser, as well as the manufacturer, caliber, and quantity of ammunition, the date of sale, and the means by which the purchaser identified himself (e.g., driver's license).

It is quite obvious that such record keeping can be a great inconvenience to both buyer and seller, especially in small towns or rural areas where both parties may have known each other for years.

The Treasury Department seems to have gone too far in promulgating its regulations following passage of the Gun Control Act.

One section of the Act forbids the sale of ammunition unless the seller notes the "name, age and place of residence" of the purchaser.

The Treasury Department may have written its rules, however, on the basis of an-

other section providing that dealers shall maintain such records of ammunition sales "as the Secretary (of the Treasury) may by regulations prescribe.

The basis for the regulations, however, isn't as important as finding a way to remedy this aggravating situation concerning which many sportsmen and owners of small stores have complained.

I have, therefore, introduced in the Senate an amendment to the Act limiting the definition of "ammunition" to that used in automatic pistols and revolvers.

The amendment would exempt from Treasury control all shotgun shells, metallic rifle ammunition, and .22-caliber rimfire ammunition—types which are commonly used on farms or for hunting or sporting purposes.

I don't think that law-abiding citizens ought to be penalized by overzealous government reaction to a law which was meant to deter criminals and not meant to harass others in the purchase and sale of ammo.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



FARMERS' BULLETINS

Back in 1862, when Congress passed an Act establishing the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it directed that Department to "acquire and diffuse to the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture in the most general and comprehensive sense of that word."

True to its mandate, the Department has faithfully "diffused" for all of the 107 years since, a quantity and variety of agriculture publications almost staggering to review.

One very popular classification of Department of Agriculture publications — Farmers' Bulletins — originated in August 1895, when the Secretary of Agriculture reportedly used \$30,000 of money intended for purchase of seeds to inaugurate the Farmers' Bulletins publication program. The following year, Congress sustained the Agriculture official in his action by appropriating money for continuing the printing of the bulletins for yet another year. It has done so for each fiscal year thereafter, responsive to the steady demand of the American public.

As statistical proof of that sustained demand, the volume of Farmers' Bulletins issued during the last five fiscal years, 1964-1968 inclusive, totaled nearly 60 million.

For the current fiscal year, the listing of available Farmers' Bulletins includes 350 items. That listing covers sub-

jects ranging from fireplaces and chimneys, to raising rabbits; from counting calories in the food you eat, to learning how to control the European earwig around the house; from tailoring a woman's suit, to first aid for flooded homes and gardens.

While the bulletins have varied in topic and content over the past century, the Department of Agriculture has noted that cooking publications have consistently been among the top items favored, with gardening publications running close behind in popularity.

Beneficial in content and high in standard, the bulletins are prepared under the auspices of Federal technicians recognized as experts in their field.

(I am currently in a position to supply constituents with a limited number of Farmers' Bulletins. West Virginians desiring bulletins on subjects such as cooking, gardening, poultry raising, livestock raising, flowers, canning, and house plants may address a request to me: U.S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD, U.S. SENATE, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510. Indicate your wishes, and I will be glad to send up to one dozen copies, per person.)

Robert C. Byrd

8-13-69

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Drug Addiction Climbs

Americans are being confronted with a moral and legal dilemma, as the use of dangerous drugs continues to rise across the country.

In the first eight years of this decade, juvenile arrests resulting from drug abuse rose 800 percent. Persons under 21 constituted more than half the total narcotics arrests during that same period.

Despite what many citizens believe, the problem is not isolated in cities such as New York, where police have records on 40,000 heroin addicts alone. Authorities in West Virginia report an increase in the number of drug-connected arrests and say that marijuana, along with some LSD, is easily obtainable in some parts of the state.

I have been advised that in our state, as in the rest of the country, the problem is greatest on the college campuses, although the use of drugs is now sifting down into high school systems.

"It is doubtful that an American parent can send a son or daughter to college today without exposing the young man or woman to drug abuse," President Nixon said recently.

To combat drug abuse, the administration has proposed a 10-point program. It advocates federal laws to correct the differences in various state laws — for example, carrying drugs may be a punishable offense in one state,

while only the sale or use of drugs may be illegal in an adjoining state.

The program also calls for the U.S. Department of Justice to develop a State Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Act, which would complement federal legislation.

While the government moves to meet the legal side of the dilemma, each American must make a parallel move to solve the moral problem.

Instruction as to the inherent evils of drug abuse should be given at an early age in the home—not waiting until the child is about to go off to college.

Inasmuch as the focal point of drug activity is the college campus, professors are in a position to lead the opposition to drug abuses. Too many professors — although only a small minority of the professional community—have been preaching submissiveness in a vain attempt to build a false rapport with the younger generation.

Drug abuse poses a threat to the very foundations of our country, and neither the government nor the individual citizen can shirk the responsibility of meeting the threat head on.

Robert C. Byrd

8-20-69

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Conflict in Cuba

A number of Black Panthers have fled to Communist Cuba in recent months, falsely believing they would find a paradise for their radical way of life.

What they found, instead, was a Communist country dedicated to preaching only the party line, and their experiences in Cuba should serve to remind us of the liberty we enjoy.

"The Panthers have not been treated in a revolutionary fashion," Raymond Johnson revealed recently. The 22-year old Black Panther went to Cuba by hijacking an airliner, a frequent mode of travel for those seeking refuge on Castro's island.

Johnson, who said he spent 21 days in jail upon landing in Havana, noted that "every Black Panther I know" has asked permission to leave.

At least 10 Panthers are currently in Cuba, and most of them were jailed shortly after arriving in the Communist country. Authorities report that all of them have been imprisoned at some point during their stay in Cuba.

Oddly enough, the only Panther permitted to leave the island has been Eldridge Cleaver. As Black Panther Minister of Information, Cleaver has sufficient rank to leave what Castro refers to as "a classless society."

The other Panthers lack cabinet rank and, according to Johnson, are "condemned to live in Cuba." He added that, following the initial imprisonment, subsequent ar-

rests "come when the Panthers become disenchanted and after they protest conditions and express a desire to leave Cuba."

When Cleaver and Johnson left the United States, they both said they were fleeing a racist society. The fact is that they and most of their fellow Panthers were not running away from racism, but rather from possible convictions as parole violators.

It is ironic that they ran headlong into Cuban jails—without the benefit of any semblance of a trial.

Johnson expressed his disillusionment because he said he wanted people in America to be aware of the Cuban situation. However, the vast majority of Americans have been aware of the situation in Cuba for some time. The fact that almost six percent of the Cuban population has fled the island since 1961 to come to America is an ominous reminder of the oppression that invariably follows Communist takeover of a country.

It is not too much to assume that the Black Panthers now living in Cuba are beginning to appreciate the American way of life. They turned their backs on America, however, and, as far as I am concerned, their departure can best be summed up in two words: Good riddance!

Robert C. Byrd

5-27-69

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Dealing Aging in America

Keeping adults from growing old, keeping our 20 million senior citizens in the mainstream of American life, is one of the most pressing challenges now confronting our country.

Each year 1.4 million Americans turn 65, and, although death takes its toll, the ranks of the elderly increase by 800,000 annually. With advancements in medical science, a man reaching age 65 can now expect an average of 12 more years of life, and a 75-year-old woman can look forward to an average of 16 additional years.

The late President John F. Kennedy set a special White House Conference in 1961, and awarded the medical profession for its advancements in the care of geriatrics. It has since been the responsibility of many communities and states to deal with the needs of the aging.

Today, more than 70 states have laws that require state agencies or programs to deal with the needs of aging. Some include special help for senior citizens as a condition of receiving state or federal assistance. Through the seminars, conferences and exchange of ideas between the young and old,

our own West Virginia Commission on Aging has

by funded seven new programs, including one at West Virginia University. The WVU project is designed to train specialists to work with the elderly, a field that will employ nationwide approximately 700,000 workers over the next decade.

As West Virginians, we should have more than a casual interest in the work being done in the field of aging. With 10 percent of its total population 65 or over, West Virginia ranks 20th in the nation in the percentage of senior citizens.

While efforts continue in an attempt to keep the aged in the social mainstream of American life, other efforts of similar kind should be made to help our senior citizens maintain their economic stability.

The median annual income for older families amounts to just \$3,928, less than half of what younger families subsist on. For older persons living alone, the subsistence is even more meager—\$1,480 a year.

In an effort to bridge the economic gap between the young and old, I have introduced legislation calling for across-the-board increases in social security payments.

Robert C. Byrd

9-3-69

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Reassessing Charity

The U.S. has a tax ill which sorely needs treatment—the granting of tax-exemptions to foundations.

American taxpayers have little knowledge of the "hush-hush" operations of the foundations—nonprofit organizations given tax-exemption because they contribute money, either income or capital, for charitable purposes. In actuality, these foundations spend many untaxed dollars on noncharitable items such as lawyers, printing, maintaining plush offices, and hiring public relations firms.

There are now over 30,000 such U.S. foundations, holding more than \$20 billion in assets and making grants at a rate exceeding \$1.5 billion annually. Moreover, a lot of those grant dollars flow out of the U.S.

A sampling of 596 major foundations studied by a Select Congressional Committee showed that 20 of these foundations disbursed grants abroad, in dollars, totaling \$70.4 million; purchased foreign securities costing \$91 million; and sent \$15.2 million to foreign branch offices, during a recent three-year period.

This occurred despite our Government's plea for voluntary restrictions of U.S. spending abroad, in the effort to rescue the U.S. dollar from a bad imbalance of gold flow.

Regarding the two largest foundations, the Committee reported that, as of Septem-

ber 30, 1967, one had 357 employees in the U.S., compared to 920 in foreign countries; and the other sent 75 percent more money out of the country in 1966 than it spent here.

The Committee further reported that the latter foundation, for 1966, spent half as much money running its New York office—\$5.4 million—as it spent throughout the entire Nation; that it spent half a million dollars in Uganda, but not a penny in Idaho; and that it spent \$1 million in Nigeria, but only \$1,000 in Kentucky.

The Chairman of the Congressional study group specifically testified relative to this foundation's activities in 1966: "More than \$5 million went into the upkeep of its elegant offices in New York, but only \$2,374 of its money went into West Virginia."

He further pointed out that one foundation made direct grants, in U.S. dollars, to at least 25 foreign governments, 1965-1967, including the governments of the United Arab Republic, Zambia, Kenya, Cameroon, and the Republic of the Ivory Coast.

Congress is taking a long look at the activities conducted under the cloak of charity by tax-exempt foundations and I believe that corrective action will be taken.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



\$600 Personal Exemption Inadequate

One of the most unrealistic features of our present income tax laws is the \$600 personal exemption.

That exemption, which allows a taxpayer to deduct \$600 for himself and \$600 for each of his dependents, was enacted with the Internal Revenue Act of 1948. It has not changed since, although, during that same 20-year period, the cost of living has skyrocketed by 52 percent.

I believe the time has come to bring the exemption more in line with the cost of living and give the American taxpayer a break. Thus, I have introduced legislation that would increase the personal exemption from its present \$600 to a more realistic figure of \$800.

Despite my vote against it, the 10 percent surtax has been extended by Congress; and that extension makes it even more necessary to find some other areas where relief can be granted to the overburdened American taxpayer.

Increasing the \$600 personal exemption is a good place to start, since the history of our tax laws shows that the \$600 figure is the second lowest exemption ever granted the taxpayer.

Only during the war years of 1942-1947, when the exemption dropped to \$500 per dependent, was it lower than the

present scale. Just prior to that period, a family of four had \$2,800 worth of personal exemptions—that is \$400 more than an identical family has today, almost 30 years later.

Even when income tax laws were first enacted in 1913, Congress saw fit to grant a \$4,000 exemption to a married couple—more than three times the exemption currently granted a married couple. In fact, a family of six receives only \$3,600 in personal exemptions under our present tax structure.

Those opposed to raising the \$600 personal exemption point out that the federal government would lose an estimated \$3 billion for each increase of \$100 in the exemption. Yet, the federal government closed the last fiscal year with a \$3 billion surplus, and Budget Bureau officials have estimated that the federal government spends between \$10 billion and \$30 billion annually on duplicative and often wasteful programs.

The time has come for duplication and waste to end in the federal government, and the savings that result should be turned back to the American taxpayer.

Robert C. Byrd

9-24-69

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Juvenile Delinquency Rises

The problem of juvenile delinquency in America is a growing one, and it is a problem that is affecting more and more innocent people each year.

Last year alone, when 20 percent of all persons arrested in the United States were under age 18, our courts were forced to handle 1,457,078 juvenile delinquency cases. During 1968, America's youthful criminals stole almost 76,000 automobiles, committed over 140,000 burglaries, more than 3,000 homicides and an estimated 2,500 forcible rapes.

In West Virginia, close to 26,000 juvenile delinquency cases, not including traffic violations, were handled by the courts.

A report from the U.S. Children's Bureau notes that "these children (juvenile delinquents) represent 2.3 percent of all children aged 10 through 17 in the country." But it also states that the increase in "juvenile court delinquency cases was 8.9 percent as compared to an increase in the child population of only 2.2 percent."

One reason for the unprecedented growth of juvenile crime, according to authorities, is the increasing number of street gangs. But just as shocking as the crimes committed by these organized bands of young hoodlums is the fact that federal money has wound up in the hands of gang members. For instance, one of the gangs currently

warring in Chicago is the same group that last year received federal poverty money. The funds were supposed to rehabilitate the gang and teach its members responsibility. But, Senate investigators found that the federal money actually helped to finance the gang's criminal activities.

The Chicago incident is one of several in which, I feel, criminals have been coddled because of their age or color—where too much emphasis has been placed on the fact that they are juveniles and not enough on the fact that they are delinquents.

Judge Vincent Carroll of Philadelphia recently criticized this coddling of youthful criminals. Noting that gang warfare has taken 29 lives in Philadelphia this year, Judge Carroll suggested that, "We bring back the whipping post." He said that "gang members should be humiliated right on the public streets, with whippings, in front of the people they've been terrorizing."

It is debatable whether a return to the public whipping post is necessary; but it is evident that our growing juvenile delinquency problem makes a return to some form of old-fashioned discipline and punishment necessary, and makes a reaffirming of parental authority essential.

Robert C. Byrd

7-22-69

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Communist Injustice

One of the most distressing things about the student revolt is the tendency of campus radicals to use Communist China as their example of how America should be run.

That tendency alone should convince fence sitters in the campus power struggles that militant students should spend more time in classrooms, and less time at protests.

Red China, one of the most oppressive societies in the world today, is a society in which thousands were killed during a "cultural" revolution. The revolution was necessary, according to a Peking official, because "too many Chinese turned away from the thoughts of Mao Tse Tung."

Those "thoughts" are published in a little red book and have been quoted at many of the more violent disruptions on our campuses. But the left-wing students who wave the red book triumphantly are apparently acting as much out of ignorance as they are from arrogance.

Before advocating that America copy the guidelines of Communist China, student militants would do well to study Mao Tse Tung's peculiar brand of justice.

A recent trial, for instance, was held in a sports stadium, where 105 prisoners were tried before a crowd of 150,000 persons. None of the defendants had a lawyer, and all but 11 were given heavy prison sentences. The other 11 were

sentenced to death; and, for the benefit of the 150,000 spectators, the executions immediately followed the sentencing.

If the radical students want further proof of the lack of justice in Communist China, they should contemplate the case of Anthony Grey. A correspondent for Reuters News Service, Grey has been held captive in Peking since July 21, 1967.

No charges have been levied against the newsman, who is confined to one small room. He is forbidden to write, and is allowed to read only what his guards give him.

Grey's only crime was that he happened to be in China at the time 11 communist spies were arrested in Hong Kong. Those 11, after a fair trial and appeals, were sentenced to three years in jail. In retaliation, the Chinese gave Grey a similar sentence—but without the benefit of a trial.

It is sheer folly for militant students to use Communist China as an example of anything less than what it is—a nation governed by a tyrannical regime. Like his little red book, the government of Mao Tse Tung cannot be judged solely by its cover.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Revenue-Sharing Plan

The proposal that the Federal Government return a portion of the tax revenues it collects to the states for their own use appears to be a sound one for two very important reasons.

It can serve to curb the growth of the federal bureaucracy, and it can provide a badly needed source of new funds for state and local governments.

The central government has become top-heavy, with far too many duplicative and overlapping and wasteful programs.

This unwarranted proliferation, and the accompanying concentration of power over local matters in Washington, has seriously weakened state and local governments.

President Nixon, in his message to Congress on the revenue-sharing plan, noted that the Federal Government has increased its revenues ninety-fold in 36 years. Washington takes so much money out of the states that nearly all of them have become extremely hard-pressed to raise the funds necessary for essential services.

The tax burden on the individual citizen has become so great that state and local governments can ill afford to consider any new tax increases, despite the continued growth in the demand for governmental services.

The only practical solution is to begin a reduction in the proportionate size of the Fed-

eral Government and its ever-increasing activities, and to send a part of the tax money it collects back to the localities from whence the revenues came, with no strings attached.

The idea is basically a simple one, and no new federal agency or bureau would have to be set up. Of course the details would remain to be worked out.

As it stands now, the proposal is that one-sixth of one percent of taxable personal income (the base on which federal personal income taxes are levied), which would amount to \$500 million, be made available in fiscal 1971. This would increase in graduated steps to one percent in 1976, yielding an estimated \$5 billion.

The distribution among the states would be made on the basis of each state's share of the national population, with adjustments for a state's revenue effort. A state raising more than the national average in its own taxation would receive a proportional bonus.

I believe this proposal would help restore to the states their proper rights and roles in the federal system and would strengthen the governments that are closest to the people and the problems.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



There's Gasoline in the West Virginia Hills

The alchemists of old, who wanted to turn base metals into gold, ought to see what is happening at Cresap in West Virginia's Northern Panhandle, where bituminous coal is being turned into crude oil.

A pilot plant on the bank of the Ohio River in Marshall County—a sophisticated maze of pipes and valves and tanks—is seeking answers to the problems of producing commercially-competitive gasoline from coal.

The experimental work is known as "Project Gasoline," and is being done by Consolidation Coal Company under a federal contract. Laboratory conversion of coal to gasoline has been possible for some time; Consol at Cresap seeks to take the idea out of the laboratory and turn it into a commercially feasible process that can produce synthetic gasoline at a production cost of about 13 cents a gallon.

The Cresap plant has been turning out synthetic crude oil from coal from time to time since late summer now, and this should be good news indeed for West Virginians. Producing the crude oil from coal is the basic step that must be mastered. When this is done, and the plant is operated for a sufficient length of time without new bugs developing, the crude will be ship-

ped to a refinery to be made into gasoline.

Many problems and mechanical difficulties have been encountered, of course, and at one point earlier this year the Office of Coal Research was considering shutting down the project. I flew to Cresap at the time to meet with government and company officials, and OCR agreed to continue the work.

The decision was a good one, for substantial progress is now being made at Cresap. The plant's two major systems—the coal extraction and the hydrogenation systems—have been successfully worked in tandem. Coal has been fed into one end and synthetic crude extracted from the other over periods of time.

"Project Gasoline" consumes 1,700 pounds of coal an hour around the clock when running, and can produce about 2,500 gallons of crude a day at full capacity.

Its ultimate success—which I believe will come—can open a vast new market for West Virginia's invaluable reserves of bituminous coal, and point to a brighter economic future for our state.

Robert C. Byrd

Nov 1967

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Forecast from "Weatherman": Violence

One of the most obnoxious groups of the New Left is "Weatherman," a band of young extremists who many people expect will employ terror tactics to radicalize the November peace moratorium.

The so-called "Weathermen" (and women) are so vocal and so violent that they stand almost alone on the extreme Left. Many of their fellow revolutionaries have shunned them and declared them, in effect, *persona non grata*.

It was the "Weathermen" who were responsible for several days of wild demonstrations, destruction, and street fighting which broke out in Chicago in early October. Before it was over, police had shot three of them, arrested more than 200, and Illinois Gov. Richard Ogilvie felt it necessary to call out 2500 National Guardsmen to back up police.

The members of "Weatherman" should not be confused with the young, misguided idealists who sometimes ally themselves with New Left demonstrations. The "Weathermen" are hard-core militants who have declared their intention of destroying our government and our established institutions. Their plans include alignment with black militants in order to exploit the Nation's explosive racial situation.

"Weatherman," a sort of disgruntled offspring of the

old SDS—which was badly fractured last June by internal strife—is now vying for leadership of the radical youth revolution. Its principal spokesman is Mark Rudd, 22, a skilled agitator who is blamed for much of the turmoil which rocked Columbia University during violent demonstrations last year.

When Columbia University President Grayson Kirk branded the demonstrators as nihilists, Rudd responded with a letter which read, in part:

"Your power is directly threatened, since we will have to destroy that power before we take over . . . We will have to destroy at times, even violently, in order to end your power and your system. But that is a far cry from nihilism."

Whether Rudd and his followers want to admit to nihilism or Communism is not half as important as their stated objective, which is to spark a violent revolution. The "Weathermen" have vowed they will close down our high schools and colleges, subvert the Nation's youth, and spawn a secret Marxist-Leninist party of sufficient strength to overthrow the United States government by violent means.

Robert C. Byrd

Nov 69

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



DANGERS OF DRUGS

The federal government is spending over \$37 million this year in an effort to solve one of our nation's most pressing health problems—the increasing use of drugs in our society.

Marijuana, largely because an estimated 35 percent of our high school and college students have tried it, is being thoroughly researched by the National Institute of Mental Health. Thus far, the research has proved that the physical effects of smoking marijuana—rapid heart beat, lowering of the body temperature, and dehydration—are equalled in their severity by the psychological effects.

Dr. Stanley Yolles, director of NIMH, notes that most users of marijuana are at an age when their personalities are being molded by their interaction with society. He adds that marijuana greatly reduces that interaction and, therefore, retards the user's social maturation.

The researchers have not proved conclusively that marijuana is addictive, but they are quick to point out that at least 80 percent of the 100,000 known narcotic addicts in America began by smoking "grass."

A majority of those addicts depend on heroin, which, along with LSD, is the most common of the hard drugs. An addict may spend up to \$100 a day to support his habit, and many turn to crime to finance the purchase of drugs. In New York, for example, a recent study showed

that many of the petty crimes were committed by addicts.

The outlook for the narcotic addict is dim, indeed. Of the 5,800 addicts currently undergoing treatment, less than 18 percent can expect to be cured. And, of all the addicts in America, more than half are under age 30 not only because drugs are more attractive to the young, but also because a large percentage of addicts die before age 30. Health officials note that habitual use of narcotic drugs can shorten life expectancy by 15 to 20 years.

Other potentially dangerous drugs are amphetamines, which "pick you up," and barbiturates, which "let you down." About eight billion amphetamine tablets are produced each year—enough to provide each American with 35 doses—and about half of these tablets go into illicit channels. Health officials warn that, taken without prescription, amphetamines and barbiturates can be as harmful as any narcotic.

Besides the extensive research, NIMH also conducts a public information program. There are a number of informative pamphlets available free to the public. Anyone desiring these pamphlets should write to the National Institute of Mental Health at Box 1080, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Cancer: Searching for a Cure

There is probably no disease more frightening than cancer, which health officials estimate will claim 615,000 new victims and 325,000 lives in America this year.

The National Cancer Institute is leading the battle against the dreaded disease, and its present objective is to reverse the balance that now exists between occurrence and cure—at the present time, more Americans develop cancer than are cured of it. To help accomplish its goal, the Institute has a proposed 1970 budget of \$181 million.

The largest part of the budget will go into the two areas where the most important advances have been made in recent years—etiology, or the study of the causes of cancer; and chemotherapy, or treatment of the disease by drugs.

In an effort to find the causes, scientists have isolated more than 80 viruses, all of which are known to cause cancer in animals. The reports state that there is "excellent evidence that one of these viruses is associated with Hodgkin's disease." Still another isolated virus is thought to be associated with leukemia in young children.

Positively identifying the viruses which may cause specific types of cancer is the first step in developing a cure—a cure that is needed, since

approximately 150,000 Americans per year develop cancers attributed to viruses.

The Cancer Institute has already begun developing plans to produce test vaccines of sufficient safety and effectiveness; and, almost without exception, health officials feel that drugs will provide the ultimate cure. Most of them feel that we have reached the limit of progress in the areas of surgical and radiation treatment of cancer.

Within the past several years, the goal of drug therapy—to reach and selectively destroy tumor cells—has been achieved in a few types of clinical cancer. Some noteworthy success has been recorded. In a recent study, 75 percent of patients with acute lymphocytic leukemia were still free of disease two years after completing treatment. And, according to health officials, five-year survivals have become almost commonplace.

There are up to 200 different forms of cancer, and, with a disease so deadly, even the smallest advancements take on great significance. However, there have been enough of these small advancements to make the eventual cure of cancer seem less than hopeless.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. Byrd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'R'.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Education—Investment in our Future

Because of the rising costs and the growing necessity of a good education, the Senate Appropriations Committee has approved over \$1 billion in increases over the original budget proposals for education.

The final bill, which includes approximately \$10.8 million in increases for West Virginia, will be acted on during the second session of Congress. And the chances for passage are currently rated as extremely good.

All of us on the Appropriations Committee realized the need to reduce government spending, but we felt that education was too vital an area in which to cut back. And we carefully designed our increases to effect a more equitable balance between vocational education and the more strictly academic programs.

In vocational education, our committee appropriated over \$488 million—an increase of more than \$200 million over the original request by the Budget Bureau. Under the appropriation, an estimated 9 million persons would be trained for gainful employment in semi-skilled, skilled, and technical fields. They would be trained for careers that would have otherwise been beyond their reach. Plus, specialized programs would accommodate over 500,000 disadvantaged or handicapped persons—persons who, sometimes through no fault of

their own, have heretofore been largely neglected by our educational system.

Under practically all of the programs, there would be earlier testing of a student's aptitudes; and, if he were found to be uninterested in straight academic subjects, he would be directed toward a vocational program. In this way, potential dropouts could be reached and kept in school.

The appropriation also granted substantial assistance for those students who do possess the ability and desire to pursue a college education. We increased to nearly \$1 billion the funds available for higher education in America. The programs in this field would provide guaranteed loans for over 1.6 million students and educational opportunity grants for more than 900,000 students. Furthermore, the appropriations would enable 1.4 million other students to secure part-time jobs while attending college.

Education—quality education, with a proper balance between vocational and academic programs—is a prerequisite for the continued advancement of our Nation. And investing in the education of our young people today is, in a very real sense, investing in the future of our country.

1/7/70

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Education—Investment in our Future

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert C. Byrd".

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Higher Cost of Eating Better

Americans are eating a wider variety of higher quality foods today than at any previous time in our Nation's history—but it is costing us more to do so.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the retail cost of food in the United States has risen by about 25 percent in the past 10 years—for every \$10 spent on groceries in 1960, the American shopper is now spending an average of \$12.50. The increase has caused many homemakers to wonder exactly where their food dollars have gone.

Of every dollar spent on food, 39 cents goes to the farmers who produce the goods and 61 cents goes to the marketing companies who process them. Yet, both of these segments of the food industry have done a commendable job in keeping the price of food within reason.

The marketing companies have experienced a 50 percent rise in hourly labor costs since 1960. But, through increasing the efficiency of their operations, the companies have been able to hold their cost rise per unit of food to 18 percent. In other words, the food marketing system has absorbed 32 percent of its increased labor costs. Evidence of this efficiency is the fact that, while 21 percent more food is being processed

today than a decade ago, only 6 percent more persons have been needed to do the job.

Most shoppers, who buy an average of 30 to 40 different items each week, know full well that, without an advanced food marketing system, our orange juice would still be on trees, and our steaks would still be on the hoof.

For their part, the American farmers spend \$2 out of every \$3 they receive on operating costs such as stock feed and fertilizer, or overhead business expenses such as machinery. Increases in these essentials have far outpaced the rising cost of food.

The United States is in a period of rising incomes and falling unemployment, and such a situation invariably results in inflation — inflation that hits at every part of our economy and causes higher prices for all our goods and services. The price of shoes, for instance, has risen by 32 percent over the past decade, while the cost of medical care has increased by 45 percent.

It is a tribute to our food industry that the price of food has risen less rapidly than the cost of many other goods and services.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert C. Byrd".

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Closing the Nutrition Gap

A recent national survey discovered that the diet of the average American household is far superior today than that of a generation ago, and that families at all income levels appear to be sharing in our increased production of food products.

For instance, families in the lowest third of our income scale are now consuming more meat and poultry than America's wealthiest families did in the spring of 1942. In other words, the poorer families today are eating better than the more affluent households of the last generation.

The survey, which was conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, also showed that American men between the ages of 20 and 34 now consume a daily average of 12 ounces of meat and poultry—double the amount consumed by their counterparts in 1948. Women in that age group presently consume almost eight ounces of meat and poultry each day, compared to about five ounces eaten by members of a similar group 22 years ago.

According to the survey, the traditional three-meals-a-day is fast becoming a thing of the past. About 20 percent of our present population in the 20-34 age bracket stops for something to eat or drink six or more times a day, regardless of the economic status. In most cases, these "extra" meals contain significant nutrition value.

There is still a gap between the nutrition value of foods consumed by our poor families

today and the meals eaten by our middle and higher income groups. Today's lower income households are eating better than the wealthier families of the last generation, but the amount of nutrients they receive daily still falls short of the nutrients consumed by our present middle and higher income groups.

However, the national survey showed that sufficient high quality foods are available to properly feed the entire population of the United States. And, in order to meet the goal of a well-fed nation, Congress has updated the food stamp and commodity food programs.

Food stamps were first introduced on a pilot basis in 1961. They now reach 4.5 million Americans. The commodity program, when it was begun 30 years ago, offered a limited variety of foods. It now offers 22 foods, which provide between 80 and 150 percent of the minimum daily required nutrients.

These programs must be expanded where necessary, in an effort to close the nutrition gap. And consumer education programs must be expanded to include middle and higher income groups, because improper eating habits and unwise food purchases have resulted in instances of malnutrition even among these more affluent Americans.

Robert C. Byrd

2/10/70

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Society Threatened by Pollution

The pollution of our water, land, and air has grown at such a rapid pace over the past 15 years it now poses a serious threat to our future existence.

Water pollution, for instance, has reached such massive proportions that ecologists — scientists concerned with the study of man's relationship to his environment — claim that Lake Erie is "dead". And they predict that, at the current rate of pollution, a similar fate awaits Lake Michigan within nine years.

In fact, major rivers in at least two American cities are so full of industrial and consumer waste disposal that they are now considered fire hazards.

The air we breathe is no less dirty than the water we drink. Tons of smoke and fumes are sent billowing into our sky each day, resulting in a smog that has caused asthma, emphysema, and other respiratory ailments among Americans to increase more rapidly than any other disease.

In Los Angeles, automobile traffic alone results in over 20 million pounds of carbon monoxide being poured daily into the atmosphere.

Even our open fields and beaches, which once glittered with beauty, are now spotted with litter. Each year, over 76 million cans and bottles are carelessly tossed away, and over 7 million cars are left

for junk along our streets and highways.

Obviously, some major reforms must be undertaken to control the rampant pollution in our country, and to clean up our environment before we are swallowed up by our own debris. And those reforms can best succeed through a cooperative effort by the federal government, private industry, and the individual citizen.

For its part, the federal government last year increased anti-pollution expenditures to \$400 million compared to \$4 million that was spent for pollution control in 1955. I am hopeful that Congress will assign the highest of priorities to anti-pollution programs in the future.

Both the coal and automotive industries have made significant contributions to pollution control. The coal industry has developed new uses for flyash, tons of which are sent annually into the air we breathe; and automobile manufacturers have developed an abatement device that is expected to cut carbon monoxide emissions by 80 percent.

In too many instances we have used our technology to defeat nature. But, unless we learn to use it in harmony with nature, we may find that the final victory belongs to the monsters we have created.

Robert C. Byrd

2/18/70

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Budget Should Serve The People

In its consideration of the \$200.8 billion budget for Fiscal Year 1971, Congress should place the highest priorities on three urgent needs of our society — tightening federal spending, fighting inflation, and reordering priorities so that a larger share of tax dollars will go into programs that would directly benefit the taxpayer.

To a certain extent, the budget recognizes these needs.

Defense Department expenditures, for example, would be cut by about \$5.9 billion; and appropriations for our space program would be reduced by almost \$500 million. Reductions in both these areas appear to be wise steps toward reassigning our spending priorities.

Every dollar that is needed to defend our Nation should be spent—but the Defense Department is not sacrosanct. Whenever military spending can be reduced without weakening the defense posture of the United States, such reductions should be made.

The same is true for space expenditures.

All Americans were filled with justifiable pride when our countrymen became the first to set foot on the moon—but we can no longer afford to conquer space, while ignoring problems that threaten the very existence of our society. We must solve the problems here on earth before we invest such a large portion of our budget in exploring new worlds.

For too long, the working American has carried the

heaviest load in supporting the government; and, at times, it has appeared that he has received the least amount of benefit from government programs. Out of every dollar received by the federal government, 45 cents comes from the personal income tax paid by working citizens. Yet, in recent years, less than 30 percent of federal programs were designed to develop human resources.

The current budget would still depend on personal tax returns for 45 cents out of every dollar, but it would devote 41 percent of its total expenditures to making our society a better one in which to live.

Increases for pollution control, for instance, would total \$330 million, and appropriations for fighting crime would rise by over \$310 million. Keeping our environment clean and our streets safe are obvious needs that should be given undivided attention at every level of government.

The President, when he presented the budget to Congress, said that "We have begun to travel a new road." As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee which must approve the funds, I am hopeful that the end of that road will result in economic stability, world peace, and a better life for all Americans.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Court Integrity The Issue In Chicago

The protest demonstrations over the convictions in the Chicago Seven trial are as outrageous—and as threatening to our constitutional system—as was the conduct of the defendants and their lawyers during the trial.

As usual, we are hearing mostly from one side—the radical new left, which seeks to destroy the American system. The great middle majority of the American people is not likely to take to the streets, shouting obscenities and smashing windows, to make its views known.

In the face of the contempt which the defendants and their attorneys showed for the American system, the jury hearing their case proved that the system works.

The verdict finding the defendants not guilty on the conspiracy charge, acquitting two on all charges, and finding five guilty of the charges of crossing state lines to incite violence, was a fair one. Competent legal people seem to agree on that.

The contempt sentences are harsh. But considering that nothing less than the integrity of the U.S. judicial system is at stake, they should stand, although it is probable that the length of the sentences ought to be reduced by the appellate courts. It should be noted that Judge Julius Hoffman conceded that the contempt and riot sentences could run concurrently.

It is in this area that the

greatest significance of the trial lies. The deliberately provocative actions of the defendants and their counsel, and the calculated abuse and villification of the judge, were aimed at demeaning the court and at the ultimate destruction of the American system of law and justice.

The issue raised is simply this: Are defendants, radical or otherwise, to be allowed to turn trials into burlesque shows and shout their way out of what should be the inevitable consequences of their law-breaking?

That pattern is already making itself manifest in trials in Washington, New York, and elsewhere.

Respect for the law and for the courts is fundamental to the continuance of the American system. If the courts can be flouted, then nothing that anyone has—including the rights of a radical—is safe.

Those who wish to wreck our country know that. They know that if they can weaken and pull down the courts, they can weaken and pull down the whole structure.

If Judge Hoffman threw the book at the Chicago rioters and their lawyers, their behavior in the courtroom, as well as on the streets, merited it.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Forced Integration—Unwise, Unconstitutional

"Surely it is time to face up to a fact that can no longer be hidden from view. The attempt to integrate this country's schools is a tragic failure."

The words of Stewart Alsop in *Newsweek* are blunt but true, and the sooner the politicians, government bureaucrats, Federal judges and pseudo-intellectual columnists become aware that Alsop's words are true, the sooner this country will get back to the idea that the primary purpose of the public school system is to educate children.

West Virginia and other states once required forced segregation of the races in public schools. Regardless of how one may look at it, that was the law, and it had been upheld by the United States Supreme Court in its "separate, but equal" doctrine (*Plessy v. Ferguson*). But with the Court's 1954 decision in the *Brown* case, forced segregation was outlawed as being in violation of the "equal protection" clause of the 14th amendment. In my judgment, the 1954 decision was right. But the Court, in *Brown I* and *II*, did not use the term "integration," much less "forced integration." The opinion was solely devoted to state-enforced segregation. Thus, the high court has never required "forced integration." Moreover, the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibits busing and assignment of students from one school to another in order to overcome racial imbalance. Yet, HEW and some of the Federal courts have proceeded to forcibly integrate schools by bus-

ing and assigning students on the basis of race. I am against forced segregation. That is not the law of the land. I am also against forced integration. That is not the law of the land.

How can the U.S. Constitution, and specifically its 14th amendment, today require what it so clearly prohibited 16 years ago, namely, State dictation of school assignment on the basis of race or color? During those 16 years there has been no change whatsoever in the wording of the 14th amendment.

If the public school system is to be saved from destruction, Negro and white parents must speak out against a foolish, arrogant policy that makes guinea pigs out of school children and forces them to be hauled around like cattle, against their will, just that Negro students may look into white faces.

There are many things wrong with forcibly assigning and busing school children just to bring about some degree of "proper" racial mix. It is a waste of time, energy and money that could better be applied to making all schools better. Moreover, it is sheer hypocrisy for politicians and judges to vote to forcibly integrate other people's children while they themselves send their children and grandchildren to private schools or live in white suburbia where schools are virtually all-white.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Rising Cost of Raising Children

The cost of raising children in America is increasing, as inflation continues to play havoc with our pocketbooks. In fact, even if prices remained the same as they are today, the average family with a one-year-old child would need between \$19,360 and \$25,000 to raise that child to age 18.

For a child born in 1951, the costs to the parents were somewhat lower—between \$15,800 and \$20,190. And, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture study, the costs of child-raising will increase by 25 percent over the next five years.

Many factors were taken into consideration before the Department of Agriculture released its findings. For instance, it is less expensive to raise a child on a farm than in a rural non-farm community; and it is most expensive to raise a child in large urban centers.

To make the study more relevant, let us look at the costs to a rural, non-farm West Virginia family with one child and an after-tax income of between \$5,400 and \$6,800.

The family will need approximately \$22,000—or over \$1,200 a year—to provide essentials for its child until he reaches age 18. Food and housing each take about 30 percent of the child support expenditures, while clothing takes about 12 percent. The rest of the money goes for medical care, education,

transportation and recreational purposes.

Being located in a rural community, the family will spend less on housing and recreation than will a family living in an urban area. However, the rural family will have to spend more money on food and medical care than will its city counterpart.

Naturally, the costs increase as the child grows; and, on the average, expenses during the eighteenth year will be about 37 percent higher than those incurred during the child's first year. Clothing and transportation costs continue to rise as the child grows, while medical expenses decrease over the 18-year span. The amount spent on food for the child rises sharply until age 15, and then levels off for the last three years.

The USDA study notes that inflation hits hardest at the essentials of everyday life—food, clothing, and medical care. And, if prices continue to skyrocket, families like the one we have cited will not be able to provide a sufficient amount of all these items.

Such a situation underscores the need to make an all-out war on inflation the highest priority of the federal government.

Robert C. Byrd

MAR 18 1970

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Judge Carswell and the Court

The Supreme Court of the United States must be restructured. That is why I have given strong support to the nomination of Judge C. Harold Carswell to be an associate justice.

He is experienced in the federal judiciary, both as a federal district judge and as an appellate judge. His record shows him to be a conservative constitutionalist, the type of jurist desperately needed on the highest court in the land to balance the theoretical, libertarian type of thinking that has dominated so many of the court's decisions in recent years.

The opposition to Judge Carswell stems from a determined effort on the part of ultra-liberals, in and out of the Senate, who seek to perpetuate the court's sociological activism.

In this endeavor they resort to nitpicking, time-killing, tenuous and tedious arguments based largely on unsound allegations as to the stature and performance of the nominee.

Shoddy tactics such as these brought about the rejection of Judge Clement Haynsworth—who should have been confirmed—and similar tactics appear likely to be used against any conservative whom the President may seek to place on the court.

This is a sorry state of affairs. The damage done to the individuals involved, and to the federal judiciary, is exceeded only by the damage the Supreme Court has itself done in areas such as race

relations, criminal justice, Communist infiltration, obscene and pornographic matter and so on.

Restraint and common sense have simply got to be restored on the supreme bench. Court decisions based upon the fallible predilections and personal, social concepts of justices can serve only to undermine the constitutional foundations upon which our nation rests.

The radical, doctrinaire concepts of some members of the court have seriously weakened what we once proudly boasted was "a government of laws and not of men." In shunting aside the age-old principle of basing decisions upon a controlling body of legal precedent and in issuing, instead, rulings based upon their own philosophies and sociological values, the activists have precipitated many of the problems which this nation faces today.

The greatest service the Supreme Court could render the citizens of this country would be to eschew the notion that it is some sort of super-legislature or continuing constitutional convention and return, instead, to its proper function of interpreting the laws in the light of what the Constitution actually says, not what the activists think it should say.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Bombings—New Phase of Revolution?

An upsurge of bombings on the East Coast suggests that revolution in this country is moving into a new phase.

These acts of terrorism are not a big surprise, however, because for several years the literature of extremist groups has been filled with explicit information on how to wage guerrilla warfare and how to carry out sabotage by making and using a variety of "do-it-yourself" bombs, grenades, and incendiary devices.

An example of such literature was an article in the November 16, 1968, edition of "The Black Panther," official newspaper of the black militant organization.

In language which could be followed even by a high school student, the article gave instructions on how to turn an empty aerosol can into a hand grenade "even more dangerous than a standard Army grenade." It went to to say:

"A guerrilla with lousy aim in close quarters can kill his brothers. This thing is equivalent to about 12 shotgun blasts at once. If thrown into a car it will blow to bits the car and everything in it, human or otherwise. If thrown in the open, it will kill within a 25-foot radius and maim within 100 feet. It is a good idea to familiarize yourself with this weapon by practicing with a sand-filled facsim-

ile. Try this and see how long the fuse takes. You cannot afford to miss."

After the instructions on how to construct and use hand grenades, the article launched into a discussion of blowing up buildings with dynamite and how to make firebombs, including a self-igniting Molotov cocktail of which the basic ingredients are sulphuric acid, gasoline, and potassium chlorate.

The example which I have cited is not isolated. Such literature is readily available to the New Left underground, so the nation can expect to witness even more bombing incidents.

A trio of young revolutionaries blew themselves up recently in a Greenwich Village, N.Y., townhouse while they were making bombs for intended victims. Their deaths and the bombing of three corporation offices in New York City have helped focus national attention on this growing menace.

The President has called for tighter Federal laws governing the use and transportation of explosives. He will have my fullest support in this endeavor.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Coal—A Weapon Against Pollution

Researchers are discovering that coal may very well become one of America's most effective weapons in the battle against pollution.

The coal industry has already developed new uses for flyash, one of its most notable pollutants; and scientists have been successful in using coal in a new sewage treatment system.

These and similar breakthroughs have been made possible by the federal funding of the Office of Coal Research, which, in Fiscal Year 1971, will spend almost \$8 million of its \$13 million budget in West Virginia.

When it was established by Congress on July 7, 1960, the OCR was charged with the responsibility of developing new uses for coal. It has worked to fulfill that responsibility, and has returned extra dividends by helping to combat our Nation's pollution problem.

In the case of flyash, the OCR was able to transform the waste product into commercially marketable bricks. Thus, instead of being dumped as a pollutant into the ocean, flyash now has the potential to return a profit. Officials estimate that bricks made from flyash can be sold for under \$30 per 1,000, com-

pared to an average price of \$55 per 1,000 for the clay bricks currently used in construction.

The use of coal for the treatment of sewage has enabled officials at a test project in Cleveland to trap the sewage, while purifying the water. The remaining residue can produce enough energy to desalinate salt water and provide about one-third of the city's water supply.

These projects seem to be supplying one of the best methods of fighting pollution, since we must develop ways of using and re-using products formerly considered only as waste. We can no longer afford to pollute our air and water by haphazardly burning and dumping our industrial leftovers.

The coal industry, and the Office of Coal Research, are acutely aware of the pollution problem confronting America. They have made significant contributions to pollution control, and I am hopeful that the vigor of their efforts will be equalled by other industries.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Cubans Indoctrinate Hippie Bombers

A little-publicized but disturbing fact about the accidental explosions which last month claimed the lives of five East Coast revolutionaries is that three of them had been recent guests of the Communists in Cuba.

Of particular interest, in this regard, is the blast which destroyed a hippie bomb factory in New York City's Greenwich Village section.

Two victims of that blast—Theodore Gold, 23, and Diana Oughton, 28, both members of the Weatherman faction of SDS—had, according to Senate Internal Security Subcommittee files, visited Cuba and subsequently helped organize in this country a group known as the Venceremos Brigade.

The Brigade, ostensibly organized to send young Americans to Cuba to help with the sugar cane harvest, can more accurately be described as a pipeline for Communist indoctrination.

Information in the possession of the Subcommittee shows that Brigade members have been indoctrinated with Communist theory by Cubans, Russians, and Vietcong representatives and have publicly denounced the United States during Cuban television interviews.

Other information shows that Julie Nichamin, another Brigade organizer, stated in a message to the Cuban armed forces that Venceremos Brigade members "will leave here with a new dedication to bring back to our brothers and

sisters a dedication to destroy the imperialist monster from within . . ."

To date 213 Venceremos Brigade members have been indoctrinated and have returned home from Cuba. At this writing, 687 other young people from the United States are undergoing similar indoctrination in Cuba and are expected to return to this country in May.

Although there is no evidence that the Cubans are giving instructions on how to make bombs and wage guerrilla warfare, it is disturbing that two organizers of the Brigade were operating a bomb factory in New York City.

The existence of groups like Weatherman and the Venceremos Brigade should be of great concern to all Americans. There is no doubt that our nation faces hard times ahead as radical groups resort to violent means in an effort to destroy our government. I think that it is important for our citizens to be on guard against radical activity in their communities and throughout the nation. Above all we need to give fullest support to the law enforcement officers who man the front lines against subversion and revolution.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



A Mountain of Trash Each Day

Americans dispose of more than 800 million pounds of solid waste each day. However, authorities warn that our methods of disposal are not only out of date, but may also be hazardous to our health.

Basically, there are two methods by which to dispose of solid waste material—burning and dumping. But, there is an inherent health danger in each of those methods. By burning trash, we pollute the air we breathe; and by dumping trash, we pollute the water necessary for our survival, or occupy land that could be used for better purposes.

There is an obvious need, then, to develop new methods of disposing of our solid waste materials—creative methods that would return the air, water, and land to the people. In an effort to find these new ways, the federal government is currently funding 50 demonstration projects. Over \$64,000 is being spent this year on projects in West Virginia.

The urgency of the solid waste disposal problem was seen in a number of recent surveys. In one such study, it was discovered that less than 50 percent of American cities with populations over 2,500 disposed of refuse by approved sanitation methods. Still another survey of 6,200 land disposal sites showed that 94 percent of them were little more than open dumps—breeding grounds for rats and disease.

Yet, the statistic that most frightened the researchers was that, by 1980, the daily amount of solid waste disposal in America is expected to triple the current rate—to 2.4 billion pounds daily. Some experts openly doubt whether the Nation has the means to safely dispose of that mountain of trash.

They point out that new air pollution control standards make many municipal incinerators illegal; and that water pollution control regulations now prohibit the haphazard dumping of trash in our lakes and oceans.

The best means of getting rid of our trash is the development of new disposal methods, which all experts agree are within reach of American technology. One container manufacturer, for instance, is currently developing soft drink bottles that self-destruct. What is needed to move our technology toward further accomplishments is a national commitment—and that commitment can only be made by each individual American. Throwing empty candy wrappers into litter baskets helps, but it is a long way from solving the national problem of sanitary solid waste disposal.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Credit Cards—Mixed Blessing For Consumers

At no time in our history have more goods been available to the American consumer; and, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, at no time in our history have Americans depended more heavily on credit cards to purchase these goods.

Credit cards, however, have proved themselves to be a mixed blessing for the consumer—a valuable asset when used in a responsible fashion, but a major economic liability when used recklessly.

The incidents where credit cards have led to bankruptcy for consumers have increased sharply since 1965; and this increase has almost directly paralleled the incidents where firms have sent unsolicited credit cards to consumers.

Each year, over 200,000 consumers go bankrupt. In one Federal Judicial District alone, 682 bankruptcy petitions were received between May and October of last year; and, in virtually all of the cases, unsolicited credit cards were responsible.

The 682 bankrupt consumers were not wealthy. Their average earnings amounted to just \$70 a week, and their average debts totaled \$4,200 at the time they received the unwanted credit cards.

Nationally, according to the Federal Reserve Board, Americans now owe approximately

\$13 billion on credit cards—almost double what they owed in 1967. The Federal Reserve Board also notes that many credit firms have been sending out at least some of their cards unsolicited.

A two-fold problem befalls a consumer who receives an unsolicited credit card — he must either destroy it, or accept the responsibility for goods charged with it.

Destroying the unwanted card is extremely important, since many of the 1.5 million credit cards lost or stolen annually are those that have been carelessly tossed in the trash by the unwary consumer. The value of goods charged on lost or stolen cards jumped from \$20 million in 1966 to over \$100 million last year.

Obviously, the government must provide the consumer with proper protection from the burdens imposed by unsolicited credit cards.

Thus, the Senate recently passed legislation that prohibits the issuance of unsolicited credit cards, and reduces the consumer's liability for items charged on lost or stolen cards. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for further action.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Sea's Resources Exceed Moon's

Our country has spent billions of dollars on going to the moon and relatively little to learn about the resources that exist in our oceans.

Space flight is thrilling and dramatic. But there is some strange misplacement of priorities that leads us to send men to explore a sterile Sea of Tranquility while leaving unexplored the treasure-rich seas around us on earth.

There is no food on the moon to help feed the earth's increasing millions who are hungry; yet, earth's seas teem with protein that a soaring population urgently needs.

The moon has no tides to harness for power; no water that we can tap; yet, the oceans may one day have to help us produce our power, and—through desalinization—serve as a major source of fresh water for an urban civilization.

The moon may be as rich in minerals as some say it is. However, there is no way in which we can utilize them. But we can utilize the mineral wealth known to be available in the oceans' depths.

It is perhaps the nature of man to look up instead of down. The fiery descent of a vehicle from outer space is admittedly more spectacular than the less dramatic emergence of a bathysphere from the sea.

But what we can learn from the pervasive waters which cover three-fourths of the earth—beneath which so much that is unknown to mankind lies hidden—can be far more important to the future of the human race

than anything that now conceivably could come from the void of outer space.

We probably knew more about space before our moon program was even started than we have ever known about the oceans. Going to the moon gave us great national prestige, and I was as thrilled as anyone else to see American astronauts first set foot on the moon; yet, despite beneficial side effects and technological spin-off, the value of additional moon missions to the average person must be debatable. Unlocking the secrets of the seas, however, and making them more productive for the people of the earth could be a vastly significant contribution to the welfare of all mankind.

Our country should make a far greater effort to explore, research, farm, and mine the oceans. A national commitment to that end is needed. If only a small portion of the vast amount we have spent on space were diverted to oceanography, astonishing results of beneficial economic and humanitarian impact could almost surely be achieved.

Thus far the United States has spent nearly \$40 billion on its space efforts. By comparison only slightly more than \$3 billion has been expended on oceanographic research.

This serious imbalance must be corrected.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Cancer Society Needs Support

The excellent progress being made in West Virginia's 1970 Cancer Crusade is very encouraging.

More than \$100,000 of the goal of \$304,000 has been secured, putting the drive ahead of previous years. I would like to see at least \$400,000 raised.

Increased private support of the effort to end the scourge of cancer is needed. Through the years the public has depended too much on the Federal Government for cancer research funds.

Since the National Cancer Institute was established by Congress in 1937, federal appropriations for cancer have totaled nearly \$2 billion. This fiscal year, NCI—the most heavily funded institute of the National Institutes of Health—will receive approximately \$170 million in federal funds.

By contrast, the public contributions to the American Cancer Society—the largest private source of funds for cancer research—totaled \$43 million last year, while the Society's revenues from all sources were \$55 million.

This is generous support, from one point of view, and it has been growing. All who have had a part in it are to be commended. But it is simply not enough public support when one considers that the ratio of government funds to

private funds which actually go into cancer research is about 8 to 1.

The National Cancer Institute has said that it needs \$39 million a year more than it currently is receiving just to continue its activities at the 1967 level. And the revenues available to the Cancer Society also fall considerably short of what it needs.

At the very time when such progress in research is being made that half of all human cancers can now be cured if diagnosed in time and treated properly, some cancer research projects are having to be abandoned because of the lack of funds. This is a sad commentary indeed on what should be our national determination to bring cancer under control.

Each American's share of cancer research is now 91 cents a year through Federal taxes—just one penny every 4 days! An additional 91 cents a year for each citizen, contributed to the Cancer Crusade—which would amount to more than \$186 million a year—could go far toward bringing cancer under control in the decade of the 70's.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Fighting the Smut Peddlers

Each year, the U.S. Post Office receives over 250,000 complaints from citizens who have received pornographic material in the mail. This material, which comes unsolicited and usually in unmarked envelopes, is an insult to the sensitivities of the vast majority of Americans.

While anyone who receives pornographic filth in the mail has good reason to complain, the offense seems particularly disturbing when the recipient is a teenager. And, in recent months, teenagers have become the special targets of smut peddlers.

Names of teenagers are collected for the express purpose of placing them on some pornographic mailing list. Even a child whose name appears in a high school yearbook runs the risk of receiving pornographic material in the mail.

To combat the smut peddlers, Congress passed a law in 1967 that allows the recipient of unsolicited mail to decide for himself if the material is offensive. If the recipient decides that the mail is pornographic, he may obtain from the Postmaster General an order prohibiting the sender from making any further mailings—and requiring that his name be removed from the mailing list.

Almost 200,000 Americans have made such a request during the past three years; but, unfortunately, many

others are unaware that the law exists.

Congress is now considering another measure that would take the battle against smut peddlers one step further.

The bill would make it unlawful for the sellers of pornography to mail their material to persons under 17, or to persons under 19 who are still in their parents' care.

Parents who wished to protect their children from sexually-oriented material could place their children's names on a list maintained by the Postmaster General. And, if a pornography dealer sent material to any persons whose name appeared on the list for three months or more, the dealer could be fined up to \$5,000 or imprisoned for up to five years—or both.

Understandably, the bill is not as strong as many would like it to be. But permissive decisions by the Supreme Court under former Chief Justice Earl Warren seriously restricted Congress in dealing with smut peddlers.

I am hopeful that the Supreme Court will, in the near future, deal more firmly with the problem of pornography, and that Congress will be able to enact strict laws against those who would destroy the moral fiber of our Nation.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The System Will Respond

Washington, and other cities, in recent weeks have been the targets for thousands of college students protesting the U.S. action in Cambodia and the war in Vietnam.

Massive demonstrations of the sort which have become commonplace in the last few years have been staged in the vicinity of the White House and the Washington Monument. Violence of the kind with which Americans have become sickeningly familiar has been fomented on the campuses of universities.

A number of students have been intimidated by small bands of radicals who seem bent on closing every university in the United States. This intimidation has kept many serious students away from the classrooms, and has too often been encouraged by faculty members and college officials who think that bowing to the demands of radicals is an instant recipe for popularity.

I have sympathy for the viewpoint of young people who oppose the Cambodian action and who wish to express their opposition reasonably and responsibly. But I have no sympathy for protest that takes the form of violence and lawlessness.

Dissent is an essential part of the democratic process. It is a basic American right, a safeguard against tyranny by the majority. But tyranny by a minority is just as reprehensible, and it should be as unacceptable in a civilized society—especially when the mi-

nority seeks to gain its ends by intimidation, coercion, and destruction of property.

The hard-core militants on the campuses are in the minority. Much was made of the fact by the ultra-liberal press that fifty or a hundred thousand students came to Washington for the anti-Cambodia demonstration. But there are more than seven million students enrolled in our institutions of higher learning. It is obvious that the overwhelming majority did not come.

I believe that the students who do not demonstrate and hurl bricks through windows and call police officers "pigs" may be the largest "silent majority" of all. And it is this "silent majority" which must be encouraged to express itself in a constructive way, for the youth of our country has a vital role to play in our future.

Through a massive program of higher education, our system of government has given the youth of America greater opportunities for learning than have been given to any other generation. If they take advantage of the education offered them, and if they work to preserve law and order and constitutional processes, students will find that our system of government is most responsive to the needs and the desires of the people.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Over-Population Threatens Society

The federal government this year is spending \$143 million on domestic and foreign family planning programs. Yet, despite this record expenditure, the world will experience a greater increase in population during 1970 than in any previous year in history.

It is estimated that world population will grow by 72.6 million people this year—an enormous figure when measured against the fact that it was not until 1830 that the world reached a population of 1 billion.

The world population, which has more than tripled since then, is expected to reach 4 billion by 1975.

Fortunately, the rate of population growth in the United States has not been as great as in other parts of the world—but the situation here at home is still considered serious.

The number of people in our country increases by over 2 million each year, which is like annually adding a population greater than that of West Virginia.

Obviously, the population explosion is a serious threat to our way of life; and, if it is allowed to go unchecked, it could become a serious threat to our very survival.

Authorities warn, for instance, that the world's food supply will have to triple in order to adequately feed the 7 billion people expected to inhabit the earth by the year 2000. The United States will

have a population of 300 million by the year 2000—and, unless some means of controlling population growth are developed, those Americans will have fewer of the necessities of life than we have today.

Earlier this year, Congress moved to alleviate the threat of over-population. It approved the President's recommendation for the formation of a 24-member Commission on Population Growth. The Commission is currently determining the effects over-population will have on the future of our country, and the steps that need to be taken.

The recommendation further called for increased research to develop new birth control methods, and for the establishment of a Family Planning Office within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

All of these steps are essential, and many more are needed—because it is the responsibility of those of us living now to preserve the quality of life for future generations.

As the President warned in his message to Congress, "The population crisis is already in its eleventh hour." We must move now—before time runs out for all of us.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Russia—The Growing Middle East Threat

The Soviet Union's growing military involvement in the Middle East has already seriously endangered the balance of power there and has made the need for direct Arab-Israeli talks even more imperative.

Since March, the number of Soviet technicians in Egypt has more than tripled—from approximately 3,000 at that time to about 10,000 currently. By year's end, State Department authorities report that 20,000 Russians will be in Egypt.

At the same time, the number of Soviet pilots flying MIG-21s in the area has also increased. Estimates are that up to 200 Russians have been manning aircraft over the Nile heartland.

Similarly, other Soviet technicians are installing SAM-3 surface-to-air missiles. By early September, it is reported that 480 missiles will have been located at 62 sites.

Russia's interest in the Middle East dates from 1955 when Egypt bought Soviet-supplied arms from Czechoslovakia. A year later, when the Soviet Union agreed to finance Egypt's Aswan Dam, Russian advisers began pouring into the region.

Although about \$1.5 billion in Soviet aid was sent to Egypt over the next twelve years, it was not until after the six-day June war of 1967 that Russia's military com-

mitment to Egypt became blatantly displayed. Immediately after Egypt's defeat, the Soviet Union resupplied it with another \$1 billion in military hardware.

In response to all of this, our policy has been one of extreme caution. As part of \$1.2 billion in aid which the United States has given Israel since 1948, we agreed to sell it 50 F-4 Phantom jets in December, 1968. Presently, these planes are still in the process of being delivered. Israel, however, has made a request for 25 more of these aircraft along with one hundred A-4 Skyhawk jets. This request, initially refused, is presently being reconsidered by our State Department.

The need in this volatile situation is for the Arabs and Israelis to have direct talks in order to reach a peace settlement they can both accept. The danger is that the Soviet Union's entry into the region not only may have exacerbated the arms race with the United States, but also, in the process, may have upset the delicate power balance in the area, thus making any direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israelis even more remote.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Cambodia: The President's Power to Act

Only history will be able to adequately judge the wisdom of President Nixon's decision in ordering American troops into Cambodia, but his authority to make that decision is clear.

Article II, Section 2, of our Constitution says, "The President shall be Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy . . ." President Nixon, like many of our former chief executives, deemed it necessary to use this authority to protect our national interests—in the instance of Cambodia, the protection of the lives of Americans serving in South Vietnam.

To be sure, the authority to formally "declare war" rests with Congress—and nothing in the recent Cambodian action can be viewed as a Presidential usurpation of that power, nor did it signal the beginning of a new war. It was the same war and the same enemy, and U.S. troops were not being used against, or in support of, any Cambodian government. Their only aim was to destroy border sanctuaries from which the enemy, for years, had inflicted casualties on Americans stationed in South Vietnam.

Beyond the powers granted by the Constitution, the President had the prior approval of Congress for the action he took.

In August, 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution by a vote of 504-2, which expressed Congressional approval and support for the President in taking "all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression" in Southeast Asia.

That resolution has never been repealed or amended. Until Congress rescinds its provisions, the President's legal authority will stand. And, of course, his Constitutional authority can be withdrawn only by the people.

Nor were U.S. troops invading a "neutral" country, as some individuals have charged.

Cambodia, under Prince Sihanouk, had claimed neutrality, while harboring Viet Cong and North Vietnamese sanctuaries. However, under international law, any country claiming neutrality has a duty to prevent a belligerent from moving troops or supplies onto its territory. If the neutral fails or is unable to prevent this, then another belligerent has a right, in its own defense, to move into the so-called neutral territory and destroy the enemy.

Despite the obvious authority and duty of the President to protect our fighting men, the incursion into Cambodia was greeted with street demonstrations, campus protests, and critical rhetoric in Congress.

There is a Constitutional right of dissent, of course, when appropriately expressed. But when our country is at war, politics should end at the water's edge, and we should stand together as a nation. Unity in a time of crisis is the policy best calculated to shorten the war, keep down casualties, and bring our troops home.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Counterfeiting and Forgery Threaten Economy

The federal government has scored impressive crime-fighting successes in the areas of counterfeiting and forgery; but a recent U.S. Secret Service report warns that, if the preventive measures are ever relaxed, these crimes could cause unprecedented inflation, devaluation of the American dollar, and economic destruction of our nation.

In fiscal year 1969, for instance, 1,394 persons were arrested for counterfeiting violations involving \$15.2 million in bogus currency; and 2,119 persons were arrested on forgery charges involving almost 43,000 government checks valued at \$4.5 million.

While these figures are enormous, the Secret Service estimates that, had the government been less diligent in its pursuit of these criminals, the cost to the American public would have been at least tripled. The effectiveness of the Secret Service is attested to by the fact that only \$2.9 million of the \$15 million in counterfeit money was actually placed in circulation.

Counterfeiting, the older of the two economically-dangerous crimes, dates back to the time when our country first began issuing currency. It reached its peak during the first months of the Civil War, when an estimated one-third of the currency in circulation was counterfeit.

At that time, there were no National banks in America, and the printing and issuing of currency was left in the hands of the 1,600 State banks. These banks designed

7,000 varieties of genuine money, while counterfeiters distributed almost 4,000 different kinds of fake American money.

Hence, the Secret Service was established on July 5, 1865, to combat this large-scale counterfeiting. It has done an effective job, and, in recent years, has turned some of its resources toward halting the criminal practice of forging government checks.

The growing federal payroll and burgeoning welfare rolls have resulted in a steady flow of government checks through the mails, and an irresistible temptation to the criminal element in our society. The fact that most of these are impersonal, computer-issued checks has served to aid the criminal.

The Secret Service warns Americans not to be overconfident when accepting currency—especially larger bills. And it cautions against unhesitatingly cashing government checks. It notes several cases, for instance, where teenagers had no trouble cashing Social Security checks intended for citizens at least 62 years old.

Much of the success that the Secret Service has had in combatting these two crimes results from citizen cooperation. If that success is to continue, then the cooperation of the public must also continue.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Dramatic Reversal in Indonesia

America's handling of the war in South Vietnam has been sharply criticized in many quarters—and, in some cases, with justification—but one of the beneficial effects of our presence there has been the recent movement away from communism in Indonesia.

Only five years ago, this mineral-rich nation of 120 million people and 3,000 islands, was on the verge of a communist takeover. Sukarno, the President at that time, was loudly boasting of a Far East axis binding Indonesia's capital of Djakarta with the capitals of North Vietnam, North Korea, and Communist China. Simultaneously, he was denouncing the United States as his nation's number one enemy.

On October 1, 1965, this situation—combined with rampant inflation, inadequate investment from foreign sources, and an international debt of over \$2 billion—induced Indonesia's 3-million-member Communist Party to attempt a coup of the government.

However, due in large part to General Suharto—now the President—as well as other military leaders, the coup was narrowly averted.

Indonesia's Army generals must have been at least partially persuaded by America's commitment in Southeast Asia to move promptly against the communists. Undoubtedly, our presence in the region convinced these generals that Asian communism was not the inevitable wave of the future.

Since March 1966, when Suharto took over full control of the government, the situation has steadily improved. Tough economic decisions have severely reduced inflation from a high of 635 percent that year to only 8 percent in 1969. The budget has also been roughly balanced, domestic savings have been encouraged, and the amount of aid from foreign nations has been drastically increased.

Politically, Indonesia has become far more friendly toward the United States and has, at the same time, become increasingly influential in Asian affairs. At a recent conference in Djakarta, attended by 12 Asian nations, President Suharto served as the spokesman on regional problems.

According to former U.S. ambassador to Indonesia, Howard P. Jones, the country "has managed the most dramatic turnabout in modern political history . . . and is on the way to becoming a bastion of the free world in Southeast Asia."

Yet, it is likely that this would never have happened if America's presence in Indochina had not helped give Indonesia the courage and impetus to smash communism and, in the process, build a nation that is not only more stable, but also more pro-American.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Auto Fatalities—The Horror at Home

Americans are properly appalled at the fact that the war in Southeast Asia over the last nine years has cost more than 41,000 American combat deaths. However, another tragedy which should outrage us—yet, doesn't seem to—is the slaughter on our nation's highways which annually exceeds that number.

Last year, for example, 56,400 Americans died from motor vehicle accidents in this country and, during the first four months of 1970, another 15,760 were killed.

The deadliness of highway travel has been such that in the 70 years following the first casualty from a "horseless carriage" in 1899, a reported 1,757,979 men, women, and children have been killed in automobile accidents. This is nearly three times the number of Americans—649,745—killed in all the wars and military actions in which the United States has been engaged.

The National Safety Council reports that drinking may be a factor in as many as half of the accidents now occurring on the nation's highways. In fact, according to a study by the Department of Transportation, it is estimated that one out of every fifty drivers on the road is drunk.

To combat this, better design in streets and highways, and stricter enforcement of traffic laws can help. But what is also needed is more effective licensing and testing procedures for drivers, so as

to eliminate persons who drive while intoxicated.

Concerning this, one possible approach practiced in England involves the use of a simple, inexpensive breath test device, called a Breathalyzer. This apparatus determines by means of chemical crystals the extent to which a driver is under the influence of alcohol. If it is shown that there is at least a specified minimum of alcoholic concentration in his blood, the driver could face a one-year driving ban, a \$240 fine or even a four-month prison term. In the first five months after the Breathalyzer was introduced in Britain, 799 fewer people died on the roads, and 6,293 fewer were seriously injured than for a comparable period of time during the previous year.

The state of Louisiana is now working with breath tests given before arrests are made for driving while intoxicated.

Keeping in mind constitutional questions that may be involved, various innovations should be considered which could lead to a reduction in the number of highway fatalities.

We must strongly resolve to lessen the carnage on the nation's roads, so that the number of people becoming statistics can be sharply decreased.

Robert C. Byrd

July 8, 1970

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



A Beacon for the Free World

Radio Free Europe, a non-governmental, privately-managed broadcasting system, continues to serve as a primary link between the Free World and the people behind the Iron Curtain by beaming 539 hours of programs a week to nearly 85 million people.

This is more than twice as much air time as is carried to Eastern Europe by all other Free World stations combined and includes more than 19 hours a day to Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary; 12 hours a day to Rumania; and seven and a half hours each day to Bulgaria.

The effectiveness of Radio Free Europe can be shown by the more than 31 million regular listeners which independent surveys indicate it has, and by the repeated public attacks made on the organization by communist authorities.

As a confidential Communist party report stated recently: "It can be said that... among Communists, the scope of listening to Radio Free Europe is relatively widespread, and that in the formation of political thinking this station can by no means be considered negligible."

Russian concern with the broadcasting system's success has especially increased. The Soviet Union has, in the past, frequently jammed Free World broadcasts but, since the invasion of Czechoslovakia in August, 1938, the Russian media has not only attempted to jam the broad-

casts, but also verbally blasted Radio Free Europe as never before. This concern illustrates an underlying insecurity which the Soviet leadership has over its power position in Eastern Europe.

In order to effectively combat communist propaganda, Radio Free Europe's coverage of news sources in both the free world and communist countries is painstakingly thorough. Its news department monitors a dozen communist news agencies and 40 radio stations in East Europe, the Soviet Union, Communist China, North Korea, and North Vietnam. Its own news bureaus and correspondents are also supported by the major free world news services. In addition, 1,660 publications, including 975 from communist sources, are read and indexed. Altogether, more than a million words of news pour into Radio Free Europe's central bureau in Munich, Germany.

By providing a free press for East Europe, this broadcasting service helps break the communications monopoly which the communists have tried to impose. Until the people of Eastern Europe have gained full national and personal freedom, there will be a great need for Radio Free Europe.

Robert C. Byrd

July 15, 1970

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Firmness Needed in the Middle East

In dealing with the Russians over the current Middle East crisis, it is necessary that America negotiate from a position of firmness and strength.

History has shown that this is the most effective way to deter the Soviet Union from its policy of aggressive communism.

Eight years ago, for example, when the Soviet Union secretly shipped nuclear missiles to Cuba in a daring attempt to shift the world balance of power, the United States dealt with this threat from a position of strong nuclear and strategic superiority.

At that time, according to White House sources, the United States had about 600 intercontinental ballistic missiles and the Soviet Union had less than a third of that number. In submarine-launched missiles, our country also had about a five-to-one advantage. Under these circumstances, a firm, but measured, response was implemented by our government. The Soviets, after calculating the relative array of strength between the two superpowers, decided against risking a confrontation.

Currently, however, the strategic equation is far different. America's relative advantage in submarine-launched missiles has decreased to three-to-one, while, in the number and megatonnage of intercontinental ballistic missiles, the Russians have actually surpassed that of the United States.

Perhaps reflecting our current power position as compared with that of the Soviet Union, America's policy in the present Middle East situation

has thus far attempted to emphasize patience and conciliation rather than a measured toughness.

While such a policy of restraint should continue to be an important part of our negotiations with the Soviet Union, we should also—in former ambassador George F. Kennan's words—"maintain at all times an attitude of decisiveness and alertness in the defense of our own interests."

In the Middle East, these interests are vital. The spreading of Soviet air and sea-power has already penetrated the Eastern Mediterranean and now threatens to stretch along the Mediterranean's southern coast toward Gibraltar and through the Suez Canal toward the Indian Ocean. This would not only put increased pressure on NATO's Southeastern hinge, but would also place 90 per cent of Japan's oil supplies and nearly that much of Western Europe's oil supplies within danger of being captured by the Soviet Union.

Obviously, then, the Soviet Union's thrust into the Middle East and the potential shift in the geopolitical balance of power that it represents, transcends the Arab-Israeli conflict. While America must work to insure Israel's right to exist and at the same time attempt to keep our friendship with all the Arab states, we must, nonetheless, make it unmistakably clear to the Russians that we will protect our national interests in the Middle East.

Robert C. Byrd

7/22/70

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Watersheds Improve Face of the Land

The face of West Virginia is being improved by the participation of its conservation-minded citizens in the watershed program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

West Virginia has been a leader in this program and as a result, has received national recognition. Recently, I was privileged to take part in the dedication of the state's 100th watershed dam in the Patterson Creek Watershed in Grant County. Only five other states (one of them Texas, many times larger than the Mountain State) have built as many as 100 or more watershed dams.

A progress report issued at the end of June by the state headquarters of the SCS in Morgantown shows a state total of 62 watershed projects for which application has been made, planning or operation approved, or construction has been finished. The projects completed or under construction included 166 floodwater retarding or multiple-purpose lakes.

Six of these impoundments are supplying water to the communities of Cameron, Salem, Keyser, Princeton, Glenwood-Green Valley in Mercer County, and Fort Ashby; and a seventh, which will supply the city of Bluefield, is in the works.

The value of these watershed developments to the state is incalculable. The dams and channel improvements help to prevent floods

and flood damage. They slow soil erosion and protect the land, its vegetation and wildlife. They add immeasurably to West Virginia's recreation potential and general attractiveness. And they provide new sources of water supply for municipal, industrial, and agricultural purposes.

West Virginia receives an average of 42 inches of rainfall annually. That is three and a half feet of water. But for too many years most of it has been allowed to run off the land, unused and wasted in a gross mismanagement of one of our most precious resources. Shortages of city water have occurred in many communities at the same time that our hillside top soil was being washed away, and downstream residents and communities were being flooded.

But this situation is changing for the better. In more and more areas of our state, the water is being held on the land where it falls—which is where it should be held.

The watershed program is a most effective means of improving the quality of our environment. West Virginia should stay in the vanguard of this effort. Local initiative should seek to bring these projects into being wherever they are feasible.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Menace of Soviet Seapower

Recently, the commander-in-chief of Soviet naval forces, declared that the Soviet Union "has become the world's greatest naval power."

Unfortunately, these are not mere words. The Russians are now estimated to have more than 650 surface ships and more than 350 submarines, of which at least 80 are nuclear-powered. In comparison, the American surface fleet totals about 600 ships. Moreover, 47 per cent of U.S. combatant ships are 20 years old or older, whereas less than one per cent of Soviet vessels are that old.

Similarly, the United States maintains a small lead in nuclear-powered submarines with 85; still, the overall number of U.S. submarines is only 140. In the amount of submarine-launched missiles, the U.S. fleet of 41 Polaris subs, each with 16 nuclear missiles, currently holds an edge. However, the Russians are expected to have a comparable number by 1974. Toward correcting this situation, no new ballistic-missile submarines are being built by our Navy; in the meantime, American naval strategists believe that the Russians will achieve the capacity this year to produce 20 such nuclear subs annually.

In addition, Russian seapower—which was once largely confined to its own ports in the Baltic, the Black Sea, and the Northern Pacific—has now made its presence known from the North Atlantic to the shores of Southeast Asia. It

is especially in the Mediterranean, though, where the danger of a direct U.S.-Soviet confrontation currently exists, that the presence of the Russian navy bears attention.

Only a few years ago, the U.S. Sixth Fleet clearly reigned supreme in the area. Presently, however, the Russians keep a fleet in the Mediterranean that is equal to America's 50-ship armada and use Syrian, and particularly Egyptian bases, as if they were Soviet-owned.

Utilizing these facilities as a basis for Russia's political involvement in the region, this strengthened Soviet presence cannot only serve to restrain U.S. involvement wherever Russian and American interests may collide, but, in general, can also harass and cut the West's maritime supply lines, and make the Soviet navy capable of supporting communist and non-aligned countries all over the world.

Clearly, it is in America's interest to maintain a naval deterrent sufficient to keep ahead of the Soviet Union. Otherwise, Soviet power—in the Mediterranean and elsewhere — will go unchecked. Should that happen, not only will American seapower decline, but, in the process, the world balance of power also will have vastly shifted away from America.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Expanding Russian Missile Threat

One of the aspects of this year's anti-ballistic missile debate which we should keep in mind is that not only has the Soviet Union now achieved a rough parity in nuclear arms with the United States, but it is also quite possible that the Russians have even surpassed our country in this field.

According to our latest estimates, the Soviets currently have more operational inter-continental ballistic missile launchers—about 1,250—than has the United States, with 1,054. Of 1,020 ICBMs possessed by the Soviets, about 300 are SS-9s, which can each carry one warhead of up to 25 megatons or three separate charges of about five megatons each. The remaining missiles—about 700 in number—include the SS-11, a one-megaton liquid-rocket propellant, and the SS-13, a solid fuel missile which can be easily transported.

In addition, while the United States now has no medium-range or intermediate range ballistic missile launchers, the Soviets have 700 MRBM's and IRBM's primarily aimed at targets in Europe. In heavy bombers, the Soviet Union also has a force of about 200 long-range and an additional 750 medium-range aircraft. In comparison, the U.S. has 552 long-range B-52 and FB-111

bombers, which serve as the main component of our bomber force.

Obviously, the Soviet capability to inflict massive nuclear destruction upon our country is enormous. With all of these categories of nuclear and tactical weaponry at its disposal, the Soviet Union can move with more daring and force in the global arena of power.

On our part, this vast array of armaments must, at the very least, be met by a strong nuclear and conventional military posture of our own. If history teaches us anything, it is that weakness invites attack, and only one aggressor is needed to plunge the world into war.

To prevent any such aggression from occurring, our country must continually demonstrate that its military arsenal is a ready and credible deterrent. Only then can America — and the world — avoid being subjected to nuclear blackmail.

"When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace."

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Two Illustrious Sons of West Virginia

One of the more popular of the many tourist attractions in Washington, D. C., is Statuary Hall, located in the Old Hall of the House of Representatives just off the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.

Statuary Hall was created in 1864 by an Act of Congress which authorized the President to invite each State to provide and furnish two statues, in marble or bronze, of its most illustrious sons. These were to be men of courage—known for their distinguished civic or military service, or for other deeds worthy of national commemoration.

West Virginia can well be proud of its representatives who are so honored: Francis H. Pierpont of Fairmont, and John E. Kenna of Charleston. Pierpont's statue stands in Statuary Hall, and Kenna's statue stands immediately below in the Hall of Columns.

These men differed greatly in character, philosophy, and background. Pierpont fought for the economic development of northwestern Virginia. His efforts led to his election by the Second Wheeling Convention as Governor to head the "reorganized," or "restored," government of Virginia, which functioned in Wheeling as the government of the northwest counties until West Virginia was admitted to the Union on June 20, 1863; at which time the restored government moved to Alexandria, where Pierpont continued until the war's end as the "loyal" governor of Virginia.

Pierpont, considered by many as the "Father of West

Virginia," was a Methodist and a Republican, an ardent antislavery and Union man.

Kenna, on the other hand, fought for the Confederacy at the age of 16. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1876, and to the U.S. Senate in 1883. He mastered the legislative process and commanded the respect of all who knew him. The son of an Irish immigrant, Kenna was a Roman Catholic and a Democrat. He did much to open West Virginia's natural resources for development. As one of the strongest defenders of President Cleveland, he advocated a presidency more independent of Congress.

Kenna's early death in 1893, at the age of 45, was a shock to all who admired him. The Legislature of West Virginia a month later—in tribute and memorial—authorized his to be the first of its two statues.

Pierpont's statue was unveiled in the Capitol in 1910. It was interpreted as a monument to the State he helped to establish, a memorial to a heroic age.

We can be proud of both of these sons of West Virginia. They were men of conviction, they were leaders, and they fought for what they believed in. In death, as they did in life, they represent the greatness of the people of the Mountain State.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Public Outcry Could Aid American POW's

Recent disclosures concerning the alleged mistreatment of enemy prisoners held by South Vietnam in its Con Son Island prison caused a great outpouring of public indignation.

As a result of this vocal expression of world censure, remedial action was taken by the proper authorities.

Yet, there are others who are being held as prisoners-of-war—the 1500 American military personnel and civilians presently missing or captured in Southeast Asia.

While these men languish in unknown Asian prisons, wives, children, parents, relatives, and friends here at home grieve for their missing loved ones, not knowing whether they are starving or ill, dead or alive.

Americans held as prisoners should be protected under the Geneva Convention of 1949 Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners-of-War, to which North Vietnam is a party.

But Hanoi callously refuses to abide by this Convention, which provides for humane POW camps, and for adequate food, clothing, and medical care. Nor do the North Vietnamese acknowledge the rights of communication and repatriation also provided for in this agreement.

Thus, the families of prisoners-of-war are made to endure a continuing agony of writing letters and sending parcels to loved ones, only to

see those letters and parcels disappear into a void.

Wives of POW's have traveled to Paris in search of information, only to be rebuffed by the North Vietnamese who continue to maintain their unwillingness to release even the most meager information regarding the identity and treatment of American prisoners.

As the United States continues a policy of Vietnamization and troop withdrawal, it must not abdicate its responsibilities to these courageous prisoners-of-war and their families.

Every voice that can be raised in this country—including that of the most vocal critics of the Vietnam war—should be heard, and the condemnation should be so loud that Hanoi, which closely monitors American public opinion, can make no mistake about the united concern of our people.

In addition, the United States, knowing that the North Vietnamese are also sensitive to world opinion, should intensify its efforts to marshal world protest against Hanoi's inhumane treatment of American prisoners.

Our fellow countrymen should not become the forgotten men of war.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Shape of West Virginia

Every school boy and girl in our state has probably heard that West Virginia's boundaries extend farther north than Pittsburgh, Pa.; farther south than Richmond, Va.; farther west than Cleveland, Ohio; and farther east than Buffalo, N.Y.

There are some interesting reasons for the state's irregular configuration, many stemming from its separation from Virginia during the Civil War.

The Eastern Panhandle—so geographically unlike the rest of the state—was tacked onto the counties that lay west of the Allegheny Mountains mainly to bring the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, a Federal lifeline during the war, wholly within Union territory.

The Wheeling Conventions, which brought about the formation of West Virginia, first considered establishing a new state to be composed only of the 39 counties then existing west of the Alleghenies. The Eastern Panhandle was not at first included; nor were Pendleton, Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Monroe, Mercer, and McDowell Counties.

The fact is that the delegates to the meetings in Wheeling had no clear idea at the outset what to include in the territory of the new state on the east and south.

The western and northern boundaries, of course, were fixed, since they were Virginia's boundaries with Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The Northern Panhandle had been created in 1784 as a result of the settlement of a boundary dispute between Virginia and Pennsylvania. This agreement extended the

Mason-Dixon Line a fixed distance from the Western boundary of Maryland, which did not quite reach the Ohio River, giving Virginia the narrow strip of land between Pennsylvania and the river.

There were many proposals about what to take into the new state. One was to include Buchanan and Wise Counties, which would have given West Virginia a third panhandle on the south; another would have put West Virginia's boundary along the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains, taking in all of Virginia's valley area.

The matter was finally resolved by including McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Greenbrier, and Pocahontas Counties; and allowing Pendleton, Hardy, Hampshire, Morgan, Berkeley, Jefferson, and Frederick Counties to vote on which state they wish to be a part of.

All of these counties except Frederick—which never acted upon the question—voted to go with West Virginia. But strong opposition to this decision developed in Jefferson and Berkeley Counties after the war, and Virginia subsequently sued West Virginia for their recovery, losing the battle in the U.S. Supreme Court. Grant and Mineral Counties were formed from Hardy and Hampshire after the war.

Thus was the shape of West Virginia established—the only change in the map of the United States to come about as a result of the Civil War.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



China—Nuclear Tremors in the Far East

Napoleon once advised, "Let China sleep. When she awakes, the world will be sorry."

Communist China has indeed awakened. Slightly bigger than the United States in size and possessing a population of some 800 million, the Communist Chinese not only command a geographical position that either physically or psychologically dominates all of Asia, but, in the last six years, they also have added to their base of power a growing array of nuclear weaponry.

In 1964, the Communist Chinese exploded their first atomic device, and three years later, detonated their first hydrogen bomb. Beginning in 1966, medium-range missiles armed with warheads have been tested.

Presently, the Communist Chinese may have between 80 and 100 operational medium-range missiles and an inventory of 100 H-bombs. In less than a year, Peking is expected to fire its first inter-continental ballistic missile. In only three years, it is anticipated that the Chinese will have rockets capable of hitting American targets, such as Los Angeles or Seattle. By 1975, the Defense Department states that Peking may be able to deploy as many as 25 ICBM's.

Now that the Communist Chinese have emerged as a nuclear power, we can expect them to severely test U.S. re-

solve during the post-Vietnam period. Among the most likely trouble spots, according to strategists, would be the Taiwan-held islands of Quemoy and Matsu, only six and 10 miles from mainland China, respectively.

However, once China has developed a workable nuclear-weapons system, the Red Chinese could, with greater credibility, blackmail other, smaller Asian countries into breaking off all meaningful ties with the West.

In the meantime, the principal threat from China will probably continue to be its financial and material support for communist subversion throughout the world. As Mao Tse-tung has declared, "revolutionary armed struggles are developing vigorously" in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Inasmuch as China's nuclear capability will pose an ominous and growing threat of massive destruction both to Asian cities in the short run and to American cities in the long run, it is clear that Communist China will continue to be an increasingly significant force to be reckoned with in the consideration of U.S. foreign policy.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Anarchists Threaten American Education

It is hoped that the President's Commission on Campus Unrest will make recommendations that can help restore order in the nation's schools and colleges; but there is no certainty that it will do so.

The Commission was established to get the facts concerning campus disorders and to suggest action for dealing with them. But what the tone of its report will be is as yet uncertain. It appeared at the outset that the report might take a soft line toward activists and radicals. Much of the testimony heard by the panel was sympathetic toward the protest movement.

There is little outward indication that the Commission has done any real digging into the activities of the hard core revolutionaries and subversives who seek to destroy the American educational system and the American system of government. But the recent bombing atrocity at the University of Wisconsin may have gotten the message through to the Commission that something much graver is involved in so-called "campus unrest" than what is euphemistically referred to as "dissent."

Our citizens have had more than enough of the excuses, explanations and defenses that have been offered for rioting and lawbreaking — whether on or off campus. What is needed now is to put a stop to the violence and rebellion so that conscientious young people who want to

learn and dedicated professors who want to teach may do so.

The Commission's inquiry should uncover the facts concerning the connections that the hard-core subversives have with the enemies of our country in Cuba, North Vietnam, and the Soviet Union. The part that left-wing, Marxist professors have taken in aiding and abetting lawlessness by students and non-students ought to be exposed. Capitulation of spineless school administrators to, and appeasement of, the militants ought to be denounced.

The Commission ought to recommend that extreme permissiveness on the campuses cease and that proper discipline be enforced. College admission requirements, performance standards, and regulations should be tightened. The misfits ought to be weeded out, and the disrupters booted out. Revolutionary professors who incite and foment rebellion and unlawful activities ought to be fired, and all who break the law ought to be arrested.

The Commission should demand that order and safety be restored on the campuses, and that strong, moral leadership be exerted by college governing boards, administrations, and faculties charged with the education of this nation's young citizens.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Faces Fuels and Energy Crisis

The United States faces a fuels and energy crisis of serious proportions. Effective counter measures are imperative.

Electricity "brownouts" and "blackouts," talk of fuel rationing, and the pressure for "clean fuels" that do not pollute the air are portents that we cannot disregard.

It may seem incredible to many persons that the nation should face a serious fuels shortage when it has enormous reserves of coal, and when new sources of natural gas and oil continue to be explored. Why, then, should there be a fuels shortage?

The reason is two-fold: The demand for energy in our increasingly mechanized and automated society has been growing twice as fast as the population. And our capacity to produce fuel has simply not kept pace.

In the case of coal—with which West Virginia is most concerned—productive capacity has been adversely affected by a number of factors.

Among them have been the electric utility industry's effort to switch from coal to nuclear-powered generating plants; the change-over of industrial plants to gas and oil—much of it low-cost foreign residual oil; the demand for low-sulfur coal in the fight on air pollution; a shortage of railway cars for hauling coal; and unexpected and unauthorized work stoppages.

All of these things have hurt the coal industry and heightened the possibility of a serious energy crisis. The question now is what should be done.

It is essential, I think, that

Congress clarify national policies with respect to all fuels.

Congress ought to establish a sensible balance between the expenditures for atomic energy development and those for coal research. Much more money has been spent to push nuclear power plants—most of which are not yet producing power—than has been spent, for example, to produce gaseous and liquid fuels from coal, which is the nation's most abundant and most dependable source of energy. The coal industry cannot be expected to invest huge sums in the new mines and expanded production without the assurance of long-term markets.

Congress should determine, also, what share of our energy market is to be allowed to go to foreign oil imports. It should establish and call for enforcement of clean air standards with due regard to the nation's energy needs. And it should take steps to assure an adequate supply of railroad cars to move coal.

As for the coal industry itself, workers and management alike must do all that is possible to avoid unnecessary and unauthorized work stoppages and to assure continuous production. It is to the interest of all concerned to keep the mines running at this time of high demand for coal.

The nation's energy crisis is a many-sided problem that demands forthright and realistic action on many fronts.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Police Killings—A New Kind of Terror

During the first eight months of this year, sixteen police officers were the victims of planned murders while on duty—a figure the FBI says is more than double the number of premeditated murders of policemen for all of 1969.

In fact, premeditated police murders this year more than triple the average of 4.3 such killings per year in the last decade.

These attacks have not been without their effect on the morale and efficiency of large metropolitan police departments. Officers have reacted to the deliberate ambushes by concentrating on self-protection—a condition that could seriously impair the quality of police work. Police officials now say that some officers overlook minor violations because of the danger of a man pulling a gun for something as small as a traffic offense.

In California, a Japanese-American policeman was shot to death after stopping a motorcycle for making an illegal turn; two other officers were fatally wounded while issuing routine parking tickets.

One of the most brutal of the killings occurred in Philadelphia, where an unarmed park policeman was gunned down as he sat alone in a guardhouse.

Most police officials agree that black militants and white radicals, who have falsely portrayed the police as a tool of the "establishment", are behind the rash of

assaults. And, although there is no conclusive proof of a conspiracy to attack the police, there can be no doubt that speeches urging "kill the pigs" have aided in making law enforcement officers the target.

America can no longer tolerate these brutal and senseless attacks on its peacekeepers. When police officers must live constantly in fear for their lives, the freedom of all Americans is threatened—for without the enforcement of its laws, no nation can survive.

In recent years, there has been too much maudlin sentimentality involved in dealing with dangerous criminals. The lax treatment given to hardened felons has not worked. A return to executions of persons convicted of premeditated murders would undoubtedly be a deterrent to some of these outrageous crimes.

The constitutional and legal rights of the criminal must, of course, always be protected. But the rights of a felon should not be placed above the rights of his victim. Society should be as much concerned about the life of a policeman as it is about the life of a murderer. Life to the law enforcement officer is just as dear to him and to his loved ones as to the brutal perpetrator of murder in cold blood.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Drug Abuse—A Crisis for the Young

According to public health officials, drug abuse among America's young has grown from a minor social problem to an epidemic of crisis proportions; and drug abuse is now considered by many to be the greatest menace facing our society.

As recently as 15 years ago, the use of narcotics was thought to be an adult problem, ever-present but easily-controllable. However, facts compiled by law enforcement and health agencies throughout the United States have now proven otherwise.

In 1958, only 35 percent of the drug arrests involved persons under 25; today, 77 percent of those arrested have not yet reached their 25th birthday. The last 12 years have also seen the number of drug arrests for persons under 18 rise from 4 percent to 27 percent.

During the 1960's, the number of juvenile arrests for various drug violations skyrocketed by almost 800 percent; and, for the first time in our nation's history, children under 13 were among those taken into custody.

Basically, there are two categories of drugs: narcotics, the so-called "hard" drugs; and dangerous drugs, which have not yet been proved conclusively to be addictive. Drugs listed in both categories have found their primary markets among the young.

Of the 900 deaths caused by heroin in New York City last year, 25 percent were children in their teens. Nationwide, the average age of those who died

using heroin has dropped from age 35 in 1950 to age 23 last year.

The use of narcotic drugs can cost an addict up to \$150 a day. Thus, most of America's young drug users have concentrated on experimenting with stimulants, which are called "pep pills," and depressants, or "goof balls"—both of which are available upon prescription at most local drug stores, at a cost of only 10 or 15 cents each.

Over 8 billion of these pills are produced annually in the United States, and The Food and Drug Administration estimates that as many as half of them are sold illegally. These pills, along with marijuana, are the most widely abused drugs among the young.

As evidence of the popularity of marijuana, its cost has jumped from \$8 an ounce last year to almost \$20 an ounce this year; and, of 14,000 juvenile drug arrests last year in California, 11,000 were for possession or use of marijuana.

Drug abuse must be fought with the same intensity with which we would fight any dangerous disease epidemic—for if it is allowed to go unchecked, it can undermine our nation's hopes, aspirations, and values by destroying the generation which must soon accept responsibility for America's continued survival.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



A Critical Shortage of Family Doctors

The United States is currently facing a critical shortage of doctors who engage in general family practice—and, according to health officials, that shortage is increasing.

Forty years ago, for example, 80 percent of the physicians in private practice were general practitioners. Today, only about 15 percent of the students graduating from medical school plan to enter the field.

While this turnabout has led to advancements in specialized areas of medicine, it has obviously had some ill effects on the traditional practice of family medicine. The advent of modern medical science has lured many students into important research and specialized fields, but away from the equally-important field of family medicine.

Medical students should certainly be encouraged to enter research and specialized medicine, but there should also be efforts made to assure that the family doctor will not completely vanish from the American scene.

As one step toward reviving the practice of family medicine, the Senate recently passed the Family Practice of Medicine Act of 1970. The measure would provide funds for the establishment of new medical school programs in family medicine, and for studies designed to find definitive solutions for malnutrition. It would also create a National Information and Resource Center for the Handicapped.

The Senate, when it passed

this legislation, was very mindful of the fact that states like West Virginia with large rural areas were hardest hit by the shortage of doctors. In fact, the state Medical Association reports that there is an average of one physician for every 1,000 West Virginians, compared to a national average of one doctor for every 700 citizens. In some rural areas of the United States, there may be only a single physician to administer to an entire county.

This is the situation the bill is aimed at correcting—not by discouraging students from entering research or specialized fields, but rather by providing opportunities for additional students to enter the field of family medicine.

For instance, the bill provides for grants of \$425 million over the next five years to medical schools and hospitals that establish professional and technical training programs in the field of family medicine. The grants would assist the medical colleges and hospitals to set up separate departments devoted to teaching all phases of family medicine.

This positive legislation could be a good start toward overcoming the critical doctor shortage now being faced in many American communities.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Communism Proving Disastrous to Cuba

Shortly after Fidel Castro came to power in 1959, he promised his countrymen that communism would prove to be the economic salvation of Cuba. But now, after more than 11 years of Castro and communism, Cuba is faced with an economic crisis that is proving disastrous for the tiny nation.

The failures of the communist regime in Cuba have become so apparent that Castro himself admitted them in his annual message to the people on July 26. In a four-hour speech, Castro noted that only 32 percent of the Cuban population of almost 8.3 million persons is currently employed in productive capacities.

That startling figure has had its effects on the Cuban economy. The 1970 harvest of sugar cane—Cuba's most important crop—fell almost two million tons short of expectations; and authorities both in and out of Cuba are now predicting that the 1971 sugar harvest will be even lower.

In an unsuccessful attempt to increase the production on state-owned sugar plantations, Cuba has transferred thousands of workers from jobs in industry to jobs in agriculture. The result has not only failed to increase agricultural output, but has also hampered industrial production. Tire production, for example, has fallen off 50 percent in the past two years; and there is presently a 23 percent shortage in cement and related products.

The basic reason for Cuba's economic collapse can be

traced to communism itself. People have been funnelled into jobs not of their own choosing, and their financial rewards have been dictated by the state rather than by their productive efforts. Frustrated by such regimentation and the general lack of opportunities under a communist regime, an estimated 600,000 Cubans have fled the country; and the morale, initiative, and incentive of those unable to leave have deteriorated under the heavy hand of communism.

Major factories in Havana and other large cities experience a 20 percent rate of absenteeism daily, a fact that has contributed to both the lower production and lower quality of Cuban goods. Castro, himself, has mentioned the low quality of footwear products over the past 18 months and has appealed in vain for the workers in that particular industry to improve their product.

The lesson being learned by Cubans is one that the peoples of Iron Curtain countries in Europe have learned by living under communism's stifling rule. Through dehumanizing the individual and making him a slave of the socialist state, communism destroys all the opportunities and freedoms that make a society free, productive, independent, and a worthwhile one in which to live.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Making Money in the United States

Every day in the United States, approximately six million \$1 bills are printed and placed in circulation by the U.S. Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing. These bills, plus notes of larger denominations, account for the \$12 billion in paper money that is manufactured annually in America.

This is a far cry from the early days of the country, when practically the only money in circulation were English shillings, French louis d'or, and Spanish doubloons. The varieties of money proved confusing to the merchants of early America, and trade and commerce were almost brought to a standstill.

Thus, in 1792, the United States monetary system was established and coins were manufactured. The printing of paper money was authorized by Congress in 1862, and, 15 years later, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing became the sole agency charged with the responsibility of producing and regulating the flow of American currency.

When it was first established, the Bureau employed a staff of six persons and worked in two rooms at the Treasury Department. Today, keeping pace with our growing economy, it employs over 3,000 persons and occupies two buildings with a combined floor space of 25 acres.

Over two-thirds of the notes manufactured are \$1 bills, with the familiar picture of George Washington on the face side and the Great Seal

of the United States on the reverse side. According to Bureau officials, the average life of a \$1 bill in our fast-paced society is 18 months.

In addition to the dollar bill, United States currency now being printed includes: the \$5 bill, with Abraham Lincoln's picture; the \$10 bill, with Alexander Hamilton's picture; the \$20 bill, with Andrew Jackson's picture; the \$50 bill, with Ulysses S. Grant's picture; and the \$100 bill, with Benjamin Franklin's picture.

Notes of larger denominations have not been printed for many years, and the Treasury Department is removing them from circulation as soon as they are returned to a Federal Reserve Bank. Among these larger bills, the \$500 note has the picture of William McKinley on its face side; Grover Cleveland's picture is on the \$1,000 bill; James Madison's picture is on the \$5,000 bill; and the \$10,000 bill is engraved with the picture of Salmon Portland Chase, Secretary of the Treasury under Lincoln and the moving force behind the National Bank System.

It is an old saying that money doesn't grow on trees; but a tour of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing will show the visitor how to make about \$12 million a day.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Fort Knox—Storehouse of Our Nation's Wealth

The Fort Knox Gold Bullion Depository near Louisville, Kentucky, is the major storage facility for America's gold supply—and one of the most heavily-guarded buildings in the world.

Within the three-story building, constructed of granite, steel, and concrete, lies a two-level steel and concrete vault with a door that weighs more than 20 tons.

The exterior wall of the depository is constructed of granite, lined with concrete. The construction required 16,500 cubic feet of granite, 4,200 cubic yards of concrete, 750 tons of reinforcing steel, and 670 tons of structural steel.

No one person in the United States knows the combination to the lock on the vault. Several members of the depository staff dial separate combinations known only to them. In case one of them dies, however, there are classified protective measures to assure that the vault can be opened.

Four sentry boxes are located outside the depository for constant watch and security checks by 26 highly-trained guards. The entire building is equipped with the most advanced protective devices available, and the nearby Army Post offers additional security.

The depository is supplied with its own, self-contained,

emergency power plant and water system, so that during a disaster the facility can become completely self-sufficient.

The gold stored at Fort Knox is in the form of mint bars of almost pure gold, or other bars made from the melting of gold coin. The bars are slightly smaller than a standard building brick.

Each bar contains 27½ pounds of gold, and is worth \$14,000. The bars are not wrapped in storage, but when handled, great care is used to avoid abrasion of the soft metal.

The gold is not kept out of circulation on the money market, as is often thought. It is made part of the money stream through the medium of gold certificates, which are issued only to Federal Reserve Banks. The banks may obtain gold by redemption of the certificates for settlement of international debts, and our gold supply is replenished by regular shipments from foreign countries.

The depository, which is controlled by the Bureau of the Mint, is one of the most secure structures ever built—but it must be; your dollars and mine depend on it.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



New Drug May Conquer Tuberculosis

Scientists report that a new drug being tested in Denver, Colorado, may be the greatest breakthrough yet in the treatment of serious tuberculosis cases.

Research at the National Jewish Hospital in Denver has produced spectacular results in almost hopeless TB cases with a drug called Rifampin.

Combined with other drugs, Rifampin was given to 13 patients. After treatment, active tuberculosis disappeared in 12 patients—an impressive 92 percent success rate.

A 26-year-old Wisconsin housewife had been treated with traditional TB drugs since 1965, but nothing helped stop the germ mutation in her lungs. When treated with Rifampin, her tuberculosis was arrested in 29 days.

Rifampin, a partly-synthetic antibiotic drug, was first developed by Italian researchers in 1957. Dr. William Lester, chief of chest medicine at the Denver hospital, was impressed by the drug's potential during a trip to Europe in 1967. For the next 18 months, he worked to persuade private drug companies to provide enough Rifampin for his studies.

Today, Dr. Lester, the U.S. public Health Service, and Veterans Administration researchers are conducting clinical tests with the drug.

Rifampin is not yet on the market for general use. The U.S. Food and Drug Admin-

istration, which licenses drugs, requires extensive testing to assure the safety of any drug before it is made available to the general public. But it is expected that application will be filed soon for an FDA new-drug license for Rifampin.

Despite the medical progress in tuberculosis research, and the better hygiene and living standards now in America, it is predicted that some 30,000 new TB cases will be contracted this year alone. Scientists hope that Rifampin will be as effective in dealing with tuberculosis as the Salk vaccine has been in conquering polio.

Related studies have shown that Rifampin has been effective against meningococcal carriers—persons who transmit meningitis while remaining unaffected by the disease themselves. Research conducted at three U.S. military installations and in an epidemic situation in Dade County, Florida, showed Rifampin to be 87-92 percent effective in stopping meningitis carriers.

Rifampin has been called a major breakthrough in modern medicine. It is another reason why all Americans should give their full support to modern health care research.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Unrest Gives Old Glory a New Market

American flag manufacturers are reporting record sales in all versions of Old Glory—decals, pennants, lapel insignias, as well as the traditional cloth banner.

Sales are reported up 35 to 50 percent as flagmakers keep trying to meet increasing demands. Most of the Stars and Stripes are being bought for display in private homes—many with large staff sets for exhibit on front lawns.

The zooming flag sales point out clearly that hundreds of thousands of Americans have reacted to the recent criticism of their country by publicly displaying their nation's banner.

The absurd desecrations of the flag by various protest groups and radicals have totally left the bounds of legitimate dissent and border on the seditious.

Never before in American history has the flag been honored and dishonored in so many ways. It has been both proudly displayed and contemptuously worn.

Protestors have done every imaginable act to degrade and dishonor Old Glory. It has been worn as shirts and jackets, and it has been burned publicly in the streets. But surprisingly few arrests have been made under flag desecration laws which carry penalties ranging from a \$5 to \$10 fine in Indiana, to a maximum sen-

tence of 25 years' imprisonment in Texas. A youth was recently convicted in Texas for wearing pants with a piece of flag material sewn on the seat. He was sentenced to four years in prison.

Public reaction to these acts has caused a resurgence of enthusiasm for the flag.

Magazines have included flag decals in their issues, and gasoline stations have given the decals to customers. Many police officers have begun to wear flag emblems on their uniforms to show their allegiance to their country—and many Americans have begun to make a flag lapel pin part of their daily attire.

The flag that is so often taken for granted has once again given patriotic Americans a symbol around which to rally at a time when our national institutions, and even our way of life, are threatened.

It is a reassuring sign when we see the American public stand up for the good things about our nation and reject those persons who would like to destroy it.

It is not only a banner year for flag makers, but a banner year for all patriotic Americans.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Ethnic American—The Forgotten Citizen

One of the results of the ultra-liberals' preoccupation with civil rights (legitimate as well as fancied) and ever-expanding welfare is that many of America's working class white ethnics have become the nation's forgotten citizens.

There are 40 million of these white "ethnics" of recent European descent in this country — Poles, Germans, Greeks, Lithuanians, Slavs, Italians (the list is a long one)—and, taken together, they represent roughly one-fifth of all our people.

Many citizens of foreign ancestry, of course, have, by their own individual efforts, overcome the disadvantage of language barriers and climbed far up the social and economic ladder to positions of influence in their communities, proving again and again that America is, indeed, still the land of opportunity.

But there are other millions of white ethnics who earn average or less than average wages, live in average or less than average homes, strive to be "good Americans," and are squeezed hard by inflation—yet, they suffer in silence.

These are people who—day in and day out—work at their jobs, raise their families, pay their taxes, go to church, and, in general, conduct themselves as responsible and productive citizens.

They seek to own their own homes, but they are overburdened by high building costs and excessive interest rates. They are the victims both of inflation and of the measures taken to fight inflation.

Yet, these ethnic groups remain patriotic, loyal Americans, asking no special favors

or special status. They do not expect their government to take care of them. They demonstrate by their drive, their hard work and industry a desire to get ahead on their own merits. They toil to educate their sons and daughters and to instill in them a love for America and a sense of pride in themselves. They see their sons go off to war, and they disdain protestors who burn draft cards, activists who destroy ROTC buildings, and punks and pseudo intellectuals who inveigh against "the system."

Is it any wonder that these dedicated ethnic Americans are outraged by the militants on the campuses, the demonstrators in the streets, the rioters in the cities, the free-loaders on welfare rolls, and the rabble who desecrate the flag?

The United States is unique among nations in the variety and number of peoples from other lands who, through the years, have chosen to come to these shores to make their homes and to live their lives. Our national heritage has been incalculably enriched because of these immigrants—especially those from Europe and the Middle East.

We need to acknowledge the debt that America owes them, and to be aware of the contribution they have made to our economy, our society, our culture. America's white ethnic minorities are among those who form the backbone of the nation.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Puerto Rican Migrants Face Crisis in America

Puerto Rican families, trying to escape the poverty of their native land, are coming to America this year in record numbers.

Most of the migrants go to New York City, where their number is now over a million. The Puerto Rican population has zoomed from 800 to 25,000 in Boston in less than a decade, and Chicago now claims over 100,000 Puerto Ricans. Island officials report that 93,230 have moved to the United States during the first eight months of this year.

For many of the approximately 1.8 million Puerto Ricans who have come to the American mainland, the United States was thought of as a place to build a better life.

But most have found the opposite to be true. Studies show that the median annual income in New York City for Puerto Ricans is \$3,949. Few have white-collar jobs, and 40 percent of New York's migrants receive public assistance.

One of the key reasons for their low income is lack of education. The language barrier in public schools has caused many young Puerto Ricans to become frustrated and drop out. Only one Puerto Rican out of 100 gets a high school diploma; and, while Puerto Ricans make up 25 percent of New York City's public school population, only four percent of the city's college students are Puerto Rican.

The United States has also witnessed the birth of Puerto Rican militancy in recent

years. Revolutionary young migrants have formed a group called the "Young Lords," which is patterned after the Black Panthers.

Tensions have risen between Puerto Ricans and whites, as well as blacks. Last year in Boston, police received 42 calls to quell disturbances between Puerto Ricans and neighboring whites; and, in New York City, there have been frequent confrontations with blacks.

Fortunately, only a minority of Puerto Ricans have thus far advocated real violence. Most want only to improve their lot in society.

Our government has tried to assist the migrants. Special classes in city schools have been aimed at helping to assimilate the Puerto Rican culture with American life. Federal aid has been given to those in poverty who are trying to find work. However, it appears that the programs have not been able to keep up with the increasing number of migrants.

The United States should persuade those islanders thinking of coming to America that there is no quick and easy way to find success on our shores. Our own unemployment problems during these hard times should be pointed out before Puerto Ricans are encouraged to come here.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Emigrants—A New Trend

A new trend which can tell us something about the present state of affairs in our country is just beginning to come to light. Citizens of the United States in sizable numbers, for the first time in our nation's history, are emigrating to other countries.

This year, 40,000 persons are leaving America to seek a better life elsewhere. They are moving to such English-speaking countries as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the British Isles, to Israel, and to the countries of Western Europe. There have always been emigrants from the United States, of course, but nothing on the present scale has been seen before.

America traditionally has been a land to which immigrants from other countries have wanted to come. Much of our population was gained in this way. People from other lands sought opportunity here, and they still do. This year, more than 400,000 immigrants will take up residence in the U.S., many more than the number leaving.

But the significance of the number of emigrants leaving the United States can be seen in the fact that it has doubled in the past decade, and 1970 will see the largest exodus ever.

Why are they leaving? An official at the New Zealand embassy in Washington put it this way in a statement a few weeks ago: "... a better

environment . . . a lack of pollution . . . and moral deterioration in the United States."

One person who commented on his leaving said he felt our nation is on a decline, and another said that it is as easy to get stabbed in a U.S. city as it is to buy chewing gum. Thousands of other citizens undoubtedly have had the same thoughts.

The fact that our people would give up their jobs, their homes, and their friends to seek a new life in another country underscores the need for action to curb crime, violence, and disorder in our society, and to halt the degeneration in our moral standards.

We can ill afford to lose those who are leaving. The bulk of those who are going into self-exile are between 20 and 43, married, college-educated, and white. They will be assets to the countries in which they decide to settle. If the trend should increase—and it seems likely that it will unless conditions change—our country can be hurt by the outflow, just as West Virginia has been hurt by the loss of many of its bright young people who have gone elsewhere to work and live.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Christmas in a New Nation

The Christmas decorations, greeting cards, wreaths, and colorfully lighted trees that we enjoy during this season were not used by the early settlers of our country.

The first Christmas Day in Plymouth was spent building homes for the new settlers. Celebration was forbidden, and, even 50 years later, the general court of Massachusetts passed a law that "anyone found celebrating any such day as Christmas or the like, by forbearing labor, feasting or any other way" would be fined five shillings.

The law was repealed 20 years later, but merrymaking at Christmas was still highly frowned upon for a long time.

When the Church of England established Christmas services in New England, many Puritans refused to attend.

The Dutch who settled New York and the Germans in Pennsylvania were the first to bring the traditions of Christmas to our new land.

It was not until the beginning of the 19th Century that Christmas was celebrated in a widespread manner. The season soon developed into a national holiday, and the Dutch in New York adopted Christmas as their biggest celebration of the year. Sports and games were the order of the day, and on one occasion when the fun got out of hand, stern old Governor Peter Stuyvesant had to intervene.

The Germans settling in Pennsylvania brought the first Christmas tree with its ornate decorations—a popular tradition in their homeland. The

fare of the day was feasting and drinking with great celebration.

In Maryland and Virginia, Christmas was celebrated much as in England and, in Louisiana the French tradition of a religious celebration was in order.

Probably the most famous Christmas season of the early days of our country was during the Revolutionary War, when General George Washington led patriotic American soldiers in the freezing and starving days at Valley Forge.

In later years, however, our nation's first President celebrated Christmas much differently. In the manner of a Virginia gentleman, President Washington celebrated in a cheerful but dignified style at Mount Vernon.

Food prepared in the President's giant fireplaces included turkeys, ducks, geese, hams, quail, puddings, and pastries.

But the religious phase of Christmas was never forgotten, and Church services were always attended on Christmas Day.

Today, although our traditional celebration of Christmas is very similar to that of our forefathers, and most of our customs can be traced to the early days of a growing nation, the spiritual significance of the day, regrettably, appears to be giving way to the increasing materialism of our time.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Change Needed in an Archaic Court System

Our American court system has changed so little since its origin that today we stand on the threshold of a major breakdown in judicial machinery.

There are a number of reasons for rising case loads—increased criminal appeals, automobile litigation, domestic relations cases, taxation disputes, and employment cases.

Failure to provide change and modernization in court procedures has put an almost insurmountable burden on many judges.

For example, from 1940 to 1970, personal injury cases have multiplied five times, and petitions from state prisoners seeking federal habeas corpus relief have increased from 89 to over 12,000.

During this period, Congress increased the number of judges by 70 percent, but the total number of cases filed in federal district courts nearly doubled.

More money and judges alone is not the real solution to solving the serious problem of a sluggishly-applied system of justice.

The entire court system has failed to apply modern business practices and techniques to many purely mechanical functions. Archaic procedures have encouraged delay and inefficiency in the court's operations.

The long and drawn out process of justice has caused

the law, in many ways, to lose its deterrent effect on the criminal.

Chief Justice Warren Burger has predicted that, if all criminal cases were tried and disposed of within 60 days after indictment, there would be a sharp reduction in the crime rate.

Another area that causes a clogging of the judicial system is the whole process of appeals. The appeals system is cumbersome and encourages delay. Many courts have developed systems to screen out frivolous appeals, but the problem still hinders the process of justice. Finality is essential in any judicial system.

A thorough study and re-evaluation of our goals when dispensing justice is badly needed. In an age when we spend billions of dollars each year on a myriad of "top-priority" government programs, we spend only \$128 million on our entire Federal Judicial System.

We must make a concerted effort in trying to support lawyers and judges who are so desperately trying to bring new ideas and concepts to a system that needs change, while they themselves are so over-burdened by the work that gives equal justice to all.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Great Seal—Symbol of America

One of the most often seen, but least understood, symbols of our country is the Great Seal of the United States. It stands beside the American flag as the most visible and tangible emblem of our sovereignty, and is symbolic of the birth of our Nation, our growth, and our aspirations.

Entrusted since 1789 to the Secretary of State, the Great Seal is affixed to important Presidential commissions and proclamations, ratifications of treaties, and credentials for our ambassadors.

The design of the Great Seal was begun in 1776, and finally accepted by Congress in 1782. Men such as Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin contributed to the principal ideas used in the design.

Both sides of the seal can be found on the back of the dollar bill.

The American Bald Eagle depicts strength, wisdom, dignity, and great vision. Above the eagle, when seen in color, is a ring of light in gold, with 13 stars portraying our continued belief in the spiritual over the material.

The eagle's head, which represents leadership, faces the olive branch stressing America's desire for peace. The shield, with its vertical red and white stripes, portrays unity, and the horizontal blue on the top of the shield denotes the union of the individual states.

The eagle forms the basic

design for the seal of the Office of the President and the Department of State. It also can be found on the caps of many of our military personnel, and marking the entrance to our embassies and consulates abroad. The inscription *E Pluribus Unum* means "One out of many," or one nation out of 13 states.

On the reverse side is the Great Pyramid, the symbol of strength and durability. The Eye of Providence portrays a spiritual blessing and the freedom of knowledge. While 13 layers of the pyramid refer to the original states, the pyramid was left uncompleted to indicate the need for continued national growth.

The inscription *Annuit Coeptis*, "He (God) favored our undertaking," redefines our Founding Fathers' faith. And *Novus Ordo Seclorum* translates into "A new order of the Ages," a reference to the fact that the United States represented the first time in recorded history that a democracy was established within a republic.

The Great Seal is a perfect symbol of a great Nation. In it we can find strength and peace, unity and freedom. It is as meaningful to us today as it was to our Founding Fathers.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



New Trends in Housing for the Future

America's housing industry, which has been greatly affected by growing economic problems, may dramatically change in the next few years.

Already, the trend is shifting to more apartment complexes and an increasing number of factory-built single-family homes—many in planned communities.

In 1970, two of every five homes constructed were completely factory assembled.

Acute shortages of skilled construction workers and the high-cost of labor are among the reasons most middle-income families cannot afford to finance their own homes.

Thus, housing officials are predicting that in ten years there will be more apartments than conventional single-family homes. But regardless of the type of building, it is predicted that construction will be done increasingly in factories. One large builder reports that factory labor has remained relatively stable, while labor costs elsewhere have gone up 10 to 15 percent in some areas.

Problems with factory-assembled dwellings have been numerous. All the units, whether an apartment module or a single home, must be transported to their permanent sites by truck. This makes it essential that all units be built to a size that will allow them to be carried legally on highways. However, varying state laws have caused costly detours and many problems with safe transportation.

A solution to this problem

would be uniform highway laws across the nation, but, for the present, factory home builders are establishing regional factories that build structures to conform with local laws.

Another problem is the inconsistency of local building codes. Changes are often required in construction of homes that go to various states. This custom building raises the cost of the modular dwellings.

Even with these problems, most experts say that factory-constructed dwellings are the answer to the rising cost of home building. And, experts further predict that the future of the small builder will not be imperiled by the trend toward modular homes.

The advent of large, planned communities may require the contracting of many small builders to construct parts of the vast developments, while large developers attend to acquiring and selling acreage.

The revolution in home building should produce more factory-built houses and apartments that are smaller than conventional dwellings; and more of these structures will be located in planned communities, convenient to shopping districts and recreation areas. Hopefully, it will be easier for the American earning a middle-class income to afford a home of his own.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Man Is Killing the Seas

From a beach, the deck of a ship, or the window of an airplane, the oceans which cover three-fourths of the earth's surface appear virtually limitless. So much water stretches away to the horizon that any thought that it might all become polluted, or lifeless, seems remotely absurd.

Yet, exactly that may be happening. The waste and contaminants of our civilization are becoming so destructive to the oceans that all could one day become dead seas.

The serious and far-reaching pollution caused by oil spills from tanker mishaps and faulty drilling operations has become well known. So has the deliberate dumping of the containers of poisonous junk into the oceans—such as war gases and drums of radioactive wastes.

But perhaps even more insidious is the fact that virtually all of our industrial society's liquid wastes—all of the materials and substances that water can carry or dissolve—find their way into the oceans. Most of the pollutants we discharge into the air come back to earth with the rain, and they, too, drain into the seas.

There is no way to count the thousands of substances—many of them toxic and dangerous—that are now being dumped into the oceans, or into the rivers that empty into the oceans. In many instances the adverse chemical and biological effects which the materials thus disposed of may have on the seas, and on the life which the seas

support, are unknown, or at best are just beginning to be learned.

These toxic substances include the poisonous lead from millions of automobile exhausts spewed into the air, much of which reaches the sea; the mercury wastes from industrial operations, which only recently have been found to poison fish and make them unfit for human use; and the herbicides and pesticides washed from farms, orchards, lawns and gardens.

These accumulating poisons threaten not only man's food fish, but also, and more basically, the plankton in the oceans—the minute plant and animal life upon which the entire marine food chain depends.

DDT, for example—which now, like radioactive substances, contaminates every ocean—reduces the ability of the sea's tiny green plants to manufacture food when exposed to light. If the plankton dies, the fish cannot survive. And half of the world's population depends upon fish protein.

If the ecological disaster, which oceanographers and scientists fear, is to be avoided, concerted action by the civilized world is needed now. The oceans, earth's cradle of life, must not be allowed to become dying cesspools of filth, spreading sickness and death inevitably to the land and the inhabitants thereof.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Heat May Pollute Our Water Supply

When most of us think of water pollution, we think of solid wastes and chemicals being dumped into our lakes and streams. But a more insidious kind of threat to clean water is thermal pollution—contamination from heat that raises the water temperature.

Industries that utilize water for cooling purposes usually return the water to the nearest lake or river. This water is often 10 to 20 degrees warmer than when it was first tapped.

An increase in water temperature of only three or four degrees can have a profound effect upon fish and other aquatic life. The entire ecological balance of the stream can be affected. Warm water may cause fish eggs to hatch so early in the spring that the fishes' natural food organisms may be unavailable. Fish use temperature changes as a signal for migration and spawning. Warm water may cause trout eggs not to hatch, and salmon may not spawn.

Warmer temperatures may also lower the value of a water source for drinking and recreational purposes. Thermally polluted water is less capable of assimilating other wastes. As water becomes warmer, nuisance plants and rough fish flourish, while useful life dies.

Electric power production is responsible for 70 percent of the "hot" water released back into lakes and streams. By 1980, it is expected that one-fifth of our nation's fresh water supply will be required

to produce enough electrical energy for our needs.

With the threat of thermal pollution growing, scientists are conducting research on how to prevent heat from ruining our water supply.

Some industries have tackled the problem by returning heated water to its source after spraying it through the air for cooling. Other methods of return include running the water through cooling towers or discharging heated water through multiple outlets to dissipate the heat.

Research is also being done to find a productive use for heated water. Water is being channeled into oyster beds in an effort to increase production. Tests are being conducted with the use of warm water for irrigation in hopes of increasing crop yields. And, in Sweden, heated water from a reactor is being used to warm an entire village in the winter.

But despite any promising uses of heated water, the Department of the Interior remains concerned.

State water control standards have been established and approved by the Interior Department, but we cannot afford to stop here when it comes to our water supply. If we err, it is best that we err on the side of safety to protect our precious water supply.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



American Family Life in Trouble

In our modern, affluent, and rapidly moving world, the stable family institution appears to be in trouble.

One of the topics discussed at the recent White House Conference on Children was the imminent danger now being faced by the American family in its effort to remain a viable institution.

The statistics are startling: one out of four U.S. marriages ends in divorce; the birth rate was down from 30.1 births per thousand in 1910 to 17.1 in 1969; and half a million teenagers are running away from home each year.

There are several reasons for the difficulties in the family. Increased mobility has been responsible for many families moving from rural to urban areas, causing greater separation from relatives than in less urbanized days. This trend away from large kinship families has created a more isolated "nuclear" family. The parents in these homes are faced with many additional roles, which in earlier days were provided by grandparents, uncles, and in-laws. The pressures of these new roles have contributed to many broken homes.

Also, many of the teaching functions of the traditional American family are now given to schools, government, and even industry.

Children are no longer sent to work at an early age due to the affluence in our modern society. Many youngsters to-

day are isolated from the realities of the working world sometimes until they are well into their 20's.

Another factor changing the family has been the new working role of many women. With 40 percent of U.S. women now employed, less time is spent at home. And increasing social and civic obligations have further decreased the family's time together. The result has been children who have been hindered emotionally and psychologically by their parent's neglect and over-permissiveness.

Many recommendations came from the White House Children's Conference that were designed to save the family as an institution. Among them were the establishment of a National Institute for the Family, universal day-care centers, health and early learning services, the creation of a cabinet-level Department of Family and Children, and an independent Office of Child Advocacy.

It is hoped that these institutions could be used to re-emphasize the importance of preserving the family as the basic unit of our society. The traditional strong family ties that welded our nation together in its early days must survive if the Republic is to survive.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



America Supplies Food to a Hungry World

For the past 15 years, the United States has been carrying out the most massive food aid program in the history of the world; and, since 1955, over \$20.5 billion worth of American farm products have been exported to nearly 100 needy countries.

The food is exported under provisions of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, which was aimed at creating markets for surpluses of farm products that had accumulated during the post-World War II expansion period.

Primarily, the United States ships the food to developing nations, and receives minimal payment in foreign currencies. It then loans the money back to the countries, stipulating that the funds be invested in agricultural development and other self-help projects.

Over \$12 billion worth of food has been exported in this manner, and the subsequent loans to foreign countries are now being paid back to the United States at the rate of \$225 million annually.

The Act has been amended 32 times since 1954, and, under some of its newer provisions, the government is able to award grants of food commodities to voluntary relief agencies such as CARE and various church groups.

The United States has scored a number of successes directly related to its food aid program. Feed grain exports to Spain enabled that country

to expand its poultry and livestock industry by almost 30 percent since 1955; and American food purchased by Yugoslavia permitted that Iron Curtain country to develop a free enterprise policy toward its farmers, and kept Yugoslavia from becoming totally dependent upon Russia.

There have also been some monetary rewards for America as a result of its program. The foreign currency used to buy American food has aided the development of trade markets for United States industrial products, and has made considerable contributions to our balance of payments problem. In some cases, up to 25 percent of United States overseas expenses have been paid with the foreign currency received through the food aid program.

Between 1955 and 1965, food accounted for approximately 42 percent of the total United States foreign economic assistance program; and American agricultural exports more than doubled from \$3 billion in 1954 to a current yearly average of \$6.5 billion.

Efforts must be made to increase the foreign markets for food grown on American farms. In that way, the United States economy can harvest the rewards of international agriculture.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Corporate Drug Abuse

The problem of drug abuse is most frequently found among the young, but the problem has now begun to affect a new group—the business world.

The New York Chamber of Commerce recently commissioned a study to determine the extent of drug abuse in the business community.

According to the study, a recent surge of drug abuse has hit company employees, old as well as young. Some firms report that drugs have caused higher turnovers, poorer work performance, increased absenteeism, and a dramatic increase in employee thefts.

Instances of drug sales in the office, the "shooting" of hard narcotics such as heroin in office rest rooms, and the delivering of marijuana in inter-office mail are all too frequent in big companies.

With most companies expecting to see drug usage triple this year, many are planning policies that are aimed at keeping the effects of drug abuse out of the profit and loss statement.

Some companies which were at first shocked at finding drug abuse in their ranks, immediately dismissed those involved. But, as the numbers increased, many firms have adopted more thoughtful solutions to their drug problems.

Many companies are beginning to make educational materials available to their employees by utilizing company communications skills. When

an employee is known to be taking drugs, assistance may be offered to help him overcome his problem.

An advisor is being designated in many firms to handle drug problems by guiding employees to treatment facilities and helping them with personal problems.

Personnel departments are now taking a much closer look at the people they hire in regard to the use of drugs. After hiring, special training courses dealing with drugs are being offered to new employees.

Many large companies are now calling in environmental specialists to study the whole corporate environment to see if any inherent conditions could be a reason for drug use.

Drug clinics, which are partially financed by business enterprises, have been useful in referring employees and have provided a guarantee of a facility for business-oriented rehabilitation.

The business world has been forced to view drug abuse as an individual problem, as in the case of alcoholism. The approach of rehabilitation, rather than punishment, is a giant step in trying to reach the cause of a problem that increasingly threatens all areas of society.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Safety Begins at Home

Americans have spent a great deal of money, time, and energy in an effort to reduce deaths caused by highway accidents—and rightly so. Yet, most of the crusades for safety in the United States have neglected to emphasize the need for taking extra precautions in the home.

Last year, for instance, 28,500 persons died as a result of accidents in the estimated 60 million homes in the United States; and another 4.3 million citizens suffered disabling injuries in domestic accidents.

The statistics, which resulted from a National Safety Council study, also show that an additional 17 million minor domestic injuries occur annually in our country.

Over 90 percent of the fatalities that resulted from home accidents were caused by falls, fires, suffocation, firearms, drowning, and electrocution. The number of deaths in these kinds of accidents, although frightfully high, has remained relatively stable in recent years. Hopefully, public service safety campaigns will cause the figure to drop in the not too distant future.

There is one area of home accidents, however, that has been rising in recent years—the area of poisoning, which accounted for about seven percent of the accidental deaths in the home during 1969.

To combat accidental poisonings in the home, the nation's drug manufacturers

formed the independent Council on Family Health in 1966. The primary objective of the Council is to promote safety in the storage and use of medicines in the home; and the objective is being met through extensive educational campaigns aimed at the nation's pharmacists and drug consumers.

The Council advises that all medicines be kept out of the reach of children, and that all medicines should be disposed of at the first signs of their turning bad. Pain relievers, for instance, should be discarded if they become soggy or discolored, or if they develop a vinegar-like odor. Antiseptics should be disposed of when they become cloudy, or when residue collects in the bottom of the bottle; and ointments that dry out, or become hard, should be thrown away immediately.

As the number of medicines on the market and in the home increases, it becomes more important than ever to acquaint ourselves with the potential dangers of their misuse—and to make an extra effort to assure that medicines intended to restore or improve our health do not become an instrument for a possibly fatal home accident.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Plant Life Being Affected by Air Pollution

Much of the current discussion about the adverse effects of air pollution deals specifically with injury to man's health; but another essential life form being damaged by polluted air is vegetation.

Agricultural losses due to air pollution have been estimated at \$500 million annually. But no true estimates have been made of real economic loss caused by suppression of growth, delayed maturity, reduction in yield, and the increased costs of crop production.

The increasing injury to plant life by unclean air is alarming, and goes much deeper than economic losses. Vegetation injury is a forewarning of air pollution problems that can affect man's ability to live on this planet.

Scientists consider plants a sensitive indicator of airborne pollutants. For that reason, the National Air Pollution Control Administration is conducting studies to detect and evaluate the effects of toxicants upon plant life.

Research thus far indicates gases such as ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen fluoride, ethylene, chlorine, and PAN (peroxyacetyl nitrate) are known to damage vegetation.

These gases destroy plant chlorophyll, disrupt the photosynthesis process, and reduce food production. In industrial areas where these gases are abundant, plant life is often exterminated.

The results of air pollution are often gradual and not

readily apparent. The plant's injury may show up as growth suppression, dwarfing, and early maturation.

Some of the research conducted by the government has utilized plants themselves to measure the presence of pollutants in the air. One variety of tobacco has been used to detect ozone, pinto beans have discovered the presence of PAN, and gladioli have indicated fluoride accumulations. Dahlias, petunias, alfalfa, and cotton are good indicators of sulfur dioxide.

The study of particular gases is complicated by the fact that pollutants may travel freely from their sources due to variations in wind speed and direction. Buildups of various chemicals in stagnant air masses have caused excess pollution in some areas, resulting in unusual injury to crops, trees, and property.

Many of the most serious polluters have been identified, and their effects to plant life have been determined. Studies are also determining the effects of multiple pollutants. It is hoped that this research will find ways of protecting vegetation from the attack of toxic gases.

But in the meantime, the growing loss of trees and crops represents a frightening indicator of further deterioration in our environment.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Power Shortage—First Stage of an Energy Crisis

As was predicted, this winter has brought power shortages of varying degrees of seriousness across the country. Cold waves have caused increased need for electricity, and some generators have broken down under the strain of trying to supply it.

The Federal Power Commission reports that the Northeast section of the nation has been hardest hit, with numerous voltage cut-backs being necessary. Public buildings have been darkened and unheated, and elevators and subway cars shut down as nervous officials feared a complete power blackout in major cities.

The shortage of power is not just seasonal.

Last summer, many communities were faced with the threat of blackouts when air conditioning and refrigeration loads placed a heavy strain on generators.

So far this winter, the much-feared fuels crisis has been warded off in most areas—at least temporarily.

But the fuels shortage is having its bad effects.

Stockpiles of fuels to keep the huge generators in operation have dwindled, and now are so low that many large power companies fear that the day soon could come when there will be no fuel.

The reasons for America's energy problems are clear.

Too much emphasis has been placed on developing nuclear energy, while natural fuel supplies have been ne-

glected. The increasing demand for power has nearly outgrown our capacity to supply it.

Specifically, the answer to our energy problems seems to lie within one of our most plentiful fuels—coal. The establishment of an intensive coal research program would speed up the efforts to produce liquid and gaseous fuels from coal and solve the air pollution problems involved with burning coal. This research should result in the development of a commercially-feasible process to produce other fuels from coal, and thus assure a generous fuel supply.

The energy shortage in America can only get worse if action is not taken immediately to insure an always sufficient supply of fuel to run power plants. Municipal officials in large urban areas view the coming summer months with great concern. Most large power companies are now operating at maximum capacity, and are unable to do much-needed maintenance on equipment.

It is of the utmost importance that the government undertake intensified research on natural fuels for energy production. The fuels shortage must not be permitted to develop into a full-scale energy crisis.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Ranks of Elderly Growing Fast

There is, in America today, a great deal of emphasis placed on the problems of youth. Yet, the fastest growing segment of our population is not the young, but rather the elderly—and the time has come for us to pay closer attention to solving the problems that come with advancing age.

One out of every 10 Americans is 65 years of age or older, and another 20 million are between the ages of 60 and 64. In fact, there are 10,000 Americans over 100 years old; and the Gerontological Society reports that, as diseases continue to be overcome, life expectancy will increase by as much as 15 years.

Currently, if a man reaches age 65 in good health, scientists say he will average another 15 years. The average woman who reaches 65 can expect to live 16 more years.

As if to back up their predictions, the scientists point out that of all the people since the beginning of the history of the world who have reached age 65, 25 percent of them are alive today.

All the facts on aging, however, must be translated into human terms. Age 65 should not be some automatic signal for a man to step out of the mainstream of life. It should be marked with a still bright and challenging future.

Strides are being made in that direction.

In 1965, Congress established the Administration on Aging. Each succeeding year,

the Administration has conducted a White House Conference on Aging dedicated to solving the problems that confront elderly citizens.

Out of these conferences have grown programs to strengthen health, education, and welfare services for the aged; programs aimed at increased independence for persons 65 or older; and programs designed to use the talents of the elderly, thus keeping them active participants within our society.

This year, over \$15 million is going directly to state programs for the aged, an increase of more than \$2 million over the 1970 funds which supported 1,000 community service projects.

There are moves, too, in the field of education. Approximately 250 universities have programs designed to attract the aged. Many of these programs train the elderly in recreational activities for their leisure years; but many others teach skills necessary to begin entirely new careers.

Older Americans have a special stake in our country—they have seen it through depressions and wars, and their faith in its greatness has never wavered. The country's faith in the potential of its elderly citizens also must not waver.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Problem of Capitol Security

Should the unrestricted movement of tourists and visitors through the U.S. Capitol be curtailed as a result of the recent bombing? Few Americans who have visited the nation's most venerated shrine, or who plan to visit it, would want to see that happen; but some restrictions may have to be imposed.

It is a sad commentary on the times. But our tradition of letting people enter and leave the Capitol at will, and permitting them to roam about it as they wish, lies at the heart of what to do about those in our society who would desecrate and destroy it.

Historically, American citizens have enjoyed much more freedom in this respect than have the citizens of many other countries. Even in such a free and open society as England, guides meet visitors outside the buildings of Parliament, take them on tours in groups of no more than 30, and escort them outside again when the tour is over.

The U.S. Capitol belongs to the people, and they should have access to it. But the building and its treasures—most of which are irreplaceable—must be protected. Moreover, the lives of the hundreds of persons who work in the Capitol and in the office buildings of the Congress must be protected, as well.

Many methods of providing the protection that is needed are being discussed. Putting insignificant nooks and crannies of the Capitol off-limits to casual visitors is being suggested. Sensing devices to detect metal objects and explosives are being considered.

Closed circuit television to monitor movements within the Capitol has been proposed.

Already bags and brief cases being brought into the Capitol and the office buildings are being inspected by the police, and demands are being made that the Capitol Police Force be further upgraded and expanded. The force now has an authorized strength of 622 men, 39 percent of whom are authorized to be patronage appointments. Twenty percent of the total force are students working their way through college, and the remainder of the patronage positions are career-type officers who do not enjoy tenure.

I have made patronage appointments to the force, and I believe I have named good men. But in the future, only fully-qualified, professional police officers should make up the force. The patronage appointments should be phased out by attrition and eventually eliminated. Officers who have patronage appointments should be given the opportunity to qualify for an all-professional force.

The Capitol with its many entrances, various floor levels, scores of rooms, labyrinthine corridors, and countless cubbyholes offers an inviting target for saboteurs because of its symbolic, as well as its intrinsic, importance to the American people. It must be protected and preserved.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Junked Automobile Crisis

There are well over 100 million automobiles operating on our roads and highways in the United States. Over 9 million of these vehicles will be retired from use this year.

About 85 percent of these discarded autos will go to dismantlers for the sale of parts, and in some cases these cars will enter the scrap market. But the remainder, which may well be over a million vehicles, will be abandoned or junked on public and private property.

Present estimates show that between 2.5 and 4.5 million junked cars are contributing to the environmental blight in this nation, with over 7 million old cars rusting in storage yards.

The growing number of huge auto graveyards is becoming a national eyesore, but the problem of overcoming this waste of a valuable resource is complex.

When an owner decides that his car is no longer usable and takes it out of service, he must decide whether or not to abandon the vehicle. In most cases, this decision is based on the parts value of the vehicle to the junk or parts dealer.

If the car is worth nothing to the dismantler, it is usually parked or abandoned by its owner. If the dealer buys the vehicle, there are problems to be faced in trying to recycle the car back to steel.

Traditionally, after the removal of parts, the car hulk is burned to remove the seats, plastics, and other contaminants, leaving only the bare steel. But newer air pollution

laws have severely restricted this type of burning, forcing dismantlers to send scrap that is full of impurities to processors.

"Scrap" processors, the next link in the recycling chain, are reluctant to buy these cars because of the low value of the unpure steel. The result has been a decreasing value of out-of-service automobiles and a rising rate of abandonment.

The problem has been compounded in most states because of weak or unenforceable abandonment laws.

But there are some encouraging developments. Research has produced new processes that separate the steel from impurities, thus producing a higher quality steel product. Also, changes in steel production have altered the amount of scrap metal in relation to ore, making scrap more valuable. And, changes in steel fabrication may require more of the scrap products, thus increasing the demand for old cars.

There has also been exploration into the feasibility of government-owned and -operated facilities for controlled recycling of outmoded vehicles.

Whatever the results of studies now being conducted, Americans face another serious environmental problem that must be solved.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Necessity of Vocational Education

"Plumbers, carpenters, and electricians make more than many school superintendents and college presidents; only the arrogant will allow themselves to feel that one is more worthy than the other."

That quote from the First Annual Report of the National Advisory Council on Vocational Education sums up the attitude that, until recently, has hindered efforts in training young men and women in the skills of a chosen trade.

The nation has for too long held the attitude that the only good education is a college education. The federal government has invested \$14 in our nation's colleges for every \$1 it has invested in vocational education programs.

High school programs have been almost chiefly devoted to improving college preparatory training, although 60 percent of the young graduates go directly to work and not to college. In the 1980's, fewer than 20 percent of the job opportunities will require a college degree.

The Council on Vocational Education proposes that all high school students should have a free choice to move into and out of various vocational and technical courses of personal interest. A full range of courses should be made available to students in order that their interests and innate talents can be developed to the highest potential.

The Council suggests that: students should be free to leave school temporarily to acquire on-the-job training and be able to return in the

future for further instruction; government should provide training for those high school graduates who finish school and still have no job skills; and adults should be included in the job training courses, possibly through community colleges or adult high schools.

Vocational training should be relevant at the elementary level also. The world of work and pride in craftsmanship should be taught at a young age. Young students should gradually be brought to a realization of their part in our expanding economy.

To build the kind of vocational education program that our nation needs for the future, the Council calls for government funds to be used to support curriculum development, teacher training, and pilot programs in vocational education.

To prepare a student for a job is more expensive than to prepare him for college. The classes are usually smaller, and the equipment and facilities more expensive. The investment will be costly, but the returns could be higher.

Vocational education could be an important factor in lowering unemployment in the future. The number of jobs which the unskilled worker can fill is dwindling rapidly.

Action must be taken to correct the inadequacy of an educational system that allows valuable human resources to be wasted.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Seniority System Is Best

A stronger than usual attempt has been made this year to eliminate the so-called seniority rule in the United States Senate with respect to the naming of committee chairmen and ranking minority members.

Opponents of the seniority system contend that the work of the Senate could better be carried on if chairmen of committees were elected and re-elected every two years by ballot instead of gaining and retaining their chairmanships through length of uninterrupted service.

The proposal was defeated on a roll call vote, and the seniority system will be retained, at least for the present, in the Senate. It offers a number of important advantages.

Election by ballot, in party caucus, of committee chairmen and ranking minority members would be cumbersome, unwieldy, and time-consuming. Each two years, with the beginning of a new Congress, every chairman and every ranking minority member of the 17 standing committees of the Senate—as well as other committees—would have to be elected in party caucus by ballot.

Such a system would be an open invitation to log-rolling and politicking by outside pressure groups—which would attempt to influence the selection—and possibly even interference in the internal organization of the Senate by the White House.

When members of the Senate know who is in line for what, political maneuvering within the Senate for chair-

manship positions is reduced to zero.

Unnecessary friction, divisiveness, and ill-feeling could easily be caused by organizing committees through an election process based on popularity and vote getting prowess. The orderly conduct of business should not be subordinated to internal jockeying for power among politically ambitious members.

Every system, of course, has drawbacks, and this is not to say that the seniority system is perfect. But it has been tried; it works very well; and no alternative that has yet been suggested can be expected to work any better, if as well.

Few men can serve on committees of the Congress for the length of time necessary to reach chairmanships without gaining a vast amount of knowledge and know-how with regard to the pertinent agencies of the government, the statutes involved in their field, and the all-important background against which legislative proposals must be weighed.

The seniority system, more nearly than any other system, assures that committee chairmen will possess the necessary experience and expertise.

The seniority system is a highly impersonal method of selecting committee chairmen which promotes harmony, avoids needless conflict, and, in the end, expedites the Senate's work.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Laundry Detergents Are Target of Ecologists

For years, the daily use of laundry detergents has been a commonplace experience of most American housewives. But recently, many experts studying detergents, and additives such as enzymes, have determined that they may be dangerous to the water supply and even to health.

Although no studies have conclusively substantiated the health dangers of enzymes, the American Academy of Allergy earlier this year warned that the use of enzymes in detergents and "pre-soaks" is a potential hazard to health.

Publicity has had such an impact on housewives that the sales of enzyme "pre-soaks"—used to whiten fabrics—dropped by \$50 million in a single year. In addition, sales of conventional detergents, without enzymes, fell drastically in 1970.

Many detergent makers have reacted by stopping the use of enzymes in their products. In addition, the nation's three leading detergent manufacturers have agreed with the Federal Trade Commission to stop advertising that enzymes remove all types of stains. The Commission last year had accused the manufacturers and their agencies of false and deceptive advertising.

Even more concern has been expressed over a basic component of detergent itself—phosphate. Phosphates have been found to cause rap-

id growth of algae in lakes and waterways. Scientists fear that the excess growth of algae may eventually pollute the water supply.

The detergent industry is trying to find a replacement for phosphates in their products. Several new phosphate-free detergents have been developed and placed on the market, but their chemical make-up, as well as any potential dangers to health and environment, are not yet well known.

The effects of what detergents can do to a water supply have already been experienced. Residents of Suffolk County in New York found soapsuds and odors in their faucet water. The county immediately banned the sale of detergents in local stores.

Several bills have been introduced in the 92nd Congress to protect the environment against the dangers of detergents. A House bill would ban phosphates in detergents by June 1973.

Manufacturers are now searching for safer and better tested ingredients for their products. Declining sales have proved that housewives demand products that will not damage health or environment.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Farmers Not to Blame for High Food Prices

Nowhere in America is the impact of inflation felt more forcefully than in the grocery store, where shoppers are now paying over 20 percent more for food than they did at the beginning of this decade.

However, the rising costs for food products have not resulted in any substantial increase in profits for American farmers.

In 1969, for example, farmers in the United States produced \$32 billion worth of food materials; by the time those materials appeared on the grocery shelves, the cost to the consumer had tripled to \$96 billion. Yet, the farmers' share of the grocery dollar was actually less in 1969 than it was in 1960.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the major reason for high food prices has been the need for the food industry to keep pace with our modern society.

Consumers today have more money to spend, more time for recreational activities, and less time to spend in the preparation of food. Thus, they have demanded more ready-to-eat products.

In 1970, Americans spent an estimated \$500 million on frozen dinners—nearly double the amount spent on prepared meals in 1965.

To meet the growing demands of the modern consumer, the food industry has invested heavily in up-to-date marketing devices such as

processing plants, super markets, and attractive packages. The amount spent on marketing foods jumped from \$42 billion in 1959 to \$64 billion last year. Today, approximately 66 percent of our food expenditures are directly related to marketing costs.

The emphasis on marketing in the food industry has also resulted in increased labor costs, which averaged 59 percent higher in 1969 than 10 years earlier.

All these added costs have been passed on to the consumer, who, for a short time in the early 1960's, reacted by buying less. That cutback in purchasing caused a decline in prices at the farm level, resulting in the farmer actually suffering because of the cost advances in the food industry.

However, authorities claim that food purchasing today is at an all-time high, and that the added costs are going toward the debts incurred by the food industry as a result of the revamped marketing system.

When those debts are paid, the farmer should begin to receive some of the profits that have bypassed him over the past several years. And, hopefully, the price of food will stabilize, thus benefiting the consumer as well.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Scientists Hardest Hit by Recession

Unemployment has struck a brutal blow to America's scientific community. The U.S. Labor Department estimates that joblessness in the technical, engineering, and research fields is near the 65,000 mark.

About half of these workers have been victims of cutbacks in the aerospace industry. The recent Congressional defeat of the supersonic transport plane added to the unemployment roles.

Approximately 3,000 of America's 20,000 physicists with Ph.D.'s are out of work. Many of these have had to select new vocations and take much less money than they would have earned in their chosen profession.

The unemployment crisis that we are experiencing today in the technical fields began with a dip in space employment in 1966. Then, in 1968, defense industry employment began to drop while the Administration was attempting to stop inflation by slowing down the economy. At the same time, the civilian aircraft market began to feel the adverse effects of the slowed economy. This, in turn, caused a great cutback in research.

What we are feeling today may not be the peak of the job recession. Some experts are predicting that unemployment in technical fields could reach as high as 150,000 men by the latter part of the year.

However, the government has already started to come to the aid of those out of work. The Departments of

Labor and Housing and Urban Affairs will retrain some 2,000 unemployed engineers for work on urban problems.

President Nixon has announced a \$42 million program to train and relocate the unemployed. Several bills have been introduced in the Senate to aid jobless scientists, technicians, and engineers. Among the ideas presented in this legislation is funding for the National Science Foundation for fellowships and subsistence grants to scientists and engineers who participate in conversion retraining programs. Another bill would authorize the setting up of non-profit "community conversion corporations" for non-defense research by those out of work, as well as give the Small Business Administration funds to help start small scientific and technical firms.

Some West Coast universities have set up special training programs to teach the unemployed scientists and engineers in new fields. The University of California at Irvine and Stanford University are offering a one-year Master's program in societal and environmental fields. Response has been enthusiastic.

It is hoped that these steps will help to ease the pressure on those being laid off in this job crisis. America cannot allow this wealth of talent to be wasted.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Drug Smugglers Stopped At Borders

The U.S. Bureau of Customs last year seized over 88 percent more smuggled narcotics at American borders than in 1969.

One of the reasons for the increase in arrests stems from a beefed-up program that has added 915 men to the Bureau for narcotics control.

The amount of illicit drugs seized by customs agents last year was considerable. The quantity of cocaine seized leaped from 23 pounds in 1969 to 376 pounds in 1970. The percentage of other drugs rose dramatically. Heroin was up 65 percent, hashish increased 138 percent, and marijuana climbed 148 percent.

Although larger quantities were seized, there is no accurate way of knowing the amount of narcotics successfully smuggled into the United States. Thousands of Americans each week return from areas where narcotics are plentiful and inexpensive. And with the popularity of drugs growing in this country, more travellers are bringing narcotics home from abroad. Two-thirds of those arrested for smuggling narcotics are under the age of 25.

Smugglers have used some very ingenious methods to transport narcotics across boundaries. The more traditional tricks—such as false-bottomed suitcases and jackets lined with drugs—have been replaced by much more sophisticated means: a shipment of Boa constrictors sent

from Colombia, South America to Miami contained over 95 pounds of marijuana inside the cage; a man with a wooden leg coming into California was arrested after agents discovered the leg contained heroin; and a shipment of molded, baked, and painted pottery turned out to be carefully compacted hashish.

Other hiding places have been in corsets, auto gas tanks, wine jugs, baby diapers, cans of seafood, and hollowed-out surfboards.

The Bureau of Customs' chief desire is to intercept shipments of large commercial drug dealers. The 11,500-man force has become so effective in its border inspections that commercial dealers have chosen to avoid the risk incurred by attempting to smuggle small quantities. Many large operations have turned to airplanes in an effort to evade Customs agents, but the Bureau has been quick to respond by sharing the police intelligence of other agencies and intercepting many of the flights.

As the methods of the drug smuggler become more sophisticated, Customs agents are becoming increasingly successful in curbing the drug traffic entering the United States.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Financial Crisis on Campus

A recent report by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education says that America's colleges and universities face an "acute financial crisis."

Nearly 1,000 colleges, where about 77 percent of the nation's college students are enrolled, are feeling the pinch from bigger spending and lower income. The fact that such a large percentage of colleges are operating in the "red" should cause great concern for the nation's future in higher education.

Schools are reacting to their new financial problems by cutting back in many areas. Some institutions have been forced to drop entire departments and academic programs, sharply reduce student loans, cut back faculty hiring and raises, increase teaching loads, limit enrollment, and cut back campus construction and maintenance.

The Carnegie Commission traces the beginning of the recession in higher education back to the late 1960's, when inflation and growing demands for services, coupled with the needs for better quality in education, caused college costs to soar. College enrollment in the 1960's also rose from 3.5 million students to over 7 million.

Campus unrest was a major factor that added to the financial burden. Increased security, insurance, and property expenses became top priority items in many college budgets.

With costs rising, most schools found that the money was becoming less plentiful. State and federal grants became harder to obtain—after

a boom when federal funds for colleges rose nearly 42 percent from 1964 to 1965. The situation was worsened by a decline in alumni contributions, foundation support, and donations from the private sector.

In addition, some large colleges and universities found that they were unprepared for a recession. Money was spent lavishly in the early 60's. Faculty salaries increased by 75 percent between 1959 and 1969 and prestigious schools openly competed for the most famous, as well as highest paid, professors in the country. Many experimental and research programs were being conducted with funds from pre-recession days. Until recently, many colleges were not forced to conform to tight budgetary procedures.

Already, a few small institutions have announced plans to close down due to their financial plight. Others are barely staying open. Even for the major institutions the future appears bleak.

Our colleges and universities cannot be allowed to suffocate and die due to a lack of funds. If government has to step in to save higher learning from a disasterous fate, it would be an investment of necessity. Education is a key to America's growth, and our nation cannot allow a decline in the quality of learning.

Robert C. Byrd

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Help Wanted in Health Work

According to reports from the National Institutes of Health, there is a crying need in the United States for more young people to pursue careers in medicine and health-related fields.

For one thing, officials at NIH estimate the doctor shortage in America to be at about 50,000; they state further that the nurse shortage, is proportionately, equally severe; and the need for medical technicians, researchers, and laboratory personnel is just as great.

The federal government has expended several programs, and initiated others, to meet the challenge of a critical manpower shortage in the field of health.

In an effort to increase the number of doctors, the government this year is spending approximately \$21.4 million on grants to medical schools, and another \$5.1 million on special educational improvement grants for medical students, programs, and schools.

Aside from massive federal spending, however, NIH is studying a proposal to allow exceptional students to begin their medical training during their undergraduate years, thereby reducing by up to two years the time it takes to earn a medical degree. Other programs have been designed to direct more physicians into practice in rural areas of America, where the doctor shortage is most acute. Important steps are also being taken to train more persons in the field of nursing, and there are signs that these steps are being successful.

Currently, enrollment in nursing programs stands around 160,000, as compared to 145,588 in 1968. There are now more than 950 schools participating in the federal Nursing Scholarship Program, whereas only 677 schools took part in 1970.

Nursing scholarship funds this year will total more than \$17 million, or just about double what they were in 1970; and these scholarship monies will be supplemented with \$9.6 million in funds available for student loans for nurses.

In order to fill the manpower shortage in the allied health professions, NIH is concentrating its efforts on the community colleges that have been springing up at a rate of 70 per year. NIH allocates about \$3 million annually to underwrite their programs in health-related areas.

Health-education specialists at NIH also assist in curriculum development at community colleges, and have urged high school guidance counselors to direct more students to the burgeoning opportunities presented by the allied health professions.

All these steps are encouraging, but much more needs to be done, and must be done, because the medical advances of our modern era will go for naught if we do not have the manpower to exploit and utilize them.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Coins Keep Economy Moving

Coins, along with paper money, are a vital part of our monetary system; yet, no one knows exactly how many coins are in circulation today in the United States.

Treasury Department officials estimate that, since 1792, the first year of production, close to 104 billion coins have been put into circulation.

Last year alone, the Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco Mints produced 5 billion pennies, 709 million dimes, 322 million nickels, 290 million quarters, and 129 million half-dollars.

Coin production is big business. During our Nation's history, 19 different denominations have been issued for circulation. Denominations no longer being produced include the \$20, \$10, and \$5 gold coins, and the 3¢ and 2¢ copper coins.

The government agency vested with the awesome responsibility for manufacturing and distributing our coins is the U.S. Bureau of the Mint. The Bureau also receives deposits of gold and silver bullion, and disperses these valuable metals for industrial and artistic purposes.

The inscriptions placed on our coins by the Mint are established by law. The word "Liberty" must be imprinted on one side of all U.S. coins. Upon the reverse side of each gold and silver coin, a figure or representation of an eagle, with the inscription "United States of America," must likewise be imprinted.

In addition, all our coins carry the motto "In God We Trust," which was made mandatory in 1955.

Statesman and inventor Ben Franklin is the only non-President of the United States to have his picture imprinted on American coins. The Franklin half-dollar was recently replaced by the Kennedy half-dollar, minted in honor of the late President.

In 1964, the country began to run short of change; and the Mint's original expectations that its coins would remain in circulation for a period of 25 years became only a wish.

The shortage was caused by substantial increases in population, vending machines, and by silver hoarding among some citizens. Congress, in 1965, faced with an insufficient supply of silver to meet the rising demand for more coinage, eliminated the silver content of the dime and quarter, and reduced the percentage of silver content in the half-dollar.

Today, there is enough coinage to adequately meet our monetary needs. But, we should be mindful that future coin shortages might seriously impair our growing economy. By keeping our coins in circulation, we can keep America's economy moving.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Two Faces of a Paper Tiger

Communist China, after inviting the American table tennis team to visit the Mainland, has reverted back to its policy of total hostility toward the United States.

The return to hostility was a move that should have been expected; and it shows that Red China, rather than putting on a new face during the "ping pong diplomacy," was just taking on a second one.

In recent days, Premier Chou En Lai has reminded the people of Communist China that the government of the United States is both "repressive" and "imperialistic."

This is the same Chou En Lai who, just a short time ago, described the U.S.-Chinese table tennis matches as opening "a new page" in relations between the United States and The People's Republic of China.

The contradictory statements point up the need for the United States to proceed with extreme caution in its dealings with Communist China. Further steps should be taken to open additional channels of communication between the two countries, but the United States cannot afford to concede too much simply to assure a return match of table tennis.

For instance, as long ago as 1965, America lifted the travel ban for doctors and medical scientists to travel behind the Bamboo Curtain. A year later, the ban was lifted for scholars, writers, and persons engaged in cultural, athletic, and educational activities.

But China would admit none of these Americans.

Only July 21, 1969, the

United States made another move, announcing the automatic validation of passports for Americans to travel to Mainland China. However, of the 1,000 passports validated, China allowed only three Americans to enter.

Even in the field of trade, the United States has been making overtures toward China for the past 12 years. The trade ban invoked on December 17, 1950, has been gradually lifted. American drug manufacturers were told they could sell medicines to Communist China; and the limitation on the amount of Chinese-made products that could be purchased by American tourists was lifted.

The Chinese response to all these initiatives was to invite the United States table tennis team to visit the Mainland—hardly a magnanimous gesture when compared to the American moves that preceded it.

It would be a mistake for the United States to welcome Communist China into the international family of nations without first waiting for Peking to show some stronger initiatives.

Ping Pong Diplomacy is one thing—and it should continue. However, the real world in which we have to live demands that we proceed with caution, and on a more substantive diplomatic level, when dealing with Communist China.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Mine Academy for West Virginia

The new Mine Health and Safety Academy, which is to be built in West Virginia, could go a long way toward solving two major problems now facing both the mining industry and the men who work in the mines.

The first goal of the \$13-million Academy will be to end the serious shortage of government and industry personnel who have formalized training in mine health and safety; it will have as a dual objective the reduction of safety and health hazards that now exist in some of our nation's mines.

The Bureau of Mines has established a curriculum that will offer 2,720 classroom hours of instruction to a student body of 600--about 350 Bureau of Mines employees and 250 other students recruited for mine health and safety work.

One result of the Academy's 18-month programs should be to direct a number of younger men into this vital work. Currently, the average age of coal mine inspectors is slightly over 46, and the average age of the new recruits to this field is just under 42. The gruelling work of mine safety requires that men be recruited to this field at an earlier age than is presently the case.

The facility, when completed, should be the major source of supply for the Federal government's force of 1,250 mine inspectors, and for the increasing number of health

and safety workers needed by the mining industry. As the need for these men grows, it is hoped that the programs at the Academy can be proportionately expanded.

Expansion could be easily accommodated because the Academy will be located on a spacious, 40-acre tract of land in Raleigh County. The campus will include a classroom-laboratory building, an auditorium-physical fitness training building, a 300-student dormitory, a small administration building, a cafeteria, and provisions for outside recreational activities and parking.

The Academy, when finished, will cost almost \$1.5 million a year to operate and will be furnished with close to \$2 million worth of equipment.

Obviously, this represents a huge investment for the Federal government; but it is an investment that should return large dividends in improved mine health and safety--both for West Virginia and the nation.

In this way, we will be certain that the doors swing open, not only to the Academy, but also to a new era in the field of health and safety for coal and other types of mining.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Mob Action and Mass Arrests

The radicals who organized the anti-war May Day disorders in Washington are planning more demonstrations this fall. As a result, President Nixon has announced that militants who try to disrupt government activities will continue to be arrested on a mass basis. The President is to be commended for having the courage to take a hard line against these demonstrators.

More than 12,000 persons, most of them young hippie-type characters, were jailed in the May Day outbreak. The police were forced to resort to mass arrests to break up the mobs which tried to paralyze the city and "stop the government."

These arrests — as might have been expected — stirred up a storm of criticism from left-wing civil libertarians, who proclaimed loudly that the demonstrators' constitutional rights had been violated. But should the constitutional and civil rights of law-abiding federal workers trying to get to their jobs, should the inherent right of government to defend itself, be subordinated to the presumed rights of a lawless mob?

The police faced an emergency of near-riot proportions. Demonstrators were jerking the wires out of car engines, pushing stalled vehicles into intersections to block traffic, slashing tires, and throwing trash, nails, and broken glass into the streets.

The police had no time to fill out the usual papers in which accused persons are identified and crimes specified. Their first job was to protect the citizens of the Nation's Capital, and to keep the streets, bridges, and

thoroughfares open—not only for government workers but also for fire trucks, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles.

It is true that some innocent persons—or persons who claimed to be mere bystanders—may have been arrested. It is also true that some may have been detained longer than they liked before gaining their release. But no one would have been arrested if he had not been where the demonstrations were taking place.

I have yet to hear anyone whose heart is bleeding for the constitutional rights of the demonstrators to offer any practical alternative for what was done. Should the police have arrested one at a time in the usual manner while hundreds of others were breaking the law? Or should the police have stood by and arrested no one?

The founders of this Republic—who drafted our Constitution nearly 200 years before the techniques of mass civil disobedience were perfected—did not intend that the police should be powerless to deal with incipient rebellion, insurrection, and anarchy. In the judgment of most thoughtful observers there was no alternative. The police did what they had to do in the May Day situation. And most Americans will be glad to know the President has indicated that the police will do it again when confronted with a similar situation.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Unjustified Attacks on the FBI

In recent weeks, critics of the FBI have been stepping up their attacks, both on the Bureau and on its Director, J. Edgar Hoover. A careful study of the criticisms shows that they are based on emotions rather than facts, and that few—if, indeed, any—of the criticisms are justified.

Probably the most vocal attack on the FBI centers around the Bureau's use of electronic surveillance devices—hidden microphones, telephone taps, and the like. There have been charges that the FBI has employed these devices to spy on innocent, private citizens, and that no one who dared to disagree with the government was immune from having his privacy invaded.

These charges drew the huge headlines their sensational nature warranted, but it is extremely important for all Americans to be aware that none of the charges has been proven.

The facts are that the FBI currently has less than 50 telephone taps and bugging devices in operation—about half of them monitoring the activities of organized crime, and the other half being used in cases of national security. Last year, when critics charged that the FBI was escalating its electronic surveillance program, there were 47 taps and "bugs" in operation.

Thus, the situation has remained relatively stable. In fact, the FBI's activities in this field have not increased over the past five years. It is only the criticism that has increased.

As for J. Edgar Hoover, the critics say that he is too old, and that he is more concerned about his own reputation than he is about the work of the FBI.

At age 76, Hoover is just two years older than Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, and nine years younger than Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black. Yet, the same critics who claim that Hoover is too old to head the FBI are curiously silent on the matter of retiring those two justices.

A man's capabilities should not be determined by his age alone. The FBI Director is still an efficient leader, and is making as great a contribution today as when he took over the FBI 47 years ago.

If Hoover and the FBI are sometimes viewed as one and the same, the reason is that the Director has devoted the better part of his life to building an agency that, like Caesar's wife, is above reproach. He has also kept his personal life free from any hint of scandal.

When criticism is justified, the FBI should be criticized. But the criticism should be based on facts of actual wrongdoings, and not on misleading allegations—and a look at the facts show that, for its work over the past 47 years, the FBI deserves mostly praise.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Environment and the Economy

Americans, divided on many questions, appear to be in agreement that the nation's environment must be cleaned up, and that it must be protected and kept clean in the future. To this end, Congress has passed strong anti-pollution laws, which I have supported and will continue to support.

But it should be recognized that a backlash against the environmental cleanup could result from fanatical insistence on anti-pollution standards which do not take into account the nation's need for energy, full employment, and economic growth.

Clean air and water are important—indeed, they are essential. But so are jobs and the standard of living of the American people.

Some ardent environmentalists have tended to go overboard in their cleanup zeal. A few actually seem to believe that the nation's economic well-being should be made secondary and subordinate to environmental considerations.

Such an approach fails to take into account the fact that modern civilized progress—with the better lives that it has brought for millions of the world's people—stems from an industrial revolution that is still going on.

It is true that airplanes and cars, steel mills and power plants pollute the environment. But would our people wish to turn the clock back to an 18th or 19th Century mode of life?

It is unlikely that West Virginia citizens, for example, would favor banning coal as a fuel in industrial plants because sulphur oxides, a product of coal's combustion, pollute the air. Yet, that is the prospect in some areas.

It is much more likely that West Virginians, and most Americans, would think that a technology which can put satellites in orbit and send men to the moon can also solve the problem of removing coal's pollutants. That is the approach which is needed.

The willful polluters and exploiters must be dealt with. But the total public interest must also be served.

The approach to our environmental problems must be realistic and reasonable. The goal should be a balanced one—to eliminate pollution, and, at the same time, permit our technological and industrial society to advance and develop so as to assure jobs for a growing labor force and to assure the kind of economic growth which will financially sustain the costly progress calculated to serve the social needs of our people.

A fanatical approach which would ban coal, close plants, and cause unemployment and economic distress, could have a reaction that would imperil the whole effort to improve the environment.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Drug Laws Openly Disobeyed

The problem of drug abuse in the United States has long been recognized as severe. But one aspect of the problem, which is just now coming to light, is the fact that drug users and pushers are openly flouting both the traditional set of values in our society and the laws aimed at controlling the problem.

The blatant disregard for drug laws was recently brought to light when a group of United States Senators visited the Harlem section of New York City. In one experiment, a 12-year-old boy was sent onto the street with a \$10 bill. Fifteen minutes later, without ever leaving his streetcorner position, he openly purchased three small bags of heroin.

A short time later, the Senators walked into a basement dwelling and stumbled upon a "shooting gallery"—a place where heroin addicts gather to inject themselves with narcotics.

Neither the pusher who sold heroin to the 12-year-old, nor the addicts in the basement were arrested. And one of the most distressing facts is that they obviously knew they were relatively safe from the law.

To be sure, narcotic addiction is nothing new. In fact, the National Institute of Mental Health reports that there were five times as many heroin addicts in 1900 as there are today. But the same officials are quick to point out that the problem today is much more serious than it

was at the turn of the century.

For one thing, today's market is filled with new drugs, more sophisticated than heroin—but, in many cases, just as dangerous. And some of these new drugs have attained a strange sort of social acceptance.

This acceptance has led to two occurrences. First, the domestic production of amphetamine and barbiturate pills has increased to eight billion pills a year—enough for 35 doses for every American; and the smuggling of illegal drugs from foreign countries has increased tremendously over the last five years.

Second, the acceptance of drugs has led to a growing apathy on the part of many citizens, and this apathy has also permeated the ranks of some law enforcement officers and judges, who often overlook or give only a minimum sentence to persons except in cases involving the hardest narcotics.

A strict enforcement of the laws is needed to go after the pusher and to discourage more persons—especially the youth of the nation—from embarking on a life of "highs" with dangerous drugs, and to keep more persons from joining the ranks of the country's nearly 300,000 known heroin addicts, 80 percent of whom started by smoking the "soft" drug of marijuana.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Pentagon Papers

Publication of the Pentagon papers on Vietnam may, in the long run, turn out to be a good thing for the country.

It is obvious that the people must be accurately informed if Democratic government is to work. Under the First Amendment to the Constitution press freedom is guaranteed. Some abuses of this privilege may occur; but that is a part of the price we pay for liberty. The U.S. Supreme Court has strengthened the press in its freedom and in its function. And that is as it should be.

But the Court did not hold that freedom of the press is absolute — as no freedom which we enjoy can be absolute. Where vital matters are concerned, national security must be the over-riding consideration.

It should be borne in mind that the documents in question were classified "top secret," and that they were illegally removed from government files—stolen. The former employee who says he took them has been indicted for theft and unauthorized possession of secret papers.

It is true, of course, that too many government documents are classified as secret. But that does not mean that unauthorized persons have the right to declassify them. What is needed is a revision of the classification system that will make public all doc-

uments that can properly be disclosed.

Fortunately in this case, although the papers deal with sensitive subjects and may be embarrassing to some persons, much of what is being published was already known, although not in the same context; and military security is not involved—at least in what has come out so far.

The damage that may have been done lies in two areas: first, in the possibility of drawing wrong or distorted conclusions from what is, at best, partial history; and, second, in the double possibility of jeopardizing confidential negotiations between the U.S. and other governments and hampering the defense and contingency planning which any national administration must carry on. Government leaders may be reluctant to commit to paper the thinking which must precede decision-making if it is likely to become public property.

Outweighing all other considerations, however, is the hope that publication of the papers may influence both our government and our people in such a way as to help keep the U.S. out of another Vietnam.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

**By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd**



Cruel and Unusual Punishment?

After many years of discussion pro and con by concerned American citizens, the matter of abolishing capital punishment is going to be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The question which the Court has taken under consideration is whether or not the death penalty violates the Eighth Amendment's ban on "cruel and unusual" punishment. In four appeal cases, condemned slayers contend that it is.

There have been no executions in the United States since 1967 because of appeals and court rulings which have left the issue in doubt. There are now some 669 persons held on "death rows" throughout the country.

Ten states have outlawed capital punishment completely—West Virginia, Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon and Wisconsin. Four others—New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and Vermont, have abolished it except for crimes like the killing of a policeman or treason.

Victims of premeditated murder are victims of the "cruel and unusual." It is not likely the framers of the Bill of Rights had legal executions in mind when they wrote that phrase; it is more likely they were thinking of punishment such as the torture practiced in earlier ages.

But aside from the possible constitutional question, the most important consideration

is whether the death penalty is a more effective deterrent than life imprisonment for crimes such as rape, kidnapping and premeditated murder. Opponents argue that it is not; proponents insist that it is. There are arguments on both sides.

The most important point, however, and one that is frequently overlooked, is that a very wide disparity, indeed, exists between the laws on the books providing for capital punishment and the carrying out of those laws. The death penalty was imposed on only some four percent of persons who committed murders in the first degree in this country even before executions were suspended.

Capital punishment, if it were certain, could be a highly effective deterrent to serious crimes, in my judgment. But no law that is not enforced and no penalty that is not imposed can ever provide a deterrent for any crime.

The most important issue before our people in this age of rampant criminality is whether our society has the will to enforce its laws, whatever they may be, and to make the penalties provided for the willful and premeditated violation of those laws swift, inevitable, and unavoidable.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Worry Over U.S. Crime

A recent Louis Harris poll shows that the number of Americans worried about crime in their communities has now reached the highest level in the six years of poll taking on this subject. Fifty-five percent say they are more worried in 1971 about violence and their own safety than they were a year ago.

There is little wonder that they are worried. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports show that for the first three months of 1971, crime in the United States—already at the highest level it has ever been—increased six percent over the same period in 1970.

Worse, violent crimes as a group were up 13 percent. Robbery increased 17 percent, murder 11 percent, aggravated assault 8 percent, and forcible rape 2 percent.

In Washington, D.C., the Nation's Capital, there were nine murders over the Fourth of July weekend alone, setting an all-time record for killings in a 60-hour period. The pace of slayings in Washington in 1971 is now ahead of the record year of 1969, when 293 persons were slain.

The spread of drug abuse and the necessity for obtaining money to support the habit is advanced as one reason for the increase in crime; and social theorists offer others, most of them related to unemployment and condi-

tions in the so-called city "ghettos."

Many of the real causes of crime may defy definition. It may be the inherent nature of some people to commit crimes; and there may be no way to rehabilitate them, however unacceptable that fact may be to certain schools of thought. And surely, undisciplined years of early home life contribute later to the upward spiral of crime.

But more responsible than any other factor, in my judgment, is the significant and appalling fact that relatively few persons are ever punished for their crimes. As shocking and unbelievable as it may be, for every one hundred serious crimes committed in our country today, no more than three adults ever pay any penalty. There are no available figures for juveniles.

The answer to the problem of crime lies not only with preventive measures and effective police work, but also in better discipline in the home and school, and—importantly—with the courts and with our system of justice, punishment, and rehabilitation of those who can be rehabilitated.

Robert C. Byrd

JUL 28 1971

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Improved Coal Mining Studied

Research and development may revolutionize the nation's coal industry in the years ahead. The increasing demand for energy and the new emphasis on health and safety are stimulating the most extensive efforts ever made to improve coal mining methods and conditions in the mines.

Consolidation Coal, Island Creek, and other big producers are pushing numerous studies of better ways to get coal out of the ground and better ways to protect coal miners. Joining in the efforts are manufacturers of mining equipment, various other concerns, and the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

From almost nothing in 1969, the Bureau's spending for safety research jumped to \$10 million in fiscal 1970 and \$20 million in fiscal '71. It is expected to rise to \$30 million in the current fiscal year.

The objectives of this research are to eliminate—or at least to better control—the hazards to which the coal miner is exposed, such as "black lung," roof falls, and explosions. A concomitant result is expected to be more efficient mining.

Consolidation Coal Company is studying hydraulic mining. It seeks to determine the feasibility of cutting coal from seams underground with high pressure jets of water. Such a method would eliminate the coal dust incident to machine cutting, which causes pneumoconiosis and fuels mine explosions. Consol is also studying hydraulic transportation, utilizing moving water to bring coal out of a mine.

Island Creek has made a study of "oxygen-free mining." Mines would be sealed and pumped full of nitrogen or carbon dioxide—or even be allowed to fill 100% with the methane gas normally present in coal mines, which would be non-explosive without oxygen. Miners would work in space-type suits, or life support equipment, with oxygen masks. Explosions and stream-polluting acid mine drainage, caused by elements in the coal reacting with oxygen, could be eliminated in this way.

"High energy impact mining" is also being studied. This method would employ a device like a huge wedge-shaped hammer, on a mobile platform, which would fracture the coal from the seam and allow its removal in big lumps, cutting down on the dust spewed out by continuous miners and conventional cutting machines.

Still other studies being made include remote-control cutting and loading machines. These would be maneuvered by operators using electronic sensors, laser beams, and gamma rays from safe areas back from the working face. And the possibility of taking the energy from coal by burning it in its underground seams is being investigated.

No one knows which, if any, of these innovations may prove practical. But it is encouraging that such research is underway.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert C. Byrd".

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Church Support Declines

A sign of the times is the decline of religion in our country. In contrast with the years following World War II when church membership and attendance were climbing, the last few years have seen a marked drop in the statistics reflecting religious interest.

Churchgoing by Americans has declined some 15 percent in the past 10 years. Sunday school attendance has gone down steadily. Church construction is about a third less than it was in 1965. Contributions have fallen off enough to hurt some churches badly. And church membership, which for years had risen, grew only 0.03 percent in the last year for which figures are available, 1969 — the smallest gain in modern times — while the population grew 1.1 percent. In 1969, 62.4 percent of our population were church members compared with 63.1 percent a year earlier.

A few denominations have gained in recent years, among them the Southern Baptists, Lutherans of the Missouri Synod, Primitive Baptists, Mormoms, Nazarenes, Assemblies of God, and the Churches of Christ.

But major denominations such as the United Methodist, Lutheran Church in America, Roman Catholic, Southern Presbyterian, United Presbyterian, American Lutheran, Episcopal, and United Church of Christ have all suffered losses.

Hardest hit in the area of contribution losses is probably the Episcopal Church, which has had to cut its national headquarters staff in half and reduce many of its programs.

But budget cuts were also put into effect in 1970 by the U.S. Catholic Conference, the United Methodist, both major Presbyterian groups, the American Baptists, and the Unitarian - Universalist Church.

What has caused the decline in churchgoing and church support? And why have some denominations at the same time gained?

History will have to record the final answers. But some things can be said now. The permissiveness of our society, its moral laxity, its mobility, and the waning of parental and family influence are certainly factors. Many persons who look to the church for spiritual guidance have also been turned off by the preoccupation of some church leaders with secular social concerns and by church support for militant, activist groups.

It is worthy of note, I believe, that the "liberal" churches, which have most actively espoused social causes, have been hurt more than the conservative or fundamentalist churches which concern themselves most with the religious lives of their adherents.

Our people and our country could benefit immeasurably from a reawakened interest in religion and spiritual things. I do not believe that America can survive as an irreligious land.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



America in Motion

The United States is becoming an increasingly mobile society; but that mobility, although reflecting the affluence and freedom of American citizens, is also presenting major problems for both the transportation industry and the nation.

Transportation—including the purchase of automobiles, passenger tickets, and the like—now accounts for 20 percent of the Gross National Product. And experts predict that, if transportation needs continue to grow in the United States, they will take more land and air space than is now available.

If that happens, Americans will find that travelling in their private automobiles will be more of a problem than a convenience. "This country could become a gigantic parking lot," according to one pessimistic transportation official.

There is, to be sure, plenty of land left in America. But most of this available land is in sparsely-populated areas, where there is no need to construct a jet port or super highway. In the crowded areas of our country, where new transportation facilities are needed, there is very little room to grow.

New Jersey, for example, is expanding its six-lane turnpike to 12 lanes; but, when that construction is completed, it will have gone as far as it can go.

What can be done? For one thing, transportation officials continue to push for technological advances, and most of the officials are hopeful that the advances will occur fast enough to keep the problem

from becoming impossible to solve.

They point out that the Interstate Highway System is now 80 percent complete, and is providing not only better, but also more safe transportation for millions of Americans. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that the Interstate highways now open save more than 5,000 lives a year—or about 150 to 200 lives annually for each 1,000 miles of highway.

Technological advances can also be seen in the field of urban mass transportation, and one of the most innovative projects will be established in Morgantown. Referred to as the "people mover," this project will include a series of trolley-like vehicles controlled by computers, rather than by individual operators.

Officials hope that systems like the "people mover" will cut down the number of private cars operating within the city; and they add that the Morgantown project could be the forerunner for future mass transportation systems elsewhere.

As chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, I have become acutely aware of the transportation problems facing this nation. We must encourage all aspects of transportation research, and move ahead quickly—or else we may find ourselves unable to move at all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. Byrd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial 'R'.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



"Hats Off! The Flag Is Passing By!"

More and more U.S. citizens are displaying the American flag. The colors waving in the breeze, the auto and window decals, the lapel pins show that patriotism is far from dead in our country. It is a good trend. The proud display of the stars and stripes by our citizens does much to counteract the defilement of the flag by war protestors and demonstrators.

Most citizens know the rudiments, at least, concerning the proper display of the flag and the respect that should be accorded it. But occasionally we may wonder about this or that point of flag etiquette, especially as the public display of the flag increases. What, for example, should the citizen do when the flag goes by in a parade, or when the Star Spangled Banner is played?

When the flag is hoisted or lowered in a ceremony, or when it passes in a parade or review, all persons should face it and stand at attention. Persons in uniform, of course, give the military salute. Men in civilian dress should place their right hands over their hearts—holding their hats, if any, at the left shoulder. Women should also salute by placing their right hands over their hearts.

When the National Anthem is played and the flag is on display, the same salutes are rendered, facing the flag. If the flag is not present, civilians should simply stand at attention, facing toward the music.

The flag may be displayed on any day when the weather is not inclement; and it should be flown on all federal and state holidays. On Memorial Day, it should be flown at half staff until noon.

By general custom, the flag is flown only from sunrise to sunset, except for some specially-designated places, such as the Fort McHenry National Monument in Baltimore—birthplace of the National Anthem—where it is flown 24 hours a day.

When displayed with other domestic flags, either stationary or in marching formations, the American flag should be on the right—that is, the flag's own right; or it should be to the front or above other flags.

There are many more rules and customs, of course, which govern display and respect for the flag. Libraries and encyclopedias and various publications contain this information, with which citizens should familiarize themselves.

The stars and stripes are the symbol of America. But as Woodrow Wilson once said, the American flag "has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation." In this troubled time, let us see to it that our flag continues proudly to wave.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



A 'Winged Forest Fire'

West Virginia's forests may be threatened with extensive damage unless effective means can be found for controlling the gypsy moth.

An unfortunate side effect of the ban on DDT has been a vast increase in this insect's depredations in the northeastern states. West Virginia has escaped so far. But with Pennsylvania forests now being attacked by the gypsy moth caterpillars, it is probably only a question of time before they will wreak damage upon the forests of our state.

The female gypsy moth does not fly. She lays her eggs, however, on all sorts of objects including automobiles and camper trailers; and in recent years vehicles have carried the eggs from infested states into many new areas.

When the larvae—hairy black caterpillars with red and blue spots—are hatched in April or May they begin immediately to feed upon the nearest foliage. Oak leaves are their favorite; but apparently they will eat the leaves of almost anything. One 2-inch caterpillar can consume a square foot of leaf surface in 24-hours. It takes little imagination to visualize how much a few thousand of these voracious crawling pests can destroy.

In Pennsylvania, 80,000 to 100,000 acres of forests have been heavily to completely defoliated this summer, and half a million acres have suffered light to moderate damage. The effect, it has been

said, is like a "winged forest fire." Some trees succumb after one defoliation; most will die after a second.

The gypsy moth was accidentally introduced into Massachusetts a little over a hundred years ago when a cage in which a naturalist had brought the moths from France was ripped open in a windstorm. The colder habitat than the pests were accustomed to, plus the use of DDT in more recent years, kept them reasonably in check in such states as Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey until very recently.

But with the use of DDT prohibited because of its long-lasting toxic effects, and with the insect moving south into warmer climate more favorable to it, the destruction of which it is capable has been intensified.

Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey have all suffered extensive damage; and the pests are now in parts of eastern Maryland and a few have been found as far south as North Carolina and Alabama.

It is imperative that an integrated control plan using parasites, biological means, new chemicals, or other environmentally acceptable methods of control of the gypsy moth be developed.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Coming of Megalopolis

For the past several years, there has been a growing concern about the population explosion, and a number of efforts have been made aimed at stopping that explosion in the United States. However, while the concern is understandable and the efforts generally praiseworthy, there has been a tendency to overlook one possible solution to the immediate problem—namely, population dispersal.

The United States continues to experience an exodus of its citizens from rural areas to large urban centers; and, today, well over half our population lives on just a little more than 10 percent of the land. One result has been the development of the megalopolis—a sprawling, heavily-populated corridor that extends from one urban area to another.

Over 36 million people—one-sixth of the nation—live in the largest megalopolis, which is a 450-mile corridor from Boston to Washington, D.C., that has urbanized the lifestyle of Americans in 10 states. Social scientists predict that the megalopolis will become even more dominant unless steps are taken to redistribute the population.

And there seems to be a need for efforts along this line.

For instance, in 1960, two-thirds of the population was classified as being urbanized; last year, three-fourths of the population was recorded as living in urban areas. And

preliminary statistics from the 1970 census show that citizens are leaving rural areas just as fast today as they did in the 1950's—the decade in which the largest exodus to-date occurred.

There is no doubt that America has enough land to accommodate those citizens who want to escape congestion—in fact, there was more lived-on land in the country in 1920 than there is today, and the six states of New England have more wilderness and woodland areas now than they did at the beginning of this century.

What is needed to take people back to rural America? The answer is a simple one—jobs. Incentives must be provided to attract industry to the less-densely populated areas, and industry must be encouraged to provide jobs challenging enough and rewarding enough to keep the bright young people of rural America in rural America.

There are currently a number of proposals under consideration by the Administration and the recently-created Commission on Population and the American Future. Hopefully, some positive plans will be forthcoming and people will again settle in America's abandoned frontiers.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Organized Crime and the Stolen Car

Local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies have escalated the fight against major auto theft rings throughout the United States; but, according to a report by the FBI, the police are still fighting a losing battle.

In the decade of the 1960s, auto thefts increased by an astounding 168 percent. There were 871,900 cars stolen in 1969, as compared with 325,700 in 1960.

The major reason given for the increase is the growth of the auto theft ring, a sophisticated arm of organized crime. In the past, the FBI says, the majority of automobiles were stolen by individual criminals — juvenile delinquents looking for a joy ride, or gangsters stealing a car for use in another crime.

It has only been within the past 12 years that organized crime realized the potential profit to be made from stealing and re-selling cars. Once realizing this potential, however, auto theft rings stretching from coast to coast were quickly established.

The rings depend largely on amateurs to actually steal the car, and the thief is usually paid between \$25 and \$50 for delivering the vehicle to the professional criminals. Specialists are employed to make major alterations, such as document forgery, changes in the Vehicle Identification Number, license plate replacement, and body work.

After the changes have been made, and false papers

secured, it is a simple task for the auto theft ring to resell the stolen car, either to a private buyer or to a dealer. One of the 100 rings investigated by the FBI even had an outlet through a band of car thieves in Scandinavia.

The extent to which these auto theft rings are organized can be seen in the fact that, while in 1960 cars were stolen at the rate of one every two minutes, the rate skyrocketed to one every 36 seconds in 1969. Based on population, auto thefts per 100,000 citizens increased from 182 to 432 between 1960 and 1969.

To be sure, increased police efforts have had positive results. In fact, 50 percent of all cars stolen in 1969 were recovered within 48 hours of the theft, and, overall that year, 84 percent of the vehicles were found. However, the remaining 16 percent of the stolen autos resulted in a \$140 million loss to the public; and, as the number of thefts increases, the loss will increase.

Obviously, law enforcement agencies must continue to intensify their activities in this area; the public must give its full cooperation and support; and laws regarding auto thefts must be reviewed with an eye toward stiffening the penalties for this kind of grand larceny.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The American Consumer Grows Up

At one time, the accepted theory of advertising on America was to shout the message; and the result, more often than not, was that the American consumer would buy the product that shouted the loudest. Such is not the case today.

Marketing specialists are well aware that the consumer in the United States has grown up, and is now the most sophisticated, most discerning shopper in the world. And the facts that are available on the consumer clearly prove this.

The average American reads 10,000 - 20,000 printed words a day, and mentally digests an equal amount through radio and television. Because of this intake, most people blot out all but a few of the estimated 560 advertising messages they come in contact with daily; and in an effort to have messages accepted, advertisers now spend \$20 billion annually.

What the advertisers are selling, of course, are new products—more than 6,000 in grocery and drug lines are introduced each year. What the advertisers are finding out, however, is that in order to succeed in the American marketplace, the products have to be good—between 50 and 80 percent of the new goods fail.

And they fail fast.

As recently as 1961, the life cycle of a new consumer product—for example, a laundry detergent—was 36 months. If it did not make good in that

period, it never would. Today, the consumer either accepts or rejects a new product within 12 months.

The reasons for the consumer's new maturity, and the reasons advertisers spare no expense in trying to reach him, are not unrelated.

Americans are the best educated consumers in the world. At the end of World War II, less than 10 million people in the United States had some college education. By 1980, that figure will have risen to 33 million. Americans are also the wealthiest consumers, with a median family income that is expected to rise to \$15,000 a year within the next decade.

Market specialists predict that shoppers in the United States will become even more discerning in the future, and that the consumer will be increasingly in charge in the marketplace. There will be more emphasis on discount sales—which skyrocketed by 1,100 percent during the 1960's—than on retail sales, which rose by only 62.9 percent during the same period.

Apparently, we have entered the age of the consumer. And, if the American who works hard for his dollar begins to get a better value for his dollar, it will be a very good age indeed.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Suffering in Pakistan Continues

Although the situation in Pakistan has been relegated to the back pages of many of our nation's newspapers, the almost unbelievable suffering of the people there continues—and the suffering will go on until pressures are brought to bear on the Pakistan government.

It is estimated that between 800,000 and 1.2 million persons have died since the fighting broke out earlier this year between East Pakistan rebels and the central Pakistan government. The governments' methods of crushing what started out as a small rebellion have been so severe that almost eight million East Pakistanis have chosen to leave their homeland.

Even today, almost six months since the civil strife began, authorities estimate that about 40,000 East Pakistan refugees cross the border daily to seek asylum in India.

In India, they find safety from the savage atrocities committed by the Pakistan army, but they do not find refuge from their suffering. Lack of food and medical supplies, coupled with severe flooding and cholera epidemics, has made their existence miserable and their chances for survival minimal.

India has spent over \$700 million caring for the refugees; but, even with the establishment of 750 centers, India is able to supply milk to less than one-third of the two million East Pakistan children suffering from malnutrition.

The Pakistan government has successfully kept other aid from coming to the refugees; and it was only after the United States Congress approved a temporary ban on the \$225 million in U.S. aid for Pakistan that the government there permitted a team of United Nations relief workers to visit the strife-torn area.

With the arrival of the UN team, food shipments are beginning to reach East Pakistan, the United States contributing 30,000 tons of high-protein foods valued at \$10 million. Although these shipments will save thousands, perhaps millions, of lives, they are too little and too late when weighed against the tremendous number of human lives already lost.

The government of Pakistan is entirely to blame for those deaths, and a ban of American economic and military aid hardly seems a high enough price to pay for the gross inhumanity displayed by the central government.

All U.S. military aid to Pakistan should be halted indefinitely, and U.S. economic aid should be channelled directly to programs benefiting the refugees. In this way, the central government might be persuaded to be more humane in its policies.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Chile Becomes A Casualty of Socialism

A year has passed since Salvador Allende, an avowed Marxist, was elected President of Chile; and the economic hardships that have befallen the country in the past 12 months should dissuade other South American countries from following a course of socialism.

With socialists and communists setting policy, Chile nationalized the large copper mines, many of which were run by United States companies. The result of this move has been that the 1971 production of copper, Chile's biggest money-earner, will be far below the amount produced last year.

For example, production at the world's largest underground copper mine was projected at 280,000 tons for 1971. But, under government management, this mine is not expected to produce more than 130,000 tons this year.

The failure of socialist Chile, however, goes beyond the copper industry. It stretches to every facet of the country's economy.

One of the first steps taken by the socialist-communist coalition in Chile was to grant substantial industry-wide pay raises. The raises were intended to win the support of the working men and women; and the increases did, in fact, have the natural result of putting more money in consumers' pockets.

However, production of goods has not kept pace with salary increases, and the unfortunate result has been skyrocketing inflation. The workers simply do not have goods

to purchase with the additional money.

International experts lay the blame for the failing economy squarely on the shoulders of the Allende Administration, which replaced longtime department heads with men whose chief qualification seemed to be political loyalty. The Administration, naturally, blames American corporations, many of which were forced out of the Chilean marketplace; but it neglects to point out that most of these U.S. companies, including the largest copper firms, moved a decade ago to sell 51 percent of their holdings to local interests.

When the government this year confiscated the remaining 49 percent, it was quick to replace the well-trained management personnel with men more in tune with socialist thought. The basic needs of workers were given a back seat to the philosophy of Marx—a philosophy that has placed Chile deeply in debt internationally, set the working man back an estimated five years domestically, and spread poverty to all levels of the population.

Socialism is failing in Chile, as it has failed in numerous other countries. It is unfortunate that the people of developing countries have to learn the lesson the hard way.

Robert C. Byrd

OCT 6 1971

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Aftermath of Attica

I do not subscribe to the radical ideology which holds that the Attica uprising is new evidence of the intrinsic evil of the "System," or that "Society" is to blame for having created criminals. The total number of Federal and state prisoners in the country today is only about 190,000—less than 1 person per 1000 population—a fact which belies the preachments of bleeding hearts who seek to inflict society with a *mea culpa* syndrome.

As in the summer riots of recent years, the same tired excuses are being trotted out to explain why the "repressed" prisoners at Attica joined in insurrection and rebellion—all of which encourages further violence in the streets, in the prisons, and in the schools because such excuses provide a cloak of respectability for the acts of hoodlums and criminals.

It should be obvious that prisoners cannot be allowed to revolt, to destroy prison property, to seize hostages and threaten their lives—and then demand and receive amnesty for their unlawful acts. Let it be remembered that three Attica prisoners and one guard had been killed by inmates before the police moved in. To grant amnesty for such acts would be to undermine our whole system of criminal justice and penology.

In my judgment, a mistake was made in attempting to negotiate with the inmates. That is not to say that prison conditions should not be improved. But no "bargaining" brought about by threats of

violence and carried on under duress can ever be valid.

Many authorities contend that a mistake was also made in not storming the prison immediately to put down the rebellion rather than waiting for four days; and it is likely that a further mistake was made in allowing a so-called "observers" committee (with firebrands Seale and Kunstler) to intervene.

For those of us who did not have the burden of decision, of course, it is easy to second guess. But what is most important now is to do whatever can be done to prevent other Atticas from occurring.

Smaller prisons rather than larger ones are needed. The number of prisoners confined in an institution should be kept small and manageable; inmates should be guarded by trained, adequately-paid personnel; and prisoners should not be mistreated.

First offenders should be separated from hardened criminals. Moreover, a national or regional maximum-maximum security facility should be established for radicalized militants and belligerents who are dangerous to prison stability.

The public needs to become aroused about the need for prison reform; but it also needs to become aroused about the fact that all too few persons who commit serious crimes in our country ever see the inside of a prison.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert C. Byrd".

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Hurricanes—The Greatest Natural Disasters

Despite intensive government efforts, hurricanes continue to menace society, causing an annual loss of life and destruction of property unequalled by any other natural disasters.

The National Weather Service notes that significant progress is being made in warning citizens of approaching storms.

In the decade 1900 to 1910—before sophisticated monitoring devices were invented—over 8,000 persons were killed by hurricanes in the United States. Since 1940, hurricane-caused deaths in our country exceeded 500 in only one five-year period—1955 through 1959.

However, while early warnings undoubtedly have saved lives, hurricanes continue to cause deaths—and the amount of property damage wrought by these storms is increasing rapidly on a yearly basis.

Between 1925 and 1929, for example, hurricanes caused less than \$400 million worth of damage. For the five-year period 1960 through 1964, damages were nearly \$1.2 billion, while the figure for 1965-1969 rose to more than \$2.4 billion. One reason for the increase, of course, is that people are building homes closer to the shore, and the population density along our shorelines has increased greatly.

One of the most successful government counter-attacks against hurricanes is "Project Stormfury." When the weathermen spot a spiralling storm with wind speeds of 74 miles per hour or more, they designate it a hurricane and assign it a feminine name.

The feminization of hurricanes during World War II, when forecasters were plotting the movement of storms

across vast theaters of war. Names such as Annie, Belinda, and Cora were much easier to remember than unfamiliar geographical coordinates; and experience has proved that girls' names are shorter, quicker, and less subject to error than cumbersome latitude-longitude designations.

Once the hurricane is identified, "Project Stormfury" pilots perform cloud-seeding maneuvers, drawing the heat from the hurricanes and reducing the winds. In 1969, pilots succeeded in reducing the winds of Hurricane Debbie by 31 percent; another successful cloud-seeding was accomplished in September of this year on Hurricane Ginger.

These experiments should be continued, and intensified wherever possible; and the government should also place a large part of its meteorological emphasis on the heavy rains and floods that follow in the aftermath of a hurricane.

The typical hurricane brings 6 to 12 inches of rain to the area it crosses, but the amount is often much greater. In 1969, Hurricane Camille dumped 27 inches of rain on the Virginia mountains, producing flash floods and causing at least 109 deaths.

Obviously, we must learn to control the flooding that results from hurricanes, just as we must learn to control the hurricanes themselves. For only when we learn to mitigate the harshness of nature can we live in harmony with its beauty.

Robert C. Byrd

OCT 13 1971

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Naval Strength Declines

West Virginians have always shown a great deal of interest in the U.S. Navy, especially in regard to enlistments in the naval service; and many West Virginians, both officers and men, have served with distinction in our naval forces.

The continuing deterioration in the overall strength of our country's Navy, therefore, should be a matter of considerable concern to the people of our state.

With the military in disfavor with so many citizens—especially some of the young—and with many influential persons in our national life advocating further reductions in U.S. defenses, the United States could become a second-rate power at sea, if the Soviet Union's naval buildup continues at its present rate.

The Soviets have not gone in for attack aircraft carriers such as we have, but in terms of other combat surface ships, the Russians will soon equal if not surpass U.S. strength. In a number of ship categories, the Russian Navy, with newer, faster, more sophisticated vessels of heavier firepower, will have the advantage over the U.S.

The most serious threat to U.S. control of the seas in any crisis lies in the Soviet submarine buildup. The Russians now have two-and-a-half times as many undersea craft as we have—a force sufficient to seriously curtail American shipping throughout the world. Many of the Russian

subs are nuclear-powered, capable of firing undersea ballistic missiles at our cities. Our sad experience in World War II—when Nazi U-Boats sank U.S. ships all along our east coast—should not be forgotten.

The U.S. Chief of Naval Operations has told Congress that the Navy has "been falling well behind a responsible replacement rate." *Jane's Fighting Ships*, the world's best authority, says: "The size and relative capabilities of the United States Navy continue to decline at what many authorities consider to be an alarming rate."

No military task, in my opinion, should have higher priority than the rebuilding of U.S. naval power. If we intend to maintain the capability to protect our country against a possible sea-based attack and to send forces and supplies across the oceans in defense of our vital interests, the increasing threat of Soviet naval power simply cannot be ignored.

During the seven years of our involvement in Indochina, the Soviet Union has continued to build up its armed strength in relation to ours. Our security as a result has been weakened. It is time now to reverse the trend.

Robert C. Byrd

OCT 27 1971

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Japan's Drive for Auto Markets

One of the still under-reported phenomena of the contemporary world scene is the amazing climb of Japan to a position as a first-rank commercial and industrial power. From the World War II ashes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Japanese people have risen, phoenix-like, to rebuild their country and to make its trade and its ingenuity forces to be reckoned with throughout the world.

Many events of late have served to keep the Land of the Rising Sun in the news: President Nixon's coming trip to China (which worries Tokyo); the impact of a floating U.S. dollar on the Japanese yen; the imposition of the 10 percent tax aimed at slowing down Japanese imports; and—more recently—Emperor Hirohito's ceremonial visit to the soil of what were once enemy nations.

Less noticed, perhaps, in the crush of the bigger news, is the fact that Japanese automobiles—the Toyotas, Datsuns, Hondas and so on, which have become commonplace on U.S. streets and highways—have now displaced American cars as the leading sellers in at least one major U.S. market, Southern California, and they are catching on fast in many other places.

There is a deep-seated irony in this. Like so much more of re-created, modern-day Japan, its auto industry might bear the legend: "Product of USA."

Until the Korean War, there was virtually no Japanese auto industry. But with U.S. forces in Korea having a pressing need for vehicles,

Japan—two hours away and uninvolved itself — launched an all-out effort with the aid of foreign technology to fill the need.

Unlike the U.S., Japan does not engage in industrial trust-busting, nor do the Japanese oppose government participation in business. On the contrary, management, labor, government, banks, and corporations work together as a close-knit team to build the economy and make Japanese products competitive in world markets.

The results have been spectacular. In the scant 10 years since the Japanese car makers began their invasion of the U.S. market, they have pushed their sales from near zero to an expected 600,000 units this year—worth a cool billion dollars or more. No one knows where the end will be; but, as many observers have been noting, Detroit regards the intrusion as little short of an economic Pearl Harbor.

Like its cameras, radios, TV sets, motorcycles, tools and hundreds of other items, the Japanese cars—basically American in design and operation in contrast to the West German "Beetle"—have a strong appeal in price and performance for Americans.

Even Mr. Nixon's import tax may not be enough to stem the tide.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Mere Children Are Committing Crimes

American parents, if they are not already aware of it, should understand a sad fact: the age for "beginner" criminals is falling steadily. Juvenile delinquency has been around for a long time—"juveniles" being roughly translated as "teen-agers." Now it's the sub-teens who are getting involved.

Figures from the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence as far back as 1969 showed that in the ten years from 1958 through 1968 there was a 300 percent increase in assaults by youths 10 to 14 years old and a 200 percent increase in robberies by this age group.

More recent figures, gathered by *The New York Times* from law enforcement and school officials in 13 U.S. cities, indicate that the trend is growing, and that the age is dropping. Some of the children involved are even under 10 years old.

In many schools and on many city streets, a jungle-like atmosphere has been created in which youngsters take what they want from others.

The results are muggings, bicycle thefts, stealing from lockers, and shakedowns to get other kids' lunch money; and violence accompanying these acts is not uncommon. The number of offenses reported—and their seriousness—is spiraling. Many a junior high youngster can speak from personal experience about the growing crime wave in and around what were once peaceful schools.

The crimes may be "petty" in terms of money stolen or personal belongings taken. But they are anything but petty in their portent for the future of our schools and our society.

In Baltimore last year there were 12,835 arrests of suspects under the age of 18—up from 10,594 a year earlier. In the age group 10-and-under, there were 526 arrests—one for murder, 22 for robbery, 169 for burglary, 6 for auto theft, 12 for arson, 9 for aggravated assault, 104 for larceny, and 4 for narcotics.

Sixth-graders through ninth-graders are most often involved.

The reasons are not hard to find: changing school patterns which mix the black and white races and cause racial animosities; and the general breakdown in home and family discipline.

Juvenile crime rates have accelerated far beyond adult rates. According to the FBI, the growth in crime in the age 10 to 18 group is now four times greater than the population increase in that age bracket.

Of all the problems America faces, the breakdown in civilized practices and restraints among children can potentially be the most serious.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Future of Foreign Aid

When President Truman instituted the Marshall Plan at the end of World War II to help re-build war-torn Europe, that policy was not only humanitarian but necessary for our security. The assistance we gave those countries and our participation in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have been largely instrumental in keeping the peace in Europe for the past twenty-five years.

Since these beginnings, however, the scope of our foreign aid has gone beyond all bounds of reason and fiscal propriety. As a nation, we should not abandon our interest in, or our responsibilities towards, the world community of which we are so important a part. But we must always bear in mind that our primary responsibility is to our own country, our own people and to those generations who will come after us. Generosity and human kindness are part of the American tradition, but prodigal spending for the uplift of others to the detriment of our own people just doesn't make good sense.

There are some very significant figures, for example, that give a clear picture of the immense burdens we have placed on ourselves since 1946 when it all began.

Our total net disbursements to foreign nations—127 of them—in the past quarter-

century are close to \$140 billion. The government had to borrow much of this money—thereby escalating our national debt—and the net interest payments which the American taxpayer must bear on this borrowing have reached the staggering figure of \$74 billion. This is on money we have borrowed to give away!

The grand total cost of foreign aid to the American taxpayer between 1946 and fiscal year 1971, therefore, including interest charges, is the astronomical sum of \$213 billion. As nearly as can be estimated, only 36 million people out of a world population of 3½ billion, have not been recipients of our largesse at one time or another through these years.

Whether we have gained the respect and gratitude of the nations we have helped is questionable, but of much greater importance is the fact that the economic conditions in our country today make it imperative that we take a long, hard look at the whole foreign aid picture and decide quickly and dispassionately if our future is being jeopardized by our generosity.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Small Towns Prove To Be Good Business

The 1970 Census Bureau figures showed that Americans were continuing to move from rural areas to large urban centers.

The census also indicated that, over the last 50 years, the population of rural communities and farms decreased from 49 to 26 percent of the total population. However, it should also be noted that the total number of Americans living on farms and in rural communities actually rose from 51.5 million to 53.8 million over the past half century.

Just as noteworthy is the fact that towns with populations between 2,500 and 10,000 were not classified as "rural" in the Census Bureau survey. There are 4,300 such towns in America, and 72 percent of them had an increase in population during the decade of the 60's, while only 28 percent decreased in size.

One of the reasons for the growth of small town America is that industry has found that moving from large cities to more rural environments is good business—and it is good business for a number of reasons.

Wage rates, taxes, and living costs are generally considerably less in small towns than in large cities; and these economic realities have caused several businesses to either locate in, or transfer to, small towns.

But there are other less tangible reasons, also. According to one company's study, employee loyalty is greater in smaller communities, and the result of that loyalty is higher productivity and fewer work stoppages.

The executive who conducted that particular study summed up his findings by saying that: "People in small towns seem to have a more distinct set of mores than those in large cities." And he added that, since small towns have a homogeneous quality, it is easier for companies to identify and meet their employees' needs.

In a word, it is the "quality" of small town life that has attracted many American companies, just as it is the spiralling crime rate that has discouraged many companies from locating in large cities. During 1970 alone, an estimated 65 companies fled New York City, and one of the reasons given for their departure was the difficulty in getting people to work in downtown locations. Prospective employees were just too frightened by crime to travel to the inner city.

Such employee shortages do not normally exist in small towns, and established companies are finding long-time workers eager to transfer when the firm moves from the large city. As one re-located worker put it, "This is where the living is better. This is what America used to be, and what it should strive to be."

With that kind of attitude on the part of business, and on the part of workers, the future of small towns in the United States seems to be a bright one.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



College Should Be More Than Status Symbol

The Carnegie Commission on Higher Education estimates that the present 8.1 million students in U.S. colleges and universities will double in the next 30 years, rising to 16 or 17 million by the year 2000. By that time, half of all young Americans 18 to 21 may be in college, the Commission says, compared with 35 percent now.

This raises some interesting questions: What are the objectives of higher education in the U.S.? How well is it serving the needs of individuals and of our society? Is college really necessary for everyone?

Americans in the past had so much respect for higher education that even to raise the last question may seem almost sacrilegious to some. It has been an American tradition that parents would go to any lengths of work and sacrifice to send their children to college. In no other society have so many persons been exposed to higher education.

The end result has not been an unmixed blessing. We have more scientists and engineers and teachers than there are jobs. We have too many Ph.Ds and too few auto mechanics and bricklayers. A serious economic imbalance has been created by the difference in what people are trained to do and what needs doing.

Doubling the number of students in college, the Commission indicates, will require at least 300 more institutions of higher learning than now exist in this country. What

should they be like? What should they attempt to do?

Hopefully, a substantial number will be two-year community colleges, the type which the state of Virginia is so wisely establishing throughout its boundaries. These institutions offer liberal arts; but more importantly, I think, they stress practical and professional training which will fit their students for jobs in our increasingly technologically-oriented society.

Certainly our country needs its great universities as centers for the humanities; for the pursuit of scholarly inquiry and research; for training for the law, medicine, and similar professions.

But thousands upon thousands of our young people need and want other opportunities which will better equip them for useful and rewarding roles in our society. College should be more than a status symbol, where young people gain neither real cultural development nor a satisfactory ability to get and hold a worthwhile job.

The objective at all levels of our educational system should be to develop the skills and talents of each individual in accordance with his ability so that he may become a useful citizen who will find satisfaction in his work, and so that our society, at the same time, will benefit therefrom.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Communism Costly in Human Lives

For the past several months, there has been a great deal of optimistic speculation concerning America's improved relations with the communist nations of China and Russia. The President's announced intention to visit Peking; reported progress in the SALT talks; the new Russian consulate in San Francisco; and the new United States consulate in Leningrad—all of these things have contributed to a certain euphoria among many Americans.

However, while Americans applaud what appears to be a thaw in the Cold War, they should keep in mind that communists usually exact a very high price for any deals they enter. And the cost of dealing with communists has been especially high in human lives.

Robert Conquest, one of England's leading experts on the Soviet Union, estimates that at least 21.5 million persons have been either executed, or killed, during gun battles and the like, since the communists came to power in Russia; and he adds that another 14 million lives were lost in the civil war and famine that followed the communist takeover.

Conquest's figures are not simply the estimates of some fanatical anti-Soviet. They result from an exhaustive study, some of which was based on former Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's own account of government crimes committed during the Stalin era. The study also notes the atrocities committed by the Russian

army during World War II, including the massacre of 10,000 Polish POWs in the Katyn Forest.

A similar study was completed this year on the People's Republic of China, and it shows that the communists in Peking have as little regard for human lives as do their comrades in Moscow. The figures compiled by Prof. Richard L. Walker, one of America's best-known China experts, show that as many as 64 million Chinese lost their lives since the first communist-inspired civil war in 1927.

Prof. Walker states that, in 1960 alone, the communist forces of Mao Tse-Tung killed more Chinese than were killed during the entire war with Japan; and the estimates of the number of deaths during the "Cultural Revolution" of 1965 range from 250,000 to 500,000.

These figures are shocking, to be sure. But they can also be used to educate those too young to personally remember the brutalities of communism, and to remind those older persons who have been caught up in the false optimism of recent developments.

The times demand that we open new channels of communication with all nations; but the events of history demand that we tread carefully and keep our eyes open when dealing with the communists.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Productivity and the Work Ethic

Productivity is a word we are hearing a great deal these days. What does it mean, and why the interest in it?

Productivity, in the current context, simply means the goods or services a worker—or a plant or other activity—turns out in a given period. The interest arises because President Nixon has said that U.S. productivity must increase if we are to solve our economic problems.

A few persons may have a tendency to reject the President's admonition as suggesting a sweatshop philosophy. That is to take a very short-sighted view, for America's economic preeminence and its prosperity depend almost entirely upon the productivity of the American worker and the ingenuity of the American entrepreneur.

When wages and salaries rise faster than productivity—or when production facilities become outdated—higher price tags have to be put upon goods and services to meet the cost of production. The fires of inflation are thereby fanned. It is only by lowering the unit cost of production that prices can realistically be brought down—or kept down—and American goods be made competitive in world markets.

That American workers are the highest paid in the world is a tribute to our economic system. Our workers deserve the opportunity to continue to expand their earnings. They will most merit this opportunity as their productivity ex-

pands.

America grew great and strong because its work ethic has promoted a constantly increasing productivity. The high standard of living our country enjoys is the direct result of the spectacular growth in our output of goods and services.

In the post-World War II period, and up to about 1968, the growth in U.S. productivity averaged a little over three percent annually. But in 1969 and 1970 that figure dropped to less than one percent. As a corollary, the rise in the U.S. standard of living also tapered off, so that the average citizen in the last two or three years has been little or no better off than he was a few years earlier.

Man would never have advanced beyond his original nomadic way of life and his battle with the elements if he had not had the ability to work and to expand his productivity. Further increases in our standard of living today will be possible only through further increases in our productivity.

The most vital element in the effort to cool inflation and put our economy in high gear, then, is a new effort all along the line—by management and worker alike—to boost U.S. productivity above its present laggard state.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Seeing-Eye Satellite To Survey Planet

The technological wonders of our age never cease. NASA expects to launch a new satellite next spring capable of sensing and reporting on virtually everything that exists upon our planet.

This remarkable seeing-eye satellite will be known as Erts-A (Earth Resources Technology Satellite). It will be able to tell us more than we have ever known about earth's land and water resources. It is non-military and aimed at developing the peaceful uses of space.

Erts-A will survey our world from 492 miles above the earth; and so sophisticated will it be that it can pinpoint geologic formations where oil and coal may lie buried, or spot healthy and unhealthy crops on a West Virginia hillside.

These marvels will be accomplished because of what is, in essence, a simple scientific principle. All things radiate electromagnetic energy and receive radiation from their surroundings - telltale vibrations which fit into the electromagnetic spectrum and by which all objects may be identified.

These radiations can be sensed at vast distances by infrared and other film, and by radar and laser beams. Catalogued, they can be "read" by highly trained personnel.

On film, one type of plant may appear as a specific shade of red in its healthy state; diseased or undernourished it will show up as a noticeably different shade. Minerals and moisture in the ground will

leave their unmistakable signature, as will pollution in the air and in the water. Erts-A will be able to "see" countless things which man himself cannot see.

This amazing satellite will be able to sense 10,000 square miles—an area almost half the size of West Virginia—in a single instant, providing a radiation record of virtually everything that exists in the entire region at that moment.

The possibilities which will thus be opened appear almost limitless. By this remote sensing, hitherto unknown resources of earth may be discovered; crop failures may be anticipated and averted; and a wiser, more productive use of land and water may be encouraged.

Thirty-two countries have signed up with NASA to participate in the initial surveys. The studies will range from natural resources to the concentration of populations—more than 350 projects in a dozen or more fields.

Nothing like this has ever been done before; indeed, it has not been possible. Every inch of the earth's surface will be scanned every 18 days for a full year after Erts-A's launch.

No one knows how long it will take to evaluate the information; but, for the first time, man will have the opportunity to take an inventory of his world.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Free Speech Does Not Have to Be Dirty

Many Americans must surely be offended by the increasing use of foul language in U.S. newspapers and other publications and on television.

Books, of course, have been filled with all manner of obscenities for years; but news and entertainment, prepared for home consumption and delivered by public media to family audiences, are different matters.

Persons who wish to read and hear vulgarity are free to do so under our system. But those who do not wish to read and hear it should not have it forced upon them.

With vile language appearing increasingly in family-type publications—and coming unbidden and unwanted into the living room via TV—it seems to me that the time has come for citizens who want and expect decency in what they read and watch to make their feelings known.

Free speech, of course, is cherished in our country. But free speech does not have to be dirty speech. The media may have a constitutional "right" to employ profanity and four-letter words if their editors wish. But doing so in my judgement, does nothing to make either newspaper articles or TV programs more meaningful or attractive.

One may expect to encounter crudities on the walls of public rest rooms. It comes as something of a shock, however, to see such things on the

front pages of newspapers and to hear them spoken from the TV screen.

If nothing else, they are in poor taste—a phrase, incidentally, which one hears all too infrequently in these days of lowered social standards. Profanity and smut are not an indication of sophistication, or of the increasing "maturity" of our society. They are, instead, a sign of deterioration and of decadence.

A few persons may find foul words titillating; but I am sure that a majority of our citizens object to the public media carrying such language into their homes.

The newspapers and TV people who resort to smutty and offensive words and phrases ought to be reminded of the widely reported decline in public interest in such things as dirty magazines and movies. Dirt today is not selling as well as it once may have sold. The ultimate reaction of most citizens to it runs from boredom to disgust.

I believe that those who bear the responsibilities for use of the print media and air waves would gain in public confidence if they would reject the temptation to pander to the lowest denominator of popular taste.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.N.—Rights and Responsibilities

When the United Nations was founded in San Francisco a quarter-of-a-century ago, it was hailed as the beginning of a new era in international understanding and the instrument through which mankind would discover a formula for permanent peace in the world.

Those high hopes have been less than fulfilled and it behooves us to look with a dispassionate eye on the organization—housed on United States soil and supported to a significant extent by U.S. taxpayers' money—that set out to provide a forum for negotiation as the alternative to conflict.

Article 1 of the U.N. Charter includes the words ". . . to develop friendly relations between nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights. . . ."

The principle of equal rights is most meritorious. But nowhere in the Charter can we find language delineating the principle of equal responsibilities. It seems to be an inescapable fact of modern life that everybody demands rights but almost nobody wants responsibilities. To deserve the one, a man, or a nation, must accept the other; and the fact, for example, that some U.N. member nations are constantly in arrears with their dues and voluntary payments shows their disregard for their responsibilities. But when it

comes time to cast a vote, the delinquents are among the first to raise their hands.

Of the total U.N. budget, the U.S. contributes 31.5%. Next highest—at 14%—is the Soviet Union, while France, in third place, drops all the way down to 6%. In terms of dollars and cents, our overall contribution to the U.N.—general budget plus voluntary funding activities such as UNICEF, FAO, UNESCO etc.—is \$276 million annually. The U.S.S.R., France, United Kingdom, Japan, and Canada contribute a *combined total* of only \$171 million a year. Moreover, the U.S., with just one vote in the General Assembly, is assessed annually at \$56½ million for regular dues, whereas sixty-three nations, each with one vote, are assessed at an aggregate of only \$4½ million among all of them. Furthermore, there are 131 member nations in the U.N. with a combined population of 3½ billion people. Sixty-six of these nations (enough to carry a majority vote at any time) comprise only 4.3% of that total population.

It is not suggested that because the United States pays the lion's share of the expenses, we should expect to dominate the organization, but when we accept our responsibilities, it seems only reasonable that the other member nations should accept theirs.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Inches Toward Metric System

All of the nations of the world except the United States and about a dozen small countries have now officially adopted, or they are converting to—or preparing to convert to—the metric system of measurements.

But even in the U.S., doctors write prescriptions in milligrams and milliliters; Vietnam veterans know about 81 mm mortars; athletes compete in 100-meter races; and shutterbugs practice 35 mm photography.

Will the U.S.—as England, Canada, Australia and other nations of the British Commonwealth most recently have done—go to the metric system as a common language of measurements? Will U.S. practice and products finally be brought into conformity with international standards?

Making such a change is up to Congress. From the earliest days of the Republic, efforts have been made to make the U.S. metric. That none ever succeeded is traceable to U.S. public resistance and to our close ties with “inch-pound” England. But the inevitability of change may now be upon us.

A comprehensive study, authorized by Congress and completed the past summer by the National Bureau of Standards, recommends that the U.S. adopt the International Metric System; that Congress establish a coordinated national program to

bring about the change; that every schoolchild and the public at large be educated to think in metric terms; and that a target date ten years hence be set, by which time the U.S. “will have become predominantly, though not exclusively,” metric.

The U.S. already has a dual system of measurements, although metric measurements are limited largely to science and special fields. Most West Virginia schoolchildren probably know that a meter is slightly longer than a yard—39.37 inches—and that a liter is slightly more than a quart. They probably know, too, that the mathematics of metric measurements is simpler and more logical than that of other measuring systems because of its decimal nature and its multiples of ten.

But translating the approximately 50 miles from Charleston to Huntington into some 80 kilometers—or figuring the liters of gasoline needed for the trip—moves from the realm of theory into the practical.

Switching from our present system could involve an enormous number of changes in everything from road signs to quantities in food packaging. If Congress authorizes the adoption of the metric system, a sensible, comprehensive transitional program, acceptable to the American people, must be devised to bring about the change in an understandable and orderly way.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Drug Claims To Be Probed

The Food and Drug Administration has begun the first overall review ever attempted of the effectiveness of more than 100,000 non-prescription drug items we see every day on drugstore and supermarket counters. This is good news for consumers.

The aim of this review is to give assurance to the consumer that the pain-killer, the cold remedy, the dandruff remover, or the deodorant is really capable of doing what the label claims. At present, we have only the manufacturer's word or our own trial-and-error method to go by as to whether the items we buy really work for what ails us.

In 1962, the FDA was given legislative authority to rule on the effectiveness of non-prescription drugs. Prior to that date, the agency could only rule on the safety of the product. Many of the items still popular and widely bought have been on the market since before 1962 and their effectiveness has never been tested. Though the exact number of products offered for sale to the public is not known, official estimates put it as high as half-a-million.

About five years ago, a sampling was made of some 400 non-prescription drug items, in an effort to determine their effectiveness. Only 25% of those tested were found capa-

ble of doing what the label said they should. The rest were put in categories ranging from "probably effective" to "ineffective."

The Commissioner of Food and Drugs has announced that panels of non-government scientists will be asked to review the over-the-counter drugs, and the process will take three years to complete. He said the first class to be reviewed will be the antacids, followed by some 25 other categories, including laxatives, cold remedies, toothpastes, anti-perspirants, and sunburn products.

Among the most important categories to be studied will be the pain killers and the over-the-counter "mood drugs"—stimulants, sedatives and sleep aids. The FDA pointed out that despite the enormous number of items offered for sale and their thousands of different names and claims, all are compounded from only 200 basic ingredients.

It is not the intention of the FDA to drive manufacturers out of business, but it is only right that the American consumers get what they pay for in safety and effectiveness. These consumers buy \$2.7 billion worth of over-the-counter drugs every year, and they are surely entitled to maximum protection and value.

JAN 19 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Crime Facts Shoot Down Optimism

Throughout the past year, there was a great deal of speculation that America had finally turned the corner in its battle against crime, and that crime, if not yet on the decline, was at least being held in check.

However, the latest statistics from the FBI, which compare the first nine months of 1971 with the same period in previous years, show that the optimism was ill-founded.

Murders increased by 10 percent in 1971, the largest annual increase since 1968; and the seven percent rise in forcible rapes during 1971 represents the greatest increase in this vicious crime in the past three years. In New York City, for example, there were 1,067 murders last year compared with 815 in 1970, and 1,767 forcible rapes compared with the 1970 figure of 1,622.

These statistics are shocking, indeed, especially when compared with crime figures from other parts of the world. Tokyo, the world's largest city, experienced only 213 murders in 1970—the latest year for which figures are available. And, during that year in all of Great Britain, only 618 murders were recorded.

It is significant that none of the murder victims in Great Britain was a law enforcement officer, whereas 125 policemen were slain in the United States

in 1971—a 25 percent increase over the number of police officers murdered the year before.

One of the most frightening aspects of our spiralling crime rate is that it now encompasses not only the inner city, but also the suburbs, formerly environments where many citizens fled to escape crime.

Crime in the suburbs increased by 11 percent in 1971—almost twice the average increase for the nation as a whole; and this rise is due, at least in part, to the inner city criminals travelling to the suburbs to commit offenses.

Law enforcement authorities have begun launching intensive campaigns in an effort to reduce crime in America, and they are receiving strong support from the public. A recent survey, for instance, shows that 70 percent of the citizens feel that stronger police protection is needed, and are willing to pay the necessary costs.

It is to be hoped that, in 1972, the increased police efforts will bear fruit. It is also to be hoped that forthcoming decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, which has been restructured, will make the job of the policeman easier and the job of the criminal more difficult.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Better Rural, Vocational Education Needed

The President, in his recent State of the Union Message, placed a great emphasis on education; and it is to be hoped that when his proposals come to Congress later this year, they will include provisions to upgrade vocational training and to increase educational opportunities in rural America.

Americans have always valued education, which is now a \$70 billion enterprise that includes a physical plant of 127,000 schools, and in which 62 million persons are engaged full-time as students, teachers, and administrators.

But the time has come for the federal government to pay closer attention to the educational needs of rural America, where more than a third of all our citizens live. Rural America is large enough to be classified as the eighth largest country in the world; but, partly because of the lack of educational opportunities, it could also be classified as the fifth largest underdeveloped country.

Fifty-nine percent of the rural 17-year-olds are high school graduates, while the average for the entire nation is 70 percent; and while 48 percent of the high school graduates in urban areas now enroll in college, only 32 percent of graduates from rural schools enter college.

Authorities claim a renaissance is needed in rural schools, and that education in

these areas should be approached as one package that would include elementary, secondary, and higher education. To accomplish this, increased funding is needed; and the President's message indicates that the necessary funds will be requested.

It likewise appears that new initiatives will be shown in vocational education, and that this vital training will be merged with academic training. In 1969, eight million persons were in vocational education programs; by 1975, enrollment is expected to increase to 14.6 million.

Technological advancements have eliminated thousands of low-skilled jobs, creating in their place new opportunities that require sophisticated skills. This year, the job market will require 600,000 more skilled workers than will be available. New, improved vocational training is the only way to insure against future shortages in our skilled work force.

Americans have learned that the \$600-\$800 spent each year to keep a student in school is a good investment—it costs four times that much to provide relief for an unemployed worker's family. But educational funds must be invested wisely, and the highest dividends today will be paid by upgrading vocational education, and fully developing the entire educational structure in rural America.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Year 2000—Prosperity With Problems

America is approaching the 21st century somewhat cautiously, for the year 2000 promises to bring blessings of a very mixed nature.

For example, scientists predict that cures will be found for a number of now-incurable diseases, and that five-to-nine years will be added to the average life expectancy of Americans. Yet, while these medical breakthroughs will be welcomed, they will also mean an increase in our population to 280-300 million persons by the year 2000.

Feeding, clothing, and housing that many people will pose serious problems; and they are problems that must be solved before this century ends.

Thirty years ago, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one farmer produced enough food to feed 10 persons; today, he produces enough to feed 45 persons. But, even if there is no further decrease in the number of persons employed in agriculture, each farmer in the year 2000 would have to produce enough food for 70 persons to feed a population of 300 million. Experts predict that our overall crop production will have to increase by 50 percent by the turn of the century, and the amount of land used for farming will have to be more than double the 370 million acres now under cultivation if we are to feed our anticipated popula-

tion and meet our export requirements.

Technological advances, which have been great over the past three decades, will have to be even greater in the years ahead; and research will have to be aimed at discovering new foods, especially among the 250,000 seed-bearing plants. At present, only 666 of these plants are used to provide food and fiber.

Synthetics, which hold some hope for meeting our food needs in the year 2000, hold enormous hope for meeting our clothing and housing needs.

Clothes now worn by Americans contain about 46 percent synthetic fibers; but by the year 2000, the synthetic content is expected to be 65 percent. That increase could mean fewer crop acres needed to produce fibers, and more crop acres utilized for growing food.

In housing, man-made materials will be in great demand—both to preserve our timber resources, which will be three times more in demand in the year 2000 than they are today; and to meet the need for new homes, 2.2 million of which will be required annually as early as 1980.

The future of America can be as challenging as was its past, and as prosperous as its present—but only if we are aware of, and determined to solve, the problems that come with a growing population.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Television and Our Children

There was a time when television was considered a great educational tool, an electronic babysitter, or even, in some homes, an integral part of the family. But, according to recent studies, more and more Americans are beginning to look upon television as an instrument possessing as much potential danger as potential good.

More than 96 percent of homes in the United States have TV sets; in homes with children, the sets are in use for about 15-16 hours a day. In fact, the average pre-school youngster spends 23 hours a week—almost one full day—watching television.

Watching television presents no problem in itself—the problem arises in the quality of programs viewed. And those programs too often have proved to be uneducational, unenlightening, and in the words of a University of California study: "A tasteless pacifier, a waste of time."

A National Institute of Mental Health study found that over half the programs for children were cartoons, 71 percent of which were classified as "violent." The remaining programs consisted largely of re-runs, formerly shown to adult, evening audiences.

The effects of television on our children can be seen in the California study, which states that "there is a tendency for brighter students to watch less TV." It also found

that the children watching the most television spend the least amount of time reading.

Fortunately, steps are being taken to make television the servant, not the master, of our children. The National Association of Broadcasters has agreed to cut by 25 percent the commercial time in every hour of children's programs, and is meeting with concerned groups of parents in an effort to upgrade the quality of the shows.

But, perhaps, the best step that could be taken is seen in the California study. Sixty-five percent of the parents said they "never set special hours when the child can watch TV," and 73 percent said they "never restrict the amount of time" the child can spend in front of the set. Yet, 75 percent complained about the content of children's programs and the influence TV has on their children.

A sound step, then, would seem to be for all parents to demand an upgrading of children's programs by the networks, and to guide their children in the use of television. For its part, the Federal Communications Commission, which has watchdog powers over the networks, should establish content guidelines for children's programs. A joint citizen-government effort could be the best way to increase the potential good of television, and to reduce its potential danger.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Anarchy Increasing in U.S.

The National Bomb Data Center, established in July, 1970, to deal with the growing number of bombings in the United States, has just issued its first report—and the findings should shock all Americans into demanding swift justice for those who resort to this kind of deadly violence.

During the 12-month period beginning in July, 1970, there were 1,858 bombing incidents reported in this country. The incidents resulted in 195 casualties—178 injuries and 17 deaths. In the 750 incidents where property damage could be determined, more than \$15.5 million worth of property was destroyed.

The report shows that, where a motive was involved, the bombings largely grew out of racial protest, juvenile vandalism, and political protest. There were 263 incidents of racial bombings, and 205 where the suspects were teenage vandals. Political protesters, many of whom were involved in the so-called "peace" movement, accounted for 118 bombings during the 12-month period.

Although no complete statistics were available prior to this initial study, officials at the NBDC claim that the "political" bombings are increasing at the greatest rate; and this can be easily seen by the fact that 36 military

facilities and 15 other government installations were the targets of bombs. In addition, bombs were planted at 34 banks, which the report says have "come to symbolize the establishment" in the eyes of many radicals.

Yet, even with the growing evidence that bombs have become the principal tool in the arsenal of the radicals, there remains a number of "new left" apologists who claim that the intention of the bombers is more symbolic than destructive. The facts prove otherwise.

Of the 1,858 incidents, only 308 involved non-detonating bombs—duds; and, in just 39 of the incidents, were warnings issued before the blast was set to go off. Obviously, the intent was to destroy—and the regard for human life was minimal at best.

The Organized Crime Control Act of 1968 sought to deal with bombings, extending the authority of the FBI to investigate the incidents and doubling the penalties for the criminal use of explosives. But, while this bill was a needed first step, it should in no way be considered a cure-all. Its provisions should be constantly reviewed as part of the all-out offensive against the bombers, and that offensive should last until we rid our society of this kind of terrorism.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Are We Ignoring the Three R's?

For the past several years, education in the United States has been in a constant state of change; and, while there is no question that some of these changes have been beneficial to our children, there is also evidence that not enough attention is being paid to the basics of education.

For example, a Carnegie Foundation report titled "The National Assessment of Educational Progress" has just been released; and it shows that the writing skills of America's school children are at a dangerously-low level. A second report—this one on reading skills—will be released later this year; and early indications are that the students will fare just as poorly in that area.

Nine-year-olds, according to the report, show almost no command of the basic writing mechanics of grammar, syntax, vocabulary, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation. Although writing skills improve as the students get older, the report still contends that "even the best teenage writers seldom display any facility or special flair for moving beyond basic construction and commonplace language."

The findings were based on uniform writing exercises administered during the 1969-70 school year to 86,000 children aged 9, 13, and 17. The chil-

dren represent 2,500 schools in every section of the country, and authorities claim the sample accurately reflects the nation as a whole.

Of all the students tested, Dr. Henry Slotnick, the author of the report, says that "only four or five had a really good command of the English language." This easily may be the most shocking discovery of the report, and authorities consider it an especially bad omen in light of the upcoming study of reading skills. If the reading skills prove to be as inadequate as the writing skills, the reports will have shown beyond any doubt that a need exists to again stress the fundamentals in our schools—a need that many of us saw long before the study was made public.

The United States took a critical look at its educational system several years ago when Russia launched Sputnik into space. At that time, we recognized a need for more intensive training in the sciences, so that we could catch up to the Soviets in the race to the moon in the 1960's.

We accomplished that goal, and the sciences should continue to receive their deserved emphasis. At the same time, however, the basic tools of communication — reading and writing—cannot be neglected without imperiling the future of the entire nation.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The School Busing Binge

The hottest issue confronting the country today involves public school busing. Nobody objects to busing children from outlying reaches of a community into the nearest neighborhood school. The real objection is to mass busing of students for the sole purpose of creating arbitrary racial balances in the schools.

Indeed, busing is but the tip of the iceberg. The basic issue, although greatly submerged in all of the emotional talk, is whether, under the U.S. Constitution, a child may be assigned to a given public school on the basis of his race or color. The Supreme Court, in 1954, correctly held that it could not. Yet, precisely that is being done today, on the highly questionable theory that the quality education of minds can only be brought about by the forced integration of bodies. There is no proof that quality education results from such forced mixing. The exact opposite may be true, and there is much evidence that racial frictions have been exacerbated thereby.

When HEW bureaucrats and a few Federal judges force the busing of children away from neighborhood schools simply because those children happen to be black or happen to be white—as the case may be—that is discrimination based on color,

pure and simple. It avails nothing to argue that this was done when segregated schools were the law of the land. Two wrongs don't make a right.

Moreover, such mass, cross-city busing doesn't make good sense. What can the country show in return for the millions spent? The answer is, gasoline and repair bills, and worn out, second-hand school buses which will have to be replaced by costly new buses, and more gasoline and repair bills. But if the hard-earned taxpayer's dollars were spent instead on improving neighborhood school facilities and equipment and on better salaries for good teachers, these would add up to lasting benefits and would provide a genuine opportunity for quality education for all children.

There is a rising tide of indignant opposition to mass busing for the sake of racial balance, and that opposition is being manifested both by black parents and white parents.

Education funds should be spent equally on black and white children, per capita, regardless of the location of their schools; the neighborhood school should be upgraded and preserved; and mass busing, purely to promote arbitrary racial balance, should be stopped.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Our Declining Birth Rate

Whatever the situation may be in other countries, the population explosion—if the present trend continues—appears to have fizzled out in the United States. The rate at which American women bear children has sunk to a 31-year low, dropping by more than five percent in 1971 alone.

The National Center for Health Statistics reports that last year 82.3 babies were born per 1,000 U.S. women of child-bearing age. That compares with 87.6 in 1970.

Not since the great depression has the number fallen so low. The number has declined to a point only a little more than necessary for population replacement, or 2.11 births per woman.

The birth rate in our country has been going down steadily for 14 years, dropping by one-third since 1957. In that year 122.9 babies per 1,000 women were born.

Last year's number was the lowest since the 79.9 recorded in 1940. In only four of the last 42 years has the rate of increase or decrease equalled or exceeded six percent. In 1933, for example, when the U.S. was suffering the worst depression and joblessness in its history, the drop was only 6.6 percent.

But no such economic distress exists now, despite the

recent recession. How do the experts explain a birth rate decline for 14 years, during much of which time the nation was enjoying unprecedented affluence?

Authorities say that the pill, and a changing legal climate regarding abortion have contributed significantly to the drop-off. But that does not answer the question of why Americans want fewer children. Why is family size shrinking?

Sociologists and demographers may find various answers to that question. But underlying any theory must be the fact of our changing society. In a rural, farm-oriented society, in the days before social security and retirement plans, large families were economic assets; indeed, they were virtual necessities.

By contrast, in our increasingly urbanized and highly mobile society—with the cost of maintaining homes and rearing and educating children becoming heavier and heavier each year—large families may be considered by many couples to be liabilities.

A fundamental change in U.S. values and goals seems to be occurring. The continuing decline in the U.S. birth rate is one more sign of the changing times in which we live.

MAR 15 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Use of National Parks Soars

Nothing succeeds like success, the old saying goes, and that is a good description of what has been happening in and to America's national parks and recreation areas. They have succeeded so spectacularly in their appeal to Americans that many are in danger of being completely overrun by visitors.

Ours is a society on wheels, with a growing amount of leisure time and income. Each year more and more of our citizens are visiting and enjoying the natural wonders of America's seashores, its lakes and rivers, its mountains, and its historic shrines.

The result has been a growth in the people pressure on our park system such as was never envisioned when these lands were first opened to the public. The figures on their use are astonishing.

As recently as 1950, all of the parks in the national system (excepting the National Capital Parks) drew a total of only slightly over 33 million visitors. By 1970 this number had soared to 160 million; and the fantastic forecast for 1980 is for more than 256 million!

The very popularity of our nation's parks and recreation areas, the experts say, poses a threat to their ecological well-being and to their future. Many suggestions are being

heard as to how best to deal with this threat.

The biggest problem in the overcrowding of existing parks is traffic. The hard decisions which must be made may have to include such things as no more road building; limiting the number of cars and campers; substituting public for private transportation; and banning off-the-road vehicles such as snowmobiles, trail bikes, and dune buggies, which can damage terrain.

The measures should certainly include regional planning of the areas around parks, where camping grounds and other public facilities can be provided outside the parks themselves.

But most importantly more areas must be set aside, such as the Redwoods National Park, and the Cape Lookout and Assateague Island National Seashores. Parks are for people, and the vast growth in the demand for outdoor recreation and the enjoyment of scenic areas must be recognized and provided for.

States as well as the Federal Government should act. West Virginia, for example—with its magnificent scenery and cool summers—should redouble its public and private efforts now to attract its fair share of travelers and cash in on the tourist bonanza!

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Moves Toward Better Health

Americans have always been concerned with their health—and rightly so, according to statistics from the National Institutes of Health.

In a single year, Americans suffer over 396 million illnesses or injuries that result in at least one day of restricted activity; and the average citizen spends nearly six days in bed annually as a result of sickness or injury. More than 50 percent of our population is suffering from at least one chronic ailment—including cancer, heart disease, allergies, and arthritis.

There is no doubt, says NIH, that illnesses pose a more serious threat than injuries. Of the almost 2 million Americans who die each year, less than six percent are killed in accidents; and heart disease, cancer, and stroke alone claim two-thirds of the victims.

These facts illustrate the great need for improved health care in the United States; and, fortunately, the past few years have seen the task of providing that care receive the high priority it deserves.

At the present time, there are 41,000 employees working in Federal health agencies—including 56 Regional Medical Programs that are designed to serve areas previously

neglected in our health efforts. The regional centers are supported by the National Institutes of Health, where intensified research programs are now beginning to pay high dividends.

In 1968, for instance, one of the 2,230 scientists at NIH received a Nobel Prize in medicine—the first Federal employee ever to do so. And other researchers have developed breakthroughs in fighting leukemia, identified cancer-causing viruses, and reversed for the first time a degenerative disease of the retina causing night blindness and a gradual loss of vision.

The research and the regional medical programs hold out the hope that many diseases will not only be cured in the future, but that they will also be prevented—and “prevention” is the key word in any long-range health plan.

For one thing, preventive medicine could cut medical costs, which have risen twice as fast as the cost of living in the past 12 years; and it could reduce stays in hospitals, where costs have skyrocketed five times as fast as the cost of living since 1960.

But most important, preventive medicine—supported by continuing scientific research—could give us the weapon we need to win the health war of the 1970's.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Grades Spur Students' Incentives

An estimated 60 percent of U.S. colleges and universities are now offering some courses on a pass or fail grading basis, largely as a result of student demands for so-called campus "reforms." Some public schools in various places, including West Virginia, have also been experimenting with this system.

There has been too much emphasis on grades, it is argued. Traditional grading systems are not compatible with current educational philosophy, it is said—whatever that may mean. The old fashioned "A" to "F" evaluation is held not fair to slow learners and the disadvantaged.

Poorer students in our changing public school scene might possibly gain confidence by blurring the distinction between their performance and that of high achievers. Grades, it is said, do not tell the whole story of progress or potential.

But they do still tell a story. And they do provide incentive for most students. The leveling process, catering to the lowest common denominator, can only foster mediocrity. To remain vigorous, our society should be as concerned—or even more concerned—with encouraging the highly-motivated and gifted students. Our nation needs their talents and leadership.

The most telling argument

against doing away with grading is that to do so would destroy competition and incentive. In pass-fail, passing is equated, in the opinion of many, with simply doing "D" level work. What incentive, then, is there to do better?

Giving a student a "pass" or "fail" designation has disadvantages in addition to the destruction of initiative and motivation—as some West Virginia schools, which have tried it and gone back to the old system, have discovered.

Disadvantages exist for students themselves in at least three vital areas: in seeking transfers to other schools; in gaining admission to colleges and graduate schools; and in getting jobs. How is a young person's worth or potential to be evaluated without academic grades comparing him with his contemporaries?

In almost every area of life we are constantly being evaluated by our society. Schools which violate this principle, by doing away with grading, do their students no favor.

Pass-fail grading thus far is mostly limited to lower grades and to elective courses in colleges. But pressure for it can grow, and such pressure should be strongly resisted. The lowering of standards has already gone much too far in our schools and in our society as a whole.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Is a National Primary the Answer?

The value of the presidential primaries has become a matter of considerable debate. There are 24 of these contests this year, 10 more than in 1968. There is no denying that there is great public interest in them and in the presidential contenders; but criticism of the present system is widespread and growing.

The true will of the national electorate is not expressed in these elections, since fewer than half of the states hold them. Moreover, in many states which do, an accurate reading on all of the candidates may not occur because all candidates do not enter all of the elections. In West Virginia, for example, only Humphrey and Wallace are on the ballot.

As most of the primaries are now conducted, candidates may pick and choose those in which they believe they will make the best showing. Some states require that all known candidates be listed on the ballot; and in a number of states—unlike West Virginia—primary results are binding on convention delegates.

But even those requirements may not have much bearing on the action of national political conventions. Someone who chose not to go the primary route may be nominated, rendering the preliminaries meaningless.

It can be persuasively ar-

gued that the primaries take too much time, squander too much money, and wear the candidates to a frazzle. They have also proved to be the undoing of candidates who may have deserved a better chance.

Additional states can be expected to turn to the use of primaries, both as a more democratic method than state and local conventions and to be in the political limelight. With widely differing dates, and bewilderingly different ground rules, the present confusion could become chaos.

A nationwide primary to pick the nominees is increasingly being advocated. The most frequently heard proposals are for holding such an election in early August after a relatively short campaign. Nationwide television, it is felt, would offer the candidates ample opportunity to present themselves to the voters.

If no candidate received a clear majority, a runoff would follow a week later. National party conventions could still be held to name vice presidential candidates and write platforms.

There is no easy answer to the problem. A national primary would impinge upon state prerogatives. But most citizens probably agree that something needs to be done to improve the method of picking our presidential nominees.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Pollution and Pests Threaten Farms

Pollution, which has long been considered a threat to the urban areas of the United States, is a danger to the nation's farmlands as well. And unless pollution is curbed and ecologically-safe methods of controlling pests are found, America could face a sharp decline in farm production.

Air pollution alone causes about \$500 million worth of crop damage annually, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And in 1970—the last year for which figures are available—more than 1.1 million acres, representing 3.6 million tons of crops, were burned in an effort to reduce losses from plant diseases and pollution residues.

The air pollution can be explained in terms of our sprawling population, where both housing developments and industrial parks have moved to the suburbs and beyond. Farms are no longer as rural as they once were, and their proximity to industry means that they are closer to the 30 million tons of industrial pollutants emitted each year.

While the closeness of industry has added to pollution

on the farm, so too has the policy of moving away from chemical insecticides added to the problems of the pest control in agricultural areas.

The survival of crops is currently threatened by 50,000 species of fungi, and more than 10,000 kinds of insects. The banning of a number of chemical pest controls has hurt the crop disease prevention efforts, leaving farmers to depend heavily on the introduction of "friendly" insects.

Some 520 species of "friendly" insects have been brought to farmlands in the past 80 years in the hopes that they would combat the already-present crop-destroying pests. However, only about 20 have been found to be significant control agents.

In order to guarantee a pollution-free environment for our food and fiber crops, strict enforcement of our anti-pollution laws is needed. But in order to guarantee a pest-free environment for these crops, the U.S. Department of Agriculture must also intensify its research for safe chemicals to use on farmlands.

APR 19 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Greening of State Is Aim of Research

The waste bark stripped from logs at sawmills and wood-using plants may not seem glamorous or important. But this lowly, widely-occurring material just might have a rosy future, especially in mountainous, coal-producing states like West Virginia.

Researchers at the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Products Marketing Laboratory at Princeton, in Mercer County, believe they may have hit upon a way to kill two pollution birds with one stone.

New anti-pollution laws have made it increasingly hard to dispose of the bark waste. Most states, including West Virginia, have imposed smoke emission standards which sharply limit the burning of wastes, and many localities now limit solid waste dumping.

At the same time, West Virginia faces the problem of what to do about the scarred areas where surface mining operations have been carried on; and it also has had large areas of exposed soil to revegetate where interstate and other road construction has sliced through the mountains.

Bringing these problems together, the Forest Service researchers, in cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Highways, have found that a mulch made of bark residues is highly effective in speeding the revegetation of

large areas where existing ground cover has been cut away.

The research into the twin objectives of bark disposal and revegetation was started three years ago. At various highway construction sites in the state, bark mulch was spread over steep roadbanks after grass seed and fertilizer had been applied. The results, after two growing seasons, are said to hold considerable promise for the future in preventing soil erosion, pollution of streams by siltation, and other watershed damage.

Because of its fibrous nature, the bark residues form a porous mat when applied to bare soils, holding seeds and seedlings in place. It is believed that, even if applied in winter, this mulch can retard or prevent erosion. Encouraged by these results, the Forest Service people are now extending their efforts to strip-mined areas, which are similar in many respects to road cuts and embankments.

Bark mulch has been available for gardening for some time; but imaginative, full-scale investigation of all possibilities for the use of such materials—such as the Forest Lab is doing—is needed to help solve our environmental problems. Discovering new uses for waste products is as essential as finding new ways to prevent pollution at its source.

APR 26 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Senate's "Whipping Post"

"I am glad that Robert C. Byrd has at last gotten what he deserved—the whipping post."

This comes from a letter received in my office shortly after I had won the Senate Majority Whip's race early last year. But it may be indicative, as are many letters from students, of an interest in the history and duties of the office of Whip.

The office of Whip is a British institution; it is found in most commonwealth countries which have based their parliament on that of the United Kingdom. The term "Whip" has two distinct parliamentary meanings in England. It refers both to a party official, as in the United States Senate, and to a written document.

Whips were first used in 1621, when notices, known as "circular letters," were sent to the King's friends in the House of Commons.

Turning to the Whip as a party official, Edmund Burke, the great English statesman, is considered the first to have used the term to denote a party leader when, during a debate, he described how ministries had sent for their friends to the north—and even to Paris—"whipping them in." Burke was referring to the "whipper-in," a huntsman who kept the hounds from straying during

a fox hunt.

Party whips did not exist in the United States Senate in the early days, even though our national legislature followed many legislative practices of the English parliament. The first Senate Democratic Whip, J. Hamilton Lewis of Illinois, was elected in 1913; the first Republican Whip, James Wadsworth, N.Y., in 1915. Since 1913, there have been 14 Democratic Whips and 11 Republican Whips.

Each Whip is elected by the respective party caucus on the opening day of each new Congress. The responsibilities of the Majority Whip are: to assist the Majority Leader in carrying out the policies formulated by the Democratic Policy Committee; to be on the Floor at all times when the Senate is in session; to insist on enforcement of the Senate rules regarding order and decorum; to keep the legislation moving; and to keep party members informed of the legislative program and the scheduling of votes.

Although the post of Whip is not, indeed, a "whipping post," it is an exacting, demanding, often difficult, always challenging position of great responsibility—not only within the party and parliamentary machinery, but also in the legislative process.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



A Fascinating File of W. Va. Facts

Most West Virginians probably know that Spruce Knob, in Pendleton County, is the highest point in the state—4,853 feet in elevation.

But how many know the name of the highest town in the state? Or the lowest point? Or where the geographical center of West Virginia is located? Or the names of the longest and shortest rivers? Or the largest and smallest counties?

West Virginia's fact-packed Blue Book has the answers to these and hundreds of other questions. Now in its 55th year of publication, it is a wondrous book indeed and can be found in public offices, libraries, and schools. Published first in 1916, it has brought together pertinent information about our state every year since save for its not having been printed in the depression year of 1932. Its current 1,132 pages are a gold mine of information.

Davis, in Tucker County—named for the family of Henry Gassaway Davis, a U.S. Senator from West Virginia (1871-1883)—is the highest incorporated town in the state, with an elevation of 3,101 feet. The Potomac River at Harpers Ferry is the lowest point, only 247 feet above sea level.

The geographic center of West Virginia is in the triangle formed by Sutton, Flat

Woods, and Centralia in the Elk River Public Hunting area of Braxton County.

The longest river whose banks are wholly within the state is the Elk, which stretches 172 miles from western Pocahontas County to its junction with the Kanawha at Charleston. The Ohio River is 277 miles long, but its western bank is Ohio's eastern boundary. The Monongahela, with only 37 miles in West Virginia, is the state's shortest river.

The largest county is Randolph, with Greenbrier next. They are the state's only two counties with more than a thousand square miles of area. The northern panhandle counties are smallest—Hancock with 88 square miles, and Brooke with 92.

Do you need to know the names of federal or state officials, or members of the Legislature? They are in the Blue Book, along with the name of every county, magisterial district, and municipal official in the state.

The Constitution of West Virginia is there, as are population figures, election returns, descriptions of state schools and institutions, and even the names of heads of the state's many fraternal and other organizations.

You ask the questions. The answers are probably in the West Virginia Blue Book.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Old World Immigrants Enhance U.S.

The United States is a nation built by immigrants. From the first colonists onward, persons who came here from other lands, and the sons and daughters who followed them, have shaped America's character and destiny.

For many years, the largest number of immigrants to the United States came from Europe. The contribution which they have made to this country has been enormous, as it has been in West Virginia.

But the pattern of immigration into the United States has been changing drastically over the years and, especially, in the past decade.

At the beginning of this century 96% of all U.S. immigrants were European. But by 1970, that figure had declined to less than 30%, and immigration from Asia had grown to 24% of the U.S. total, with the greatest increases being from India and the Philippines.

An even more significant change, perhaps, has been the sharp rise in immigration from the West Indies. In fiscal 1970, overall immigration to the U.S. was 373,000. Of this number more than 61,000 came from such Caribbean islands as Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Trinidad—an increase of 63% in five years. (Cuban refugee "parolees" who have come in even larger numbers are not included in these

figures.)

The Immigration Act of 1965 is largely responsible for the changes which have occurred. That Act placed a numerical restriction of 20,000 each on European and other countries outside the Western Hemisphere, and it significantly upgraded the "employment quality" of these immigrants, who unless they have close relatives in the U.S., possess professional or exceptional skills.

But no such restriction with respect to skills was placed on Western Hemisphere natives. They are classed as "special immigrants," 120,000 of whom may be admitted yearly on a first-come, first-served basis with no country-of-origin quota.

To say the least, not imposing the same restrictions on West Indians that are imposed on Europeans is a questionable policy. To assure the U.S. of getting quality immigrants from the Caribbean islands, as elsewhere, requirements as to employment skills and numerical limits for each country should be established.

The Europeans who have come to this country have helped it to grow and prosper and have enriched its cultural heritage. We should not discriminate against the Old World by holding other areas to lesser standards and admitting persons not equipped to make a positive contribution to U.S. life.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Two Hazards of Childhood

Children, because of the innocence of their age, often walk into situations where both fools and angels would fear to tread. The result is, too often, serious and permanent injury, and sometimes even death.

By far, two of the most dangerous situations occur when children are either playing with fire, or playing with poison.

Last year in the United States, according to testimony given to a Senate Commerce Committee hearing, almost 4,000 children died as a result of fire—either from the flames themselves, asphyxiation, or the toxic gases produced by the fire. There were another 150,000 children burned severely enough to require medical attention. For many of the youngsters, the scars will be permanent.

Accidental poisoning is just as great a hazard to our children, according to health experts. Although there are no figures available on the number of youngsters poisoned each year, it is known that poisons caused seven percent of all the fatal home accidents in 1970. In fact, this is the only area of home accidents that has risen over the past decade.

Reports from one hospital show the magnitude of the problem. In the first two months of this year, 26 pre-school children were admitted to the Kansas University

Medical Center after having drunk poisonous liquids. Nine were critically ill after having swallowed drain cleaner.

There is, of course, nothing that government can do to keep matches out of the hands of children, or to keep infants from crawling under the kitchen sink to where poisonous household cleaners are kept. This responsibility rests in the home.

But government can act to assure that fabrics are produced that contain the least flammable material, and that liquid products contain the least amount of poisonous components possible — and that they come in clearly marked packages. The government has done this through the Flammable Fabrics Act and the Poison Prevention Packaging Act; but the passage of this legislation is not a cure-all.

In a recent experiment, a pair of infants' pajamas produced in 1970 were placed on a mannequin and touched to a flame. Within seconds, the garment was destroyed and the mannequin badly burned.

Obviously, this threat of serious injury to our children is a continuing one, and must be met in both the home and Congress—in the home through the exercise of greater care; and in Congress through the constant review of legislation aimed at minimizing the dangers of flammable and poisonous products.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Problem of the "Saturday Night Special"

The Second Amendment to the Constitution states that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

This guarantee in the Bill of Rights—based, at the time it was adopted, on the necessity of maintaining a "well regulated militia (to insure) the security of a free state"—continues to be an important guarantee today.

A citizen has, and he should have, the constitutional right to defend himself and his property, especially in this crime-ridden era. He also should have the right to have guns for recreation and sport.

Congress, in enacting legislation dealing with gun control, has respected these basic rights. As the nation seeks effective ways to combat political assassination, however, one type of weapon—the short-barrel, short-range, easily concealed handgun—poses a peculiar and special problem.

It was such a weapon that wounded Governor Wallace. Moreover, small, cheap handguns—the so-called "Saturday Night Specials"—are increasingly being used by other criminals to commit murder, forcible rape, and armed robbery.

Many thoughtful citizens agree that we must come to grips with the problem these

guns pose. The question is how to do it without infringing on the right of law-abiding citizens to have guns for hunting, trapshooting, defense, and other lawful use.

Proposals have been made to ban the importation, manufacture, sale, and possession of pistols with barrels less than two inches long. Such weapons are easily hidden, and, clearly, are a menace to public safety in crowds and on city streets.

Statutes already define some weapons as unlawful—such as sawed-off shotguns. Serious consideration should also be given, I believe, to making these cheap "snub-nosed" handguns unlawful as well.

These limited-range guns are useless for any purpose except to maim and kill human beings. Moreover, many Saturday Night Specials are said to be so cheaply made and so dangerous that one does not know when he pulls the trigger whether the gun is going to fire forward or backward.

No person should be deprived of the protection of a standard, or long-barreled, handgun in his home. But deadly mini-pistols such as the one which felled George Wallace—a gun with a one-and-seven-eighths-inch barrel—should be outlawed.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Unsung Young

That young people have something to say is a fact that has long been recognized in the United States. The problem is that too many social theorists, and too great a portion of the national media, have been listening to the wrong groups of young Americans.

To be sure, when 100,000 college-age citizens demonstrate in the streets of Washington, their story should be told on newspaper pages and radio and television. It is an event worth media coverage.

But what about the almost 2.4 million young Americans who belong to 4-H clubs throughout the country? These are young people who demonstrate constructively on a daily basis, taking part in community projects aimed at fighting pollution, protecting the quality of life, and conserving and developing our country's natural resources.

There are 92,500 active 4-H clubs in the United States, including 35 permanent camps in West Virginia. Certainly, the activities of these young people deserve at least as much media recognition as do the radical Students for a Democratic Society. For all its radical rhetoric, the SDS has less than 30 active chapters across the country.

Last year, each of the 92,500 4-H clubs participated in some anti-pollution project

in local communities. In one Michigan county, a 4-H-sponsored Operation Clean-up collected 65 truckloads of trash from 200 miles of roadside.

This effort received little or no national television exposure, or notice in national publications. The national media chose instead to concentrate its coverage on Earth Day, an idealistic-sounding name for an ecology demonstration that produced nothing constructive. In fact, the Earth Day demonstrators left almost 100 truckloads of trash in their wake.

There are other commendable youth groups in America. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, for instance, who for more than a half century have been teaching citizenship and other leadership qualities to millions of young Americans. Yet, even with its 60-year record of achievement, the Boy Scouts receive less attention by far from the national media than do the SDS and other fly-by-night extremist groups.

The burden of telling the true story of the vast majority of America's young people has fallen on the shoulders of local newspapers, television and radio stations. The local media have generally done a good job, and all Americans owe them a debt of gratitude for putting a proper perspective on the news of youth in our country.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Decrease in Defense Spending

The Defense Department, as the country's largest and most visible agency, has come under heavy fire from domestic critics frustrated by inflation, Vietnam, and the instances of military mismanagement of taxpayers' dollars.

Certainly, in instances such as the development of the C-5A transport plane, where millions of dollars have been wasted, the criticism has been justified. But the critics should keep in mind that, like all other segments of our society, the military has been hit hard by inflation; and it is under tremendous pressure to develop sophisticated weapons necessary to defend our country in this nuclear age.

A submarine, for instance, cost \$4.7 million during World War II, and the price rose to \$30 million by 1955. But neither WWII nor the 1955 craft meets present needs. Today, we need nuclear-powered submarines, which cost \$175 million each.

Airplanes, too, have gone sky-high in cost. One Air Force F-15 fighter is now estimated at \$1.5 million, eight times more than a fighter cost in 1955; and manpower costs have jumped from \$22 billion in 1964 to \$43 billion for the current fiscal year—and that is for 300,000 fewer men.

About 57 percent of the

current U.S. defense budget goes directly for personnel. For its part, the Soviet Union uses only 25 percent of its budget for personnel costs. While American military men have received 10 pay raises since 1964, the Soviet soldier has received only two.

Yet, even with the increased costs of weapons, higher pay for military men, and the inflation that has chipped away at the value of the dollar, the United States today actually spends a smaller percentage of its Gross National Product on defense than it did in 1955. Then, almost 11 percent of our GNP went for defense, while the current request for \$83.4 billion represents just 6.5 percent of our GNP.

The Senate Armed Services Committee has already cut the budget request by \$418 million; and it has directed the Pentagon to follow a "fly before you buy" policy, forcing defense contractors to produce an acceptable product before receiving total payment.

This kind of careful scrutiny must continue. Every dollar that is needed for defense must be spent—but it must be spent wisely. Americans deserve both an adequate defense and the maximum return on their hard-earned tax dollars.

JUN 21 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Delivery Problems in Health Care

Medical research has made a number of significant breakthroughs in recent years—with new means to prevent, arrest, or cure diseases being discovered almost on an annual basis. But, while there is no shortage in medicines and treatments available in the United States, there is a severe shortage in the number of doctors and other health professionals to diagnose the illnesses, prescribe the treatments, and perform the surgeries.

Currently, health experts estimate that the United States needs 50,000 more doctors than are presently practicing, and statistics provided by the Association of American Medical Colleges show that the shortage is most acute in certain fields. For instance, the proportion of all residents training for general surgery decreased from 20 percent in 1960 to 17 percent in 1970.

Obstetrics/Gynecology is another specialty in which a proportional decrease has taken place; in 1970, there were 250 fewer physicians training for this field than in 1965.

The period 1965-1970 also saw slight declines in the fields of neurological surgery, pathology, psychiatry, and general practice.

Erasing the doctor shortage is one of the greatest health challenges facing our country, and The Comprehensive

Health Manpower Training Act of 1971 was designed to meet that challenge. AAMC President Dr. John A. D. Cooper says that, if it is properly funded, the act could erase the shortage by 1976.

It could also help erase the shortages that exist in other health professions—most noticeably those fields that deliver medical care to rural areas. The National Health Service Corps, for instance, was established last year with an initial staff of 660 professionals.

Through funds provided by the act, a team of corps personnel is assigned to a community on the basis of need, which is determined by such factors as the ratio of physicians to population, and the number and type of other health personnel and facilities. Ideally, there is a qualified doctor assigned to the team; but, more often than not, one doctor is charged with the responsibility of overseeing two or three teams.

It is imperative that Congress adequately fund the Health Manpower Training Act, and give serious consideration to other health proposals—such as a national health insurance system and a separate U.S. Department of Health. This would seem to be the best way to assure that the medical discoveries in the laboratories will be delivered to the American people.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



200th Birthday Plans Snagged

On July 4, 1976—only four years from now—our country will mark its 200th birthday. The year 1976 will be an historic one for the United States. But planning for this important anniversary has thus far left much to be desired.

Few governments in history have existed as long as ours, and no nation has done more to advance the cause of freedom. Yet, most of the proposals made so far for focusing world attention on the bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution—and on the American success story—have produced little more than bickering and disagreement.

Proposals for a World Fair, for example—either in Boston where the famed Tea Party was staged, or in Philadelphia where the Continental Congress sat and the Liberty Bell was rung—have fallen through.

In Philadelphia, local poverty and racial groups, environmentalists, and residents who didn't want the bother, opposed the idea.

One member of the National Bicentennial Commission, which turned down Philadelphia's fair proposal, opined that minorities and the poor could not afford to attend; and other Commission members maintained that world fairs are out of date.

Proposals for other events

which would celebrate—and hopefully re-ignite in American hearts—the “Spirit of '76” have likewise only inched forward, if at all. Why should this be true?

Many explanations may be offered. But the one factor by which the bicentennial planning appears most seriously to be snagged is the general divisiveness which subverts our national interest on so many other fronts today.

The Commission named three years ago to spearhead the celebration has been plagued from the first by special interest proposals. Environmentalists want the bicentennial to be a super clean-up program; civil rightists want it to be an all-out “social justice” affair, and want the celebration funds channeled into their own pet projects; other groups are just plain apathetic.

The result is that, after three years of inconclusive discussions, little or nothing has been done to galvanize the American public's enthusiasm for, or support of, a national bicentennial celebration. The time grows short.

In this situation, it behooves every state—such as West Virginia, whose historical roots go back to Revolutionary times—to plan its own special events for 1976. This is an opportunity that, if lost, will not come to us again, for the tricentennial is a hundred years away.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Space Benefits Brought to Earth

One of the most exciting moments in history occurred when man first set foot on the moon, and the fact that he was an American made the event even more exciting to those of us in the United States.

Yet, subsequent moon shots have been greeted largely with apathy by many citizens; and there exists a feeling that much of the money spent in outer space could be put to better use solving problems that exist on earth.

I share that feeling, but am also aware that the space program has produced a number of "spinoff" benefits for government, industry, and private citizens.

For instance, in order to construct a capsule that could hold up through the changing temperatures of a flight through space, scientists developed a coating that could withstand temperatures as high as 1,300 degrees or as low as 320 degrees below zero. The satellite coating is now being produced by 24 manufacturers of commercial paints. Other coatings used to fireproof space vehicles are now being used to produce safer fabrics for draperies, upholstery, mattresses, and clothing.

These benefits to consumers, however, are surpassed by the benefits that the space "spinoffs" have provided the medical and technological sciences.

The bodies of astronauts must be monitored constantly, and, to perform such a vigil, scientists developed a tough, instant-drying spray with which tiny sensors are attached to the spacemen. This innovation now holds electrodes to the flesh of heart attack victims, allowing doctors in a hospital miles away to monitor the patient while he is riding in an ambulance. Used in hospitals, the technique enables a single nurse to simultaneously monitor the conditions of 100 patients.

Computer techniques developed to improve photographs of other planets are being used to make X-rays a better tool to diagnose illnesses; and methods used to study astronauts' bones after long periods of weightlessness are being used by hospitals, primarily to study the brittleness of bones in elderly patients.

All these and other "spinoff" benefits have been beneficial to those of us who will never travel in space, and they should be considered when we evaluate the space program — a program that must produce results that will benefit all citizens in order to justify the expenditures of millions of tax dollars.

Meeting the challenges of outer space is a noble goal, but meeting the challenges of earth is the essential goal for our society.

JUL 12 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Stealing as a Way of Life

The so called "New Left," which apparently has learned that street violence and campus destruction produce negative results, has now developed a new strategy in its battle against the "establishment"—a strategy that calls for organized acts of thievery in an effort to knock the legs out from under the American economy.

Revolutionary members of the New Left refer to their acts as "ripping off," and they direct their attacks at the government and at businesses that are considered part of the "establishment." Instructions on how to steal, and from whom to steal, can be found in almost every issue of numerous underground newspapers, as well as in several of the New Left pamphlets and books.

The radicals are learning their lessons well, according to available figures.

The National Retail Merchants Association estimates that \$4 billion worth of goods will be stolen this year; and that estimate seems fairly accurate, since Macy's alone lost \$8 million in merchandise in 1970. Officials at the NRMA concede that not all the stealing is being done by young radicals, but a spokesman adds that the revolutionaries "are doing more than their share" and are largely responsible for the two percent annual increase in thefts since 1965.

Special targets of the young thieves are the telephone companies, food store chains, and large manufacturers of equipment used by our Armed Forces.

One of the most widely-employed tricks is to make calls on telephone credit cards, charging the calls, of course, to other persons' cards. If the radicals can place a long-distance call, and charge it to a large company, they consider it a double victory.

In 1970, according to Bell Telephone, about \$22 million in free phone calls were placed—as compared to \$2.7 million in phone calls "stolen" in 1965.

Defense manufacturers find that their consumer products—such as household sprays and the like—are especially sought after by young radicals prowling through supermarkets.

Whom does all this stealing hurt?

Not the large companies, and not the chain stores, most of whom pass along their theft losses to the consumer. It hurts the American taxpayer, who works hard for his money and who should not be obligated to support these legions of thieves—thieves who rationalize their acts by claiming that the goods and services they steal are only those they had coming to them.

It is time these thieves do, in reality, get what should be coming to them—swift punishment under our legal system. For only when stealing is treated as a crime, rather than as an expression of youthful rebellion, will we put an end to the strategy of "ripping off."

Robert C. Byrd

JUL 19 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Capitalism in Communist China

China's willingness to re-enter the family of nations has brought with it the realization that communism is a poor bargaining tool in the international marketplace. In order to compete for a larger share of world trade—and to meet the growing demands of its citizens for a higher standard of living—The People's Republic of China has adopted some principles of capitalism.

For example, some communes in China have abandoned the Marxist principle that people be paid only according to their needs, and not according to their abilities and productivity. Hsu Ming, the leader of a farm collective of 30,000 persons, told an American reporter that he solved many of the farm's problems simply "by giving people more pay for more work." The commune also initiated a program whereby peasants could buy their own homes.

The practice of incentive pay has spread to other parts of the Chinese society, as well. Universities, closed during the "cultural revolution" of 1966-1968, have reopened with a teacher pay scale that ranges from 69 yuan—or about \$29—a month for a professor in the social sciences to as much as 320 yuan—or about \$130—a month for a professor in the physical sciences.

Supervisors at collective

factories have discovered that a little bit of capitalism can go further than the "thoughts of Chairman Mao" in increasing productivity. In the year after a pay scale was established to reward skills and seniority, a jeep factory at Dongfanghong increased production from 4,000 to 7,000 vehicles.

The goal of the factory is to have its 10,000 employees produce 8,000 vehicles annually. To be sure, this is nowhere near the 55,000 similar autos produced annually by 4,200 workers at America's Jeep Corporation; but, according to many China experts, it indicates that capitalistic ideas are establishing a foothold inside the communist country.

Despite these apparent changes, Chinese leaders maintain that they are remaining faithful to communism, and that the incentive pay—and even the small, free enterprise shops that are beginning to surface—are merely extensions of communism.

In reality, however, all these changes seem to be another indication of the weaknesses that exist in the communist system—a system that may well work in theory, but one that falls short of meeting the changing needs of a society when put into practice.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



What We Should Learn From Agnes

Will our country and our people learn anything from the devastation wrought by the floods of tropical storm Agnes? That question should be asked again and again. All too often, when the skies clear and the sun comes out, we tend to put aside the lessons such disasters should teach us.

The floodwaters unleashed by Agnes—the most destructive storm in our history—ought not to be put out of mind once the cleanup is over. On the contrary, out of the devastation should come positive measures to mitigate — and prevent, if possible — such tragedies in the future.

It is obvious that we have not yet done all that is possible in the vital areas of warning citizens and instructing them in what to do when confronted with crises of this nature.

We are dealing with the human equation here, of course; some persons may never heed warnings or learn to deal adequately with emergencies.

Still, our weather services—equipped now with the most sophisticated devices they have ever possessed—must do all that is technically possible to perfect early warning systems that will effectively reach places and persons threatened with disaster.

And agencies of government in every jurisdiction—especially the flood-prone—

should update and perfect their emergency planning, so that government officials and citizens alike will know precisely what action to take when water is rising, when power and communications may be disrupted, when roads and bridges are out, and water supplies contaminated.

But, important as these measures are, of equal importance or greater should be the matter of recognizing the danger of building or re-building homes in unprotected flood-prone areas where disaster may strike again.

Watershed development through upstream impoundments, to hold the rain where it falls, is extremely important in this connection, as is downstream control through such things as dams, flood walls, and channel improvements. Programs to provide for all should be broadened and expedited so that valleys and flood plains may be made safe areas.

Wise planning and use of land ought especially to discourage the location of new industries and communities in the unprotected path of probable flood waters, as unfortunately has occurred in some areas of our country where boom and growth have been rapid and haphazard.

Hopefully, experience will help to break the old patterns, so that our citizens in the future can be spared the heartbreak caused by natural disasters such as floods.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Line of Duty

Last year in the United States, 125 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty—a duty that has become increasingly perilous with the rising crime rate in our country.

This total constitutes a 25 percent increase over the number of policemen killed in 1970, and represents the bulk of the 721 officers killed since 1962.

Although the FBI says "there is no typical case," the statistics show some alarming things. For instance, a composite of the policemen killed in the past 10 years shows that the average victim was just 30 years old, had less than six years experience, and met his death by firearms. Almost 96 percent of the officers were shot to death—over 74 percent with illegal handguns.

The activities of the officers at the time of their death also paint an accurate portrait of our changing times. In the period 1962-1966, only two policemen were killed in civil disorders, and 12 were victims of ambush. Eight officers were killed in civil disorders during the succeeding five-year period, and 49 were murdered in ambushes.

Ambushes are the most brutal situations in which police are killed, and are usually

perpetrated by "new left" radicals. Earlier this year, two New York City officers who had been active in inner city youth work were shot to death as they left a restaurant. The murders were allegedly committed by black radicals who had studied the officers' daily schedule.

These were vicious, senseless murders, committed by men who know that an attack on law enforcement officers is more than an attack on the legal system that holds our society together—it is an attack on society itself.

One of the best ways to combat police killings could be for judges to impose the strongest penalties on persons convicted of non-fatal attacks on policemen, and to impose the death penalty for persons convicted of the fatal attacks. After all, very few first-time criminals assault officers. In fact, 73 percent of the 965 persons arrested during the 10-year period for murdering policemen had prior arrest records.

These officers were brave men, who lost their lives in the performance of duty. It is time for all judges to perform their duties, and to use the full weight of the law to protect law enforcement officers and the rest of society from such attacks in the future.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



An Accolade for the Teacher Who Cares

Every person who has gone to school surely carries in his mind the memory of a teacher who stimulated and inspired him to make better use of his talents.

In this age of ever more emphasis upon the latest fad in educational facilities and techniques, the product turned out by our schools and colleges can still best be measured by the influence exerted by teachers upon their pupils. Few individuals in our society ever have the opportunity that teachers have to influence for good the members of future generations.

This is an awesome responsibility. In a time when all too many parents have abdicated their own responsibilities, teachers who do their jobs well—and there are countless thousands of them—deserve society's accolade. Many could make more money at other occupations. It takes dedication to do what the good teacher does day in and day out.

I shall always be grateful for the wonderful teacher who encouraged my youthful interest in literature. She opened a window on the world for me. I cherish the memory of the beloved music teacher who taught me to play the violin and who led me to know the happiness in song. I shall always be in debt to the high school in-

structor who introduced me to the order and precision of arithmetic, algebra, and geometry.

The job of the teacher is more important in our society today than ever before. He has at his disposal an embarrassment of riches for motivating and bringing out the latent capabilities of young people. The 3R's of the modest, old-time schoolhouse have long since given way to opportunities for individual development such as a Mark Hopkins would never have dreamed of.

There are drama groups and TV and radio studios; language laboratories and photographic dark rooms; school publications and art centers. The opportunities are as varied as the society which has made our educational institutions possible.

With all of these fancy trappings, however, the one essential, without which it can all be meaningless, is the teacher who inspires and strikes the spark in the child. (Of course, the student must also be willing to put forth efforts to learn.)

The good teacher's influence on a child's immortal soul can be almost limitless. The converse, if the teaching is poor, is likely also to be true.

Good or bad, teachers affect eternity.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Cuban Refugees Asset to U.S.

The refugees from Castro's Cuba who have fled to the United States have, in the main, proved to be an economic asset. They have demonstrated what an ethnic minority can accomplish when its members are willing to roll up their sleeves and go to work.

Thus far about 650,000 have come. They are widely dispersed in the U.S., but by far the largest number, 300,000 or more, have settled in Miami, Florida, the port of entry.

The United States has been generous and compassionate in helping these exiles get a new start in this country. Nearly \$730 million has been spent by the Federal Government in the 12 years of the refugee program, the money, for the most part, going for the airlift to bring them here, for school costs, and for welfare payments.

The general consensus is that it has been a good investment. Most of the refugees arrived with little more than the clothes on their backs, their belongings having been confiscated by Castro as they fled. Although they received welfare at first, the majority quickly became self-supporting. Their unemployment and welfare rates are below other groups. Only the old and the ill have remained on relief.

Many of the refugees were

mechanics, teachers, lawyers, and doctors. Some at first found it hard to get any but menial jobs, but they took whatever they could find, working as bus boys, janitors, and waiters. Spanish-speaking, they learned English.

They were industrious and law-abiding. They were happy with the opportunity this country offered them; and it was not long before they were moving up in the economy, getting better jobs on their merits and establishing businesses and professional practices of their own.

Miami was in the doldrums when the first refugees came. Today its Cuban colony pumps \$600 million a year into the economy. They have started some fifty factories, hundreds of small businesses, and one enterprising group is building a 40-story skyscraper, Florida's tallest.

They have drawn much new business to Florida and helped to make Miami a hub for Latin American companies. One refugee, who rose from a job in a factory to the presidency of a bank, says that if the Cubans themselves are not responsible for Miami's resurgence they are due a large share of the credit.

The story of the Cuban exiles is the American Opportunity Story told again--new evidence of what an ethnic minority with a will to work can achieve in America.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Red China—Opium Grower for the World

The United States, in moving toward normalized relations with the People's Republic of China, has failed to confront the Peking leaders with an issue of increasing concern; namely, the Chinese production of narcotics for export to U.S. troops in Southeast Asia.

One of the first things the communists did when they came to power was to prohibit the growing of the opium for Chinese consumption, and they got their point across by publicly executing a number of growers. Yet, the communists realized the potential of narcotics for subverting other countries. The Japanese, when they controlled Mainland China in the World War II era, had encouraged the use of opium by the Chinese.

China's participation in the narcotics business is nothing new. In 1955, America complained to the United Nations about drugs coming from Yunnan Province. The UN, powerless to censure a non-member, did nothing; and Chinese opium production has been increasing ever since.

Today, the People's Republic of China produces 55 to 60 percent of the world's hard drugs, and Britain's Royal Military College of Science estimates that the 2,000 tons of opium smuggled annually from China to the non-Communist world earns about

\$500 million for Peking. Last year, police in Hong Kong seized 12,500 pounds of opium en route from China to the free world, compared to 877 pounds confiscated in 1970.

With 800,000 acres under cultivation to grow opium, there is no doubt that Communist China is the world's largest producer of narcotics. The Soviet Union recognized this fact as long ago as 1964, when Pravda charged that the Mainland was the greatest producer of opium, morphine, and heroin.

And, doubtless, the chief target of the drugs are U.S. servicemen. Egyptian publisher Mohammed Heikel, in 1965, quoted China's Chou En-Lai as saying: "We are planting the best kinds of opium especially for the Americans. Some American soldiers in Vietnam are trying opium, and we are helping them."

Communist China must not be allowed to destroy the lives of U.S. troops. It is now in the U.N., which should put all possible pressure on Peking to destroy the opium fields.

Moreover, the United States should make it very clear that normalized relations with the People's Republic will not be realized until China stops producing narcotics for the purpose of poisoning our youth.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Alcoholism—Life on the Rocks

As long ago as the days of Noah, people have over-indulged in the use of alcoholic beverages. In modern times, the problem seems to have worsened; and medical researchers and law enforcement officials are becoming increasingly concerned about the growth of alcoholism in the United States. The disease now causes an estimated \$15 billion loss to the economy each year, and results in an inestimable amount of human suffering for families and friends of alcoholics.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, there are more than nine million alcoholics in the United States, only about three percent of whom fit the stereotype of the skid-row bum. The rest are in the nation's working and homemaking population; and the effects of the disease on all of society can be seen in recently-compiled statistics.

Each year, an average of 36 million man-days of work are lost because of alcohol abuse and alcoholism; and the chances of the alcoholic either being involved in a traffic accident or running afoul of the law are highly probable.

Alcohol was a major factor in more than 25,000 of 50,000 fatal automobile accidents studied by the NIMH last year; and an estimated 60 percent of the highway deaths for persons between 16 and

24 are considered alcohol-related. Of the 4.9 million arrests made nationwide in 1965—the last year for which complete figures are available—2.2 million were for offenses of drunkenness, such as public intoxication, disorderly conduct, or vagrancy.

Fortunately, some steps are being taken to stem the rising tide of alcoholism in America. Numerous companies have initiated rehabilitation programs for their workers who are addicted to alcohol. And society in general has begun viewing alcoholism as the disease that it is.

Congress, for its part, has passed the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation Act. This bill establishes the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and sets up a National Advisory Council to oversee Federal programs in this field.

It is still too early to judge whether these efforts will be enough to effectively combat the disease—the first grants under the new legislation, for instance, were awarded just last year. Yet, health officials are encouraged by the fact that government, industry, and the general population all appear committed to controlling the spread of alcoholism and eventually reduce the incidence of the disease.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



America's Silent Army

In an effort to maintain peace in the world, the United States operates a network of satellites and reconnaissance planes, the main purpose of which is to gather pictures of military operations inside the countries of our potential enemies.

The Soviet Union and The People's Republic of China are the two primary targets of our picture-taking satellites, while reconnaissance planes conduct the necessary surveillance over Cuba and North Vietnam.

America has always sought to include on-site inspections in arms agreements signed with Russia, but the Soviet leaders have never been willing to agree to such a personal check-up. Thus, Russia was able to agree to one thing, and plan for quite another.

To keep tabs on military activity inside Russia, the United States for a number of years used small, photographically-equipped planes. But after Francis Gary Powers' U-2 was shot down in 1960, aircraft reconnaissance over the Soviet Union was abandoned. As our space program developed, satellites were given the surveillance assignment.

The fear of repeating the U-2 incident by having spy planes shot down inside China is one of the reasons why satellites are used to

monitor the activity there. Another reason is the size of China, which makes it almost impossible to effectively cover the country in small aircraft.

Today's satellites are capable of taking pictures from as high as 300 miles over a country. At 100 miles, they return clear photographs of objects as small as two feet in diameter.

The pictures taken by the reconnaissance flights are just as graphic. In North Vietnam, American planes flying at altitudes of 10 miles have been able to expose camouflaged troops and equipment in enemy bunkers, and, on occasion, have even been able to count the number of rifles lined up at communist encampments.

These satellites and planes, often referred to as America's silent army, have been a tremendous asset to our military and diplomatic personnel. They have armed our military leaders with information on which to base decisions of war, and have equipped our diplomatic personnel with information necessary to move toward a more lasting peace.

In an ideal world, where all countries could be trusted, the flights would be unnecessary. But in the real world in which we live, where communist nations have established a tradition of breaking agreements, the flights have proved indispensable.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



A General Amnesty Would Be Unpardonable

Since America's large-scale involvement in Vietnam began in 1964, 70,000 men have either illegally evaded the draft or deserted in the face of assignment to Vietnam.

Draft dodgers and deserters have always been considered dishonorable in the United States. And the current efforts to grant a general amnesty to men who left the country or went underground to avoid service would be a personal affront to the more than 2.5 million Americans who have served honorably in Vietnam.

West Virginians, especially, would be appalled at a general amnesty, because men from our State always have selflessly answered the call to duty.

Advocates of amnesty argue that draft evasion and desertion are the only alternatives to military service, and claim that precedents exist for granting amnesty. Neither argument is sound.

A man opposed to war can register as a conscientious objector—over 240,000 men have received C.O. status since 1964, thereby contributing to the nation's efforts in a non-military way—or he can go to jail. Choosing a five-year jail sentence over a two-year tour of duty can hardly be applauded, but it is, never-

theless, a legitimate expression of dissent. Draft evasion and desertion are not.

Of nine amnesties granted since the Civil War, only four were war-related. President Coolidge pardoned 100 men who deserted between the time world War I ended and the time the formal armistice was signed. President Franklin Roosevelt amnestied 1,500 WWI draft evaders—but it was 15 years after the war, and after all had served prison terms. President Truman's two war-related amnesties covered less than 10 percent of the World War II draft dodgers.

A few present-day draft dodgers and deserters may deserve consideration, and will get it as their cases are considered on an individual basis. A general amnesty, however, would merely invite future desertions and draft evasions, thus undermining national security, and would be a disservice to the memories of those who died there. Furthermore, our returning veterans should not have to compete for jobs against those who fled the country to avoid the draft.

We should concentrate our efforts on honoring the men who chose the hard road through Southeast Asia, rather than on excusing those who chose the easy road to Canada or Sweden.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Congress and the Press

Newspapers have always enjoyed greater freedoms in the United States than in any other country, and no government is more closely scrutinized by the press than ours.

For its part, the Senate has been covered by the press from the time it opened its doors to the public in 1795; and, according to the Architect of the Capitol, special facilities for newsmen were available in the Old Senate Chamber as early as 1819. The 25th Congress, in 1838, adopted rules granting floor privileges to "letter writers", as reporters were then called.

The floor privileges were rescinded in 1841—partly because the Senate floor was not spacious enough to accommodate the increasing number of newsmen, and partly because of a fued between veteran correspondent James Gordon Bennett of *The New York Herald* and Senate President Pro Tem Samuel L. Southard. Bennett reportedly criticized Southard's habit of eating lunch on the Senate floor.

But the reporters were not banished from the Senate altogether. Instead, they were relegated to the first few rows of the then very small visitors' gallery. Those first few rows were reserved exclusive-

ly for newsmen in 1856, and, when the present Senate Chamber was opened three years later, a specially-designated press gallery was included.

At the beginning of 1972, there were 2,011 magazine and newspaper correspondents in Washington; and 1,708 of them were accredited in the Congressional press galleries. Another 526 newsmen were accredited in the radio and television galleries.

What this means, of course, is that, while the world's largest concentration of journalists is in Washington, Washington's largest concentration of journalists is in Congress.

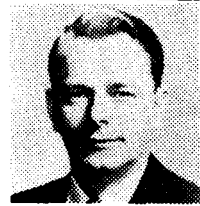
The freedom American newsmen enjoy in covering the activities of Congress is a right, guaranteed under our Constitution. It can never be taken from them. But, like all other members of our society, reporters must realize that responsibilities accompany rights.

Journalists must make fairness, accuracy, and strict bipartisanship the hallmarks of their news reports. In a word, they must be credible, or else the freedoms they enjoy will prove worthless.

They owe that—both to their profession and to the public they serve.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



American Poles Watch the Polls

Public opinion polls have become an integral part of the American political system; and, whether they curse them or praise them, virtually all candidates consider the polls to be an essential element of their campaigns.

The first polls in the United States occurred in 1824, when the *Raleigh Star* in North Carolina and the *Harrisburg Pennsylvania* both conducted surveys that showed Andrew Jackson to be the popular choice for President. They were proved wrong, of course, when John Quincy Adams was elected.

Despite this initial error, the public appetite for polls had been whetted, and the surveys have maintained their presence ever since. In 1936, psychologists introduced scientifically-devised questionnaires, thereby greatly increasing the accuracy of the surveys.

Today, pollsters say that a properly-conducted survey can come within three percentage points of being exactly right. If, as a Harris poll recently indicated, 63 percent of the persons polled claim they will vote for President Nixon over Senator McGovern, the law of probability means that between 60 and 66 percent will actually do so.

The public, however, is

cautioned against hasty interpretations of the surveys. Polls show only the situation as it exists at a particular time, and the only means of assuring accurate polling is continual polling.

In 1948, for example, early polls showed Thomas Dewey on his way to a landslide win over Harry Truman. Confident of victory, Dewey slowed down his campaign and did no polling over the last five weeks. Truman stepped up his campaign, and continued his private polls which showed him closing the gap.

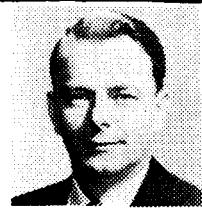
The polls this year have shown such huge margins that misinterpretation is practically impossible; but there will be polls in the future where more information will be needed by the voters trying to analyze the surveys.

Little faith should be put in polls that are released by the candidates themselves, or in polls that depend on interviews with less than the 1,500 persons normally questioned in scientific surveys. The exact date of the poll, and the exact wording of the questions asked should also be known before any interpretation is attempted.

This is the age of computerized elections, and polls are a part of the age—whether we like it or not.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Young People and the Election

A big unknown in the forthcoming election is what effect the youth vote will have on the outcome. Both parties are making a pitch to the 18-to-21 year olds who are eligible for the first time this year to cast ballots in a national election.

The McGovernites count heavily on this age group— young people having had so much to do with the McGovern nomination. Supporters of President Nixon, however, are by no means writing off the young voters.

The prize is well worth going after. Estimates place the total number of young people in the 18-to-21 bracket at about 12½ million. There are also about the same number of persons who have reached 21 since the last election, or who have not previously voted—making the total number of new voters eligible for this election approximately 25 million.

That is a very sizeable bloc of votes. But there are knowledgeable observers who believe that the ballots cast by new voters are unlikely to have as profound an effect as some McGovernites and others at first thought they might have.

In many localities there has been something less than an enthusiastic rush to register by new voters. Young people in West Virginia have done

much better than their contemporaries nationally, where early figures showed only about 45% registering. In our state, with about 110,000 eligible, the figure was approaching 60% in early September, and the Secretary of State's office—which, with others in the state, has put on a strong registration drive—was hopeful that the final result by the October 7 deadline might approach 75% or even 80%.

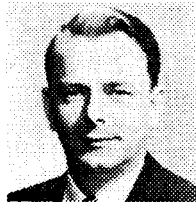
Contrary to the predictions of some ultra liberals, most of the young people appear to be registering the way their parents are registered, with little evidence of far-out liberalism or radicalism. Nationally, although the number of independents is increasing, the trend is Democratic. In West Virginia, new registrations favor the Democrats about nine to five.

The left wing of the Democratic Party, however, can take little comfort from this Democratic preponderance, considering the number of Democrats the polls say will defect this fall. If young people register like their parents they may well vote like their parents.

But whatever the effect of the youth vote on the election, it is a healthy thing to have our country's young men and women actively participating in our electoral process.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Candidates Are Over-Exposed

U.S. presidential campaigns are too long. It is simply not necessary in this jet and TV age to have national political campaigning going on for months before an election is held. Everyone involved, including the individual voter, becomes worn out long before the votes are cast.

Our national elections, counting the time spent on the primaries, now consume virtually a whole year. By November of the year before the election, the papers and the airways are filled with speculation about the jockeying candidates, and the public is already getting a full dose of what it can expect every day in the press and on the tube for the next twelve months.

Much of the time, the effort, and the money is wasted. With modern communication methods, it does not take four months--the time between the Democratic Convention and the election this year--for the voters to make up their minds. If, as it is often said, many citizens do not become interested in an election campaign until its last few weeks, then the reflection is on the system, not the voters.

Long-drawn-out campaigns may have made some sense in the days when candidates could reach the people only

by slow, whistle-stop train trips. Now, with everything a candidate does or says available on instant replay, the voters can become very well acquainted with him in a matter of a few weeks.

About the only good thing that can be said for the present over exposure of the candidates is that their inconsistencies catch up with them, and opportunistic appeals can be spotted for what they really are.

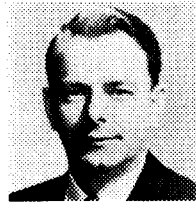
The lengthy campaign, therefore, is no guarantee that the candidates will be benefited, or that the nation will get better leaders. Everything the current campaign is bringing out, for example, could be brought out in half the time.

A revision of the primary system seems to be called for. A national primary or series of primaries could be held in August, and the general election campaign could be held to the two months after Labor Day. As it is, much of the Federal Government gets bogged down in politics for months on end, the time of members of the House and Senate away from their work is costly to all concerned, and public dissatisfaction with the system is increased.

Our electoral process is a horse-and-buggy process that cries out for change.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Campaign Costs Must Be Cut

The costs of running for public office in the United States have reached shocking proportions; and, unless they are curbed, our country may find itself in a situation where only extremely wealthy persons can be elected.

This possibility should be a matter of utmost concern to all Americans.

In the last Presidential election year, 1968, political parties and candidates for Federal offices spent \$89 million on radio and television advertising, including production costs. And it is currently estimated that it takes \$40 million to elect a President, \$200,000, on the average, to elect a United States Senator, and \$100,000 to elect a Representative.

The advent of television, more than anything else, has changed the style of politics in America. It no longer is possible to effectively campaign via speaking only on the stump and the court house steps. The candidate must buy TV time to reach sufficient numbers of voters.

Like everything else in our society, however, the cost of TV time has shot up. Thirty seconds of commercial time on network entertainment shows costs between \$26,000 and \$43,000, while a 60-second spot on a news shows averages \$30,000. These prices are

approximately twice as much as they were 10 years ago; and, if they continue to rise at their present rate, Americans of moderate means could lose all hope of ever attaining a high elective office—no matter what their qualifications may be.

For instance, in 1956, the amount spent on political advertisements on television was \$6.6 million. By 1964, it rose to \$17.5 million, and jumped to \$27.1 million in 1968. Just two years later, in a non-presidential election year, almost \$40 million was poured into political advertising on television.

Already, persons who have a vested interest in political advertising are finding loopholes in an act that Congress passed in 1971—an act that limits campaign spending to 10 cents per voting-age citizen within any given district or state, and restricts the funds that can be spent on radio and television advertising to 60 percent of the total amount.

These loopholes must be plugged, and the limitations on campaign spending must be strictly enforced—for it is the average American who will pay the higher price if the election process in the United States is ever restricted to those with unlimited financial resources.

OCT 25 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



A Dream Home in the Hills

A significant spin-off of our country's increasing urbanization and affluence is the rapid growth in the number of families acquiring second or vacation homes. An urge to "get away from it all" is widely noted among persons who reside in metropolitan areas, and more and more people appear to be gaining the means to do so.

It is estimated that at least three million families in the U.S. already own or are buying vacation homes, and this figure may be growing by as many as 250,000 a year. These facts should be well noted by all who have a concern for the growth and development of our State.

In the populous East, mountain and waterfront property lead in favor among those seeking weekend or holiday homesites, or places for possible retirement. West Virginia, to a remarkable degree, combines the best of both. With its beautiful mountains and valleys and its sparkling lakes and rivers, our State is far better endowed than most to appeal to those who seek escape "far from the maddening crowd."

West Virginia is ideally located with respect to the population centers of the East, and the interstate and Appalachian regional developmental highways are making

it more accessible each year for city folk who dream of the recreational possibilities, or just the peace and quiet, of a home beside a mountain stream or lake.

Golf, tennis, swimming, fishing, sailing, skiing (summer or winter), horseback riding—or just lying in a hammock under a tree—you name it and West Virginia can provide it. With its cool mountain summers and its invigorating winter climate and sports, West Virginia should be a natural for the person seeking a vacation or retirement home.

Real estate investment, wisely entered into, is the best hedge against inflation yet devised. As is so often said about land, "they're not making any more of it." With West Virginia property still generally lower in price than property in or adjacent to metropolitan areas, real estate investment in the State could pay off handsomely in the future.

A word of caution, of course, should be heeded by the vacation home seeker: Deal only with reputable agents or individuals; be wary of high pressure promotions; don't buy property you haven't seen; get a lawyer to check your contract before you sign.

With that advice, West Virginia beckons all who dream of a dream home in the hills.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



High Ride Ending for Skyjackers?

In the first eight months of 1972, hijackers commandeered 32 American aircraft. Yet, even though this is the highest eight-month total in the past three years, officials feel that they have turned the corner in the fight against skyjacking.

The reason for their optimism is that, although the number of skyjack attempts remains high, the number of successful skyjackings is falling. And the terrorists who commandeered the airplanes, and endangered the lives of the passengers, are beginning to pay stiff penalties.

From 1968 through August of 1972 there were 144 skyjackings, and only 10 of those crimes remain unsolved. Officials say that intensified efforts by the FBI and a burgeoning spirit of cooperation among nations have helped to solve many of the skyjackings.

Hopefully, an enforceable agreement will come out of an international conference on airplane hijackings that convened early in 1972; but, in the meantime, some positive results already have occurred. More countries have announced their intentions to either imprison skyjackers or return them to their country of origin.

Even Algeria, openly friendly to skyjackers in the past,

has returned over \$1.5 million in ransom money extracted by terrorists seeking asylum there. Overall, the FBI has recovered all but \$503,000 of the \$112 million in ransom demanded by skyjackers since 1968.

And the skyjacker who made off with about \$300,000 of the still-missing money has been sentenced to life imprisonment, thus leaving in doubt his chances to ever reap any reward from his crime.

Nine others died while committing the crimes—five gunned down by the FBI, one killed by passengers, and three others of self-inflicted wounds.

Officials feel that the fear of death could be the most powerful deterrent to future skyjackings, and they are hopeful that recent Congressional action—imposing sentences ranging from 20 years to death—will make that fear a very real one for potential terrorists.

The efforts must be redoubled, because skyjacking is not only a crime that endangers the 8 million persons who travel annually on American commercial aircraft. It also endangers the friendly relations among nations. We cannot allow those relations to be jeopardized by a handful of pirates bent on conducting a reign of terror in the sky.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Attracts Foreign Investors

Most Americans are probably aware that U.S. business has invested billions of dollars in plants and operations abroad. But many may not be aware that capital from abroad is flowing into the United States in significantly increasing amounts to set up and operate foreign-owned business and industry in this country.

The trend is generally held to be a healthy one. Indeed, some 35 states — including neighboring Virginia, which is spending \$160,000 a year on the effort and maintaining an office in Brussels—are already seeking to attract this type of investment in reverse. It is believed by many that West Virginia, which needs new employers and payrolls, might well benefit by concerted action in this direction.

South Carolina has shown what can be done. More than twenty businesses owned by companies in seven foreign countries have located in the Spartanburg area alone in recent years. One of them is a \$150 million West German polyester-fiber plant which employs 2,000 persons. In all, some 17 or more West German firms are now doing business in the state.

Nationwide, more than 700 businesses owned by foreign interests are now operating in the U.S. They make such products as Dutch-owned Shell gasoline, Swiss-owned Nestle chocolate, Canadian-

owned Carling beer, and Italian-owned Olivetti business machines. Even a Class "A" U.S. baseball team in California is owned by Japanese interests.

Investment by foreign companies and individuals in the U.S. is now put at about \$48.5 billion, with some \$30 billion of this amount accounted for by foreign holdings in the securities of American corporations and government bonds. Britain, Canada, The Netherlands, and Switzerland are among the leading investors.

Knowledgeable economists expect foreign investment in our country to increase faster than U.S. investments abroad. The U.S. Department of Commerce has set up a program to foster this trend, working in cooperation with the states.

In West Virginia, Japanese industrialists have a solid interest in our metallurgical coal, for which they offer a prime market; and there is some other foreign investment, including an Italian-owned chemical plant in Wayne County. But there has been all too little development of this sort.

Hopefully, that situation may change in the future. Foreign investment in our country, where it occurs, can mean new jobs, more money in circulation, possibly new products, and — very importantly — stronger ties for world peace.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Is Education Really Necessary?

No change which the 20th Century has witnessed in American society has been more complete than that which has taken place in education. In 1900, less than one percent of our young people went to college, and only six percent of them even finished high school.

If a boy had an aptitude for mechanical things, he would become an apprentice machinist; and if he had enough on the ball, he could work his way up to become master of his shop, or even president of the corporation. If a young man had aspirations for a legal career he "read law" in an attorney's office, preparing himself on his own to take and pass the bar examination where it was required.

It was a question of motivation and individual effort, not what school one could afford or what degree one could acquire. Most of the leaders of our country were self-educated to a surprising degree, trained in the special skills they possessed by active practitioners and journeymen in their field.

As we look back upon it, the system was surprisingly effective. It had the simple and supreme virtue of being for real—of being a part of actual life as it was being lived, in contrast to much of recent education which has separated the young person's

preparation for adult life from what life really is.

Many thoughtful people, noting the enormous proliferation of America's contemporary educational apparatus, are asking the question: Is it all necessary?

Of course education is necessary. But are we going about it right? One wonders if all of the myriad programs and facilities which we are providing to "educate" our young people are actually preparing them to lead more useful, productive, and happy lives.

Our society, unfortunately, has come to equate the number of years of schooling with the worth and quality of education, and the two are not the same. The test of a young person's education—his fitness to be a productive member of society—should rest upon what he or she can do, not alone upon what quality points have been earned or what diplomas granted.

The trend toward the more practical in education is good. The establishment in West Virginia, for example, of county vocational centers is constructive and commendable, as is the coordination of school courses with actual experience in business and industry. Education should be made, as meaningful as possible in terms of the contemporary world into which our young people are thrust.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



A Changing America

The appearance of much of America—to say nothing of the life style of millions of its citizens—has undergone dramatic change in the last fifteen or twenty years. The shopping center, the drive-in, the mobile home park, the superhighway, the sprawl of suburbia—these and many more symbols of contemporary life are evidence that the face of America is changing before our eyes.

There are many reasons for the change: the switch from rural to urban orientation; industrialization; increasing affluence; new businesses and types of job opportunities; and—automobiles for almost everyone, young and old. We have become a nation on wheels, and the results are far-reaching and spectacular.

It is no longer necessary for one to live within walking distance of his job; he can live anywhere he pleases within commuting distance. Witness the decline of the mining camp in West Virginia and the rise of new communities far removed from the mines. Look at the mushrooming of "in-between" suburban areas like Putnam County.

The citizen of a generation or so ago who stayed in one place most of his life is a vanishing breed. Today, it is estimated that the average American moves about 14

times during his lifetime. Forty million Americans are thought to change their home addresses as often as once a year; and more than a few move from coast-to-coast. Military transfers, corporations which shift their personnel about, and native American restlessness all have an effect.

Our people undoubtedly have become more cosmopolitan, less provincial, because of their mobility. But the end result is not an unmixed blessing.

Those who move about a great deal tend to lose community identity, interest, and—most importantly—a sense of responsibility where local issues and problems are concerned. They become rootless, unattached.

Our nation began as a union of people strongly interested and loyal to their neighborhoods, their communities, and their states. We lose these local loyalties and interests at peril to our system. Democratic institutions can cease to be democratic if a "let George do it" attitude prevails. The town meeting may be of an earlier era, but the principle is still valid.

The growing mobility of our nation poses a problem that it has not before encountered. If the trend continues, the character of America could change as significantly as has its face.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Passengers Riding Amtrak Train

As unlikely as it may seem today, it once was possible to ride a passenger train in West Virginia from Charleston to Morgantown. In fact, there was complete overnight service between the capital and the university city, complete with sleeping cars and a diner in which the traveler could get a fine dinner and breakfast.

A generation or so ago passenger service connected Huntington and Wheeling, Elkins and Fairmont, Princeton and Beckley—just to name a handful of the scores of West Virginia cities and towns which travelers could reach by rail.

But the sound of the passenger engine whistle in the mountain valleys has long since been stilled; and now only two passenger trains a day—each way—cross West Virginia. One operates on the former C. & O., crossing the state in the south from White Sulphur to Kenova, and the other crosses in the north from Harpers Ferry to Parkersburg, on the former B. & O.—the two railroads now being combined.

Both trains are operated by Amtrak, the federal agency which is seeking to rebuild U.S. railroad passenger service. Recently the C. & O. route, which takes passengers from Norfolk and Washington to Chicago, has been reported to be doing unexpectedly well. But the B. & O. route, which also takes passengers from

Washington to the west, is reportedly carrying little traffic through the Grafton-Clarksburg corridor to the Ohio River. Amtrak is seeking the "whys" in both instances.

With the automobile and the airplane so thoroughly dominating the U.S. travel scene, some might wonder, why bother about passenger trains? Let them go the way of the Conestoga wagon and the stagecoach.

The reason for the bother is simple: rail passenger trains are still the most efficient means of moving large numbers of people, over long distances or short.

The excellent rail passenger systems in Europe, Canada, and Japan, together with the world's growing number of subway systems, emphasize the shortsightedness of our own country in not providing the balanced transportation system that is so essential in a modern industrial nation.

That is not to say that passenger trains should once again run along every West Virginia creek and up every hollow. But there definitely is a place for rail passenger service in our overall transportation picture.

Hopefully, the unexpected patronage of the Amtrak train on the C. & O. route is a straw in the wind. Along with highways and airports, our country needs rail passenger transportation as well.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Escape From Communism

Refugee statistics prove that communist countries are anything but the workers' paradises they purport to be.

The plight of Soviet Jews is well known. Many lose their jobs, are drafted into the military, or even imprisoned when they apply for visas to emigrate from Russia to Israel.

The struggle is just as difficult for freedom-seeking Cubans, East Germans, and Mainland Chinese.

Cubans must wait for weeks or months before getting permission to leave their country. More than 650,000 have endured the wait in order to get out from under the dictatorship of Castro; and thousands more have escaped without waiting for formal visas.

In East Germany, the distaste for communism is growing, rather than lessening as the propaganda would have us believe. During the first three months of 1972, 220 persons escaped to the West—compared with 152 who escaped during the first quarter of 1971.

And they risked their lives to escape. Since the communists built the Berlin Wall in 1961, almost 150 Germans have been killed trying to escape communism—and those are just the reported deaths.

The risks involved in escaping from The People's Repub-

lic of China are even greater. Not only do gunboats with "shoot to kill" orders patrol the waters separating China's Kwangtung Province from Hong Kong, but also the communists punish the relatives of the escapees. The peasant parents of one youth who fled were forced to pay double for their rice ration, and other families have been moved against their will to central provinces because one of their members escaped.

Yet, the desire for freedom remains a powerful motivating factor. In 1971, an estimated 20,000 Chinese escaped to Hong Kong, and the number of refugees in that British Protectorate is now at a 10-year high.

All these peoples—Soviet Jews, Cubans, East Germans, and Mainland Chinese—have put the lie to communist propaganda. There are no lines in Israel of people wanting to emigrate to Russia; no lines in Miami of Cubans wanting to return to Castro's island; no Germans climbing the Berlin Wall in an attempt to get into the East; no Chinese making the treacherous crossing into the Republic of China.

The actions of these brave refugees should serve as a continual reminder to all of us that freedom is a precious possession—one that must be guarded as well as cherished.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



End in Sight for Nurses' Shortage

Statistics reveal that Americans are showing an increasing interest in nursing as a career, and health officials are now optimistic enough to predict that the shortage of nurses that has plagued this country for the past several years may soon be ended.

Currently, there are an estimated 723,000 registered nurses in the United States, while, according to officials at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the country needs a minimum of 880,000. By 1980, there will be a need for approximately 1.1 million registered nurses, and another 650,000 trained practical nurses.

But several occurrences are leading to a definite easing of the nursing shortage.

For one thing, more men are being attracted to the career. Many medical corpsmen are leaving the armed services with a desire to find employment in the health professions. They are already well-trained, and find that their backgrounds almost guarantee employment in the tight job market.

There has also been a special effort made to attract retired firemen and policemen to careers in nursing. These are mature men who have dealt with emergencies throughout most of their lives, and a great majority of them retire at a young enough age

to easily begin a second career. Over 200 such men have already completed nurses' training courses in New York City, and another 230 are enrolled during this academic year.

Women, too, are discovering that training as a nurse can guarantee employment—even if they leave to raise a family, and then wish to return to the profession later in life. Many have found the teacher job-market to be overcrowded, and feel that nursing is a relevant and meaningful career.

For this reason, enrollment at the nation's nursing schools is increasing at a rate of about 17 percent a year, and the National League of Nursing reports that more than 80,000 are now studying in the three types of programs—the bachelor's degree and associate degree programs at colleges, and the diploma programs at hospital schools of nursing.

The statistics are encouraging, indeed. They show that responsible authorities are making the all-out effort that must be made to meet the manpower shortage in nursing.

If the same kind of effort is made in meeting the manpower shortage in other medical professions, the results should prove beneficial to the future health of our people.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



College Degrees Losing Status

There was a time when a college degree was virtually a free ticket to a good-paying job with a bright future. Such is not the case anymore, and the situation has caused great concern among educators and business leaders alike.

Educators note that one out of every four college-age students in the United States is currently enrolled in some higher education program, and they anticipate that 50 percent of the nation's 18-22-year-olds will be enrolled in colleges or universities by 1980. The concern of the academicians centers on the fact that increasing numbers of students are graduating into a society that does not have openings in jobs that match their skills.

For example, the class of '73 is expected to graduate more than 225,000 high school teachers. These graduates will enter a field that experts describe as "top-heavy with thousands of unemployed." And it will also include about 10,500 more lawyers than there are jobs requiring legal training. This kind of "overkill" in education has resulted in an unemployment rate among young college graduates averaging about eight percent for most of 1972, compared with a 5.6 percent overall average.

The concern of business

leaders is just as great. They are doing less and less recruiting on campuses, because they are finding that they must do more and more retraining of the graduates they hire. Some members of the business community are suggesting major changes in the higher education system in America.

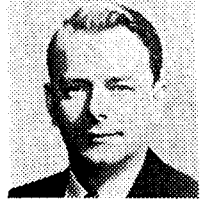
For one thing, they feel that on-the-job training programs of corporations should be affiliated with, and accredited by, local colleges. They further propose that colleges and universities begin assuming some of the responsibility for retraining workers, and start placing greater emphasis on vocational education as opposed to purely academic training.

There is no doubt that America's investment in higher education has paid great dividends over the years. The \$100 billion spent since 1945 represents more money than any nation in history has poured into its colleges, and it has resulted in technological achievements undreamed of in most other societies.

But there must be room in higher education for change and experimentation, since the facts prove that both are needed. Our colleges and universities led the way in the exploration of outer space. Now the time has come for them to take an in-depth look at themselves.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



The Crisis in Our Prisons

There is a great need for prison reform in the United States; and, fortunately, there are indications that the needed reform will become a reality within the next decade.

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons, for instance, has planned a 10-year building program that could solve many of the problems faced by our federal penitentiaries. The program calls for the modernization of several existing facilities, and for the construction of a number of new prisons.

There is no doubt that additional facilities are needed.

The federal prison population currently stands at more than 22,000, and it is growing every year. In 1971, for example, 18 percent more criminals were imprisoned than were released, the major reason being that the average sentence is now 47.6 months, compared with the 33.1 months meted out in 1960.

Overcrowding in our prisons is one of the major reasons why so many riots have erupted in recent years, according to a number of penologists. They point out that the average federal prison currently houses between 1,500 and 2,000 inmates, a population that has proved to be unmanageable inasmuch as the institutions were originally built for much smaller numbers.

A full 85 percent of the

federal criminals are in facilities built over 30 years ago, and 27 percent of that number are in institutions constructed well over a half-century ago. Director Norman A. Carlson of the Bureau of Prisons says that the situation in these prisons is so bad that "efforts at rehabilitation are 90 percent lost the moment an offender sets foot inside."

Under the 10-year plan, the new institutions would hold a maximum of 500 inmates and would be built in urban, rather than rural, areas. Officials feel that smaller populations are more manageable and more conducive to rehabilitation training. They also feel that, since most of the inmates come from urban environments, it would be better to keep them in the same kind of setting—not only for their own rehabilitation programs, but also so that the institutions can serve as reminders to the community that the penalties of crime are often very grim.

Hopefully, this program will prove successful. For too long, criminals have been sent to prison, only to return to the streets to terrorize decent citizens. Now that prison reform, though costly, is getting the high priority it deserves, the law-abiding citizens of America should be able to expect safer streets—which they deserve.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



TV Gives Public A Re-Runaround

Television networks are understandably proud of the impact that TV has on our society. It is gaining as an important source of news for Americans; and it has become the basic source of entertainment for most of our citizens.

But the networks must do more than just sit back and enjoy their lofty position; they must also assume the responsibility that comes with their position of importance.

This is especially true in their role as providers of entertainment. There are alternative sources for citizens looking for news; but, for entertainment, the aged, the ill, and other less mobile members of our society are almost totally dependent upon television. So, too, are those families who can afford only occasional tickets to other forms of entertainment.

Unfortunately, the networks have failed to meet their obligations in this area. Instead of fresh, new shows, they give the public carbon copies of programs that succeeded in previous years—and they give the public fewer episodes each year.

In 1950, each television series produced 39 episodes. By 1972, the average series produced only 22 episodes, meaning more than a half-year of re-runs for the viewing public.

The networks explain that their costs for a 30-minute program rose from \$50,000 in

1960 to \$95,000 in 1972. Yet, as against this, advertising revenue during that same period increased at an even sharper rate.

The networks claim that, since the 21 million persons who view a first-run show represent only 14 percent of the potential audience, the re-run is a public service. Yet, a much smaller number—about 15 million—watch the average re-run, and many of them do so simply because there is nothing else to watch.

Overall, there seems to be no excuse for the networks' failure to produce more fresh programs; and citizens groups have been expressing their outrage at this failure for several years.

There is some reason to believe that their voices have been heard, and that action will be taken.

The President has ordered the Federal Communications Commission to urge the networks voluntarily to cut back the number of prime time re-runs; and, if they balk at his suggestion, he has threatened to "explore regulatory recommendations" to force them to cut back.

Hopefully, the White House intervention will serve to remind the networks of their obligations to the viewing public, and will be sufficient to convince them to assume their full responsibility as an entertainment medium.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Can Legislation End the War Now?

In the aftermath of the December bombing of Hanoi—for which no apparent military necessity existed—Senate sentiment is strong for end-the-war legislation. This concern with the war is shared by all Senators, but a realistic evaluation of the prospects for ending the war by legislation is not currently encouraging.

To begin with, House caucus votes on end-the-war resolutions indicate a majority cannot presently be mustered in support thereof. Moreover, if legislation passed both Houses, it would face a Presidential veto, which, even in the Senate, would probably be sustained. Also, in the unlikely event a Presidential veto were overridden by both Houses, the President has enough funds in the pipeline to sustain military activities for several months.

Additionally, an important fact too often overlooked is that, although Congress can conceivably legislate end-the-war measures, Congress cannot legislate the release of American POW's. Only the North Vietnamese will determine when and under what conditions such release will occur. The North Vietnamese, to date, have never indicated a willingness to release American POW's as an even trade for American withdrawal from Vietnam, but have insisted, instead, upon using them to bargain for other concessions—for example, the

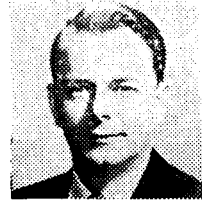
release of several thousand "political prisoners" in the south, some of whom are civilians arrested for committing criminal acts of violence.

In short, because the North Vietnamese no longer possess the wherewithal for a military takeover, in the foreseeable future, of South Vietnam, they, too, want an agreement—an agreement which assures them that their manifestation in the South, the Vietcong, will not be wiped out; which accords status to the Vietcong; which recognizes the legitimacy of political confrontation; and which offers hope for an eventual political takeover of South Vietnam. Thus, the unwillingness of Hanoi to hand over the POW's in return merely for American withdrawal. Hanoi sees American POW's as a pawn in securing such an agreement. Congress cannot legislate such an agreement—only our representatives in Paris can negotiate such an agreement.

Action expressing the sense of the Congress is one thing, and may weaken the hand of our negotiators, to say nothing of raising false hopes; action in successfully achieving an agreement bringing about the release of our POW's is quite something else. Restraint, patience, prayer, and persistence—rather than a political issue—are what are most needed now.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Tourism Wave Beginning to Roll

It is frequently said that West Virginia, for its economic future, must develop its recreational and tourism potential.

What many may not realize is the extent to which this potential is already being developed. Much more needs to be done, of course; but recent years have seen considerable expansion and improvement of the state's vacation facilities. West Virginia has a very great deal to offer the vacationer now.

Most West Virginians can probably name some of the state's major recreational areas. But how many West Virginians realize that our state now boasts the impressive total of 36 state parks and forests? Or that these areas take in a surprising 138,884 acres, ranging from 42 acres at Mont Chateau in Monongalia County to more than 13,000 acres at Coopers Rock in Preston County?

The facilities and activities available to the visitor in these and other West Virginia vacation spots not owned by the state—such as Oglebay Park in Wheeling, The Greenbrier at White Sulphur Springs, or the state's vast national recreation and forest areas—run the gamut from golf on championship courses to skiing in winter.

This latter sport is now available at no less than four

places in the state: Oglebay, Canaan Valley in Tucker County, Alpine Lake at Terra Alta, and Chestnut Ridge at Morgantown.

There is much more for the visitor to see and do in West Virginia than perhaps even its own citizens realize. There are dozens of festivals, fairs, and special events to attend each year; there are scores of historic and other points of interest to be seen; there is the Cass Scenic Railway to be travelled; and some of the most exciting whitewater boating in the East to tempt the expert and thrill the spectator.

There are, in the Northern and Eastern Panhandles, the horses to be played; everywhere there is the state's unsurpassed natural beauty to be enjoyed; and there is camping, hunting, and fishing in the state sufficient to satiate even the most ardent outdoorsman.

New motels and restaurants dot the fine highways which increasingly are opening West Virginia to visitors. And luxurious new lodges such as the one at Pipestem Park in Summers County are attracting groups which may never have considered visiting the state before.

If tourism is West Virginia's wave of the future, it is already beginning to roll in upon our state.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Executive Privilege—Why All The Fuss?

A battle is shaping up on Capitol Hill these days over the hotly debated issue of executive privilege. "Executive privilege" is used to refer to a situation where the Executive Branch refuses to divulge information requested by Congress. The heart of the present controversy lies in the inability, to date, of Congress to fully satisfy itself with respect to developments in Vietnam policy, especially those involving Dr. Henry Kissinger and other White House advisers close to the President.

Presidents have been claiming executive privilege ever since George Washington protested the investigation by Congress of the St. Clair Expedition during his first term as President. Despite the contention of privilege, however, all of the St. Clair documents were turned over to Congress.

There is no mention of such a privilege in the Constitution. Its exercise is asserted to be an inherent power of the President, on the ground that it is necessary to provide the Executive with the autonomy to properly discharge its duties in faithfully executing the laws.

On the other hand, the Constitution vests all legislative power in the Congress, and the power to legislate carries with it, by implication, the

authority to obtain information needed in the rightful exercise of that power and to employ compulsory process for that purpose.

The issue involves competing principles: the alleged power of the President to withhold information, the disclosure of which he feels would impede the performance of his constitutional responsibilities; and the power of the Legislative Branch to obtain the information it needs in order to legislate. But the basic principle involved here is the right of the public to know what the government is doing. When the people, through their elected representatives, do not know what is going on in another part of the government, those who govern are not properly accountable for their actions. Accountability is the very basis of our Democratic system.

While conceivably a privileged communication between the President and an adviser should be accorded some protection, such a privilege should not be extended to the point that it includes an unwillingness to share the government with the Congress. Some way must be found to curtail the assertion of executive privilege, except in situations involving bona fide privileged communications of great sensitivity.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Presidential Impoundment of Funds

An important issue facing the 93rd Congress is that of Presidential impoundments of funds. Impounding funds can be done in several ways, some being legal and proper. The most common is the reserving of funds to prevent future deficiencies in a Federal program. Impoundment may also occur by direction of specific Congressional mandate. However, impoundment unfortunately occurs when the Executive Branch, for reasons of its own, wishes to avoid expending sums directed by Congress to be spent. It is this situation which violates the separation of powers principle.

The Constitution vests all legislative power in the Congress, including power to appropriate money. The President, however, is given no role in legislation except the power to recommend measures he judges "necessary and expedient," and the veto power. The Founding Fathers limited such veto power by making it subject to being overridden by the Congress. Yet, under impoundment, the President is, in effect, able to veto measures absolutely after they have passed the Congress and been signed by him. Moreover, impoundment enables the President to effect an item veto. Such a power is clearly prohibited by the Constitution, which only empowers him to veto entire

ills.

The President has the Constitutional responsibility to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed." Certainly, the founders did not intend that the President have any discretion when they imposed that duty upon him. Rather, it was intended that he execute all laws passed by the Congress. He has no authority to decide which laws are to be executed and to what extent they will be enforced, except through his veto power. Yet, by impounding funds, the President is able to effect policy by determining which of the laws passed by Congress he will enforce and to what extent. He is thus able to modify, reshape, or nullify completely laws passed by the Legislative Branch, thereby making legislation policy through Executive power.

One may argue that the spending of appropriated funds is inherently an executive function, but the execution of any law is an executive function. It is an anomalous proposition to say that the Executive Branch is bound to faithfully execute the laws and, at the same time, is free to decline to execute them.

Congressional committees will conduct extensive hearings on the subject, and court actions are also in progress to determine whether or not Congress will have the final say in this area.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Newsmen—How Much Protection Do They Need?

In recent months, a number of newsmen have been ordered to reveal the sources of their stories, and a few of those who refused have been sent to jail. The jailings, predictably, have sent shock waves through the communications industry, and have produced calls for legislation that would protect journalists from having to reveal their sources.

But the question arises: How much protection do reporters need?

Certainly, a newsman should not have to surrender his notes and reveal his sources to every agency, commission, or other group that is looking into the mere *possibility* of a crime's having been committed. He should not be made to do the investigative work that the government ought to be doing; nor should he be made a party to a "fishing expedition" of the type that marked the McCarthy era.

Yet, just as certainly, a newsman, simply because of his profession, should not be given special treatment. He has the same responsibilities that every citizen has; and, if he has information on a specific crime, or if his sources themselves are involved in violations of the law, then that information should be turned over to the proper au-

thorities. Journalists are more than observers of our society; they are members of our society.

Finding a compromise piece of legislation that takes into account the reporters' duties as citizens, while at the same time recognizes their important roles as disseminators of information, is not going to be an easy task for Congress. But it is a task that can be accomplished.

About 25 "Newsmen Shield" bills have already been introduced in Congress. They range from offering newsmen the same privileges now accorded in doctor-patient and husband-wife relationships to "limited immunity," in which authorities would have to prove that a specific crime was committed before they could force a reporter to cooperate.

Undoubtedly, a measure can emerge from this group of bills that will satisfy all parties and will, at the same time, conform to recent Supreme Court rulings on the subject. Any such measure must be carefully written, however, since there seems no question but that it will go a long way toward determining the future of freedom of the press in the United States.

The press in America must be as free in the future as it has been in the past.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Building a "New Army"

The United States Army is changing rapidly, and is, in fact, presenting itself to potential recruits and the general public alike as the "new army."

Primarily, the "new army" is a smaller, more streamlined force than the country is accustomed to. During 1972, its manpower strength dropped to less than 900,000 men—down from a 1968 peak of 1.57 million men. And another reduction of about 20,000 will be made by June 30, 1973.

These troop reductions seem to be in order. The winding-down of American involvement in Southeast Asia and the greater emphasis on modern weaponry indicate that the United States can maintain a strong defense posture with a smaller army.

But that defense posture could be seriously weakened if the officials responsible for the military reforms tolerate any parallel breakdown in military discipline. The strength of America's military has always been in the discipline of its troops; and there have been too many cases recently where apparent breakdowns of that discipline have occurred.

Army officials claim they are taking steps to assure that the "new army" maintains strict discipline. For instance, a not uncommon prac-

tice of some law enforcement jurisdictions in the past was to drop criminal charges if the accused joined the service. The army has announced that it will no longer serve as a rehabilitation center for social misfits. That worthwhile policy should be extended, and any social misfits already in its ranks should be ousted.

The army is also increasing its college ROTC programs, having added 20 such programs this academic year; and it is limiting its recruiting drives for enlisted men to high school graduates. But today, when high school diplomas are often given for four years of attendance rather than for any specific academic accomplishments, the army must be even more selective.

A military career has a lot to offer, and steps have been taken to make it even more attractive—better pay, increased fringe benefits, and an almost complete overhaul of living accommodations.

It stands to reason that, as the career becomes more attractive and as the size of the army decreases, the military should settle for no less than high-quality recruits. This is the only way to assure that the army remains the bulwark of the nation's defense—to assure that the "new army" is as effective a fighting force as has been the "old army."

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Coal Could End Energy Crisis

The nation—and West Virginia in particular—needs an all-out effort to solve our country's fuel crisis through the use of coal.

The spiraling demand for energy in the United States finds both oil and natural gas in dwindling supply, while our coal reserves could meet the nation's needs for 500 years to come.

This paradoxical situation has come about because of the environmental concern for clean air; because of the difficulties and cost of mining and transporting coal to its markets; and because of a penny-wise, pound-foolish approach to the problem of turning coal into a clean, pipeline type of fuel.

While millions upon millions of tons of coal remain untouched beneath West Virginia's hills and beneath the soil of many other states, the nation's oil and gas supplies are being steadily depleted. Together, the latter two relatively clean fuels make up only 25 percent of our known fossil fuel reserves while 75 percent of the coal—or three times as much—remains unused.

The injurious effect of sulfur pollution from burning coal is a major reason for coal's loss of markets in urban areas. City after city has

so restricted sulfur emissions into the atmosphere that coal has been almost totally forced out of the energy picture in many areas. Yet, methods are known and technology exists for making coal burn cleanly.

Cost is the stumbling block. Substantial outlays would be required for the equipment needed to scrub stack gases clean and to turn laboratory techniques into practical commercial procedures for producing liquid and gaseous fuels from coal.

In the long run, however, the cost of making the nation's most plentiful source of energy usable for the foreseeable future could be well worth it for our industrial society. Such things as national security, the exhaustion of other highly desirable fuel resources, the clean-up of the environment, and the disappointing performance thus far of nuclear plants as electric power producers must certainly be taken into consideration.

The alternative to inaction—or to action that is too little and too late—can only be more mine closings, more stagnation of mining-state economies, and more national dependence upon the uncertainties of imported fuels to produce the energy our dynamic economy and people demand.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Why Didn't They Vote?

Political discussion rarely ceases in our country, election year or not. Thus the figures showing that only 55% of eligible Americans voted last November raise new questions about our elective system. Why was the turnout smaller than four years ago—the smallest, in fact, since 1948? Why did only 48% of the newly-enfranchised 18-to-21-year-old group vote?

The small youth vote is especially interesting, inasmuch as many observers had expected it to be much larger. Throughout the Johnson and first Nixon Administrations the nation kept hearing that its young people were turned off by many national policies, and that if the voting age were lowered to 18 they would decisively express themselves at the polls.

They didn't. Despite being able to take part in their first national election, the rate of voting by young people was the lowest of any age group. Among those 21 through 24, only 51% voted. By contrast, 66% of those over 25 cast ballots. The highest participation was by persons 45 to 65. They went to the polls at a rate of 71%.

What do these facts mean in the overall context of representative government? The best guess is probably that a substantial number of the

45% of eligible citizens who did not vote did not think their participation mattered much to them one way or the other. If that is true, the portent for the future of true representative government may not be good.

It is probably understandable that some individuals, especially new voters, may feel that one vote cannot make much difference. Looking at elections in an increasingly complex society and difficult world, they may feel that their participation can have little effect upon such things as war and peace, wages and prices, or taxes and the government bureaucracy.

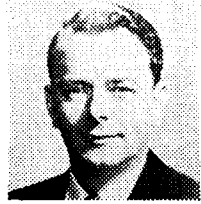
Perhaps not. But if ever-larger numbers of citizens adopt such an attitude, the vicious circle will be complete. If they *do not* become involved, they *cannot* exert influence.

There have been many elections in which one vote did count—and there will be many more. In 1968, Richard Nixon was elected with less than one-half of one percent of 70 million popular votes. In 1972 in West Virginia, with 2,367 precincts, one statewide race was won by only 2,014 votes, or less than one vote per precinct.

The proper functioning of representative government depends upon the participation of all citizens, young and old.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Progress Noted in War on Drugs

Not very long ago, experts were saying there was no way to halt the flow of illegal drugs into the United States, and no way to keep those drugs out of America's youth once the narcotics were smuggled into the country.

Now, however, the dire predictions have turned to cautious optimism, and the reason for the change is easily seen. A get-tough policy that the federal government instituted against drug smugglers and pushers at the start of 1972 is beginning to show some measurable progress.

The policy involves a many-pronged attack against illegal drugs by a number of federal agencies, and is being coordinated by the newly-formed Office of Drug Abuse Law Enforcement. Other agencies involved include the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, the Internal Revenue Service's special anti-narcotics unit, and the U.S. Customs Bureau.

All told, these agencies were responsible for 15,640 drug arrests during Fiscal Year 1972, as against the 11,998 arrests made during the previous fiscal year. And what is most significant in these figures is the fact that those arrested were pushers and smugglers, and not mere users of dangerous drugs.

In addition to those arrested, the agencies identified another 3,000 drug pushers. And, although enough evidence could not be gathered to put these pushers in jail, the identification and subsequent surveillance of the pushers have seriously hampered their illegal trafficking of drugs.

The coordinated offensive against drug abuse has also shown positive results in the field of seizure of illegal drugs. Almost three tons of heroin—worth close to \$2 billion—were seized during Fiscal Year 1972, as were 11,000 pounds of other "hard" drugs and nearly 100 tons of marijuana. And cooperation from foreign governments has been increasing; in Thailand alone, drugs valued at \$231 million earmarked for the United States were seized in raids made by U.S. and Thai agents.

All these signs are encouraging. They show that the government is going after the right people—the pushers and smugglers—in its war on drugs. But drug abuse continues to be a critical problem in the United States, and, as long as a single pusher or smuggler remains at large, the problem remains unsolved.

The war on drugs must not only be continued; it must be accelerated.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Aid for Hanoi Stirs No Enthusiasm

Some of the arguments being advanced to support U.S. aid to North Vietnam contend that it can help divert Hanoi from further aggressive adventures in Indochina; that it might induce North Vietnam to become a responsible member of the family of nations; and that it would be in the tradition of the help we gave our former enemies after World War II.

The facts refute these arguments. The situation now is quite different from that which existed in 1945 with respect to Germany and Japan. Both countries had been totally defeated, their military capability destroyed, and had surrendered unconditionally.

North Vietnam has not surrendered—it has not even stopped fighting. Hanoi's troops remain in South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. There has been no clear evidence that Hanoi has given up its aim of dominating its neighbors.

Moreover, at the end of World War II, it was in our national self-interest to counter a Soviet threat to Western Europe and to stave off worldwide economic collapse, which would have occurred had we not provided funds for recovery. With Germany, Italy, and Japan prostrate—and with allies

such as Britain and France bled white—we had little choice, if we wished to see the world's stability and trade restored, except to act in a way which may have appeared magnanimous. But the war criminals who had brought on the holocaust were hanged, and, in Japan, we replaced the conquest-minded government with a peaceful one.

It may be argued that a promise of aid to Hanoi was implicit in the cease-fire deal. If so, it was made without authorization by Congress. It may also be argued that we should replace what our bombs destroyed. It can as persuasively be argued that our bombs were directed at military targets and that North Vietnam has an obligation to restore what it destroyed in the South.

Experience with foreign aid in recent years has been increasingly discouraging. The billions of dollars we have invested have not bought friends. Even in South Vietnam, millions have been diverted and squandered.

With funds for needed U.S. projects being impounded, with inflation not yet conquered, and with continuing U.S. deficits, the American people are not likely to feel much sympathy for aiding Hanoi.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



A New Look at Students

Just a few years ago, in the midst of violent campus demonstrations, some educators were claiming that students had lost faith in the American system.

I never at any time agreed with that blanket evaluation, and felt that the educators mistook a small, vocal minority of radicals as representative of the entire student population.

Now, apparently, the student majority has reasserted itself, causing a re-evaluation of campus attitudes by the nation's academicians. The evidence produced by a number of surveys is heartening to those of us who felt all along that campus unrest involved only a small minority comprised of extremists.

For instance, 82 educators interviewed during the current academic year say that students are increasingly interested in getting an education; and they add that radicalism has been unable to gain any foothold on campus this year.

The largest number of professors listed politics as the fastest-rising field of student interest. Perhaps significantly, religion was listed second, whereas a few years ago the God-is-dead theory was strong.

There is now no doubt that students have rejected the appeals of radicals, and have found the goals of the revolu-

tionaries to be ludicrous in a society as open and accommodating as ours.

There are a number of reasons of course.

The tight-job market has reinforced in the students' minds the importance of studying. They now know that it is the student with the best grades who will get the best job—and the difference between the best position and the second-best is wider than it used to be.

Also, the reforms of the Selective Service System and the decline of American military involvement in Southeast Asia have removed some of the uncertainties that students faced a few years ago. The lottery system now employed in the military draft has enabled students to better plan their futures, and has removed the frustration of not knowing when their lives would be interrupted by two or more years in the army.

The majority of students has always been mature enough to realize that the American system is the best in the world, affluent enough to provide them with unequalled opportunities, and sensitive enough to respond to all the real needs of its citizens.

The fact that this maturity in our students is now being recognized by those who doubted it a few years ago is welcome, indeed.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Elderly Hit Hardest by Rising Costs

All Americans have suffered at the hands of inflation, rising costs, and increased taxes in recent years; but the nation's older citizens have been especially hard hit.

A full 25 percent of the 20 million Americans age 65 or older have annual incomes below the official poverty levels, that is, incomes less than \$2,000 for persons living alone, or less than \$2,600 for couples.

And those figures are used to represent abject poverty. In order to maintain an acceptable standard of living, the U.S. Department of Labor says a retired couple needs \$4,489 annually. Forty percent of our older citizens have incomes below that level.

The economic burden under which older Americans are trying to exist is obvious, and alleviating that burden must be given the highest priority by the Federal government.

The 92nd Congress moved in that direction by raising social security benefits by 32 percent, but more needs to be done.

Better housing for the elderly is sorely needed, since an estimated six million older persons reside in homes or apartments classified as inadequate. Less than 400,000 low-cost housing units for the elderly were built in the decade 1962-1972; yet, 120,-

000 new units are needed annually.

And some form of tax relief for older citizens must be found. In 1971, retired persons with annual incomes less than \$5,000 paid more than \$1.5 billion in property taxes alone. Obviously, any increase in taxes will plummet these citizens further into the depths of economic despair.

Finally, the whole problem of inflation must be solved. Increases in retirement benefits have not kept pace with increases in costs of consumer products—and even a penny increase in the cost of a loaf of bread or a quart of milk often means that older citizens have to skimp a little more to make ends meet.

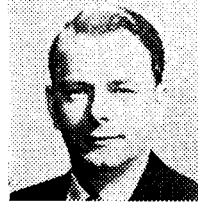
Poverty among our elderly is extremely cruel, because most of these citizens spent the majority of their lives contributing to the economic growth of our nation. They should not have to spend their retirement years with no rewards for their labors.

And the poverty is unnecessary. Between 1958-1968, the number of elderly on the poverty rolls decreased annually. It has only been since 1968 that an increase in the number of elderly below the poverty level has occurred.

America has the resources to correct this situation. It must also have the will.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Dissent in Russia

As the Soviet Union moves to relax tensions with other nations, it is also moving to tighten its grip on its own citizens—so much so, in fact, that experts claim Russia is now experiencing its most severe crackdown since the death of Joseph Stalin in 1953.

Even the slightest disagreement with official communist party policy can result in long prison terms or indefinite confinements in mental institutions, proving again that in possibly no other country is dissent dealt with more harshly than in Russia.

Russian authorities refuse to divulge the number of political prisoners currently in prisons and asylums, but books and undercover newspapers smuggled out of the Soviet Union indicate that the number approaches a thousand. These prisoners reportedly include writers, scholars, and even some of the country's leading scientists.

There are two reasons given for the current crackdown by Russia's notorious secret police.

First, Soviet leaders fear the proposed expansion of contracts between Russians and citizens of western nations. One authority claims that exchanges with the west, particularly the United States, invariably result in new demands for increased

personal freedoms and for more consumer products by the Russian citizenry. These demands cannot be met without jeopardizing the communist system.

Secondly, the Kremlin desperately wants to quiet the unrest among its minorities. More than 50 separate national groups reside within the USSR, and several have complained that they are being harassed, intimidated, and oppressed by the Communist Party.

Only one such minority—the Jews, backed by world pressure—has been able to make any dent in the communist wall of oppression; but its success has been limited. In 1971, 14,000 Soviet Jews left Russia, and an estimated 40,000 left last year. But virtually all of them suffered economically and psychologically before they could do so.

Strengthened by the courage of the Jews, other Soviet minorities have reasserted themselves. The Lithuanians, for instance, are again protesting their domination by Russia—a reported 500 were arrested after one confrontation with Soviet soldiers.

Our government and our people are encouraged by the current USA-USSR detente, and rightly so. But we must be mindful that Russia continues to be a threat—not only to the free world but also to its own people.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



A Clean Fuel Beneath the Earth

The disturbing fuel shortages that have brought school and factory closings in several U.S. areas this winter have focused new attention on the possibility of tapping the heat which lies beneath the surface of the earth.

Civilization's use of geothermal energy is not just a science-fiction dream. At Larderello, Italy, for example, steam from beneath the earth's crust has turned electric generators since early in this century; and other more recent commercial applications exist in California and elsewhere. One has only to watch the geysers erupt in the national parks of our own West to see a sample of the subterranean energy which lies waiting to be harnessed.

Interest in the ready-made power which exists deep within the earth is growing in Congress, and bills are being drafted to spur geothermal research and development. The Department of Interior is preparing to offer for lease some 59 million acres of federal land in western states for geothermal exploration. At least one million acres of these lands are already known to have, beneath their surfaces, naturally boiling water and steam.

The full geographical extent of such potential pools of power is not yet known. Hot

springs, for example, exist in Appalachia. But no detailed study of this phenomenon has been made, for instance, in the West Virginia area, probably because the possibility of commercial use appears remote; although some interest in such a study has been expressed from time to time.

The possibility of utilizing geothermal energy elsewhere, however, does not appear at all remote. A National Science Foundation report has estimated that as much as a third of U.S. electric power could be generated by heat from the earth's core by as early as 1985.

At least half a dozen big U.S. oil companies are now doing exploratory drilling for geothermal power, and the trend is expected to grow. Like solar energy, geothermal energy is there awaiting development, with no fuel costs attached once the basic work is done.

The development of this new type of energy could provide a clean source of power through hot water and steam—cleaner even than nuclear energy, which leaves a poisonous residue of radioactive wastes.

Of overriding importance, however, is the contribution the earth's natural internal heat might make toward solving our nation's worsening energy crisis.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Redirection of Growth Is Needed

We keep reading and hearing that the United States is becoming more and more an urbanized nation. We are pelted with statistics which seem to indicate full retreat from farms and rural areas. Yet, a Gallup poll has shown that 55% of Americans do not want to live in metropolitan areas; 32% prefer small towns; and an astonishing 23% say they want to live on a farm.

How do these figures square with what seems to be current reality? And, if they are accurate, what should they tell us about planning for the future?

The best guess is that the pollsters' findings are right. The American background and heritage is one of wide open spaces in a vast, don't-fence-me-in-land. If not actually farm bred, the majority of Americans until very recently were small-town oriented. The mushrooming of megalopolis is a recent phenomenon.

People, especially young people, have gone where the jobs were—where they hoped, sometimes mistakenly, that better opportunities lay. The result has been a swift proliferation of inefficient urban sprawl, rather than the growth of cities in the historic concept.

The spectacular upsurge of suburban America is proof enough that vast numbers

of our people value grass and trees and space more than they do the often non-existent "advantages" of the city. Living with smog, traffic, and crime obviously does not constitute a pursuit of happiness for millions of our people.

The growth pattern of our country needs redirection away from the areas of urban congestion. It is ridiculous to say, myopically looking only at the metropolitan growth areas, that the U.S. is running out of land. There are millions of acres of beautiful, undeveloped land in this vast country—just look at West Virginia!

Decentralization and dispersal of business and industry could solve a multitude of vexing problems—both in the areas of over-building and under-development. It really makes little sense to continue squeezing more and more economic activity into localities already overcrowded and unable to provide adequate services.

It makes a great deal of sense, however, for both government and private enterprise to seek geographically balanced economic growth in our country, and to encourage, by all means possible, new development in West Virginia and other states in America's heartland—where a majority of our people apparently would like to be.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



More Emphasis Needed on Rail Transportation

News reports have pointed out once again the serious flaw that exists in our country's transportation planning and priorities. The Environmental Protection Agency, fighting air pollution, has proposed to ration gasoline in the Los Angeles area sharply enough to reduce motor vehicle traffic there by up to 82% in 1977.

Such action could bring that metropolitan area to a virtual standstill, lacking as it does adequate public transportation. Most other U.S. urban regions, although perhaps not as wholly dependent upon motor vehicles, could also be paralyzed by similar environmental problems caused by cars, buses, and trucks.

How short-sighted we have been in our public policies not to have encouraged development of modern high speed local and long distance rail passenger transportation. Not only have we failed to encourage this most efficient of all mass transportation methods—which, if electric, can also be the cleanest—we have actually discouraged it by our national obsession with highway and air transportation.

There is nothing wrong with developing highway and air transportation. Both should be pushed in a dynamic society such as ours. But what is wrong is irrationally and

disproportionately to promote some methods of passenger and freight transportation at the expense of others which our country needs. The United States should have a balanced land, air, and water transportation system to serve all of the nation's needs in peacetime and in war.

We have spent money prodigally on our highway system and lavished public funds upon space exploration. But there has been little or no real effort made as yet—notwithstanding Amtrak—to utilize fully, let alone to expand, the enormous potential of rail transportation in the United States. Only here and there has our rail system even been made capable of handling the speed, or providing for the comfort and safety that are now available in modern passenger facilities.

In the busiest rail passenger year before World War II, an average of only 63 persons per year lost their lives in railway accidents. Compare this safety record with the more than 56,000 road deaths each year or the additional numbers who perish in air crashes.

From every standpoint—safety, cost, and ability to move vast numbers of people in all kinds of weather—the development of rail passenger service is being unwisely neglected in the United States.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Affluent Americans Are Ill Fed

One of the paradoxes of our affluent society is that malnutrition is so commonplace. Despite having the highest per capita income of any people anywhere, well-to-do Americans as well as poor Americans are often undernourished.

The almost constantly rising cost of food is not altogether to blame. On the contrary, dietary ignorance or indifference—widespread among Americans—is often responsible. The Coke-and-cookies syndrome—improper eating—is a real culprit.

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, in a comprehensive survey, found that deficiencies in protein, the most vital of all food elements, were widespread. Some 37% of the population did not get sufficient iron; 16% lacked enough Vitamin A; nearly 12% were deficient in Vitamin C. All of these substances are essential for good health.

It is strange that, in a country whose people are as food-conscious and as weight-conscious as ours, nutritional ignorance or indifference should be so prevalent. It is also strange that, with all our emphasis on public and private health, greater stress has not been placed on the basic necessity of sound nutrition.

There is evidence that this situation may be changing. The widespread publicity given to congressional testimony on the lack of nutritional value in many highly-advertised cereals, and other processed foods such as those made with white flour, is one indication. Another is the increasing number of health foods stocked in grocery stores.

But what is most needed is a comprehensive effort by medical science equal to other health efforts to learn all that can be learned about diet and its effect on the human organism. The findings should then be widely publicized.

Most certainly the great humanitarian efforts now underway to find cures for stroke, heart disease, and cancer should be pushed to success. But whereas only a portion of the population will fall victim to these scourges, the health of every living person is affected by what he eats and by the changing ways in which our foods are grown and processed.

We are quite literally what we eat. For our individual good and the collective good of our nation, science should put its best resources to work on the twin problems of nutritional research and the nutritional education of the American people.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Gasoline Outlook Far from Rosy

The reports of worsening gasoline shortages and increases in the cost of motor fuel concern all Americans who drive automobiles—and that is just about everybody. A combination of factors has brought about this situation.

New car sales are breaking records, which means more vehicles on the road and an increasing demand for gasoline. Additionally, the new anti-pollution emission devices require more fuel. The hard winter in parts of the country kept refineries turning out fuel oil for heating instead of producing gasoline, which, as a result, is now in short supply in many areas. And, finally, and most important, no new U.S. refineries are being built.

A major factor influencing the failure to add to U.S. refining capacity was the long uncertainty about imports of crude oil, before President Nixon ended the quota system. Oil imports in 1973 will approximate one-third of U.S. consumption, and they may be as much as 60% by 1980.

Also having a bearing on the refinery problem is the fact that no U.S. port can accommodate the huge new supertankers, which already are carrying almost a third of the world's oil tonnage. The loading facilities in the Persian Gulf can now accommo-

date tankers of 500,000 dead-weight tons, and unloading facilities for such vessels are being built in Europe and Japan. The largest ship U.S. ports can handle is 80,000 tons, and a number of our ports can not even take ships of that size.

Yet, the oil industry is considering building even larger, million-ton tankers to cut transportation costs. Unloading terminals for such mammoth ships will have to be built in deep water off shore—man-made islands from which the crude oil would be brought ashore by pipelines or barges. Thus far, environmental considerations have blocked plans for such terminals because of the danger of pollution.

Unless larger tankers and terminals are used, many more smaller ships will have to make many more trips, at higher costs, to meet U.S. needs. No additional U.S. refining capacity is likely to be built until the oil industry knows where new and larger terminal facilities will make the foreign crude oil available to them at the lowest possible transportation expense.

The car driver, meanwhile, apparently is going to be the man in the middle. The hour is late for dealing with this phase of the energy crisis.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Russia's Big Stick Getting Bigger

Henry Kissinger has gone to Moscow again. Soviet Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev is coming to Washington in early summer. Arms control talks between the U.S. and the Soviet Union continue. More U.S.-Soviet trade is planned. And Americans in general must surely hope that our two countries can reach agreements which will insure the continuation of peace in the future.

But this hope is not likely to be realized unless our country bases its policies and actions upon hard reality. Wishful thinking stemming only from Russia's moves toward accommodation with the U.S. could be a formula for disaster. Before we drastically cut U.S. defense forces further, as some persons are urging that we do in view of the growing detente, all of the facts should be considered.

The United States has ended the draft, and the U.S. Army has already revealed that it is not getting the volunteers it needs. The Soviet Union, by contrast, continues universal military service, with pre-induction training starting at age 16.

The U.S. pins its hopes on an all-volunteer force of slightly over two million, backed by reserves of just

under one million. The Soviet Union, by comparison, is estimated to have nearly four million combat-ready troops under arms, and to have the capability of putting another three million men in the field in two to three months.

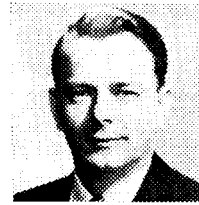
Numbers of soldiers, sailors, and airmen, and amounts of war equipment, of course, do not tell the whole story. The Soviets have more submarines than we do, but ours are probably superior in design and performance. The USSR may have more missiles than we have, but ours are thought to be more sophisticated. The Russians have more men under arms and in training than we do, but the Soviet Union has more land area to be concerned about—especially when the long border with its hated rival China is considered.

The point, however, which must always be borne in mind is this: Moscow may be talking softly now, but it is carrying a very big stick which is getting bigger. No one outside of the Kremlin's walls can possibly know what the USSR proposes to do with that stick.

In this highly uncertain situation, prudence above all else must guide the United States. The Soviets, understanding, as they do, the uses of strength, will surely exploit any weakness which we show.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Our All-Volunteer Armed Forces

For the first time since shortly after World War II, our country is now dependent upon volunteers to maintain its armed forces. No more draftees will be called before the Selective Service induction authority expires June 30.

The Selective Service Act, however, will remain in force. Young men reaching 18 still must register and receive lottery numbers inasmuch as the draft's framework will be continued for reasons of national security.

The question of most concern is: Will there be a sufficient number of qualified volunteers? Thus far, it appears that enough men will enlist, but only time will tell about the quality of those who volunteer.

Selective Service experience has shown that draftees, on the whole, have been the best qualified men the armed forces have obtained.

Fears have been expressed that all-volunteer armed services may result in a dilution of their overall quality. Some people express concern that only the lower strata of our society will volunteer. Others contend that professional, career-type forces pose a threat to democratic institutions, in which civilian authority must be dominant.

Hopefully, none of these un-

wanted results will occur. Initial reports indicate that the volunteer concept may have an even chance to succeed. The volunteers coming in thus far are reported to be in about the same proportion to the racial, economic, and educational mix of the population as they were previously.

Several other factors enhance the all-volunteer concept. For example, the overall size of our armed forces is being cut by more than 100,000, reducing the need for recruits; service pay has been substantially increased; and careers in the armed forces and the benefits they offer have been much improved.

The most hopeful development is that the Army, which has been the most dependent on the draft, is having better success than had been anticipated in attracting volunteers. The Navy and Marines, which have had to draft only occasionally, are reported doing about as well. And the Air Force, which has never had to draft, should have no trouble.

Getting enough volunteers for U.S. Reserve forces, however—many of whose recruits were draft-motivated—and attracting enough doctors, in view of the scarcity of physicians in civilian life, remain two big problems as the all-volunteer experiment begins.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Viewed as Chicken of the Sea

At least three South American countries have been raising large sums of revenue at the expense of the United States—and they are having a disturbing amount of success in doing it.

Under the Santiago Declaration of 1952, Ecuador, Peru and Chile claim that 200 miles of the waters off their coasts should be under their exclusive control for fishing purposes—even though most maritime nations, including the United States, claim only a 12-mile fishing limit. The three countries seize, often at gunpoint, any fishing vessels that venture inside the 200-mile limit and impose exorbitant fines before releasing the ships and their crews.

Ships flying the flag of the United States have been the main victims of the agreement. In 1972, Ecuador captured 25 U.S. tuna boats and collected almost \$2 million in fines. Peru seized that many U.S. tuna boats during the first six weeks of this year alone, and its treasury grew by more than \$800,000.

Chile, which has no real fishing industry, has resorted to expropriating American industries operating there. Since 1970, it has seized control of at least 15 U.S. companies worth more than \$680 million. Its reimbursements to the owners of those com-

panies have amounted to only a fraction of the value of the property seized.

The real losers in all these incidents are the American taxpayers. When a U.S. tuna boat is seized, the owners of the boat pay the fine; but they are quickly reimbursed in the full amount by the State Department under provisions of the 1954 Fishermen's Protective Act. And American taxpayers eventually foot the bill for a U.S. company that is expropriated abroad.

There is no doubt that U.S. officials have been too apathetic, and even too submissive, in trying to rectify the situation. And they have the leverage to do more than they have thus far done.

In fiscal years 1972-1973, the U.S. foreign aid proposal called for about \$27 million each for Ecuador and Chile. The proposal for Peru called for about \$7 million, in addition to large sums earmarked for disaster relief.

No American tax dollars should be dispersed to these countries until assurances are obtained that the unlawful seizing of American tuna boats and American companies will be halted. These countries must be made to realize that the price they will pay for these actions will be higher than the revenues they raise.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Arts and Crafts Program a Rewarding One

West Virginia's arts and crafts program is ten years old this year, and it must be rated an innovative and creative success. The benefits have been twofold: it has made the Mountain State's handicraft products known and sought after far and wide; and it has provided a welcome new source of income for its participants.

The West Virginia Artists and Craftsmen's Guild now boasts more than 500 members—among them weavers, potters, candlemakers, wood workers, leather workers, and many others. They have preserved and revived old skills and developed new ones, producing such items as handmade quilts, leather goods, wood carvings, ceramics, jewelry, and glassware.

The tenth Mountain State Art and Craft Fair, held annually at Cedar Lakes in Jackson County, last year had 200 exhibitors and hundreds of products, drew 62,000 visitors, and netted \$132,000 in handicraft sales.

The second annual Mountain Heritage Festival at Harpers Ferry this year is expected to have over a hundred artists and craftsmen offering their products—and some 56 similar, smaller mountain product fairs are expected to be held throughout the state. Their programs will feature everything from banjo pickin' to outdoor applebutter makin'.

The products being made and sold are by no means limited to the shows within the state. On the contrary, these mountain handicraft items are now being made available in outlets as far away as New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Denver, and Atlanta. Reports from the shops and stores offering the items for sale indicate a growing demand for them.

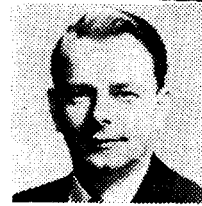
The arts and crafts program is sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Commerce, which points out the great pride which the state's artists and craftsmen take in producing their individualistic, handmade articles for the commercial marketplace. It is a pride that workers on an assembly line, because of the nature of their work, would be unlikely to feel.

This aspect of the program deserves note when much is being heard about the boredom and dissatisfaction many industrial workers are experiencing in their jobs. The industrial revolution may have made cottage industries obsolete; but in our increasingly depersonalized society, the individual who turns to creative effort on his own can find a constantly renewing source of self-satisfaction.

West Virginia's arts and crafts program provides a unique opportunity for individual initiative in an era in which that quality needs to be revived and stressed.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Will U.S. Become World's Granary?

It has become apparent that the United States must increase its agricultural production if demand is to be met and food prices are to be stabilized or reduced. There is also another good reason for doing so, namely, the increasing demand for food worldwide.

Affluence is growing in the world's industrial nations, and with it the desire for more and better things to eat, especially meat. Demand is outstripping supply. American foodstuffs—particularly wheat, feed grain for cattle, and high protein soybeans—could become as much in demand, despite some present restrictions against them, as American manufactured goods were before Germany and Japan moved ahead in the production of consumer products.

The United States is widely thought to be in the best position of any nation to become the granary to which the world will turn. We have the climate for the needed crops, vast expanses of tillable soil, wide mechanization of farm operations, and present or potential surpluses. With the know-how of our farmers—already the world's most productive—the U.S. should be able to meet almost any foreseeable demand for its farm products.

In the Soviet Union—to which we recently sold more

than \$1 billion worth of grain—one farm worker grows only enough food for seven other persons. In the U.S., one farmer feeds 46 others. With 33% of its total work force employed in agriculture, the USSR has shortages. With only 5% of the American work force on farms, we have surpluses.

Russia, Japan, and the countries of Europe are potentially big customers for U.S. agricultural exports. If these exports continue to rise as they have in the last few years, they could become the means of improving, or even offsetting, the unfavorable U.S. balance in world trade.

In fiscal 1973, U.S. farm exports are estimated at \$11.8 billion—up from \$5.7 billion in 1969. They could go to \$15 billion soon. When the cost of our agricultural imports and foreign-aid food exports are subtracted, a \$3.7 billion cash surplus for fiscal 1973 should be realized in our agricultural trade. By comparison, the overall U.S. balance-of-trade deficit at the end of the calendar year 1972 was \$6.8 billion.

What it comes down to is this: in a country which has become known around the globe for its industrial leadership, the American man of the soil—the U.S. farmer—may be the one to save the day for the U.S. in international trade.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Some Good May Come Out of Watergate

As bad as the Watergate mess is, it is possible that some good may come out of it in the end. Hopefully, U.S. politics will see improvement in at least three areas.

First, the kind of spying and sabotage undertaken is completely alien to American politics. Because the damaging effects of what has been done will be with us for some time to come, it is not likely that any administration, or any party, will attempt or allow such subversion again in the foreseeable future.

Second, Watergate occurred, at least in part, because there was too much tainted money available to political adventurers. Much stricter financial accounting and campaign spending laws are needed, and such laws may now well be enacted.

And, third, the wretched spy-thriller shenanigans were undertaken by bungling amateurs outside the regular party organization. Political pros and the legitimate and responsible party organizations are likely, therefore, to reassert their control over campaigning in the future.

Watergate should not be taken as evidence of the failure of the American system. On the contrary, Watergate has reaffirmed the fact that our system does work.

Because of our system, a federal judge—the son of poor

immigrant parents — could blow the whistle on the government's original inadequate prosecution of the case. He said he simply did not believe that the whole story was being told in his courtroom, and as a result one defendant began to talk.

Because of our system, our free press, as it should have done, kept digging away at the case. The newspapers and the news media in general have performed the service which the framers of the Constitution perceived they should perform in a free society. They have uncovered many of the facts, protected the people's right to know, and led the way for action in the courts.

And finally, because of our system, the Congress of the United States is reasserting its role in its moves to halt the threat of runaway executive power. The full-scale Senate investigation which has been launched should bring to light all of the pertinent facts that can be obtained, augmenting the action of the courts.

The American system, I believe, manifesting itself through the Congress, the courts, and the free press, will prove itself adequate to deal with Watergate. And U.S. politics in the future may be the cleaner for what has happened.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Cure Sought for Boring Jobs

An issue about which we are likely to be hearing more and more in the months ahead is the lack of satisfaction which untold numbers of Americans apparently derive from their work. The "enrichment of jobs" is a topic increasingly being discussed. And it relates not only to blue-collar assembly-line workers, but also to white-collar office types and even management personnel.

Studies have indicated that large numbers of Americans are bored to death with dull, repetitive, unchallenging jobs. Under-utilization of human ability may turn out to have been one of the unexpected, and certainly unwanted, end products of our technological society.

Significantly, a University of Michigan study covering all occupational levels has shown that "interesting work" comes first in job desirability. Good pay, in this survey, was fifth—after such things as sufficient help and authority to get the job done.

To give workers more responsibility and autonomy, some 150 or more American companies are re-designing jobs in a number of test operations in an effort to make them more meaningful and attractive. Their aim is not altruistic. It is, instead, a new pursuit of the traditional profit motive, and it is paying off. Productivity in plants try-

ing new approaches to the problems of factory production is reported to be up from 10 to 40 percent. The morale of workers is likewise up.

In one plant, each employee is given the opportunity to learn all operations, working at them in turn. As he masters each, his pay goes up. In another, the assembly line for small consumer products has been replaced by a system in which each worker puts together a complete item, to which he affixes his name—like an artist.

A new pride in workmanship has been created, which, in turn, means that less foreman-type supervision is necessary, thereby cutting costs. One plant found that it needed fewer employees than had been thought necessary because of the stimulating effect on productivity. It also needed fewer bosses and work rules.

Thus far, only a relatively small number of America's 82 million workers are part of the job enrichment experiments. But if the new methods succeed and spread, the workers' satisfaction—which now seems lacking in all too many U.S. jobs—may be restored. Equally important, a needed step may have been taken toward making American products better and more competitive in the world market.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Power from the Sun?

As the dimensions of the world's energy problems begin to be better understood, interest in utilizing the sun as one source of the power man needs is growing.

The National Science Foundation, from allocating nothing for solar energy research as recently as 1970, is spending \$3.8 million for that purpose this year and will spend \$12 million in 1974. Several universities and private companies are also working on the idea.

Two striking facts underline the importance of this research: First, projections indicate that by 1985 the U.S. will require almost double the amount of energy now being used; and, second, on an average day, the sun bestows more energy on an area the size of West Virginia than is now consumed by the entire nation each day.

Solar energy, already being utilized for a few special purposes, is unlikely in the foreseeable future to replace coal, oil, or gas. But some scientists believe that it can eventually become an economically feasible power source.

A basic problem is how to store this abundant energy. Another is how to collect it efficiently, since, unconcentrated, its power potential is low; that is, sunlight from a wide area must be concentrated by mirrors or magnify-

ing lens devices to produce the degree of heat needed for commercial application.

Dark earth surfaces absorb solar rays as heat; but they cool quickly and lose it. Various materials which might hold the heat are being studied, along with collectors to trap the rays. One proposal is for vast "solar power farms," covering miles of the Arizona desert, to convert the sun's energy into steam.

Commercially practical means are also being sought for converting solar power directly into electricity, as is done through the use of the highly expensive photovoltaic cells in space exploration. NASA has made available a \$197,000 grant for research on a satellite that would produce electricity from the sun and beam it to earth. Developing this orbiting power station would depend upon whether the U.S. builds its space shuttle—which would be needed to assemble the satellite in space because of its proposed size, about 24 miles square.

When the advantages that could come from eventually harnessing the sun's power are considered, at least three significant points emerge: the energy would be available as long as the solar system endures; the price of the raw energy would never go up; and, being part of nature itself, it would not pollute.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



High Court Obscenity Ruling Was Needed

The action taken by the U.S. Supreme Court to curb the tide of pornography that was engulfing our country should be supported by a majority of the American people. The decision reflected widespread public indignation over the rampant permissiveness that allowed the commercial exploitation of sex to proliferate all across our land.

The Justice Department had already been moving against the smut peddlers who cross state lines to merchandise their sleazy wares. Federal grand juries have returned indictments in several places against distributors of obscene films and theater owners who screen them. The trials, which had been held up awaiting the Supreme Court decision, hopefully will proceed quickly.

Just as forthright action by the Federal Communications Commission forced the offensive sex-oriented "topless radio" shows off the air, so should the lower courts act to implement the high court's obscenity ruling. A crack-down should be pushed on hardcore sex films, lurid printed material, dirty "peep shows," "massage parlors," "nude bars," and other such socially-undesirable establishments.

Not only does public morality and the protection of our children from such influences

make the action necessary, the fact that in a number of places the mushrooming smut business has become a lucrative operation for the underworld also makes it imperative. It is estimated that the merchandising of obscenity in this country was grossing between \$500 million and \$2 billion a year before the Supreme Court decision.

Much of the confusion about obscenity—and, in fact, much of the growth of the pornography business—resulted from the difficulty that the Court in previous decisions experienced in attempting to set guidelines as to what is permissible and what is not under the First Amendment. The present Court avoided that pitfall by largely leaving the matter up to the states and localities.

The right of free expression in America, of course, must be upheld. It must be recognized, also, that what may be thought obscene by one person may not be so considered by another. But there is an obvious difference between hard-core pornography, with its basic appeal to prurient interest only, and serious art and literature that seek to portray and explain human nature and behavior. A precise definition of that difference may be difficult, but the recognition of it is easy for most persons.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



The Ethnic Slur Hurts Us All

One of the degrading things which needs to be rooted from our contemporary life is the ethnic slur. One still sees and hears many such affronts, despite the enormous progress that America has made in offering equal opportunity and equal dignity to all.

The unfortunate popularity among some unthinking persons of the derogatory so-called Polish "joke" is a case in point. The only possible thing which can be said in mitigation of the damage such demeaning stories cause to the sensibilities of Polish-American citizens is that many of those who repeat the slurs may do so without actual malicious intent.

The Mafia stigma, which all too many Americans of Italian extraction unjustly have to bear, is another case in point. Godfathers and gangsters there may be, but it does a great disservice to millions of Italian-Americans to think of organized crime in terms of any one nationality.

The stereotype of the lazy, shiftless Mexican or Mexican-American is still another ethnic canard which should have had its day. Typecasting of that sort has about as much validity as the caricature of West Virginians as ignorant, barefoot hillbillies—a characterization which citizens of our state rightfully resent.

The point is that harm, whether intentional or not, is done to people and to the places from which they come by the thoughtless repetition of unfunny untruths. This is especially true for Americans of any recent foreign background.

It has often been said that America is a nation of immigrants, and it is. The antecedents of virtually all Americans lie elsewhere than on these shores. The great strength of America is that in our broad land the diverse heritages of many cultures have met, intertwined, and merged.

The contribution to American society made by peoples from all over the globe is incalculable. Ethnic characteristics and individualities may remain—and perhaps they should. But the once widely-used melting pot metaphor remains accurate to the degree to which our national life is today a fusion and a blend of many peoples and many customs, drawn from many climes.

That being so, the derisive ethnic joke, the ridiculing or degrading of others should have no place in our society. The ethnic slur reflects upon us all. Self-deprecation, the ability to recognize and laugh at one's own native peculiarities and frailties is a habit that we could far more profitably cultivate.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Community Colleges—Another Option

It is good to know that West Virginia is pushing the development of its State-supported two-year community college program. Three such colleges—Parkersburg, West Virginia Northern at Wheeling-Weirton, and Southern West Virginia at Logan-Williamson—already are in operation, and development of components at Marshall, Fairmont, Shepherd, and West Virginia Tech is being planned.

The success of the community college concept elsewhere indicates the need which these institutions are filling. In an increasingly technological society, they prepare young people for careers in a wide variety of fields that can range from paramedics to automobile mechanics. The need for skilled workers and technicians is great and growing.

Underlining the importance of expanding the two-year schools is the estimate that, by 1980, West Virginia's institutions of higher learning will have to serve some 30% more students than at present—up from 62,000 to about 81,000. West Virginia's high schools by then are expected to be graduating about 21% more students than in 1972. Not only are more students graduating from high school;

more also are seeking admission to college.

But despite the expected trend toward more college students, another trend has also been developing, namely, a questioning of the value of college by a growing number of young men and women. Weighing the problem of what they want to do and what they want to get out of life, they wonder if higher education, in its purely academic sense, will really help them to lead more purposeful and satisfying lives.

It is a healthy trend. It is widely felt that our schools have been turning out too many doctors of philosophy and too few technicians.

It is this imbalance in meeting the real employment and economic needs of our society which the growing trend toward the more technically-oriented two-year college hopefully can correct.

It is interesting to note that the expected increase in West Virginia college enrollment exceeds any projected growth for the state. What this means, to a considerable extent, is that, in relation to the state's population, more West Virginia young people than ever before will be seeking training for careers. The community colleges can help to point the way for them.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



America's Wasteful Use of Energy

One point has not been sufficiently made in the wide discussion of America's energy crisis: the fuel shortages we face actually stem from the very abundance of energy we have heretofore enjoyed. The crisis arises from our profligate use of resources.

No people anywhere have been as blessed with inexpensive energy as have the people of the United States. When the nation was young, the waterpower that was available almost everywhere turned the millwheels; and the seemingly endless forests provided fuel for the taking. Cheap wood heated the houses, cooked the food, and powered the first railroad locomotives.

Then came coal to fuel the industrial revolution and the swift growth of factories. It enabled steamships to supplant sail, and it sent the iron horse on a network of rails into every corner of the land.

Coal provided central heat and cheap electricity, and made America an industrial giant; and also from out of America's growth came both oil to power our motor vehicles and aircraft and natural gas for domestic and industrial use. Like wood, the coal, the oil, and the gas were relatively cheap, and they seemed at first to be in inexhaustible supply.

As a result, conservation of energy in our country has been virtually unknown. From electric lighting, which has turned night into day, we have progressed through electric heating and cooling, to electric typewriters, can-openers, and toothbrushes. Almost every gadget to which our society has become addicted can be plugged into the nearest outlet.

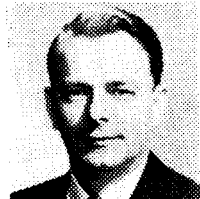
We have more longer, heavier, gas-guzzling, six-passenger cars transporting one person than any prudent people should tolerate. We revel in electric golf carts, in riding lawnmowers, and in outboard motor boats that consume gas and oil as if they were going out of style. We live in homes that, if properly insulated, would require far less of our dwindling fuel supplies to heat and to cool. It is estimated that even the pilot lights in our natural gas appliances use up as much as a third of the natural gas the nation is now burning.

The ships in our Navy, the mechanized vehicles in our Army, and the planes in our Air Force accentuate the drain on our irreplaceable sources of energy.

Finding new sources of energy is the method most widely urged for meeting the crisis we face. More prudent use of the energy we have is also urgently needed.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Our Shameful Highway Toll

In more than a decade of military involvement in Vietnam, the United States suffered 46,000 combat deaths. In 1972 alone, more than 56,000 Americans were slaughtered on the nation's highways. In all the Vietnam fighting, 153,000 Americans were hospitalized for wounds. Last year, by contrast, more than two million Americans suffered disabling injuries in car wrecks.

Why is there no real outcry against this killing and maiming? Why is there no sense of national outrage? Why, more importantly, do we not take effective steps to stop this frightful carnage?

Half of America's fatal automobile accidents, it is estimated, are caused by drunk drivers. And it is also estimated that from 10,000 to 20,000 of the victims die because they do not fasten the seat belts with which all cars sold in the U.S. are now equipped.

The irrational tolerance with which so many Americans appear to view drinking and driving—the national tendency for amused winking at “having a few too many”—lies at the root of our shameful alcohol-related highway deaths and injuries. As a nation we have simply not been willing to come to grips with the menace of the drunk driver. Laws against drunk driving are on the books, but our society has not insisted that they be enforced.

As for seat belts and shoulder harness, the U.S. Department of Transportation has proposed that their use be made mandatory. Despite the fact that such use would prevent injuries and save lives, a loud cry has been raised that any such legal requirement would interfere with individual rights and freedom. Nothing is said about the interference with individual freedom caused by speed limits and stop lights.

The big difficulty with safety belts, of course, is the problem of enforcement. Yet, it should be noted that two years of experience with a mandatory belt statute in Australia has been followed by a 23% reduction in the highway death rate. Motorists are said to have accepted the law with equanimity, and 83% of drivers in metropolitan areas are estimated to be complying with it.

But of greatest importance in this country is an all-out nation-wide campaign to get the drunk drivers off the roads. Some states—and many foreign countries—are already acting to bring this about.

In England, the Scandinavian countries, and a number of others, the laws against drunk driving have been sharply tightened, and the results are evident in fewer highway deaths and injuries. The U.S. should be moving even more strongly in the same direction.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



West Virginia Has Weather for All

It is a well-known fact that West Virginia has one of the most irregular shapes of all the states. What may not be as well known is that it has weather equally as varied. Because of its elevation, which ranges from less than 250 feet above sea level to nearly 5,000 feet, West Virginia has summers and winters to suit all tastes.

Generally, the state's weather is temperate—seldom too hot, seldom too cold. Summertime highs will range from 75 in the eastern mountains to 85 in the lower areas, with a few days approaching 100 degrees in the river valleys. In Bluefield, at around 2,600 feet, lemonade is served free on the streets if the mercury goes above 90, but it seldom does. And there, as elsewhere in the mountains, the humidity is pleasantly low.

Winter minimums average from the upper twenties in the west to the upper teens in the mountains. About every other year the temperature may dip to zero over much of the state, or 10 to 15 below in the higher elevations. The coldest ever recorded was 37 below zero at Lewisburg in 1917, and the highest was 112 at Martinsburg in 1931—both rare extremes.

Annual snowfall averages less than 20 inches along the Ohio River between Hunting-

ton and Parkersburg. But the high Alleghenies east of Elkins may get more than 140 inches of snow a year. Average rainfall is likewise varied, ranging from a low of 35 inches in the Eastern Panhandle to more than 65 in the higher mountains.

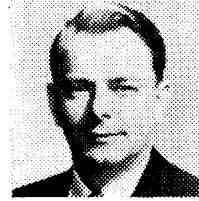
The National Weather Service's Charleston office describes West Virginia as often being a sort of "battleground" between warm, moist air coming up from the south and southwest and cold, dry air pushing down from the northwest. These atmospheric clashes produce the rain and snow.

This precipitation, welcome for crops, wildlife, and recreation, can have the adverse effect of producing flash floods. All parts of the state have, upon occasion, experienced rainfall exceeding five inches in 24 hours. The heaviest recorded deluge was 19 inches, which fell on Rockport in Wood County in 1889. Up to 14 inches fell on parts of north-central West Virginia on June 24-25, 1950.

But such extremes are rare, and damaging windstorms even rarer. The Weather Service (with a caution probably born of long forecasting) finds our state's weather "quite favorable for human activity." West Virginians, proud of their state's fine climate, should find that a considerable understatement.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



We've Got Land, Lots of Land

The frustrated automobile driver in rush-hour city traffic probably wouldn't believe it, but the United States, relatively speaking, is a sparsely populated land. It may frequently seem that our burgeoning freeways, shopping centers, and suburbs are about to cover the whole landscape; the fact is that there is more open space in America today than there was a generation ago.

This curious fact has been brought about by the crowding of U.S. population into metropolitan areas. The increasing congestion in the cities is leaving increasing space in the country.

Despite the steadily growing U.S. population, about one out of every three counties in the nation lost population in the sixties because of the urban in-migration, and almost half of all U.S. counties lost population during the fifties for the same reason.

Our densely-populated megalopolises notwithstanding, the U.S. ranks far down the list in terms of national population density. The Republic of Korea holds that distinction with 1,247 persons per square mile, and Japan is close behind with 1,033. By contrast, the U.S. still has so much land that for every square mile there are only 85 Americans.

The density of population in West Virginia is even less—72 persons per square mile. In a few spots in the state's eastern mountains it drops to fewer than ten.

But 25 states, mostly central and western, have less population than West Virginia. Wyoming, the least populated, has only three persons per square mile. New Jersey, the most densely settled, has more than 950 by comparison.

It may come as a surprise to residents of West Virginia's busy cities, but, by another yardstick, our state is classified by the Bureau of the Census as the second most rural state in the nation—after Vermont, where 68% of the people live in non-urban places. By Census definition, places of less than 2,500 are non-urban, and 61% of West Virginia's citizens live in such communities, or in the country.

Our nation's overall population picture, then, indicates that only along its coasts and in a few other places is the U.S. in any danger of running out of space. Inland, there is still a vast amount of good earth. One of the tasks our people face is to preserve, and, where necessary, restore, this great heritage so that it may continue to be economically and recreationally beneficial for all Americans.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Oil Imports Require Naval Strength

In the weeks following the U.S.-Soviet summit talks in Washington, it must not be forgotten that the United States and the Soviet Union, if no longer the cold war enemies they once were, remain the world's leading rival powers. The importance of that fact becomes apparent when two points are borne in mind: Russia's continuing naval buildup, which reportedly includes the construction of a naval base in the Persian Gulf; and America's increasing dependency on foreign oil, much of which must come from the Persian Gulf area.

We must be realistic enough to realize that the new spirit of cooperation which the Soviets exhibit has not been brought about by any newfound love of the Communists for the United States. It stems, instead, from their desire to obtain from us the products and know-how they need to further strengthen their own country.

The present leadership of the USSR is pragmatic. We must be equally so. Leonid Brezhnev represents the less aggressive point of view in the Kremlin, which holds that more of what the Soviets want can be obtained with honey than with vinegar. But there is another point of view within the Kremlin's walls that still favors active confrontation. And Soviet leaders

change.

Should new confrontations occur (and who can categorically rule them out?), the United States at a minimum must be able to protect its 12,000-mile fuel lifeline to the Middle East. The vital importance of this lifeline is underscored by the fact that, whereas the U.S. was importing only about 23% of its crude oil in 1970, estimates are that by the early 1980s we will have to import half of what we need.

In a new confrontation—or even in a renewal of hostilities between the Arabs and the Israelis — oil tankers bound for the U.S. could be obvious targets, which the U.S. Navy would have to protect. A vessel or vessels sunk in a Persian Gulf channel could block it and cut off essential fuel for the U.S. The Soviet submarine potential in Cuba could be a threat also to the oil we get from Venezuela.

It is important that the American people understand these facts. It is essential that the U.S. maintain its Navy at sufficient strength to counter any threat to the nation's fuel supplies. America's future security must always take precedence over any conjecture or wishful thinking about what the present or future objectives of the Soviet Union may be.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

'Vandal Bugs' Can Protect Schools

There probably is no one left in the country by this time who does not know that when one talks about a bug he may not necessarily be talking about an insect. "Bugs," as the public has been made so thoroughly aware, are electronic surveillance devices. Although illegal under most circumstances, legitimate use, as well as illicit, may be made of them.

Bugs that can deter, or catch, school building vandals are a good example of legitimate use. For reasons that are not always clear, school buildings, especially during weekends or vacation periods, are favorite targets for the destruction-minded. The damage done to U.S. public school buildings each year is enormous. It ranges from smashed windows and ripped up desks to the burning of buildings.

In many places, rural as well as urban, school officials and the police have been unable to deal adequately with school vandalism. Culprits all too often have been able to do their vicious deeds without fear of getting caught. Fortunately, however, that situation may now be in for a change. A number of school systems are experimenting with bugging systems which change buildings from vulnerable targets for vandals into traps for them.

The intercoms with which most modern school buildings are equipped, it has been found, can be converted into electronic eavesdropping systems for protection when school is out. When the necessary alterations are made, the flip of a switch in the principal's office at the end of the day can turn the intercom system into a sensitive microphone hookup. The reversed system can then "listen" for the slightest sound in hallways, classrooms, auditoriums, gyms, and even on outside playgrounds. Connected into a police station, it can bring squad cars quickly.

The cost of such a system is said to be relatively small—virtually nill, when compared to the hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage done yearly to buildings throughout the country. The value can be twofold: publicizing such an installation could deter would-be vandals, who would fear it; and utilizing it could lead to swift arrests.

School vandalism is a growing nationwide problem. In cities such as Washington, D.C., the cost of repairing damage to buildings has risen beyond all expectations in the last few years. But now, bugging—discredited for most uses in our society—may give school officials and the police the tool they need with which to deal with vandals.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Needs More Medical Schools

A comprehensive study published by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare reveals that nearly one out of every six doctors now practicing medicine in the United States is a graduate of a foreign medical school. If Canadian-trained physicians in the U.S. are included, the ratio tightens still more. In round figures, more than 63,000 graduates of foreign medical schools are now practicing in this country.

The influx of these foreign-trained doctors—many of whom came for advanced study and decided to stay—is primarily a “market response” to the shortage of doctors in the United States, according to the study. Most were trained in Europe, the Philippines, India, Korea, and Latin America. A few are from Africa.

By comparison with the number of foreign-trained doctors, our country's 114 medical schools currently have some 47,000 students enrolled. About 9,000 graduated last year. But in the fall of 1972 an estimated 40,000 young men and women—almost as many as are now enrolled—applied for admission to U.S. medical schools. All but 13,500 were turned away, despite the fact that three-fourths of the applicants were said to be qualified.

Overall, the U.S. now has

about 360,000 physicians, but many localities in many states, including West Virginia, have no doctors at all. The increasing number of foreign doctors has had little effect on that situation. They, like U.S. doctors, have tended to gravitate toward centers of population. It is understandable that doctors, like other skilled professionals, should wish to practice where the best health care facilities are available and personal rewards can be greater. But small communities need doctors, too, and no one seems really certain as how best to correct the imbalance in health care.

One thing, however, seems clear. The United States needs more medical schools than it now has. When more than 26,000 young Americans are unable to gain admission to medical schools in a single year, it is evident that a substantial increase in the nation's medical training facilities is needed. The need is underscored not only by the increasing number of foreign doctors in the U.S. but also by the fact that an estimated 4,000 or more young Americans who want to be doctors have had to enroll in medical schools abroad.

The foreign physicians fill a gap here. But our health care system should not increase its dependence upon doctors who are needed in their own countries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Electronic Food Checkout Coming

The modern supermarket, with its enticing aisles of attractively-packaged foods and customer self-service, apparently is in for another innovation: the automated checkout. It is a change that could be as significant as the chain store's replacement of the corner grocery.

Not so many years ago, grocery store clerks "waited on the trade" from behind long counters, slicing triangular wedges from wheels of cheese, and weighing pounds of sugar and beans as customers ordered them. They sold flour from bins, pickles from barrels, and chickens live from wire crates.

Modern food merchandising changed all that; and now the nimble-fingered employee checking each individual item and ringing it up on a cash register may become as obsolete as the clerk behind the counter.

In an automated system, optical scanners would pick up code symbols printed on food packages as they passed along a checkout counter, transmitting them to a computer, which would activate the cash register. The clerk would bag the purchases as the electronic devices worked, speeding up checkout time significantly.

The food industry, preparing for such automation, has recently adopted what is

called a "universal product code," a series of numbers and symbols to be printed on the label of each food item in the future, identifying the manufacturer, the product, and giving the amount contained in the package, can, or bottle.

Operational savings could come from automation in two ways. The code, used in conjunction with a computer programmed with the store's current prices, would eliminate the necessity for each store to stamp the price on every item. Prices would be posted only on shelves, thus reducing labor costs. The faster checkout would enable the store to serve more customers, or reduce the number of lanes needed, further cutting costs.

Some ten years of study have gone into the development of the automated checkout. A chain store in Cincinnati has been using the system for more than a year now, and it appears likely that most of the big supermarkets will go to it within the next few years.

If the savings the stores realize can be passed on to the consumer, as they should be, perhaps the high price of food can be brought down a bit. That would be even more welcome to the average grocery shopper than the time saved in the checkout lines.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Baby Boom Goes Bust

The sharp decline in the U.S. birth rate has far reaching implications. Scores of our society's activities, ranging from the merchandising of baby foods to the providing of education, can be affected.

The U.S. population increased last year at the slowest rate in 35 years. In 1972, the Census Bureau has reported, the growth rate was only 7.8 persons per 1,000 population—lower than it has been since 1937 when the rate was 6.7 per 1,000. By contrast, the growth rate at its peak in 1956 was 18.1.

Births have dropped off so dramatically that in 1972 they had fallen to 2.03 children per family—the lowest in U.S. history—well below the so-called "replacement rate" of 2.1 children per family. If the rate should remain that low, the nation could eventually reach the point of zero population growth. That is unlikely, however, for several reasons, chief among which is the fact that the large number of women born in the post-World War II baby boom are still of child-bearing age.

Forecasting birth rates and population gain or loss can be a risky business. The Census Bureau now estimates that U.S. population by the year 2000 will be 250 million to 300

million. But in 1967, it was predicting 350 million by the turn of the century.

The most significant thing about population gain or loss, of course, is how it affects social and economic activities. The impact on education is always especially marked. The National Education Association estimates that 111,000 of the 337,000 teachers graduated last year were unable to find work because of the decline in school enrollment. That surplus could be swelled considerably if the birth rate declines further, or stays where it is.

Obviously, fewer maternity wards and less pediatric care will be needed, if the trend continues. The market for baby products and for children's toys could decline; and in a few years the demand for teen-age consumer goods—such as stereo records, transistor radios, guitars, etc.—could drop. In the end, even such things as the size of houses could be affected.

The big plus in the birth rate decline, of course, is that the runaway population growth that was feared a decade ago has not occurred. That fact should provide a welcome respite in which to deal with some of the other problems we face.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Home Sweet Home—a Fading Memory?

A generation or so ago, home, to most Americans, was perhaps the most important thing in their lives. Home was family. Home was where the babies were born and where the old folks lived out their days with their loved ones. The sheltering eaves of home, for most people, embraced the center of their interests.

A significant change has occurred in that concept in recent years. With the shift in the orientation of American life from rural to urban, the characteristics of home, and even its physical attributes, have changed for millions of Americans. Where once the detached, single-family house with its own fenced yard was dominant, today rows of townhouses, garden apartments, and high-rises crowd Americans into ever smaller spaces.

Nursing homes, delivery rooms, laundromats, and drive-ins have taken over many of the responsibilities that used to be associated with home. Family cohesiveness, as a result, has declined markedly. With more and more activities centered outside the home, and with less and less cooperative action required of the members of a family, home all too often has become only a place to hang one's hat, warm up a can opener, bolt a frozen dinner, or watch a TV show.

In these circumstances, many young people and parents see little of each other as they come and go, and their contact with grandparents and other relatives may be almost nil. Add to that the fact that Americans move so frequently—many in urban areas may not even know, or want to know, their neighbors' names—and you have a formula that is producing profound social change in American life.

Most stable societies have been built upon the foundation of the family and the home. When the influence of family and home decline, the result is predictable. Values, standards, and manners deteriorate. Morality is loosened. Anti-social behavior grows. We have seen much of the end-result in the crime statistics, in the figures which tell of the increase in runaway children, in the epidemic proportions of venereal disease, in the soaring divorce rate, in the decline in church attendance and support, and in the growth of mental illness.

The circumstances of life in much of present-day America militate against the family and home. But a restoration of home life and family responsibility in our country are basic necessities if the America we have known and cherished is to be preserved for our posterity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Love Affair With Cars May Cool

The average American probably could not conceive of life without an automobile. Cars have become a necessity for getting to work, buying groceries, or going to the bank, the doctor, or the football game. Weekends or vacations without a car would be almost unthinkable.

But there are signs that America's love affair with cars may be cooling. Rising gasoline prices and shortages, growing traffic jams, spreading parking bans, soaring insurance costs, built-in obsolescence, widespread repair frauds, and the anti-pollution devices which make cars cost more and perform worse—all threaten the great romance.

It is ironic that, at the very time when the nation's costly highway building program is at its height, environmental and energy considerations should combine to discredit the motor vehicle. It is ironic that the progress and the change in our way of life that the automobile has brought should have created a situation in which the automobile itself has become the villain.

Less than 50 years ago—when the automobile era that was to transform the nation's mode of living was young—few if any gave a thought to the environmental damage the automobile could cause or to the rate at which it would gobble irreplaceable fossil fuels. America was rural then, and its citizens and

its cars were just beginning to go steady.

Drivers still got their gas at livery stables or from sidewalk pumps at drug stores. Fascinated kids on small town porches could name the cars that passed from the way they sounded. Everyone knew without looking whether a Ford, Essex, Haynes, Chandler, Franklin, or Locomobile was coming down the street. The rhythm of their cylinders—as many as 16 of them in the big cars—and the music of their horns were tell-tale tags.

Now most cars sound alike, and more than 100 million of them are on the road. They have brought our country together, urbanizing it; but in a very real sense they have also taken it apart again. Huge downtown areas have been razed to make way for parking lots. Cities have lost vast numbers of their people to suburbia, as cars made shopping centers and suburbia possible. And an acrid pall of smog hangs over much of the land.

No one expects Americans to give up their love affair with cars at one fell swoop. But times do change. Pollution must be lessened. Energy must be conserved.

To help achieve this, public transportation must be encouraged, subsidized if necessary, and vastly increased throughout our country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Good Nutrition Low on Totem Pole

The high price of food, the shortages, the fact that millions of our citizens are overweight and millions more may be undernourished, the widespread obsession with food fads—all of these and other contemporary phenomena have served to focus a great amount of attention upon the subject of nutrition in the United States.

On every hand, one sees and hears claims for wonder-working diets. "Natural foods" are in. Vitamin sales soar. Pills to make one lose—or to make one gain—are widely hawked. Americans seem to be food conscious as they may never have been before.

The trend is probably a healthy one, insofar as it serves to turn the spotlight upon the importance of nutrition. The unfortunate fact, however, is that a considerable amount of the advice one may get about nutrition and diet may not be good. Too many fadists, hucksters, and even outright quacks and fakers, have gotten into the picture. They take advantage of a poorly-informed and often gullible public.

Despite their affluence and food-consciousness, many Americans, Congressional testimony

indicates, are still woefully lacking in knowledge of what constitutes good nutrition. It is said that only about half of American housewives know how to prepare a balanced meal. Many of the highly-advertised processed foods they serve have little nutritional value because of the vitamins and minerals lost in manufacture. Too many children are allowed to subsist on Cokes and candy bars. The well-to-do as well as the poor can be ill-nourished.

In the field of medical science, nutrition is low on the totem pole of interest and study. Nutrition has no recognized place among medical specialties. Only 10 or 12 of approximately 120 U.S. medical schools have full departments of nutrition and federal funds for research in this area have been reduced. Doctors understandably are attracted to more glamorous fields.

But the human being is mainly what he eats. Theoretically, if one's body could be perfectly nourished it should be able to avoid many of the myriad ills that flesh is heir to. An increased emphasis by all concerned on the vital importance of good nutrition could pay off handsomely for the health of our nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Is Money Going Out of Style?

A significant change is occurring in the way Americans buy the goods and services they need and want. More than half of our citizens, it is estimated, now use credit cards.

In primitive societies, and even in the early years of our own country, barter was the rule. Farmers swapped tobacco, cotton, and produce for the necessities they did not raise, because money—an acceptable currency—was scarce or not available.

The first coins struck by the U.S. government, half-cent and one-cent copper pieces, were not minted until 1793. The first dollar was not printed until a year later, 18 years after the Declaration of Independence.

But currency was so much more convenient than barter that cash became king and remained so until about the turn of the last century, when checks and charge accounts began to replace it. Now the ubiquitous credit card—"plastic money," some call it—may make the check obsolete.

By 1971, it was estimated that 90% of all money transactions in the U.S. were by check. The trend was so great that, in 1969, the U.S. ceased issuing any currency larger than a \$100 bill.

But the switch from cash to checks was no unmixed blessing for the banks, which must handle

the staggering total of 25 billion checks a year, at great cost. Little wonder then that, to rid themselves of this enormous amount of paper work, banks are experimenting with computerized credit card systems that would eliminate checks for recurring routine transactions.

Companies would deposit wages and salaries directly in banks, and banks would pay customers' credit card bills by a computerized transfer of funds between accounts and banks. Cash and checks would become unnecessary except for unprogrammed transactions.

This is not as far-fetched as it may sound. Already credit cards "pay" for everything from airplane trips and vacations to church pledges and funerals. In California, income and property taxes, auto licenses and car insurance can be paid for by credit card. In other places, plastic money will get you dental, medical, and hospital care.

Interestingly enough, there is a backlash to all of this—an anti-credit card movement sparked by individuals who dislike bookkeeping and businesses that offer discounts for cash. But theirs is a minority status.

Money—meaning wealth—is not about to go out of style; but currency "money" may well be headed in that direction.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Skills, Know-How of Older Workers Needed

There is a growing awareness in our society of the need for continued utilization of the skills and talents of older workers, especially those who have been involuntarily retired.

Ours is such a youth-oriented culture that some persons seem to have assumed that men and women at retirement age, which continues to trend downward, are no longer useful to society. That is far from the truth.

Infatuation with youth is nothing new. Human beings, before and after Ponce de Leon, have sought to worship at the Fountain of Youth. And it is right and proper that we, in our time, should give youth greater recognition and responsibility. But it is wasteful in the extreme for our society to fail to make use of the wealth of ability and experience possessed by its older people.

Alexander the Great may have wept at age 27 because there were no more worlds for him to conquer. But consider the towering figure of a Winston Churchill at the age of 70 fighting a war to save the world.

It is heartening, therefore, to know that in the last few years a number of organizations have been formed, some of them nationwide, aimed at

making the fully mature years of life more meaningful, both for the individual and for society as a whole. Some of these groups, and some localities, have established employment agencies for placing retirees in new fields of useful and gainful work.

This is a trend that should be encouraged. It is true, of course, that many retirees may wish to follow their own pursuits, perhaps just to take it easy. But for others, retirement on an arbitrary date can be a traumatic experience, especially if they are in good health—the case with so many older people today as the life span has increased.

Many individuals may feel unneeded and unwanted in retirement. They may have difficulty making ends meet on their retired income. The most important thing that society can do for them is to offer them the means to continue to be productive, self-supporting citizens.

Employers say that older workers, part-time or full-time, are conscientious, knowledgeable, and, above all, dependable. Our country has need of their experience and know-how. They should be given the fullest opportunity to continue to make a contribution to society.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Smokey's Message Still Worth Heeding

The difficulty that man encounters in dealing with ecological problems is underscored by the plight of Smokey the Bear. For years, Smokey has admonished Americans from posters throughout the country not to start forest fires. Now it turns out that some forest fires are good for the woods. Is Smokey now to be dismissed as a furry prevaricator?

Not really. The kinds of fires Smokey's mentors in the U.S. Forest Service now say are good, and perhaps even necessary, are usually not man-made. They generally occur in the remoter wilderness areas, touched off by lightning. Such natural conflagrations clean out underbrush and deadwood, clear diseased areas, and kill insect pests that destroy trees. Such fires probably would not start or spread, even though lightning struck, unless debris and conditions favoring a fire were present. The new thinking is to let natural fires burn out.

A fire, the experts have found, is necessary before some trees will grow. Only the heat of a fire can cause the seed of the jack pine to pop out of its cone—nature's method of providing new growth after a blaze. Some trees—such as the Douglas fir

and the Sequoias of the West—will not grow under other trees. Fires can open the way for ecological progression, foresters say, from aspen to hemlock to the "climax forest" of fir trees.

Some man-made fires also can be useful. The Forest Service and private owners have long resorted to controlled burning to clean out underbrush that competes with trees for nutrients and water.

Over the years, man has had to unlearn a good many things he thought he knew all about, and this has been especially true in the field of ecology as our knowledge of nature and its cycles has broadened. When human beings start tampering with a natural phenomenon and trying to control or change it, they may suddenly find out that what they thought was gospel is really heresy.

All of this, of course, does not mean that one should rush out and start a forest fire on the theory that it might be good for the trees. Smokey's message may not be totally accurate but it is still basically sound. Picnickers and campers, hunters and fishermen, should still be careful not to start forest fires. Leave that to nature and the experts.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Starting Point for UN Revitalization

The positive role the United Nations has taken in the efforts to bring peace in the Middle East ought to be the starting point for the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, and France—the five permanent members of the Security Council—to seek the UN's revitalization.

Founded with high hopes at the end of World War II to keep the peace, the UN has most often failed to do so until now; indeed, it has seemed each year less able to deal with the world's problems.

The reasons for its impotence have been two-fold: the sovereign states that compose it, unwilling to subordinate their sovereignty, have time and again stymied unified action; and far too many small new states have been admitted to membership, diluting the UN's direction and influence.

Nationalism has waxed rather than waned since World War II. Dozens of poor countries struggling for independence have emerged from colonialism and promptly become UN members. Where there were 51 members to start, now there are 135, many of which—like Lesotho, Rwanda, and Qatar—the average American never heard.

Yet, each has voting rights

in the U.N. Assembly equal to those of a major nation. Dominated by the new "third world," the Assembly has become an unwieldy Tower of Babel, concerned more with parochial matters than with the great issues of war and peace.

Nations comprising 10% of the world's population and contributing less than 5% of the UN budget command a two-thirds majority in the Assembly. The U.S. no longer has enough support to sustain its positions. It votes with the minority or abstains 75% of the time.

But the Security Council acted in the Mideast crisis because the big powers wanted it to act; and if the U.S., Russia, and China—in their quest for detente—want the Security Council to become a real force for peace and stability it can become that.

It is encouraging that in one of his first acts as Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger personally addressed the UN, expressing hope for its renewed usefulness. The emerging nations deserve their chance. But it is in the hands of the nuclear powers that the fate of the world hangs, and only they can make the UN anything more than a debating society.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal and the Energy Crisis

There is sufficient coal in the ground in our country to meet the nation's energy needs for hundreds of years to come. Why, then, do we not simply turn to coal to solve the energy problem?

The answer is that it is not all that simple. The nation's coal mines are already working at or near capacity. Meeting our energy needs with coal can be done, but it will require more mines, more trained men to work in them, more mining machinery, and more railroad cars for transport.

Perhaps most importantly, it will also take a greatly accelerated research and development program—which I have long advocated and worked for—to produce from coal the liquid and gaseous fuels our industrial society requires.

The federal government's misplaced faith in, and vast spending for, atomic energy have much to do with the critical situation in which the nation finds itself.

Experts warned a decade ago that the lack of long-term commitments to coal by industry—lured away from coal by cheap fuel oil from abroad and what was seen

then as the rosy promise of nuclear power — could endanger the country in a crisis such as we now have.

They pointed out that substantial capital outlays are required to open and operate mines and provide the expensive machinery needed for the extraction and preparation of coal. Without assured markets, they said, the capital investment needed could not be attracted. Events have proved them right, as the hope and expectation for a swift and widespread use of nuclear power have waned.

Coal has been hurt by other developments, too. Its use has been banned in many localities because of its sulfur emissions and environmental considerations. Many industrial plants have scrapped their coal-fired equipment. The number of available miners has declined. And needed railroad cars have not been built.

The result is that coal—that much maligned and neglected basic resource—cannot at one stroke provide an immediate way out of the energy crisis. But it can, in the years ahead, meet the nation's energy needs if its full utilization is given top priority.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Worst Drug Problem

Americans, especially parents, have been greatly worried for the last several years—and properly so—about drug abuse among the young. Pot smoking, glue sniffing, LSD, amphetamine and barbiturate pill popping, and heroin addiction have been widely publicized and rightly condemned.

But alcoholism is the No. 1 drug abuse problem in our country. And it is growing, among the young as well as among adults.

There is evidence that youthful drinking is supplanting the use of other drugs—even among teen-agers. The reasons are not hard to find. Alcohol is legal. It is easy to get and growing easier with the lowered drinking age in many localities. It is widely acceptable socially. And adults set the example.

Adults, of course, are the worst offenders, because all too many refuse to admit the problem. Reliable estimates are that more than 90 million Americans drink, nine million are alcoholics, and millions more have a drinking problem. The economic cost—in absenteeism, lowered productivity, medical treatment, arrests, etc.—is thought to be as

much as \$15 billion a year.

Half of all traffic fatalities, half of all homicides, and a quarter of U.S. suicides—80,000 deaths a year—are said to be alcohol-related. Life expectancy for the alcoholic is 10 to 12 years less than for the abstainer or moderate drinker. Equally serious, or more so, alcoholism breaks up innumerable families.

Yet, recent statistics show that the number of high school students who drink has almost doubled since 1969—from 39% then, to an estimated 74% in 1972. Clearly, young Americans have not yet been made sufficiently aware of the heartbreak and tragedy that almost inevitably await the victim of alcohol addiction.

Both industry and government are moving to step up programs aimed at combating alcoholism, and public school systems are joining in the fight. It is none too soon. If alcoholism is the disease that most knowledgeable persons now believe it to be, then its cause and cure must be as vigorously sought as are the cause and cure of heart disease and cancer. Nothing less than the future health of the nation is at stake.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Some Pluses in the Energy Picture

To put the U.S. energy picture into perspective, there are, despite all the negative aspects, some positive factors that should be kept in mind.

U.S. oil companies at last are moving toward the utilization of the shale deposits of the west for the production of oil. They are developing better ways to prevent contamination, so that more off-shore oil may be produced. They are seeking new sources of petroleum in the Western Hemisphere and other non-Arab lands. And the Alaska pipeline will be built.

Improved means are being sought for removing injurious stack emissions so that more coal may be burned in the future. Research and development have been stepped up to produce clean liquid and gaseous fuels from coal. And, already, a U.S. naval vessel has sailed from Philadelphia powered by oil made from coal.

People are improving their homes by installing more storm doors, windows, and insulation to save fuel for heating and air conditioning now and in the future. A side benefit, doctors say, is that cooler rooms in winter should mean

fewer colds and healthier citizens.

The trend toward smaller cars, car pools, and the use of public transportation will save petroleum now and in the future. And the lower speed limits will probably result in a lower death toll on the highways.

In addition to all of these pluses, new research and experimentation are under way in the efforts to harness solar energy and the geothermal energy that comes from the stored heat deep in the earth.

The U.S., hopefully, has relearned an old truth in the last few months: our nation must be self-sufficient in the basic things it needs for its survival, and nothing can be more basic to survival than energy.

If our people can get through this winter without too much inconvenience and hardship; if the efforts that are now under way to find new sources of energy bear fruit; and if the American people learn to conserve energy—then the time of testing, through which we are passing, could turn out to be a blessing in disguise.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Meeting Crisis Is a Job for All

The major ill effects of the energy crunch are, of course, well known: shortages and higher prices of gasoline for our cars; enforced changes in our driving—for necessity as well as for pleasure; chillier homes, factories, and offices; layoffs in airline, auto, and other industries; a depressed stock market; possible recession.

Like ripples in a pond, the full effects spread ever wider, and the full impact of not having enough of the petroleum our world has come to depend on is only beginning to be realized. For Americans, the whole way of life they have taken for granted in recent years can be affected.

The assumption, spoken or not, behind virtually all our economic development since World War II has been that energy would forever be plentiful and cheap. Our nation was on wheels, we were fond of saying.

Hence, urban sprawl, shopping centers away from downtown, weekends at second homes in the mountains or at the shore—and, yes, central schools to which children were bused—became America's life-style characteristics. As the cars and the freeways burgeoned, more and more workers moved farther and farther away from their jobs, and cities declined.

Now, suddenly, a whole new series of new and unexpected questions arise as all of the aspects of our energy situation come into focus. Should workers now move back nearer their jobs? Should we build more freeways? Should we continue to promote tourism? Should valuable electricity continue to be used for professional, night-time athletic contests? And what about gas for pleasure boats, mobile homes and campers, snowmobiles, and even lawnmowers?

Meeting the energy crisis intelligently is a job for all Americans. Federal, state, and city planners; real estate developers; recreation promoters; mass transit advocates—and the architects who, in the past, planned our energy-wasting glass-walled buildings—all are involved, as are all Americans. All must join in seeking the answers and the approaches needed for the future.

Cooperation, together with American inventiveness and ingenuity, I believe, can get us through the crisis and, perhaps, bring even a better future. It is a time for belt-tightening—not panic. Changes in the way we have done things are inevitable. But they do not necessarily have to be changes for the worse.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

War on Heroin Cuts Pain-Killer Supply

One of the laws of nature is that for every action an equal and opposite reaction can be expected. Because this is true, society's efforts to achieve desirable goals sometimes produce undesirable results as well.

We are seeing just such a situation now as one outgrowth of the federal government's entirely laudable efforts to combat the evils of heroin addiction. Because of the success of U.S. moves to curb undesirable foreign opium production, U.S. drug companies, doctors, and hospitals may now face a possible shortage of needed pain-killing codeine and morphine.

We are paying Turkey—previously the leading supplier of the highest quality legal, as well as siphoned-off illegal, opium—\$35 million not to grow poppies. India is now our only legal supplier.

But as the war on heroin gains and its use declines, the legitimate medical need for opium-derived drugs is rising. The demand for codeine, which relieves such ills as the symptoms of flu and bronchial ailments, is growing by 20% a year.

The upshot of this in-

creased demand and decreased production is that U.S. drug companies, which need an 18-month backlog of opiates, saw their stocks dwindle in late 1973 to a four-months' reserve.

The government thus finds itself in the dilemma of how to meet the medical need while keeping the screws on the illicit traffic.

Should it now reverse itself and opt for increased opium production elsewhere than in Turkey—or would our deal with the Turks then go down the drain? Should we plant poppies in our own Southwest where they will grow—or would that undermine our war on drugs?

Some short-term relief may be gained by releasing needed drugs from military stockpiles. But that is only a stop-gap. A long-term possibility is the cultivation of poppy strains from which it is easy to make codeine and hard to make heroin. But the new strains could also produce other narcotic drugs far more addictive than heroin.

As so often happens, the solving of one social problem may leave another problem in its place.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Eggs Become Center of Controversy

Bacon and eggs! Is this favorite breakfast on the way out because of Americans' worry over heart disease? It could be; but whether or not it should be has stirred a controversy between the medical profession and the egg industry, the end of which is not in sight.

Egg yolk, doctors say, is the highest dietary source of cholesterol, the fatty substance that can clog human arteries and is widely thought to be a major factor in heart attacks. The egg industry retorts that there is no conclusive evidence that eating eggs can be dangerous to one's health. The industry has mounted an advertising campaign to that effect.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health, Education, and Welfare, I have taken a lead in increasing funds for heart research. Everything possible must be done to combat the scourge of heart disease.

I do not have the answer to the egg controversy, but it is important that a definitive answer be found.

The concern of the American people about cholesterol,

and the effect that eating eggs may have upon their hearts, is shown by the fact that for the first time since the depths of the depression in 1935, egg consumption per person in 1973 dropped below 300. At the peak, more than 400 eggs per person per year were eaten in this country.

Eggs are among nature's best foods, high in protein, iron, and vitamins. In an effort to keep them in the American diet, food processors are bringing out egg substitutes; and research is being done to reduce the cholesterol in eggs by changing the diet of laying hens.

But what is most needed are stepped up efforts to resolve the basic question of the effect of cholesterol intake upon the normal human being. As we pointed out in an earlier column, much more research is needed into dietary problems in general. Many foods besides eggs are suspect in human ills.

The riddle that must be solved is whether it is the foods themselves that cause the trouble, or whether it is some quirk in the response of the individual to a particular food that is the villain.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Sea—Nature's Last Great Storehouse

What is probably the largest potential source of petroleum, minerals, and food resources left on the globe remains almost totally undeveloped because of the inability of nations to agree on how it should be done. That source is the oceans that cover three-fourths of the earth's surface.

Men land on the moon, orbit the earth in space laboratories, and send spaceships winging toward the outer reaches of the universe. But man has yet to explore the depths of the seas as they should be explored, or even to agree on jurisdictional matters involving the seas.

The ocean beds are believed to be incredibly rich in minerals such as manganese, nickel, and copper; the continental shelves of the world's coastal waters are thought to contain billions of barrels of oil; and the fishing grounds of the oceans offer one of the world's best sources of protein.

Yet, the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, embracing 148 nations, ended its December meeting at the UN without taking any firm action toward defining the

way these resources should be tapped, the world's energy shortages notwithstanding.

The Conference not only did not come to grips with the resources problem; it failed also to face up to the worsening ocean pollution situation. The sea, someone has said, is earth's ultimate sewer. Man may well be killing the oceans by dumping the world's wastes into them.

A stumbling block to international agreement on the use of the ocean's resources is the claim of coastal countries to territorial rights 200 miles offshore—a trend that threatens the freedom of the seas. Another is the opposition of some countries to U.S. drilling and mining at sea. Environmental considerations are also involved. And the big powers themselves by no means agree on how the bounties of the sea should be divided and shared.

These are thorny questions. But, unless answers are forthcoming, the sea's oil and minerals will go unused, marine life overkill will continue, and pollution will slowly choke nature's last great storehouse.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Senate in 1973: A Year of Achievement

The television coverage of the Watergate hearings left many people with the impression (as indicated in my office mail) that all of Congress was tied up with Watergate in 1973. The facts, however, are otherwise.

Only seven Senators out of 100 members of the Senate (no House Members) are on the Watergate Committee. The remaining 93 Senators have been busy in their own committees and subcommittees.

Aside from the Watergate Committee, there are, in the Senate, 17 standing (permanent) committees, 126 subcommittees, and nine special and select committees.

Hence, while the Watergate Committee hearings were being televised for millions of Americans to observe, there was no television coverage of the hearings and activities of the 152 other Senate standing committees, subcommittees, and special and select committees while they were at work.

Contrary to the impression that the Senate was bogged down with Watergate, the Senate in 1973 passed 723 measures, of which 196 became public law; confirmed 66,817 nominations; approved 22 treaties; and conducted 594 record votes.

Among those measures of importance enacted by the Senate (some of which still await House action), are the following:

Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act; War Powers Resolution; Compensation for Victims of Violent Crimes; Social Security Benefits Increase; Emergency Medical

Services; Health Maintenance Organizations.

The Senate also enacted Private Pension Plan Reform; Minimum Wage Increase (which was vetoed); Vocational Rehabilitation; Mass Transit Funding; Northeast Rail Service Improvement; Crime Control Act; Railroad Retirement Amendments; Servicemen's Benefits; Education of the Handicapped.

Also included were Federal Election Campaign Amendments; Federal Election Reform Commission; Toxic Substances Control Act; Emergency Loan Program for Disaster Areas; Flood Insurance; Older Americans Act; Public Works and Economic Development Amendments; Youth Conservation Corps.

Additionally, the Senate legislation included Civil Service Retirement Annuities; Civil Service Survivors Benefits; Federal Employees Health Insurance; National Guard Technicians' Retirement; Diabetes Millitus; School Lunch and Child Nutrition Programs; Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Moreover, the Senate passed bills on Job Training Employment Opportunities; Emergency Employment Act Amendments; Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Amendments; Aircraft Hijacking; Federal-Aid Highway Act; Freight Car Shortage; Ship Construction; and Extension of the Economic Stabilization Act, giving authority to the President to control wages, prices, etc.

The enactment of this mass of legislation is evidence that the Senate has been concerned with many issues other than Watergate.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Population Drop Should Be Temporary

The Census Bureau's estimate that West Virginia's population declined 1,000 between July 1972 and July 1973 was not what West Virginians wanted to hear. But the figure is an estimate only and does not necessarily indicate a trend.

In the two years previous to 1973, West Virginia reversed the population loss it suffered in the fifties and sixties—gaining an estimated 51,000.

The 1970 census gave the state 1,744,237. By July 1971, that had increased to an estimated 1,768,000, and, by July 1972, had grown to an estimated 1,795,000.

West Virginia's population gain and loss has corresponded largely to the vitality of the coal business. From the turn of the century—when the state had only 958,000—the rate of growth was steady until 1950, at which mid-century point it reached its high of 2,005,552.

The greatest growth came between 1910 and 1930, when more than half a million increase was counted, the growth coinciding with the

burgeoning coal industry. The greatest decline was in the fifties when the loss was 145,000, corresponding again with the receding fortunes of coal.

These figures are interesting as West Virginia looks to the future, with the fortunes of coal due for another change as a result of the energy crisis. It is not likely that the state's population will shoot swiftly upward in the next year or so, because increased production of coal is a long-term rather than a short-term matter.

But for the long range, the state's prospects population-wise look good. West Virginia, with its abundant reserves of coal, could become the American "Middle East" as an energy supplier.

Gasoline, gas for heating and cooking, and other oil-based products too numerous to mention can be made from coal. Producing these necessities will require men to mine the coal, other men to move it, and still others to man the plants to convert it to new products and uses.

The estimated drop in West Virginia's population should be only a temporary thing.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

We Do Not Need Any More Crises

Among the many lessons the oil embargo and price escalation should teach us is that the United States could face other serious shortages of basic necessities as a result of our dependence upon foreign sources of supply.

Congressional committees have been told that our country is now importing more than 50% of at least six basic raw materials required by an industrial nation: aluminum, chromium, manganese, nickel, tin, and zinc.

By 1985, unless the situation changes, we are likely also to be dependent upon other countries for more than half of our iron, lead, and tungsten; and, if the trend continues, by the end of the century imports will also have to supply more than half of the copper, potassium, and sulfur we need.

Taken together, these are 12 basic raw materials an industrial society must have.

We are undertaking a long-range attack on the energy problem designed to make the United States self-sufficient. We need also to mount a long-range attack on the problem of obtaining adequate supplies of all essential raw materials. The use of the oil weapon against us could

tempt other countries to try embargoes and price hikes of other vital raw materials.

Three things are needed. We must be certain that strategic economic considerations have equal bearing with political and other factors in determining U.S. foreign policy. We must maintain pragmatically sound relationships with other countries from which we obtain strategic supplies in order to head off the kind of situation that developed in the Middle East.

Second, we should begin now a nationwide program to conserve and reclaim metals and basic materials. We should quit wasting them as we have wasted energy.

And, third, new means should be sought to develop presently untapped U.S. resources. Our country has, for example, undeveloped aluminum, manganese, and low-grade iron ores in the Appalachian area. Development thus far has centered on the question of economic feasibility. We have imported these and other materials because imports were cheaper. The time has come to take another look at that rationale.

The United States cannot afford a crisis in basic raw materials on top of its energy crisis.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ripoffs, Kickbacks, Cheating and Hanky-Panky

Recent news reports have told of students, seeking admission to medical and law schools, who have paid advanced students to take entrance examinations for them. Other reports have told of thesis mills where students can buy papers on almost any college subject, and still others have told of other forms of campus cheating.

To a public surfeited with Watergate, such dishonesty may create no great stir. But it, and other manifestations of contemporary morality, should be enough to give any American pause.

We have much to be proud of in our country, of course. But no citizen can be proud of the cheating being done in professional schools, the rise in white collar crime, entertainment payola, political payoffs, kickbacks, corporate hanky-panky, misuse of union funds, employee ripoffs from employers, or the growing number of shoplifters. Even the once simon-pure Soapbox Derby so many kids loved has been tainted by cheating and dishonesty.

When one puts it all together, one gets a sorry pic-

ture of the current state of U. S. ethics and morality. Watergate seems only the tip of the iceberg. This is not to mitigate or excuse Watergate's sordidness, but rather to point out that what has happened in the nation's political life is symptomatic of a malaise that runs through much of the rest of our social fabric.

The most basic problem in America today is not energy nor the Mideast, nor detente, nor inflation—critical though these problems are. It is, instead, the breakdown of the values and standards upon which our nation was built, and the desperate need that now exists for a restoration of simple honesty and decency and integrity in all aspects of our national life.

That is the great challenge that America faces as it approaches its bicentennial. That is the great challenge that confronts our political parties, our professional and trade associations, our corporations, our public officials, our union leaders, our service clubs, our teachers and preachers—and, yes, America's Mothers and Dads.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Telling the 'Wonderful West Virginia' Story

I am delighted each month when I receive my copy of "Wonderful West Virginia," the excellent and highly interesting magazine published by the State Department of Natural Resources.

There is so much that is appealing about our state, and this very professional publication, hopefully, is reaching an ever-widening number of readers. State magazines, if they are well done, can do much to carry a state's story beyond its borders. "Wonderful West Virginia" seems to me to be a vehicle that can help accomplish that objective.

The first 1974 issue was typical of what the magazine has been doing now for the last several years. The front and back covers depicted beautiful winter scenes in the Mountain State. Other seasons, especially the magic of fall, were pictured on the inside covers and elsewhere in the magazine.

These full color pages, many by photographer Arnout Hyde, Jr., are among the outstanding features of "Wonderful West Virginia." There are sometimes a dozen of them, calling to mind the widely-acclaimed color photos in the "Arizona Highways" magazine.

The articles in the year's

first issue were equally intriguing and worthwhile. There were pieces on foxchasing in West Virginia and "Plants That Eat Animals"; articles on Wheeling's model Oglebay Park and Summers County's unique Riverside Inn; and interesting reprints from publications in other states. A varied and well-balanced fare is being served up by editor Ed Johnson.

An editorial by Ira S. Lattimer, director of the Department of Natural Resources, also forthrightly pointed out that the ugly depredations of vandals in West Virginia's great outdoors and recreation areas is a growing problem that must be dealt with—"either voluntarily or by prosecution." Why some misguided persons would besmirch and deface attractions that thousands of other people enjoy has always been a mystery to me. I agree that they should be dealt with—by whatever means necessary.

West Virginians, as well as persons in other areas who may wish to visit our state, should enjoy this attractive magazine. All who are responsible for its publication can take pride in it. "Wonderful West Virginia," in my judgment, is performing a needed and welcome service for the Mountain State.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Senators Should Not Prejudge Nixon Case

Letters reach my office daily urging me to *support* impeachment of the President; others urge me to *oppose* impeachment. These communications are to be expected in the present climate of public opinion. However, I think it would be inappropriate for me, a United States Senator, either to *support* impeachment OR to *oppose* impeachment of the President.

A handful of Senators have publicly advocated that the President be impeached, but I don't believe I should express a judgment, one way or the other. The decision as to whether or not to impeach is vested *solely* in the House of Representatives—not the Senate. Impeachment is somewhat analogous to an indictment, in that both involve the filing of formal charges preliminary to a trial.

The Senate, on the other hand, has been vested with the sole power to "try all impeachments." As a Senator, I would sit as a juror in the trial of the President, should the House of Representatives vote to impeach him. If such a situation should arise, every Senator would be required to swear, in all things appertaining to the trial of impeachment, to "do impartial justice

according to the Constitution and the laws."

Hence, it is obvious that, as a prospective juror in such a trial, I should do *nothing*, by word or action, to influence the House of Representatives concerning impeachment. Were I to do so, it could be interpreted as a prejudgment on my part of the President's guilt or innocence. I am sure that all West Virginians will agree that a jury should consist of *impartial* jurors—not jurors who have already prejudged the case.

Should the Senate ever be confronted with an impeachment trial of Mr. Nixon, I would do my best to reach an impartial judgment based on the evidence presented, entirely aside from partisan considerations.

I hope that the Senate is never confronted with such an impeachment trial, but the possibility is a real one. I trust that I shall have the understanding of all my constituents when I say I ought not and will not take any action *for* or *against* impeachment. That is strictly the responsibility and prerogative of the House of Representatives, not the Senate, under the Constitution.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

War on Crime Far From Being Won

The war against crime in the United States is far from being won. Statistics show decreases in some localities, but increases elsewhere offset the gains.

Rape is now increasing faster than any other type of serious crime; and the number of burglaries, kidnapings, and wanton murders is climbing in many places. The recent kidnapings and the senseless street slayings in San Francisco underline the trend, causing new worry and fear for millions of Americans.

It is not urban areas alone that are affected. Recent figures show crime to be increasing in the suburbs faster than in the cities. The problem is a pervasive one that should be of concern to all Americans who want to live in a peaceful and safe society.

Crime and violence plague many societies. But most respond with more vigor and less leniency toward the criminal than does our own country today. Despite the anti-crime legislation of recent years enacted by the Congress, and despite the beefing-up of police forces and the upgrading of their personnel, millions of our citizens—from the poorest to the richest—today simply are not safe in their own neighborhoods.

The fact is emphasized by the news reports telling of the formation in many communities of what are in effect para-police units. Tired of being victimized by lawbreakers, citizens — with police blessing — are organizing patrol squads to augment the police. Armed mainly with flashlights and citizen-band radios, residents take turns patrolling their neighborhoods to report suspicious activity to the police.

So long as such groups have official backing, they can be helpful and their number can be expected to grow. But the anger that citizens feel toward unpunished crime must never be allowed to lead to illegal vigilantes or goon squads.

What is most needed to deal with crime is the strengthening of our system of criminal justice. Punishment for crime must again be made swift, certain, and severe enough to discourage other would-be criminals. It is heartening that the U.S. Supreme Court is moving away from the permissiveness of the Warren years, and is once more handing down decisions that support the police instead of hamstringing them.

America's courts, in the final analysis, bear a heavy responsibility for putting the brakes on crime.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Voters Can Be Trusted With the Decision

Watergate has focused new attention upon the length of the presidential term and the number of terms a President may serve. Suggestions have been heard that the four-year term should be lengthened to a single six-year term; and it has also been suggested that a President be limited to one four-year term.

Until the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt, there was no limit upon the number of times a President might serve. The framers of the Constitution recognized that a U.S. President should have at least four years to do his job, and they wisely left it up to the judgment of the people as to whether he should be reelected.

Critics of Roosevelt, the only President to serve more than two terms, pushed through the 22nd Amendment limiting a President to two terms. They argued that a President's power and his ability to sway public opinion had grown so great that he could be reelected indefinitely.

They failed to recognize that the reverse could be true, and that public opinion could operate against the President. We are seeing that now, and it was evidenced also in the administrations of Lyn-

don Johnson and Harry Truman, both of whom declined to seek another term.

In my judgment, the two four-year terms are preferable to any other arrangement—unless it be a return to the original Constitutional provision. One six-year term, or a single four-year term, might free a President from political considerations involved in his decision-making. But should a President, or any other elected official in a representative government, make dictator-like decisions without regard to the political consequences or the people's wishes—which he might do if limited to one term?

An incumbent President has advantages when he runs for reelection, it is true—but not unless he enjoys public confidence and support. To argue for one term, whatever the length, is to argue against the ability of the people to judge performance in office and against the concept underlying democratic elections.

If voters have the right to return, or not to return, other elected officials such as Senators and Congressmen, should they not also have the right to pass upon a President's fitness for reelection?



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Congress' Rating in the Polls

A number of commentators have been making much of the fact that Congress' rating in a recent poll was lower than that of the President. Why does the public appear to hold Congress in such poor esteem?

One reason has to do with Watergate. President Nixon's foes demand his impeachment. His supporters vigorously oppose it. Congress, in the middle, is charged on the one hand by many with being "out to get" the President, and it is denounced on the other by many more for not "getting" him. Caught on the horns of this dilemma, Congress could hardly expect to win much praise from a polarized public.

Another reason is that this is an election year. Some members of the House and Senate, illogical though it may seem, campaign by running against Congress. They seem to find it to their advantage to run Congress down.

Still another reason is that Congress, when compared with a Chief Executive, is a veritable Tower of Babel. An Administration can speak with the once voice of a President; Congress speaks with 535 disparate voices. A President can preempt prime-time television on three networks

and have access to most front pages in the land to gain the attention of the public. Members of the Senate and House often have difficulty making their voices heard outside their own constituencies.

The substantive record of the 93rd Congress is much better than the image in the polls suggests. As I pointed out in a recent column, the present Congress has many impressive accomplishments to its credit.

They include the comprehensive energy bill (which the President vetoed), and good and needed legislation in the fields of health, education, the economy, election reform, social security, war powers, crime, and national defense—to name only a few.

Many of America's institutions are under fire at this point. Government is not alone in being criticized. The public is asking questions about our country's communications media, its business and industrial corporations, and many other aspects of U.S. life.

All this can be healthful, and the end result can be beneficial. But only if citizens seek to ascertain facts, and to make objective judgments upon them, rather than upon subjective and emotional appraisals.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Governors Have Come from 17 Counties

West Virginia has had 28 governors in its 111 years of statehood. They have been almost evenly divided between the two political parties, 15 having been Democrats and 13 Republicans.

Seventeen of the state's 55 counties have seen their sons become the state's chief executive. But only seven have produced more than one governor. Wood County leads the list with four: Albert B. White (R), 1900; Jacob B. Jackson (D), 1880; William E. Stevenson (R), elected in 1868; and Arthur I. Boreman (R), the state's first governor in 1863.

Kanawha County and Marion County each has had three governors. Those from Marion were M. M. Neely (D), 1940; Ephraim F. Morgan (R), 1920; and Aretas B. Fleming (D), 1888. Those from Kanawha were William G. Conley (R), 1928; William A. MacCorkle (D), 1892; and Emanuel W. Wilson (D), 1884.

Four counties have had two governors, Raleigh, Fayette, Randolph, and Hampshire. Raleigh's were Hulett C. Smith (D), 1964; and Clarence W. Meadows (D), 1944. Fayette's were Okey L. Patteson (D), 1948; and Homer A. Holt (D), 1936. Randolph's were W. W. Barron (D), 1960;

and H. G. Kump (D), 1932. Hampshire's were John J. Cornwell (D), 1916; and John J. Jacob (D), 1872 and 1870 (before the State Constitution providing a four-year term was ratified).

The ten other counties from which governors have come are:

Marshall, Arch A. Moore (R), 1968 and 1972; Tyler, Cecil H. Underwood (R), 1956; Wyoming, William C. Marland (D), 1952; Harrison, Howard M. Gore (R), 1924; McDowell, Henry D. Hatfield (R), 1912; Monongalia, William E. Glasscock (R), 1908; Preston, William M. O. Dawson (R), 1904; Ohio, George W. Atkinson (R), 1896; Greenbrier, Henry M. Mathews (D), 1876; and Upshur, Daniel D. T. Farnsworth (R), who, as President of the State Senate, succeeded Governor Boreman in 1869 when Boreman resigned to enter the United States Senate. Farnsworth, however, served only from February 27 to March 4—at that time inauguration day—when Governor Stevenson, elected in 1868, took office.

Of West Virginia counties over 50,000 population, only Cabell and Mercer have not had governors.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Self-Sufficiency in Food Desirable, Too

Spurred by high food prices and shortages, more West Virginians—and more Americans everywhere—are expected to plant vegetable gardens this spring than at any time since the austere days of World War II.

In Arlington, Va., across the Potomac from Washington, the county government is making available to apartment dwellers, and other residents of that highly-urbanized area, some 70 county-owned plots of land for vegetable gardens this summer. It is a trend that could spread.

Americans this year are finding themselves in a situation they have not experienced before. For the first time, they are competing with much of the rest of the hungry world for the food they must buy. That is one of the reasons for the high prices and scarce supplies.

The huge American surpluses of other years, which helped keep prices down and supplies assured, are suddenly a thing of the past. World affluence and world demand for food have soared. The

U.S. is exporting more food-stuff than ever before—an estimated \$20 billion worth in the fiscal year ending June 30, up from \$8 billion in 1972.

These exports are important to the United States in that they help our country maintain a favorable balance in world trade. They give U.S. farmers additional markets as well. But domestic needs and prices are important, too.

The answer to the food problem can only lie in greatly increased production all along the line, from America's vast farmlands to its home gardens. A patch of ground with peas, beans, corn, tomatoes, lettuce, and cucumbers can help balance the family budget; it can provide healthful exercise; and it can bring the satisfaction of producing for one's own needs. Moreover, it can also provide nutritious and mouth-watering food, as all who love fresh corn-on-the-cob and home-grown tomatoes know.

Self-sufficiency in food can be as important as self-sufficiency in energy or anything else.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Costly But Necessary Undertaking

Some commentators contend that making the United States self-sufficient in energy will be too costly. They say, further, that the goal cannot be reached by 1980.

There is more merit to the second contention than to the first. It is improbable that all that must be done will be done in the next six years, considering the technological, developmental, and financial problems involved.

West Virginians well know, for example, that getting new coal mines into production is a time-consuming and very costly process. There are difficulties that must be overcome, also, before the production of synthetic fuels from coal becomes a commercial reality. And getting oil from the shales of the West means the development of a whole new industry.

But there can be no question, in my judgment, about the necessity for our country to become self-sufficient in energy whatever the difficulties or the cost. The strings attached to the lifting of the oil embargo—and the possibility of its use again—should alert us sufficiently to the risks inherent in dependency upon foreign sources for the fuel our nation must have.

Much more than gas for

vacations and Sunday driving is involved. The security of our country could be at stake. In the event of war, the U.S. would be in deep trouble without sufficient fuel for ships, planes, tanks, and factories. Germany, in World War II, knew this, and a generation ago it synthetically produced the fuel it needed from coal. We should note well the fact that the Soviet Union — despite this era of "detente" — urged Middle Eastern oil producers to continue their boycott.

There are other compelling reasons for energy self-sufficiency—among them the fact that, every year, every industrial nation is using more energy; and the demand will continue to increase. The quantity of oil, even in the Middle East, is finite. It will one day be used up. The need for energy from other sources can only grow more urgent with the passage of time.

The lifting of the oil embargo should be no cause for complacency, or for raising doubts about the wisdom of reaching the goal that has been set. A nation that can spend billions on space exploration can afford to do no less when the energy for its survival and growth is involved.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Political Parties and Independent Voters

A fact of increasing importance in the political life of our nation is that more and more voters are shunning identification with either major political party. A recent poll shows that as many as 34% of the voters now list themselves as independents, while 42% consider themselves Democrats and 24% consider themselves Republicans.

The growth of an independent-minded electorate is desirable insofar as it means a more informed and enlightened public. A representative, democratic system such as ours can function properly only when the people are informed and are free to act independently. Blind party loyalty, of whatever political persuasion, is not conducive to the best government.

But there is another side to the matter. The two-party system, as it has evolved in the United States, is basic to orderly governmental operations in our country. It provides for logical and workable organization of the national and state executive departments and of the national and state legislatures. It fixes party responsibility. It makes possible meaningful, understandable elections.

One need only to look at countries bedeviled by multi-

ple or splinter parties to see how confused and chaotic elections can become, or how difficult it can be to form viable governments. Two parties, offering the electorate a clear-cut choice, can produce the most effective government.

Why, then, the rise of the independents in our country?

The answer is two-fold: cynicism toward government in general, and disenchantment with both major parties. Neither major party, and few recent administrations are totally untarnished in the public mind. This political dissatisfaction is one of the basic reasons why Governor Wallace attracts so much support.

The independents—and the split-ticket voters, who are increasing too—are sending America's party leaders a message. They are saying that great numbers of citizens have lost faith. It is a message that can be ignored only at peril to our system.

The revitalization of our two-party system is urgently needed in all too many localities. Independence of mind is desirable in every voter. But our system will work best only when the overwhelming majority of U.S. citizens believe strongly enough in one or the other of our two historic major political parties to align themselves with it.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Pluses Outweigh the Minuses

Inflation, the talk of recession, the energy problem, Watergate—these and other worrisome developments apparently have led some Americans to the pessimistic conclusion that our country is on the skids. Prophets of gloom here and there cry that America may be done for.

Our problems are serious. But we surely should not let them overwhelm us; we should try, instead, to keep them in perspective. Inflation and energy shortages, are worldwide in nature—worse in several places than they are here.

The United States has come through many serious crises before. It was born in revolution, and its union was cemented in civil war. It has withstood depression, world war, assassinations of presidents, and the trauma of the late sixties when rioters set cities aflame.

When one is tempted to dwell too somberly on our country's present troubles, one should balance them against America's enormous assets. It is neither rationalizing nor chauvinistic to conclude that the pluses outweigh the minuses, and by a wide degree.

Despite the inroads of inflation—and the gas, food, and other shortages—our standard of living and general technological progress continue to outdistance those of any other nation. And for every person involved in Watergate, there are thousands of dedicated public servants who recognize the proper use and limits of authority and power.

This is no time to sell America short, however serious its troubles may be or seem to be. Our nation is resilient and our people resourceful. Our system has responded to crises and adjusted to change again and again within our constitutional framework.

The time is again at hand for change: for restoring confidence in government at all levels; for improving our electoral processes; for tax reform; for increasing our productivity; and for insuring our self-sufficiency in energy and basic raw materials.

Ours is a vital and dynamic country. Its strength derives from many sources, not the least of which is the common sense of its people. I am confident that that common sense will prevail now, and that our nation will come through its trials stronger than before.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reduced Speed Limit Saving Lives

For the first time in many years the nation's highway death toll is declining throughout the country. The 55-mile speed limit, imposed to reduce gasoline consumption, is given the credit. The total miles Americans drive has declined too, and that is a factor; but the drop in fatalities is considerably greater than is the decrease in driving.

The average driver may not realize it, but some 17 million automobile accidents a year have been occurring in the United States. Better known, perhaps, is the fact that these accidents have sent deaths in car crashes soaring above 56,000 a year.

Now, according to the National Safety Council, the monthly death totals are dropping. They were 9% lower in November 1973—the first month for the lower speed limits—than they were in November 1972. They were 19% lower in December than a year earlier. And in both January and February 1974 they were an impressive 25% below last year.

This is good news indeed for all who drive automobiles—including those who chafe at the reduced speed limits.

Safety experts say that one's chances of being killed in an automobile wreck double with each 10-mile-an-hour increase above 50. The risk of being fatally injured is twice as great at 60 as it is at 50, and at 70 it is four times greater.

Reducing speed limits is not the whole answer to solving the highway death problem. But experience with the 55-mile speed limit thus far would seem to point up one aspect of the situation about which disagreement has existed in the past: Speed does kill.

A case can be made for a 70-mile-an-hour limit for competent, sober drivers on limited-access divided four-lane highways, such as the interstates. But, unfortunately, not all drivers are competent and sober.

Until all drivers are licensed, and their licenses are renewed, on the basis of their driving skills and physical condition and their ability to react properly in emergency situations, and until we get the drunk drivers off the roads, then speed can only multiply one's chances of being killed—even when an accident is not one's own fault.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Should Retain Panama Canal

I am opposed to the United States turning over the Panama Canal to the Republic of Panama. There is too much doubt about Panama's ability to operate the canal or to provide for its security. Over the years we have invested nearly \$6 billion in the canal and its defense. A better solution than U.S. withdrawal is needed.

The nub of the problem is the manner and character of the U.S. presence in Panama. The U.S. exercises sovereignty over a 10-mile wide zone from the Atlantic to the Pacific, cutting the country in half. In it the U.S. maintains commercial activity, military forces, and the police and courts—to which Panamanians are subject.

Panamanians resent this intrusion into what they regard as their territory. U.S. control of the Canal Zone is the country's major political issue.

The zone was obtained by the United States through purchase of portions of the land; by purchase of the canal company from France; and by treaty with Panama when it declared its independence from Colombia in 1903, under U.S. aegis. Panama might not have come into being as an independent country had it not

been for U.S. support.

The existing 1903 treaty provides that the U.S. shall exercise authority over the zone in perpetuity, "as if it were the sovereign," although the U.S. in 1905 recognized Panama's "titular sovereignty." The proposed new treaty would eliminate the concept of perpetuity; terminate U.S. jurisdiction over the territory; provide for a period of joint operation of the canal; and give Panama total responsibility for the canal on the fixed termination date of the treaty.

It is the wisdom of this last provision that is most open to question in the world of big-power competition and confrontation. The canal needs modernizing, and a new canal may have to be built. The Isthmus of Panama is of considerable strategic importance; and we should not forget that the Soviet Union did try an adventure in Cuba. Panama, with 59 presidents or governments in 71 years, has no great record of stability.

We should also not forget that the Suez Canal, relinquished by Great Britain, is still littered with sunken ships and today remains closed to the world's commerce.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Exports Increasing

The phrase "international trade" is likely to conjure up thoughts of busy seaports and ocean-going ships—things well removed from West Virginia. But no matter that the Mountain State is a considerable distance from the sea, international trade looms large in its economic picture.

The U.S. Department of Commerce estimates that the total value of West Virginia exports in the last year for which figures are available, 1972, was more than \$820 million. Other estimates place the number of jobs in the state directly related to exports at 30,000 or more. On a per capita basis, West Virginia is among the top five states in the value of the products it exports.

Coal, the high grade metallurgical variety that goes to steel mills in Japan, Europe, and South America tops the list of Mountain State products that go abroad. In 1972, the mine-mouth value of West Virginia's export coal was more than \$500 million. Our state is first among the 50 states in coal exports, accounting for about 75% of all U.S. coal that goes to foreign countries.

But West Virginia also exports substantial quantities of manufactured products—

nearly \$300 million worth in 1972. These exports included metals and metal products; stone, clay, and glass products; and chemicals, plastics, and synthetics.

Chemicals make up the largest group of manufactured products the state sells abroad. West Virginia is fifth among the states in the value of its chemical exports, accounting for about five percent of the U.S. total. The Mountain State's glassware is also sold in foreign countries; and the state exports about \$4 million worth of agricultural products a year, mostly fruit and livestock.

West Virginia has exported its coal for many years. But it has increased the export of its manufactured and other products sharply in just the last decade. More increases can be expected—a good omen as we look to the future.

Far from being a one-industry or one-crop state, West Virginia is steadily diversifying. Although many of its citizens may not have thought of it, West Virginia, according to the State Department of Commerce, is one of the few states that makes a plus contribution to the U.S. balance of trade.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Will the Draft Have to Be Reinstated?

The Army, Navy, and Marine Corps continue to fall short of their recruiting quotas, and some are saying in Washington that it may be necessary to reinstate the draft.

Only the Air Force is now at its full strength of 674,000. In contrast with the other services, the Air Force has found volunteers plentiful enough for it to pick and choose, so that it is now getting some of the best recruits in its history. The easy transfer to civilian life of the skills it provides, and the fascination of the "wild blue yonder" seem sufficient inducements to keep the air arm all-volunteer — at least for now.

But attracting all of the recruits they need is a different story for the other services, especially the Army. Despite its widely-advertised, and criticized, beer-in-the-barracks moves — which, it was said, would make life a bit pleasanter for the volunteer — the Army is still 20,000 below its authorized strength of 802,000. Its greatest problem lies in getting enlistees for its combat components.

All 13 of the Army's divisions, however, are expected to reach combat readiness this summer, whereas only four were at that stage at the beginning of 1973. Also on the plus side is the fact that in recent months the Army

has been reaching about 95% of its recruiting quotas.

The Navy and the Marine Corps are faring better than the Army, although they, too, are below the levels needed. The Navy is some 9,000 under its desired number of 566,000, and the Marines are about 5,000 short of the 194,000 they should have. Both services, however, say they believe their recruiting will pick up this year.

There are arguments, of course, on both sides of the volunteer armed forces issue. But so far, the fears expressed in some quarters that professionalized services might endanger the American concept of civilian control over the military, or that the services might become predominantly black, have not yet been borne out. Many observers now do not believe they will be.

For many young Americans, enlistment in any one of the U.S. armed forces offers what is perhaps the maximum opportunity to serve one's country, and at the same time it offers opportunities for both physical and mental development and career advancement as well.

I hope that the volunteer concept will work, and that it will not be necessary to go back to the draft. But I am keeping my fingers crossed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Opportunities for Worthwhile Careers

The significant changes that are occurring in health care delivery in our country offer increasingly worthwhile career opportunities for young people—especially those currently graduating from high schools. The spread of health maintenance organizations (HMOs), and the likelihood of congressional action on some form of national health insurance broaden the possibilities.

With the shortage of doctors, an increasing number of smaller communities, as many West Virginians know, have no physicians or health care facilities at all. In this situation, registered nurses and persons entering what are now generally referred to as the allied health professions can fill a real and urgent need.

The demand is growing for many types of trained people in the health field—medical technologists, laboratory technicians, physical therapists, dental hygienists, and other similar specialties that have been developed in recent years. Many community colleges, as well as four-year colleges and universities, offer courses leading to various degrees in these fields.

Physicians' assistants and nurse practitioners now routinely make preliminary examinations in an increasing number of health

facilities. With time-consuming tests by aides especially trained for the job, physicians are freed to use their greater skills more effectively for more people.

The need for such medical assistants can be expected to grow, especially if national health insurance becomes a reality. The quality of applicants for training of this nature is increasing, along with the employment opportunities.

In another type of recent development, nurse clinics have been established in areas where there are no doctors. Registered nurses see patients, and, by phone and other means, get recommendations for treatment from specialists at medical centers.

More nurses will be needed for this type of work in the future, as well as for supervisory duties in hospitals and at nurse training facilities. The shortage of registered nurses has eased somewhat; but with the growing number of health facilities and nursing homes, the need for nurses can only increase.

Our country is in a transitional health care period—one that is providing more varied possibilities for careers of meaningful service to humanity than ever before.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

About Detente's 'Give and Take'

Detente with the Russians is better than confrontation, and infinitely better than conflict—cold or hot. But with the Soviet Union obviously still aiming at arms superiority over the U.S., we must proceed realistically and with caution.

Few Americans, I believe, will quarrel with a U.S. policy that seeks establishment of a friendly give-and-take relationship with the Soviet Union. That objective is desirable, both from the standpoint of world peace and our own national interests.

But what is not desirable is an accommodation in which the United States does most of the giving and the Soviet Union does most of the taking.

The U.S. already has been taken on the wheat deal, in which — to the detriment of our own country — a Russian food crisis was averted by their acquisition of our grain at a price hurtful to American consumers.

Many will also argue that the U.S. may have been taken in the SALT I agreement, in which we assented to a degree of Soviet superiority in missiles. It can further be argued that we were overly generous, if not naive, in allowing the Kremlin access to computer technology that can benefit

Soviet military objectives.

Now, ahead of us, is the planned linkup of American and Soviet spacecraft. Preparations for this historic rendezvous in July 1975 are going forward.

What sort of preparations? News reports say that no fewer than 75 Russian engineers, cosmonauts, and technicians were at the U.S. Space Center at Houston, Texas, by mid-April gathering information about the U.S. space program.

By contrast, U.S. space personnel—and then only nine or ten—will not go to Russia until July to receive such information as the Soviets are willing to reveal about their own space efforts.

The Soviet Union has fallen behind the U.S. in space technology. It abandoned the race to the moon. Cooperation by the U.S. and Russia in space sounds fine. But who stands to benefit?

It is obvious that the U.S. has much to offer that the Soviet Union needs and wants. It is equally obvious that the Soviet Union has little to offer that the U.S. needs and wants—except, of course, peace.

The question is, is peace to be gained by our giving the Russians the U.S. technology and know-how they lack?



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Kissinger's Notable Mideast Achievement

It is very much to be hoped that a new era is beginning in the Middle East, thanks mainly to the skill and persistence of the U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger.

The moves toward peace are welcome indeed, and I am especially pleased that the United States has improved its relations with the Arab states while continuing to support Israel. We have finally assumed the role we should play in that troubled area of the world—the role of the objective go-between, the pragmatic peacemaker between Israel and its neighbors.

That the United States has resumed diplomatic relations with Egypt, and hopefully entered upon a period of better relations with the other Arab countries, does not mean abandonment of our ties with Israel. On the contrary, if all goes well, it can mean for Israel the first period of real peace and security the Jewish state has known since its inception in 1948.

Dr. Kissinger — the honest broker both sides learned to respect and trust as one who would understand opposing viewpoints and seek fair and just agreements and accommodations — has performed a service of inestimable global importance. If the agreements stand up, the achievement may

well be the Nixon Administration's most significant in its efforts to bring world peace and stability.

What has been accomplished is all the more remarkable for the fact that if Dr. Kissinger did not gain the active support of the Russians in bringing about the first agreement ever between Israel and Syria, he at least gained their acquiescence in it. Remarkable also is the fact that the agreement was secured despite the continuation of Palestinian terrorism and the Israeli retaliation to it.

The breakthroughs that have been achieved have not settled all of the problems, of course. Thorny issues remain, among them the Palestinian refugee problem. But gratifying progress has been made under Secretary Kissinger's patient and innovative negotiating leadership and President Nixon's determined efforts to advance the cause of world peace.

Building upon what has now been accomplished, the United States should encourage both the Arabs and the Israelis to develop their lands and their potential communications and commerce to the fullest extent in peaceful proximity with each other.

In this way, they can, hopefully, erect an edifice of lasting peace on the foundation that has now been so laboriously laid.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Dimension in Terrorism

A world that has already been numbed by terrorism may one day soon face the unthinkable; do-it-yourself nuclear bombs in the hands of terrorists.

Only a few years ago it was thought that none but the world's major governments, with highly-trained scientists in their service, could produce nuclear weapons. At the beginning of the atomic age, in fact, our own country somewhat haughtily assumed that only the United States could ever make an atomic bomb.

How wrong we and so many others have been. Books in the public library describe how nuclear explosives can be produced; and the needed materials could be stolen from a lengthening list of sources including nuclear power plants, atomic fuel manufacturing plants, trucks and trains that transport such fuel, research centers, and atomic-powered ships.

So widespread has the knowledge of how to construct atomic explosives become — and to such a degree has terrorism escalated — that responsible leaders in and out of government are warning that international gangsters may soon be able to terrorize society with nuclear weapons.

The Atomic Energy Commission, intent on

pushing the peaceful uses of the atom, appears to have done little thus far toward curbing the development of home-made atomic bombs. Once it was found that the Russians had gained their nuclear capability, little or nothing was done to keep the so-called "secrets" of nuclear know-how out of general circulation.

What is needed in this potentially devastating situation is for the strongest possible action by all governments now having a nuclear capability to keep nuclear materials out of the hands of unauthorized persons who might misuse them.

It is especially important that the transportation of atomic fuel be tightly guarded. One current proposal in this country is that no more than one-fourth of the plutonium or uranium needed to make an atomic bomb ever be shipped at one time. The small quantities involved are indicated by the fact that only about 12 pounds of uranium-235 were contained in the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima.

The possibility of nuclear-armed terrorists preying on society is a frightening one indeed. It is a prospect which our government and all others involved must come to grips with at the earliest possible moment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Drugs Can Land Americans in Foreign Jails

Young Americans who are planning to travel abroad, as so many now do, would be well advised to acquaint themselves with the attitude toward drugs in the countries they expect to visit. They may be in for a surprise at the strictness of foreign laws, considering the laxity in many parts of the U.S. It is not true, as many may imagine, that foreign countries are havens for pot smokers or users of other drugs.

Consider these facts: At the end of April, 87 Americans were in jail in Canada on drug charges; 15 were in jail in France; 60 were in jail in Spain; 101 were in jail in Germany; 20 were in jail in Thailand; 39 were in jail in Japan; and 334 were in jail south of the border in Mexico!

The possible sentences they face are severe indeed. The penalties in Mexico are fairly typical—two to nine years and a fine for possession; three to ten years and a fine for trafficking; and six to 15 years for importing or exporting drugs.

But Mexico is lenient compared with, say, Turkey or Iran, where a person guilty of trafficking in drugs can face death by hanging or the firing

squad. The maximum sentence in Canada for pushers is life in prison.

Pre-trial detention in most foreign countries is more severe than most sentences for those convicted in the United States, ranging from a few months to as much as a year in solitary confinement in some countries. Such detention, together with any sentences imposed, can land the American visitor in jails that by U.S. standards are primitive indeed.

There is little or nothing the U.S. government can do for an American arrested on a drug charge abroad. Americans traveling abroad are subject to the laws of the lands in which they travel.

Even the innocent who are caught in suspicious circumstances may find themselves in great difficulty. A case in point was last summer's story of the American girls who hitched a ride and found themselves behind bars in Turkey because the vehicle in which they got their lift carried concealed marijuana, although they were unaware of it.

Americans who do not want their vacations turned into horrible nightmares should take heed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Soviets Gaining Power on the Seas

The Soviet Union apparently has set out to become the world's No. 1 power on the high seas.

To achieve such a position, the Russians must have both a merchant fleet and a navy second to none. They have not yet reached that status, but obviously they are pushing for it, and pushing hard.

Already the Soviet merchant fleet considerably exceeds our own. After Japan, Britain, and Norway, the Soviet fleet is the world's largest.

The U.S. merchant marine is in sad decline. In the period between 1960 and 1973, it dropped from 2,916 ships to 655. At the same time, the Russian merchant fleet was increasing from 873 vessels to 1,480—more than twice as many as the U.S. now has. Equally important is the fact that much of the Soviet merchant fleet is new.

Moreover, the Soviet Union now has the largest fishing fleet in the world; and its oceanographic research and exploration programs are rated by experts as "highly aggressive" and "second to none."

As for a comparison of the American and Russian navies, there is some disagreement about relative strength, arising from a difference in types of ships and the purposes for which they are intended, and the fact that the Soviet fleet, built up during the cold

war, is now reportedly "aging."

No less a person than the outgoing Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, however, has recently been quoted as saying that the Soviet capability "to deny us the sea lanes . . . is (now) greater than our capability to keep the sea lanes open."

The Soviets launched their first large aircraft carrier in 1973 and have laid the keel of another. They have three times as many submarines as we have. Their undersea craft, armed with nuclear missiles, routinely patrol our coasts. Additionally, the Soviets are reportedly stepping up the development and production of landing ships and assault craft and the training of a marine corps.

The United States, in this air and missile age, could make a tragic mistake in downgrading the historic importance of sea power, both commercial and naval. No nation has remained great—or can remain great—without a strong and healthy world trade capability and the power to keep the sea lanes open. Throughout history the aspirations of nations have gone down with their ships.

The Soviet Union's ascendancy on the world's oceans is a new fact of life with which we must reckon—now and in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Upswing in Coal Spurs Timber Use

The growing need for coal, triggered by the shortage of other forms of energy, is having a welcome side effect in West Virginia. It is pushing up demand for the state's timber for use in and around the mines.

A shortage of roof bolts has in part made the use of more mine timbers necessary; but timber is also increasingly being used in conjunction with roof bolting.

There has always been a measure of interdependence between the coal and timber industries in West Virginia. The wood products industries provide materials for safe and efficient mining operations; and the deep mining of coal provides an important market for wood products.

Wood mine props and sawed timbers have been used to support the mine roof since the earliest days of deep mining. And cross-ties for mine haulage systems, together with lumber and construction timbers for tipples and outside buildings, have likewise been part of the mining scene since the beginning.

In the early 1950's, about two board feet of sawed timbers and three linear feet of mine props were required for each ton of coal mined—a ratio that declined with the advent of steel mine roof bolts. Now, other changes in mining methods and safety

requirements, in addition to the energy situation, are bringing an upswing in wood use that timber growers should find encouraging.

Much of this changed situation has resulted from the increased use of wood along with the steel bolts. More wood "headers" are being used. The roof bolts are driven through holes in the headers into the mine roof, so that in effect the headers serve as large "washers" to help the bolts do their job of preventing roof falls.

Both treated and untreated wood are used in mining. Untreated wood is used where only short-term access to an area is required. Treated wood is used at mine entrances, in main haulways, and other areas where long-term use is contemplated.

The overall importance of wood use in coal mining is indicated by the fact that of West Virginia's total estimated 1973 lumber production of 400 million board feet, about 25 percent was sawed mine timbers. In addition, more than 50 million linear feet of round and split mine props were used.

The total value of these products exceeded \$21 million. The current rapid development of new deep mines in the state should result in even greater demand for wood products.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Those Who Fled Don't Deserve Amnesty

The question of amnesty for draft-age young men who fled their country to avoid service in Vietnam continues to disturb many Americans. There seems to be a softening of attitudes among some people toward draft evaders and deserters as Vietnam fades further into the background.

Considerably more is involved, however, than just the self-interest of any individual who might now like to come back, and have everything forgiven and forgotten. The basic issue is that of the citizen's obligation to his country—under any and all circumstances.

Most of those who fled, did so because they said they considered the war evil and their country immoral for waging it. But they are willing enough, now that our part in the war has ended, to come back to the same "immoral" country they left. Many amnesty advocates argue that they should be permitted to do so with no questions asked.

Forgiving the evaders and deserters would deal a sickening blow to the families and friends of those who did make a sacrifice for their country. The "moral" approach of the draft dodgers ignores the fact that others had to be drafted to go into their place, and that many of these surrogates were killed or wounded.

Amnesty, moreover, would set an example that could prove to be disastrous in a future national crisis. If there is to be no penalty for not serving, then thousands more might defect in time of another war.

It is idle to argue that those who evaded their responsibilities, and who now want to evade the penalty, were high-principled persons who obeyed their conscience. Those who truly act upon a principle ought also to be willing to take the consequences of their actions. Those who fled America to avoid the draft ought now to be willing to make their new home their permanent home.

No society can exist if it permits its citizens to obey only those laws they wish to obey. The obligation of citizenship must be as binding in one area of responsibility as in another.

It is possible that there may be some individual cases that should be judged on their merits. But no person who fled the country should be repatriated on any basis that suggests that his action is being vindicated.

Jobs and educational opportunities for those who did serve in Vietnam are now much more important than is amnesty for any individual who ran out on his country when his time came to serve.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Citizens Have a Right to Privacy

Basic among the rights to which an American citizen is entitled is the right to privacy. Justice Louis Brandeis half a century ago wrote, "The right to be let alone is the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized man." Decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court have repeatedly reflected this view.

But today, the right to privacy may be the most endangered of all our rights. Assaults upon privacy range from annoying mail and telephone solicitations to eavesdropping by electronic means. The greatest threat exists in the information about citizens that is being filed in computer banks, both in the public and private sectors.

Files on citizens are now maintained by scores of government agencies — among them, the Justice Department, Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, Defense Department, and the FBI; while in the private sector, credit rating and other business information gathering has grown apace.

In most instances, the information was gathered for legitimate purposes. But citizens generally have no knowledge of the files, and the possibilities for

misuse of the information they contain have grown with the data input.

The technologies now available for storing, retrieval, and exchange of information raise the specter, in the minds of many, of centrally-maintained dossiers on citizens. Of even more immediate concern, leaks or misuse of existing information can do economic and personal damage to citizens and can do violence to privacy.

The stored information can be misleading, inaccurate, or even false. On the basis of "facts" of which he may be totally unaware, a citizen could be denied credit, a job, a federal loan, a government contract, or veterans' benefits.

This surely does not fit the American concept of fair play. Snooping and "big brother is watching" run completely counter to the cherished American principles of freedom and independence and the dignity of the individual.

I am glad to note the widespread concern that is being voiced over invasions of privacy. Government, in my judgment, has an obligation to protect the individual in his right—implicit under our constitutional guarantees — to be let alone.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Too Much Government Paperwork

If there is one thing in this world that is sure—besides death and taxes—it is that the amount of paperwork government demands of citizens has gotten completely out of hand.

One need look no further than the 1040 federal income tax form and its complicated accompanying schedules. But it is only one of the scores of complex reports the federal bureaucracy now requires. And the number grows each year. Small business people in particular are being buried, almost literally, under a mountain of government forms. More and more it appears that more than a little of the information being called for by federal agencies may be unnecessary — except to fuel the bureaucracy itself.

As incredible as it may sound, the Internal Revenue Service has more than 3,000 public use forms, more than 1,000 internal use forms, and utilizes 300 major returns and schedules. Its field offices have additional forms of their own. Business firms can be required to fill out as many as 80 or more IRS forms a year.

Almost every department and agency of the federal government gets into the big paperwork act. The Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of the Census, the Equal

Employment Opportunity Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency—to mention a mere handful of the major paper pushers—have an enormous and growing appetite for detailed, and often duplicating, reports.

It all adds up to billions of pieces of paper and billions of dollars in cost. Big business can add offices and accountants to do the paperwork—and pass on the cost to the consumer. But many small businessmen simply cannot fill out all of the reports, supply all of the information being sought, and continue to operate their businesses. They are being smothered in triplicate.

The Congress, of course, has a major responsibility in this area. Many pieces of legislation—some worthwhile and some not so worthwhile—turn out to have paperwork ramifications that were unsuspected at the start. Congress must come to grips with this problem.

Steps should be taken now to end duplication and to eliminate all unnecessary forms and reports; and, for the future, a policy of reducing paperwork wherever possible should be adopted. Bills have been introduced in Congress to achieve these purposes—objectives that I heartily support.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Conservation of All Resources Needed

Waste not, want not. That old adage ought to be remembered in this summer of 1974.

Modern-day Americans are prone, however, to act on the basis that what is out of sight is out of mind. That seems to be the case with the petroleum shortage. Full tanks are the rule once more; and—the price of gasoline notwithstanding—drivers are hitting the roads in these vacation days for longer and more frequent trips at higher speeds. Conservation measures are an unpleasant memory.

We could easily have to pay for our profligacy again—not only in the case of motor fuel, but also in many other areas of life in which Americans have been accustomed to live it up, use it up, and throw it away.

Not nearly enough emphasis is being placed upon conservation measures — that phrase with the unpleasant connotations. But common sense should surely tell us that in a time of plenty, we ought to be saving wherever possible to head off any new shortages that may lie ahead.

Electric power, like gasoline, is a commodity that could suddenly—but surely not unexpectedly — be

found to be in short supply. More prudent use of air conditioners and other power-hungry appliances could help ward off brown-outs or possible blackouts.

With U.S. and world demand soaring for so many products, shortages could occur in almost anything from food to fuel oil. The only effective way to prevent such shortages—lacking the capacity to quickly increase production — is through conservation efforts. Community groups, civic organizations, the news media, and other agencies could do much to impress upon the American consciousness the continuing, and the broadening, need for conservation of resources.

There should be plenty of incentive—inflation, for instance. Wiser use of resources could help to bring prices down. But the strongest incentive is the obvious one of avoiding the annoyance, the inconvenience, and the hardship that shortages can cause.

Thrifty use of resources—the luxuries of life as well as the necessities—was a basic characteristic, indeed the hallmark, of Americans of earlier generations. We in our time could profit by their example.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The First Battle of the Revolution

West Virginians, proud of our state's history, are quick to point out as the nation's bicentennial draws near, that the first battle of the American Revolution occurred at Point Pleasant. Plans for the celebration of the 200th anniversary of that event are being pushed by Mason Countains.

The battle was fought October 10, 1774 — six months before the "shots heard 'round the world" were fired at Lexington and Concord. Eight hundred rugged colonial militiamen under the command of Colonel Andrew Lewis met and defeated a thousand Shawnee Indians commanded by Chief Cornstalk.

The Shawnees, it is said, had been incited by British agents to harass the settlers; and had they won, an alliance would have been possible with the British that could have badly hurt the colonists.

The United States Senate long ago recognized the strategic importance of the Battle of Point Pleasant. In 1908, it passed a bill to assist in the erection of a monument at the confluence of the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers "to commemorate the Battle of the Revolution" fought at that point.

This tall granite shaft stands today in the Point Pleasant park known as

Tu-Endie-Wei — Indian words for "the point between two waters." The site is one of West Virginia's most historic.

The Battle of Point Pleasant was important for many reasons. It demonstrated to the colonists that they possessed strong military potential. If militia units could beat a stronger Indian force, could they not also beat the British?

Colonel Lewis had organized his forces at Camp Union, now Lewisburg. In 19 days he marched them 160 miles through the trackless wilderness, across mountains and over rivers. They had been cut off by the Indians on the point of land between the two rivers when the battle began; and they had had no rest. But they routed their attackers and forced them back across the Ohio River.

The battle and the subsequent peace treaty with the Indians brought relative peace to the frontier for several years and opened the way for further westward movement by white settlers. But most importantly, it enabled the colonists to turn their attention to fighting the British instead of the Indians.

Our state's historic heritage is understandably a source of pride to its citizens.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The U.S. System Is Firmly Based

There is no cause for joy in the fall of Richard Nixon. But Americans can take solace in the fact that our system of government has once again proved that it works, and that our institutions have once again been vindicated.

It is true that we are not yet fully out of the morass of Watergate. The judicial processes that have been set in motion must run their course.

But for the present it should be reassuring and heartening to all Americans to know that a crisis that would have toppled any other government in the free world has left our federal structure intact—and, in the long run, may even have strengthened it.

Most striking is the fact that a conservative, middle-of-the-road President of the type the American people indicated they wanted in the election of 1972 remains in charge. One man is gone, but the U.S. government has not fallen.

The House of Representatives acted in the responsible manner envisaged by the framers of our Constitution. It authorized the impeachment inquiry by a vote of 410 to 4. Its Judiciary Committee, on television for all the country to see, voted the articles of impeachment overwhelmingly. In the end, the President's strongest

supporters on the Committee, convinced by the evidence, publicly approved the action.

The U.S. Supreme Court acted in an equally responsible way. The four justices appointed by Mr. Nixon voted to make unanimous the historic decision that executive privilege is not absolute and must yield to the judicial process.

The news media in general, despite some excesses, played the role the founding fathers believed a free press should play in a free society. Indeed, had it not been for the press, the crimes of Watergate, with their insidious threat to our constitutional system, might not have been exposed.

I think it can be said that the American people had their faith in their system of government strengthened. They saw governmental institutions emerge unmarred from a most difficult period in our history—and emerge without change in political philosophy at the federal level, and without change in the direction of the federal government at home or abroad.

The enduring stability of the constitutional system our forebears created must surely be the envy of the world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help of Citizens Needed to Curb Crime

With so many other momentous events in the news, the continuing increase in crime in our country has drawn far less attention than it deserves. Major crimes rose another 15 percent in the first three months of 1974, according to the FBI, and since 1967 they have more than doubled.

As shocking as that is, a recent Justice Department study, the first of its type, indicates that at least half of the crimes being committed are not even reported; and more than three-fourths of all murders, aggravated assaults, forcible rapes, robberies, burglaries, larcenies, and auto thefts go unsolved.

All of this is a part of the syndrome of violence that has gripped our country since the 1960's. Those who may think of the United States of America today as the land of peace and tranquility it once was are not dealing in reality.

Burglary has become the most common crime, and it is growing and spreading. The old statement that crime does not pay is not true for the current crop of thieves. Burglary for them, unfortunately, does pay, and pays quite well. Stolen TV sets, jewelry, furs, furniture, and electrical appliances find a ready market, and most are never recovered.

Not only is burglary the most common crime, it is also the most under-investigated, under-solved, and under-punished crime. It may also be the most under-reported. But there is much that the citizen can do to help bring improvement in this situation.

He can and should completely inventory his household and business possessions. Full descriptions and serial numbers can greatly aid the police. Items can be marked with names or code or other identification through the use of engraving pens; and those that cannot be so marked can be photographed, preferably in color.

Citizens should let no theft go unreported, and they should insist to local governing bodies and local courts that diligent efforts be made to find the culprits in burglaries and punish them. Certainly adequate burglar protection should be provided in homes and business places. Preventing crime can be as important as solving it.

It is unlikely that the devastating wave of crime that has engulfed so much of our land can ever be adequately dealt with until and unless an aroused and angry citizenry demands that crime be curbed and actively enters the battle against the criminal.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Flexible Hours Just Not All that New

Is the 9-to-5 work day doomed to join the horse and buggy as a relic of a bygone era in America? It could be, if U.S. workers and companies follow the "flexible" or "variable" working hours trend that has become popular in Europe. A few U.S. businesses are already experimenting with the idea.

A strong assault on what many Americans used to think of as a "normal" business day or week has already been made throughout the country by the "four-forty" plan — the four-day week. Interest in four 10-hour work days was spurred this past winter because of the potential for saving fuel. More than 3,000 U.S. businesses and a number of cities are trying, or have tried, the plan.

Some like it and some don't. Four-forty has been dropped after a trial in a number of places, including Washington, D.C., where the police tried the four-day week for a time.

The "flexible" or "variable" work week is a different concept entirely. Under this plan, employees, within limits, can start work when they wish, quit when they wish, and work as many hours a week as they wish—provided they perform their work satisfactorily. Interestingly enough,

productivity has gone up along with worker morale in plants and businesses trying the plan.

The idea originated in West Germany, where it is expected that 50% of the white collar workers will be on flexible hours by next year. The concept is expanding, and many companies are experimenting with the idea in Scandinavia, the Benelux countries, and France, Spain, Italy, and Britain.

Our country will probably be next. But before everybody gets carried away with this wondrous "new" idea, let us not forget that 9-to-5 means nothing now for millions of Americans—farmers who work from sunup to sundown; coal miners on the "hoot owl" shift; clerks in stores that stay open until midnight; U.S. Senators who burn the midnight oil; or, yes, the housewife, whose work is never done.

Flexible and variable working hours are just not all that new. Ask any doctor, the clergyman, the railroad trainman. *When* the work is done is not nearly so important as *how well* the work is done.

What *is* new in industrial countries today is the great increase in leisure time; and the question that must be asked is, how well is it being used?



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Finding Gold in its Garbage

A funny thing is happening to trash on its way to the dump. Many people are beginning to see it as too valuable to get rid of. So much of what Americans throw away can be reclaimed that there may almost literally be gold in our garbage — and people and communities are beginning to do something about that fact.

The need for cleaning up our environment, and the need to conserve both energy and scarce resources, are combining to bring about widespread new efforts to deal with the increasingly troublesome problem of trash and garbage disposal. Waste is a pollutant; and pollution is wasteful. If we end one, we end the other.

Energy itself can be reclaimed from waste. Organic materials — things like food wastes, dead plants, paper and cardboard—will burn. They can produce steam which can turn electric generators. They can be used to make methyl alcohol for internal combustion engines, or be turned into an oil or gas.

The valuable inorganic materials in our garbage—glass, rubber, plastics, and metals—can be recycled to help alleviate shortages in the basic resources required by an industrial nation.

The big problem, of course, is how to go about the reclaiming job. Some communities are attempting to deal with the problem at its source—the consumer. Householders are being urged to put food wastes in one container; paper items in another; and glass, metals and so on, in still others at central collection points. This is undoubtedly a commendable effort, but probably too involved to produce the desired result.

More likely to be successful are the plans being made by at least one state, Connecticut, and a score or more U.S. cities and other political jurisdictions that are attacking the problem by planning what are called "resource recovery systems."

In essence, such systems will shred the collected garbage into small pieces, and then by various means — air suspension, liquid flotation, magnetic separation and other devices—sort out its components.

Plants that can accomplish such reclamation will be expensive. But with increasing mountains of refuse and fewer acceptable ways to dispose of it, such installations, it is believed, could pay for themselves by the resources they would recover and the environmental damage they would prevent.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Flexibility Needed in Retirement Age

The wisdom of mandatory retirement at a specified age is increasingly being debated. Critics point out—and rightly—that there is considerable variation in the capacity, ability, and motivation of individuals; and that an arbitrary age for quitting work, say 65, cannot possibly apply to everyone.

They further contend that compulsory retirement works to deprive society of the contributions capable persons could continue to make; while, at the same time, some persons may be required to work longer than they should before retiring.

Proponents of a mandatory retirement age argue—and with validity—that such retirement is necessary in order to open the way to advancement for younger persons. Successful executives, for example, might hold on to their positions of power, barring the way for younger men.

But there is no mandatory retirement in many fields. Obviously there is none for the self-employed. There is none for professionals in such fields as medicine and law. And members of Congress, federal judges, and other elective and appointive officials

may serve as long as they are capable of doing so.

It would make little sense to require a physically-able professional man or public official to step down just because he had reached the age of 65. It is equally illogical, in my view, to force any other physically-able citizen to the sidelines at 65 if he wants to keep on working. Life does not end at 65, and neither should meaningful work.

A more flexible approach to this problem is needed. Our society has ended, or is trying to end, many forms of job discrimination. It should also face up more effectively than it has thus far to the problem of age discrimination.

Nothing is more important in the life of an individual than the work he does. Rigid job and pension rules that force retirement at 65—or prevent retirement earlier—ought to give way to programs that, as far as it is possible to do so, are adaptable to the needs of the individual worker.

At a time when our country is concerned about the optimum use of its physical resources, it ought also to be equally concerned about the optimum use of its human resources.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Misgivings Grow About Detente

I believe generally in a non-partisan approach to U.S. foreign affairs; and I support efforts for detente with the Soviet Union.

But I have growing misgivings about our country's course of action in this matter. I am increasingly afraid that we now stand to lose more than we can possibly gain.

In the most recent summit meeting, the Russians failed to make any concessions with respect to nuclear arms limitation. This was despite assurances from previous summits that arms reduction was the goal.

Meanwhile, the Soviet's own military-industrial complex is moving inexorably ahead on missile technology to widen the advantage over us that SALT I gave them. Their naval power, as I have previously noted in this space, may already be greater than ours. And they have tripled their tanks and doubled their artillery in Europe.

In the 1973 summit meeting, Leonid Brezhnev solemnly joined in the agreement that the Soviet Union and the U.S. would inform one another of threats to peace. But he did not do so, violating his agreement, before the Arab-Israeli October war. He knew the war was coming, and he had armed the Egyptians and Syrians for that war.

Through "detente", the Russians hope to get more wheat deals from us. They want U.S. know-how, technology, and machinery to vitalize their backward economy. It is no wonder that the Politburo favors detente.

But where is the advantage for our country in providing the Russians with things they do not have—things that will make them stronger against us? The analogy of the scrap iron we supplied the Japanese to build their war machine before Pearl Harbor should not be forgotten.

I am in favor, of course, of keeping the lines of communication with Moscow open; just as I am in favor of arms limitation and international agreements in which we get something substantive for what we give.

But I do not want my country to be taken, to be had—by the Russians or anybody else. Detente is better than cold war; but not if the Soviet Union is using it to gain the upper hand in future confrontations.

Both the U.S. and the Soviet Union were seeking to avoid nuclear war long before detente was thought of. Could this new era of "good feeling" and relaxation on our part be giving the Kremlin other ideas?



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sometimes We Need to Think Small

We have become so accustomed to thinking of business in terms of bigness—the General Motors syndrome—that we tend to lose sight of the vital importance to the American economy of smaller businesses.

About 97% of all U.S. businesses do less than a million dollars a year in sales. But they account for 40% of the gross national product, and they employ approximately half of the civilian labor force.

Perhaps even more importantly, they keep alive and well the spirit of competitive independence that is so essential to the American free enterprise system. The small business establishment is the backbone of the U.S. economy, the foundation upon which it has been built.

It is currently estimated that there are some ten-and-a-half million small businesses in our country. In addition to those involved in agricultural operations, they are mostly in the service industries, retailing, and smaller manufacturing enterprises.

Their proprietors and employees do what big business does not seem to be able to do, or to do as well. They provide individualized, personal services that people need and want.

That is why filling stations, and beauty shops, and corner grocery stores, and other independent stores—and, yes, small hometown newspapers, exist and prosper. They fill a need.

Their owners take financial risks and may work long, hard hours for relatively modest returns. Many of them fail each year; but many more succeed, to enjoy the fruits of their labor and the satisfaction of being their own bosses, beholden to no one else.

They contribute enormously to their communities and to our country. They pay taxes, support local institutions and activities, and furnish employment to persons who might be hard put to find jobs in big business.

As in any area of human endeavor, of course, there are good and bad, honest and dishonest, efficient and inefficient persons in small businesses. But they all share one thing in common that makes them important to those whom they serve: they are part of the local scene.

Our society, which too often equates bigness with importance, owes much to the small business man and woman. We should never forget that even the biggest of the big once started out as small.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Alleghenies: A Great State Asset

The Allegheny Mountains, running north and south through the entire length of our state's eastern portion, form one of West Virginia's great natural assets.

It is well known, of course, that their coal and the timber they can produce are economically invaluable; that their streams and forests and wildlife are recreational blessings; and that their scenic beauty in each season of the year is a delight, especially in the spring when the redbud and the dogwood bloom.

Less well known, perhaps, may be the fact that in all seasons they provide a treasure house for the naturalist. From Mineral and Preston Counties in the north to Mercer and McDowell in the south, the Alleghenies offer as rich a variety of plant and animal life and geological formations as is to be found anywhere in our country.

The Alleghenies are old mountains, among the oldest on the planet, worn down by wind and rain, by ice and snow for 500 million years. We are told that once they were probably higher than the Rockies or the Alps.

Their upland bogs, such as those in Canaan Valley in Tucker County and Cranberry Glades in Poca-

hontas, have long been noted for their unusual plants and wildlife; and there are many other high swampy "glades" in the Alleghenies, uniquely interesting because of their striking similarity to bogs found in latitudes much farther to the north.

In sharp contrast is the fact that many "shale barrens" also occur in the Alleghenies. These arid areas support plant and animal life similar to that found in the desert regions of the U.S. Southwest. These barrens, east of the highest mountain ridges, exist because clouds lose their moisture in the higher elevations, and their surfaces get hot sunshine and little rain.

The limestone caves of the Alleghenies hold scientific interest, too; as do their fossils—left eons ago by an ancient inland sea; and their is much, much more as one thinks of West Virginia's natural phenomena.

Botanists, biologists, geologists, and many others of scientific bent can find much to excite their interest in West Virginia's mountains with their fascinating flora and fauna. In this ecologically-oriented age, visitors to the Alleghenies will not go away unrewarded.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Home Is Where the Danger Is

A person's home, it has often been said, is his castle. Home, to most of us, is a place of refuge and safety.

But figures compiled by the National Safety Council show that mishaps in the home kill or seriously injure nearly twice as many persons each year as are killed or injured in accidents on the job.

Each year some 14,000 or more Americans lose their lives in accidents at work, and more than two million suffer serious injuries. But 28,000 are killed by accidents in their homes, and four million sustain serious injuries.

A great effort is now being made by federal government agencies to remove unsafe consumer products from the market, and that is as it should be. Dangerous chemicals, faulty electrical equipment, fire-prone furnishings—these should be removed from circulation for the protection of the unwary citizen.

But the citizen most certainly also has a responsibility. As has so often been said, accidents don't just happen — they are caused; and the ingredient common to the vast majority is carelessness. Surrounded in our homes as we are by electrical, mechanical, and other devices almost without number,

we simply lose sight of the fact that so many things in our surroundings can be lethal.

The glass storm door, the aluminum ladder touching an electric wire, or even the soap in the bathtub or the toy on the floor, can unexpectedly spell tragedy.

More than 10,000 Americans die each year as the result of falls inside or outside their homes, and untold thousands more are hurt. Dark stairs, slippery rugs, icy entrances, and driveways get much of the blame.

Fires in the home take 6,000 lives a year, and burns incapacitate a quarter of a million more. Half a million American homes are destroyed or damaged by fire each year — 1,500 a day. And 2,000 deaths a year and a hundred thousand crippling injuries are caused by clothing catching fire.

Two thousand more die from poisoning in the home.

After heart disease, cancer, and stroke, accidents are the leading cause of death for Americans in all age groups and the major cause of death for all Americans under the age of 35.

The statistics may not make pleasant reading, but they carry a warning that all of us should heed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Great Renewable Resource

In this day of concrete, metal, and glass construction and the widening use of petroleum-based plastics, it may seem somewhat surprising that the demand for wood is soaring. But that is what is happening in the United States, making the production of timber increasingly important.

Our country, with only about 6 percent of the world's population, is now consuming about 30 percent of the world's timber production. Housing, the manufacture of wood products, and wood pulp—from which paper, cellophane, rayon, plastics, and explosives are made—are the three main categories of use, each of which takes about a third of the wood the U.S. consumes each year.

In each of these categories, the prospects are that the demand for wood will grow from 50 percent to 100 percent in the next two to three decades.

The United States, fortunately, is blessed with vast forest lands. Even today, a third of the U.S. is still forested. And, most fortunate of all, timber—unlike coal, or oil, or ores—is a renewable resource.

To meet the demand for wood and the vast array of end products for which it is basic, American ingenu-

ity is on the move.

U.S. timber producers are pushing such new ideas as the genetic improvement of trees to produce faster growth and better quality—in much the same way that corn and other agricultural products have been improved through controlled breeding.

They are experimenting with other new concepts in forestry—such as soil fertilization, control of insect enemies and disease, and the cultivation of trees in row-like patterns to give each tree a better chance to grow and thrive.

It is said that eventually it may be possible to bring a Douglas fir, the most commercially valuable tree, to maturity in 40 years instead of the 90 years it now takes in the forests of the western United States.

In this connection, it is interesting to note that the center of U.S. timber production is beginning to shift from the West to the Southeast, where the warmth and moisture can bring pines to maturity in 30 years and produce pulpwood in ten or twelve.

With new cutting, milling, and manufacturing methods being perfected, our country, at long last, may be moving toward a time when it will make the best possible use of one of its most valuable resources.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Is a New Gold Rush in the Making?

Since the dawn of civilization, men have coveted gold. They have worked for it, searched for it, fought for it. Now, for the first time in more than 40 years, Americans should soon be able to own gold once more.

Throughout history, man's use of gold has been limited only by his ability to obtain it. The Book of Exodus tells how Aaron fashioned a golden calf for the Children of Israel to worship. The New Testament tells of the Wise Men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the Christ child.

In more modern times—until they were banned in the thirties—U.S. five-, ten-, and twenty-dollar gold pieces were favorite Christmas and graduation gifts; and the word gold was frequently on the tongues of citizens. William Jennings Bryan talked of mankind being crucified upon a cross of gold, while the average citizen was anxious not to kill the goose that laid the golden egg.

How will the American people react to an opportunity to own the precious metal again? Will they invest savings in it, hoping for a hedge against inflation? Or has the once great lust for gold that led so

many to California and Alaska cooled during the long period in which its possession has been illegal?

The price of gold—\$129 an ounce at its recent lowest—could keep it from being a popular investment. Of course, one could have made a great deal of money had he been able to buy gold at the official \$35-an-ounce before the spectacular rise of the last few years. But had he bought at the top price of \$179 an ounce earlier this year he would now be a loser.

Gold pays no interest or dividends, as many other investments do. Even so, few people would shrink from having a few bars stashed away for a rainy day. In all of the years man has mined and used gold, only about 100,000 tons of it have been taken from the earth. Its scarcity is one of the reasons for its value.

In the depression of the 1930's, the U.S. went off the gold standard and hiked the official price from \$20 an ounce to \$35 to expand the paper money supply. We seem to be coming a full circle now with possession of gold set to become legal again by December 31. What the future American appetite for gold will be remains to be seen.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

You Name It; West Virginia's Got It

West Virginians must surely be fascinated by the rich variety of names of communities and geographical locations in our state.

Consider Munday in Wirt County and Thursday in Ritchie. Or Cyclone in Wyoming, Tornado in Kanawha, and Hurricane in Putnam. In Wirt it's just Windy.

There is a Cornstalk in Greenbrier, a Cucumber in McDowell, an Apple Grove in Mason. Hardy has a Baker, and Mingo has Pie—but Wayne has only a Crum. Hardy also has a Fisher, and Greenbrier has Trout.

There is a Left Hand in Roane, a Widemouth in Mercer, and Raleigh has a Skelton. McDowell has Six, but Wetzell has a Hundred.

Preston has Independence; Putnam, Liberty; and Mingo, Justice. There is a Duck in Clay, a Pigeon in Roane, a Bob White in Boone, and Raleigh has a Blue Jay.

Thoughts of far away places are stirred by London in Kanawha, Berlin in Lewis, Vienna in Wood, Sophia (my hometown) in Raleigh, Cairo in Ritchie, and Shanghai in Berkeley—but Hardy has a Lost City.

Braxton has a Flower, Boone a Bloomingrose, and Cabell has Clover. Lincoln has both Sod and Mud.

Alice is in Gilmer, Ethel in Logan, Shirley in Tyler, Chloe in Calhoun, and Idamay in Marion—while Frank is in Pocahontas, Henry in Grant, Leroy in Jackson, Alexander in Upshur, and Jack in Webster. Bud is in Wyoming and Junior in Barbour. Big Isaac is in Doddridge. Old Arthur is in Grant.

There is a Beaver in Raleigh, a Buffalo in Putnam, a Wildcat in Lewis, a Panther in McDowell, a Wolfe in Mercer—and Wyoming has a Wolf Pen.

Braxton has Heaters; but Raleigh has a Cool Ridge, and Pocahontas has Frost. Greenbrier has Sunlight, and Raleigh a Sundial; but Ohio and Boone have Twilight.

Greenbrier has an Auto and Ritchie a Pullman. Wirt has Burning Springs and Ritchie a Burnt House. Randolph and Upshur each has a Burnt Bridge, and Morgan has a Burnt Factory.

There is Comfort in Boone and Harmony in Roane; but McDowell has War.

Looking at a list of West Virginia place names can be entertaining and instructive. Mercer County, one learns, has a Flat Top. And it is nice to know that in Raleigh, one can find Prosperity. But in Morgan, it's Omps!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Worst of Times; the Best of Times

The extraordinary events and developments through which Americans have lived in the last generation are enough to boggle the mind. I doubt that any similar span of time in previous history has been as crowded with such significant occurrences.

In the last two years, America's most traumatic political scandal has shaken the nation. A U.S. President has resigned for the first time in our history. A Vice President has resigned. Two Vice Presidents have been appointed, rather than elected, to the office — two more firsts. And, for the first time also, a man not elected by the people has become President.

In the decade before that, a U.S. President and his brother were assassinated; and a candidate for President was crippled for life by a gunman. The Vietnam War, in which more than 55,000 Americans died, tore at the nation's conscience. A leader of the civil rights movement was slain; and demonstrators and rioters put the torch to scores of U.S. cities and college campuses. Even the U.S. Capitol was bombed.

It was a time of soaring crime, drug abuse, and collapse of manners and morals. It was a time of forced school integration, white

flight to the suburbs, and inner city decay. It has been followed by double-digit inflation, sky-high interest rates, economic recession, devaluation of the dollar, and materials and energy shortages.

And, yet, with all of this, the U.S. has made such spectacular progress in science and technology that Americans have pushed back the frontiers of knowledge on every front and even walked on the moon.

We have unlocked the secrets of the atom. We are probing the outer reaches of the universe with radio astronomy. We have learned to transplant human organs and cracked the genetic code. We have expanded and sophisticated the uses of radar and developed the laser beam.

We have pioneered in rocketry, communications satellites, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We have perfected color television and built jet aircraft that can travel faster than the speed of sound.

If this is an age of political turmoil, violence, and moral deterioration, it is also an age of unparalleled technological progress. America's challenge, of course—civilization's challenge—is to bring our social and spiritual advances into line with our scientific and material gains.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Voters Have a Responsibility, Too

A smaller percentage of Americans voted in the 1974 election than in any off-year election since 1946, when 37.6% went to the polls. In 1942, when millions of Americans were away from home in World War II, 32.7% voted.

Estimates place the number voting this year at about 38%. That means fewer than 54 million of the approximately 140 million Americans of voting age cast their ballots.

That is a precipitate drop indeed from the last mid-term election in 1970, when approximately 45% voted. The troubling question is why did considerably less than half of the country's voters go to the polls?

Many commentators are trying to find the answers to that question. The reasons they advance are many and varied. Most center on the contention that voters are disillusioned with government in general, and that Watergate in particular turned them off.

There are other factors that turn voters off as well. Campaigns are too long. There are too many speeches and too many commercials. The real issues are too seldom joined. And political think-pieces are boringly over-reported in the media.

People simply get fed up with it all. Moreover, many find the bureaucracy indifferent to their needs. Big government tends to become unresponsive; and the feeling grows that one vote doesn't really count.

It should be obvious to all, however, that failing to vote is the poorest possible way to express dissatisfaction or disapproval. When citizens don't vote, they subject themselves to minority rule. In the '74 election some candidates gained office by as few as a fifth of the votes that should have been cast.

It is disturbing that so many young voters again failed to exercise the franchise they so vociferously demanded. It is even more disturbing that voters reportedly stayed away in a deliberate effort to send a message of rejection to those who serve in government.

The message they really sent is that by their failure to participate, the system, upon which all their freedoms depend, is weakened.

It is widely noted that better performance is being demanded of officeholders. The "apathetic landslide" of '74 indicates also, if government is to be improved, that better performance on the part of the electorate is needed as well.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Food Problems Complex and Global

The recent World Food Conference in Rome hopefully has done more than focus attention on hunger, as important as that objective was. It should also have made clear the complex nature of the problems involved. It would now be helpful if the myth that the United States should feed the world—or that it can do so—should be laid to rest as well.

America has always been generous. It has fed the starving. It has succored the victims of disaster. It has given its sons in war to liberate countries overrun by enemies. And it should continue its tradition of concern for others.

But the world food shortages now being encountered are complicated by many factors beyond our control, or our ability to alter or improve the situation. Humanitarianism needs to be tempered with realism.

The scope of the shortages is indicated by the fact that of some 97 developing nations 60 or more do not have the food they need—and in most of them their people are producing far more children than food to feed them.

Adding to the basic problem of over-population are the effects of world-wide inflation; the ravages of drought; shortages of fertilizer; primitive farming practices in emerging na-

tions; and the burden the OPEC cartel has placed on poor countries—along with industrial nations—by quadrupling the price of oil.

To be considered also are the rising expectations, increasing affluence, and the growing demand for better food in advanced countries. The problems are inter-related and global.

Some people have suggested that Americans ought to eat less. At least their health might benefit. But there is no assurance that it would help, say, Bangladesh. American farmers might simply grow less, if demand were to decline. The same goes for such ideas as banning fertilizer for other than crop growing. The free marketplace must be allowed to operate, if production is to be increased.

Greatly expanded production—especially in the countries where the need is greatest—is the only sure long-range answer. Production can be increased a great deal more where yields are low than where they are already high, as they are in the U.S.

Our country should be generous. But the greatest contribution the United States can make is in technical assistance—the imparting of agricultural know-how—to help needy countries to help themselves.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Budget Has Had Spectacular Increase

We have been hearing a good deal about holding the federal budget to \$300 billion to cut government spending in the fight on inflation. That figure, of course, is so astronomical as to make it impossible, really, to comprehend the amount of money involved.

The federal budget has reached that peak only recently. For fiscal 1974, which ended June 30, federal outlays were \$268 billion. In fiscal 1975, which began July 1, total outlays will approximate \$305 billion—exceeding \$300 billion for the first time.

But as recently as fiscal 1970, the federal budget was below the \$200 billion level; and it topped \$100 billion for the first time only in 1962.

Broad and costly social legislation, the Vietnam war, and inflation have pushed the budget—which reflects the ups and downs of U.S. history—to its present size.

The first U.S. budget in 1789-91 was puny indeed by comparison—amounting to a little over \$4 million. That grew to more than \$45 million before 1850, and in the top year of Civil War expenditures, 1865, soared to the then unbelievable total of \$1.3 billion.

From that pinnacle, fed-

eral outlays subsided to a low of \$236 million in the late 1870's, and they had climbed to only \$520 million by 1900.

The second billion-dollar-budget did not come until FY 1917 and World War I. Federal spending rose then to \$18 billion by the end of the war, but dropped back to less than \$3 billion in the late twenties.

The budget increased in the depression of the thirties to a little over \$8 billion, as federal programs were enacted to provide jobs and stimulate the economy; and it skyrocketed to just under \$100 billion in 1945 during World War II. It dropped to \$32 billion in 1948, but climbed again with the Korean war to more than \$74 billion in 1953.

Wars have been the most costly undertakings in our country's history. But in FY 1973, for the first time, the cost of the social programs administered by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare exceeded the expenditures of the Defense Department \$82 billion to \$75 billion.

The recent swift growth of the federal budget has been an important factor in stimulating inflation, and as such deserves the concern of all citizens.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

25th Amendment May Need Alteration

The necessarily lengthy hearings on the nomination of Nelson Rockefeller to be Vice President raise the question of whether the 25th Amendment provides the proper way, under our system, to fill a vice presidential vacancy. Should the Congress, instead of the people, pass on a possible successor to the nation's highest office and the world's most important job?

The 25th Amendment provides that the President appoint a Vice President in the event of a vacancy, and that both houses of Congress approve his choice. As a result, our country, for the first time in its history, now has both a President and a nominee for Vice President not chosen by the people.

The Amendment was proposed by Congress in 1965 and ratified in 1967 in the aftermath of the assassination of President Kennedy. Its commendable aim was to insure the country against being without a Vice President who could succeed to the presidency in an emergency. No one, of course, could foresee such a situation as that which developed with the resignations of both a Vice President and a President.

At the heart of the matter is the fact that ours is not a parliamentary system, in which the legislative branch chooses the head of the government—a system wisely rejected by the framers of the Constitution. But despite that fact, for the second time in less than a year, the Congress has had to undertake the discharge of a responsibility that rightly belongs to the people.

Would it not be better, many persons are asking, to hold a special election to fill a vice presidential vacancy? Should not the people, rather than the Congress, decide the matter?

The Vice President should, of course, be of the same party as the President—the party chosen by the people at the previous election. The party's national committee, or a convention, or other means, it is suggested by some, could be used to select candidates upon whom the voters could ballot.

Serious national discussion of this matter is needed, I believe. One of the great strengths of our system is that it is not rigid, but can be altered to meet changing needs as they arise.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Energy Conservation Is a Necessity

The most recent estimates I have seen indicate that 40% or more of the energy consumed in the United States is wasted. Considering the soaring cost of energy to the consumer, and the alarming transfer of U.S. wealth to the OPEC cartel, energy conservation becomes an absolute necessity for all of us.

Despite warnings of a severe winter ahead, the weather has been relatively mild again this year thus far, undoubtedly lulling many Americans into complacency. Too, we read in the papers that gasoline stocks are at an all-time high and that, as of early December, a shortage such as was experienced last winter is not expected.

All of which is somewhat beside the point when we consider two things: (1) the fact that because of the recent quadrupling of the price of oil, the United States is now transferring to the oil cartel close to \$30 billion a year—a trade imbalance that cannot be allowed to continue without disastrous results; and (2) the euphoric hope that the United States could become self-sufficient in energy by the 1980's is not based on reality.

Only by considering those two inescapable facts can the need for cutting down on our energy use be properly understood. The sobering truth, however, is that projections are for an

increased use of energy rather than a decrease.

More than a hundred bills and resolutions have been introduced in Congress dealing with such things as fuel oil and gasoline rationing, mass transit, recycling, and other aspects of the energy situation. Some form of mandatory control over the use of energy is more than a mere possibility.

What will finally determine the matter is whether private citizens, together with business and industry, reduce consumption. About 35% of the energy presently being used in the U.S. is consumed in homes and businesses, 25% in transportation and 40% in industry. In all three areas, substantial savings are possible without significantly lowering standards of living or levels of production.

Energy conservation is a long-term undertaking, but many savings can be realized immediately—especially in the areas of individual transportation and the use of fuel and electricity in homes and commercial establishments. It is estimated that 14% of the energy consumed in homes is unnecessary and that 30% of industrial energy is wasted. How much is needlessly burned on streets and roads no one really knows.

If voluntary reductions are not made, mandatory regulation is inevitable.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Oceans May Also Generate Power

West Virginians hope that coal will play an increasing role in meeting the nation's energy needs—as it most surely should do. But I believe they would also agree, as I do, that every possible source of energy that holds any promise of making us less dependent upon imported oil ought to be explored.

Many scientists believe that the vast ocean waters that cover three-fourths of our planet have considerable possibility for producing energy. Two ideas are being studied: harnessing the enormous, even terrifying, power of the waves; and the potential for generating electricity that exists in the difference in temperatures between warm surface water and colder deep water.

In the Gulf Stream off the east coast of Florida, for example—which is near populated, power-consuming areas—wide “thermal gradients” (temperature differences) exist between the solar-heated surface and the polar-chilled depths. In many parts of the world such differences may reach as much as 40 degrees.

The “solar sea power” concept goes back to the 19th Century. Electric power was actually produced in a plant off Cuba by a French engineer in the 1930's; but the system, though sound in theory,

was not then economically practical.

Now an American system has been devised that utilizes hydrocarbon vapor instead of steam to turn electric generators. A liquid like propane, that boils at a temperature below the freezing point of water, is turned into a high pressure vapor in “boilers” heated by the stored heat in the seawater. The gasified propane spins the turbines, and then is condensed back to its liquid state by cold water from the depths.

The process, which would be carried on by plants built on platforms in the ocean, is basically a heat exchange system. But unlike the energy obtained from fossil fuels—which also came originally from the sun—it should be largely pollution free. Moreover, energy reclaimed in this manner should be available as long as the sun heats the ocean waters.

There are great technical problems in any undertaking of this nature. But in the critical situation in which we now find ourselves, no potential source of energy should be rejected because at first glance it may seem like something out of science fiction.

Our advancing technology should encourage the United States to be boldly imaginative and innovative in seeking new and different means of solving our energy problems.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Do Airships Have a Future in the Jet Age?

Is the airship about to make a comeback? Increasingly, talk is heard that it just might. The high cost of aviation fuel and jet aircraft, the spread of noise and atmospheric pollution, and the enormous investment in money and space required to build airports—all have spurred interest in the idea.

Those of us old enough to remember the "blimps" probably think of them in terms of the tragedies more than a generation ago that destroyed the U.S. dirigible Akron II and the German zeppelin Hindenburg in the early 1930's.

The Akron crashed in a storm off the Jersey coast; and the Hindenburg, lifted by flammable hydrogen, burned as it was being moored at Lakehurst, N.J. The disasters, with the loss of more than a hundred lives of passengers and crew, helped seal the doom of lighter-than-air transportation. About all that remains today to remind us of the airship age is the Goodyear blimp.

But safe inert helium can be used for lifting; and the possibility of the application of space-age technology to improve construction and motive power has prompted both governmental and commercial studies of a possible revived use of lighter-than-air craft.

The mania for speed—for getting there fast—had much to do with the acceptance and growth of air travel. Everything from business to pleasure has been expedited by swift airplanes.

But congested airports farther and farther from cities can make time saving on some flights more imagined than real. And Amtrak is evidence that many travelers like the convenience of downtown stations, together with the comfort that trains can potentially provide—to say nothing of the scenery.

Airships could do much the same. They need no 10,000-foot runways—only a mooring mast and an elevator. They could be made operational virtually anywhere there are people or freight to be moved.

With their great carrying capacity, they could transport passengers in spacious comfort by day or night, together with bulky cargo. They probably could be built virtually free of noise and pollution. And, traveling at a respectable hundred miles or more an hour, they could stay close enough to the ground for those aboard to enjoy the sights below.

The possibilities of the rebirth of the airship, I think, make the studies challengingly worthwhile.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

International Action on Terrorism Needed

The United Nations continues to shy away from doing anything positive to curb the spread of international terrorism. Proposals for action against the terrorists are to be postponed for another year, making the inability of the UN to deal effectively with any real problem even more evident than it was before.

The General Assembly, instead of coming out strongly on the side of law and order among nations, has actually moved in the opposite direction. It has provided the Palestine Liberation Organization and its guerrilla leader, Yasir Arafat, with a forum commanding world attention, thereby tacitly endorsing terror tactics.

The United States, West Germany, Israel, and some Latin American states deplored the new delay in coming to grips with the growth of international violence. But the voices and the protests of these nations are scarcely heard nowadays in the cacophony that passes for debate at the UN.

The disheartening fact is that some members of the UN apparently see terrorism as a useful and acceptable tool in international dealings. The fact that terrorism destroys fundamen-

tal freedoms and takes innocent lives—that terrorism is the antithesis of civilized action—does not seem to enter their thinking.

Bombings, assassinations, kidnappings, seizure of hostages for ransom, aircraft hijackings, attacks on air travelers—all these should be beyond the pale of toleration in a civilized world, but, unhappily, all have become commonplace contemporary events.

Since 1968, 50 American citizens—among them 11 government officials—have been killed by terrorists in foreign countries. Aircraft hijackings have largely been brought under control in the U.S.; but in December 1973, 32 persons were slain in a Palestinian attack on a U.S. airliner at the airport in Rome. And the year before, 140 airline passengers and crew members died in terrorist attacks.

No nation is invulnerable to the depredations of the terrorists. They pose a clear and present danger to international relations, communications, transportation, and trade—a danger that is increasing. Clearly, international cooperative action is called for.

It is deeply disturbing that the United Nations chooses to stand idly by.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cartel's Oil Price Disrupting World Economy

I have referred in this space previously to the massive transfer of wealth from the industrial nations to the oil cartel states that the cartel's four-fold hike in the price of oil is bringing about. It is a subject that calls for further comment.

No one should object to these countries receiving a fair return for their oil. Underdeveloped as most of them are, it is understandable that they should seek development and a higher living standard for their people.

But the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has set the price so high that these states are making far more profit on their oil than they can wisely spend or invest. If they continue to siphon off the world's wealth at the present rate, conceivably they could, in a few years, buy control of most of the world's business.

The cartel states in 1974 added an estimated \$65 billion to their assets. In comparison the three countries with the largest monetary reserves—West Germany, the United States, and Japan in that order—had total reserves at the end of September of only \$61.4 billion.

So rapidly are OPEC's earnings piling up that the World Bank estimates that, by 1985, if the present price

and rate of consumption should continue, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Union of Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Libya will have total reserves of \$996 billion—over three times more than the current U.S. national budget.

Obviously, the price rigging that is producing such a dislocation of the world's trade balance can have a devastating effect on the economy of the United States and other industrial nations. Worse inflation, collapse of the world's monetary system, and worldwide depression can result.

The OPEC states themselves cannot in the long run benefit from such eventualities. It is their oil, of course; it is irreplaceable; and for a time they can get what the traffic will bear.

But how much better for all concerned it would be if they would bring their earnings down to a point that would allow their export revenues to pay for machinery and technology they need to import, plus a sensible amount of foreign investing.

Failing that, the only recourse for the consuming nations, especially the United States, is to substantially reduce petroleum imports and to intensify efforts to develop alternate sources of supply.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Spray Cans Are New Environmental Worry

If there is one lesson our technological society should have learned by now it is that "progress" has a price that is often costly in unexpected ways.

Take that familiar symbol of technological ingenuity—the handy, ubiquitous aerosol spray. Who would have imagined that it could be considered a possible threat to life on earth?

Yet, that is what some scientists are saying. The spray cans' propellant, Freon gas, released in the air, eventually rises into the outer atmosphere. There, they say, chemical changes occur in the gas that can destroy the ozone that shields us from the ultraviolet rays of the sun.

The Freon, which is also the cooling agent in refrigerators, is stable in the lower atmosphere and harmless to humans. But, when it escapes into the stratosphere, the sun's ultraviolet light causes it to release chlorine. This in turn can break down the ozone, an unstable form of oxygen, in the atmosphere's thin outer layer.

The ozone, the pungent smell of which is often in the air after electrical storms, absorbs the ultraviolet radiation that can cause skin cancer and damage vegetation. A thinning of the ozone layer,

theoretically, could cause a catastrophe on earth.

The manufacturers of the sprays contend that this is all theoretical and unproven. They oppose banning the aerosol cans, as is being proposed in Congress.

Some three billion aerosols are sold in the United States each year, and nearly a million tons of Freon is being sprayed into the air annually. Laboratory tests substantiate the eventual effect that Freon can have on the protective ozone.

Some 200,000 workers are employed in the manufacture of the widely-used sprays, and the U.S. economy benefits by as much as \$8 billion a year from their production. As is usually the case in environmental matters, an economic question is also involved.

Scientists say that recent tests have indicated that the amount of ozone in the upper air has diminished in the last three years. If Freon is actually the culprit, that fact should be determined soon, and beyond any reasonable doubt.

What is urgently needed is an immediate and thorough study to find out what is theory and what is fact. This matter is far too important to be left "up in the air."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pop-Tops and Twist-Offs Stir Controversy

If there is one thing that is certain it is that our society will never lack for public controversy. The argument over proposals to ban nonreturnable beverage containers is a good case in point.

Three states thus far—Oregon, Vermont, and South Dakota—have enacted laws to prohibit or discourage the use of non-reusable bottles and cans; and Congress is considering a ban on them because of the trash disposal problem they have created.

There is no doubt that the nonreturnable containers have added immeasurably to the ugly litter that is piling up in public places in our country. U.S. roadsides, beaches, and parks bear mute testimony to Americans' predilection for throwing cans and bottles away at the spot where their contents are consumed.

But it should not be forgotten, I think, that in the days before the pop-top can and the twist-off cap, many Americans also tossed their returnable bottles away. And bottles and cans today are far from being all that our affluent society discards in recreation areas and along the roads.

Nevertheless, it is estimated that beverage containers account for more than 60 percent of our total litter. Well over two billion used beverage contain-

ers now add to our trash each year, and the number is expected to double by 1980.

The Oregon law, enacted two years ago as the first such law, appears to have been effective in reducing litter—and the high cost to taxpayers of cleaning it up — and to have caused neither a drop in beverage sales nor an increase in prices. It requires a five-cent deposit on all beverage containers, and bans nonreturnables.

Proponents of widening such action argue that a potential saving of \$70 million a year in solid waste disposal costs could be effected by a nationwide ban. They contend also that energy savings, equivalent to 279,000 barrels of oil a day, could be realized.

Opponents say that to ban only nonreturnable beverage containers is discriminatory; that it will cause the loss of jobs in can and bottle manufacturing; and that other methods of dealing with the litter problem are available such as mandatory deposits on all containers or the use of biodegradable materials.

They also raise the point as to whether this is a federal problem when so many other big problems exist. Cleaning up the litter is important. The best means of doing so remains the question.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

UN Assembly Acts Irresponsibly

In the wake of the recent session of the United Nations' General Assembly, responsible voices are questioning the value and wisdom of continued U.S. participation in that body. Its increasingly irresponsible actions raise grave doubts as to its future worth—or for that matter its current worth—in world affairs.

Fifty-one nations, seeking world peace and stability, formed the UN in 1945. Now it has 138 members—ballooned to that number by small "emerging" states, many of which are unstable at best. But each has a vote and a voice in the Assembly equal to that of the United States.

Hatred of the U.S. and its policies and interests is common among them. Many spout the communist line. Most pay only a fraction of a percent of the UN's budget, while this country pays more than 30% of the overall cost. By contrast, the Soviet Union, second in UN support, pays about 13%.

I have consistently voted against appropriations for the excessive amount the U.S. pays to support the UN, feeling that all members should pay their fair, proportionate share.

One of the most flagrant of the General Assembly's irresponsible recent actions was its unprecedented sus-

pension of South Africa, strengthening the extremists in that country.

And certainly other irresponsible actions were its extraordinary welcome for the Palestine Liberation Organization and Yasir Arafat, together with its refusal to take any action against international terrorism, as I noted in a previous column.

The Assembly further compromised its usefulness by denying Israel the right of effective reply on the Palestine question, by adopting the resolution that in effect approved terrorist activity, and by taking a position that acquiesces in the terrorists' ultimate objective of the destruction of the Israeli state.

The UN has repeatedly been faulted for failing to act to keep the peace—and it deserves such faulting. But these latest actions take the General Assembly into a different realm, one of provocative actions that sow the seeds, not of peace, but of hostility and conflict.

The coalitions that can now dominate the General Assembly make it a disruptive and divisive instrument in world affairs. The United States will be well advised to weigh its future in the UN in the light of sharply changing times.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Need for Gas Rationing Lessens

Figures released by the U.S. Treasury Department on January 30 have put the problem of the pileup of petrodollars abroad in a new light. The impact on the U.S. and other industrialized nations, the Treasury now says, should be less than the World Bank estimated last year.

That does not mean that the energy problem is about to go away, or that the necessity for conservation is any less urgent. But the new statistics should at least obviate the need for gasoline rationing—except on a standby basis, for use as a last resort in the event of another embargo or other national emergency.

The World Bank had forecast last July that, as a result of the quadrupling of the price of oil, the OPEC cartel would pile up monetary reserves of as much as \$653 billion by 1980 and \$1.2 trillion by 1985. The Treasury has now revised this estimate downward to between \$200 billion and \$250 billion by 1980; and, in the light of the new statistic, Treasury Secretary Simon said, "the international financial aspects of the oil situation are manageable."

Two main things are responsible for the changed picture—the industrial nations are selling the oil producers far more goods and services in exchange for their oil than had earlier been anticipated; and the higher petroleum price is beginning to bring about a reduction in consumption worldwide.

I do not believe, therefore, that we presently need the drastic extremes of either a World War II type of rationing with its inevitable inequities and expensive federal bureaucracy, or the President's import tariff on oil with its undersirable ripple effect that will up the price of everything connected with petroleum.

The oil import tariff will inflate the cost of home heating oil and electricity, airline fares, bus fares, freight rates, fertilizer and farm products, synthetic textiles and all petrochemical products—your tooth brush, eyeglass frames, plastic food and garbage bags, laundry detergents, vinyl wall covering and floor tile, carpets, paints, and innumerable other products.

What is needed instead of either the tariff or rationing is a multi-dimensional approach that will stress conservation — for example, better fuel efficiency in homes and factories; more economical and efficient automobiles; accelerated commercial development of clean synthetic oil and gas from coal; and a speedup in research and development in new alternative sources of energy such as solar and geothermal.

Energy—especially gasoline—is probably going to cost us more in the future than in the past. But in the long run, I am confident that American resourcefulness and ingenuity can lick the problems we face.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

'Indexing' As a Means of Fighting Inflation

"Indexing" is a word we may be hearing more about. To oversimplify, it means putting everybody and everything on a cost-of-living escalator.

Brazil, where inflation never dropped under 12% a year after 1952—and actually hit an annual rate of 140% for a time in 1964—has used indexing to help cool inflation, and its experience has stimulated interest here.

Many other countries have also used this device in one way or another, and it already is in effect in some degree in the U.S. There are arguments on both sides as to whether we should consider more extensive application of the principle.

Basically, indexing allows adjustment upward in wages, pensions, and interest rates, and contracts in general to keep pace with prices. A growing number of U.S. wage agreements have cost-of-living escalators tied to the consumer price index, and social security and government pensions now go up as the CPI rises.

But many pension systems and wage and salary contracts do not have escalators; and inflation adversely affects other things such as insurance, interest on savings, fixed value contracts, and the availability

of mortgage money, to mention a few.

The arguments for indexing are fairly obvious. It provides a means of maintaining a consistent relationship between wages and prices. It puts an end to distortions caused by contracts and agreements stated in fixed dollar or percentage terms. It preserves equity. And it could be used to protect the taxpayer from being pushed into higher tax brackets when pay goes up to meet inflation.

The arguments against indexing are that it weakens the will to fight inflation. It removes the incentive to cut production costs and keep prices down. It encourages price increases and discourages economizing and saving. If adopted as official government policy, it could, in effect, put a stamp of approval upon a never-ending U.S. inflation.

Bills providing for various extensions of indexing have been introduced in Congress, and the discussion is likely to continue.

In my opinion, indexing has legitimate, but limited, use in our economy. The U.S. free enterprise system is too complex and too innovative to be restricted to any formula or equation, however laudable its intent might be.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Balanced View of Problems Needed

America's Bicentennial is almost at hand. With all the contemporary problems we face, reflecting upon our country's remarkable achievements in its first 199 years can be rewarding.

We tend to take for granted the most remarkable thing about our country—the individual freedom its 213 million citizens enjoy. Despite all the present troubles that may annoy us, few people on this planet have anything like the freedom in every aspect of life that sets our society apart from others.

This in itself should be a continuing source of pride to every American. In an era in which repressive governments rule so many millions, Americans can be especially proud that their country over the years has done so much to aid the cause of freedom around the world.

The litany of America's progress is long indeed, stretching back to the stout-hearted pioneers who crossed a continent by wagon, tamed a wilderness, and built a nation richer in opportunity than the world had ever seen before.

There is no wonder that it produced so many firsts: the telegraph, the telephone, the ocean cable, the airplane, the tractor, the

electric light, the steamboat. The list could go on and on.

In every area of constructive human endeavor, Americans have excelled—in science, education, medicine, agriculture, communications, public health. Not only did America harness the power of the atom and put men on the moon, but it also ended the scourges of polio and yellow fever, and its scientists are ever pushing ahead toward cures for other maladies that plague mankind.

In this century the average span of life has been increased from 47 years to 70. The work week has been reduced to an average of 38 hours. Wages and salaries have reached new highs. And the American standard of living, the best in the world, has gone up steadily, inflation notwithstanding.

All is not a bed of roses in our country, of course; and few would try to make it appear so. But neither should we indulge our well-known penchant for masochism by constantly emphasizing the bad over the good.

We need a balanced view, the long view that puts current problems in perspective, enabling us to deal with them in the light of our national accomplishments.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginian Was Virginia Governor

One of the facts about our state's history that has always interested me is that a West Virginian was "Governor of Virginia" during and after the Civil War.

He was Francis H. Pierpont of Fairmont, who, although he never held a West Virginia office, is called by many the "Father" of our state.

When Virginia seceded from the Union, leaders of the northwestern Virginia counties, who opposed secession, met in Clarksburg and Wheeling to determine what they should do.

At the Second Wheeling Convention, in June 1861, they formed a "Reorganized Government of Virginia," supported by the Union's armed forces, and elected Pierpont as Governor.

Other state officials, a legislature composed of members previously elected to the General Assembly in Richmond, and men to serve in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives were named. This administration governed the northwest portion of Virginia until West Virginia, with Arthur I. Boreman as its first Governor, became a separate state on June 20, 1863.

It was this "restored government" of Virginia that made the new state possible. Its legislature "approved" West Virginia's

formation, thus technically satisfying the U.S. constitutional requirement that new states can be created only with the consent of existing states whose territory may be involved.

Following the admission of West Virginia, the Pierpont administration moved from Wheeling to Alexandria, Va., where it governed the Virginia areas under federal control until the defeat of the Confederacy in 1865. Pierpont then was named provisional Governor of Virginia by President Lincoln, in which capacity he served in Richmond until April 1868.

Historians generally give Pierpont high marks for the job he did under difficult circumstances. His reorganized government collected taxes, carried on public services, and had a surplus in the treasury at the war's end.

He was a loyal unionist with an abolitionist bent; but, says Virginia historian Virginius Dabney, after the war he "made an earnest effort to alleviate the sufferings of the people" of defeated Virginia.

The people of West Virginia long ago did Francis Pierpont the honor of placing his statue in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall in Washington. It is a fitting tribute to the "Father" of the Mountain State.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Family Decline Spells Social Trouble

With all of the other problems that beset our society, one that is receiving all too little attention, in my judgment, is that of the deterioration of family life in our country.

"Liberation" is the great catchword of the times. The main aim in life for many, it seems, is to be relieved of as much responsibility as possible—especially the responsibilities associated with home and family.

The urbanized circumstances in which so many people live today contribute to family decline. The great mobility of our society—its rootlessness—is a factor. The increasing lack of necessity for the hard work once required to keep a home going—bringing in the fuel, preparing the food, etc.—is another.

But more significant than all that, perhaps, is the startling change in attitude toward marriage that has occurred in recent years. In one locality after another, if the news reports are to be believed, the institution of marriage is on the decline as the sexual revolution spreads.

Popular publications revel in stories about swinging singles who openly live together; who may or may not produce children; and who afterward, as likely as

not, may go their separate ways. Where society once condemned such lifestyles, now it only shrugs.

We have yet to see the end result of this kind of "liberation." The experience of mankind in societies throughout the ages does not suggest that it will produce an improvement upon all that has gone before.

On the contrary, an even greater social instability than plagues us now is likely to follow. The family is basic in any organized, civilized social order. Both Oriental and Occidental peoples have found this to be true. The stronger the family, the more stable the society.

In many ways, the new liberation is simply a new selfishness, a new self-centeredness. Individuals may gratify passing whims without family ties or family responsibilities. But society as a whole, and children who may be involved, will be the less secure and the losers because of it.

Our country needs, perhaps more than anything else, a new emphasis upon the importance—the essentiality, in fact—of the family. Our cherished social progress is not likely to continue, much less endure, without a renewal of the responsibilities that should go with home and marriage.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Illegal Alien Workers Pose Problem

In the midst of increasing unemployment in our country, it is estimated that a million or more illegal aliens are at work in the U.S.

Admittedly many of the jobs they hold may be considered menial by many American workers — jobs that may have gone begging in a more normal labor market. Some persons on the unemployed rolls or on welfare might think of such jobs as demeaning.

Nonetheless, they are jobs that should be open to our own unemployed citizens and legal aliens.

Many of the foreign nationals illegally in this country came here on valid student or tourist visas. In their behalf, it should be said that in many instances they like America better than their homelands, and that they work hard and stay out of trouble.

Most just do not leave when their visas expire, despite declarations when they applied for them that they would do so. They overstay and simply fade into the enormity of the U.S. scene. Finding them and deporting them becomes a task of challenging proportions.

Others here illegally are agricultural workers, especially in the Southwest. They cross the long border from Mexico to work in the groves and fields and

processing plants. Some are smuggled across the border by operators who charge them high fees and then abandon them.

In some instances, employers connive with the aliens they employ—in violation of federal laws. The aliens will work for low wages and in sub-standard conditions, and they are in no position to complain.

Attacking the problem is not easy, as various remedies proposed in the Congress indicate. It is difficult to keep them out. Who knows the real intent of a student or tourist applying for entry? And how can we effectively seal off thousands of miles of shoreline and border? Deportation can be a lengthy process. And how much will it cost to hire enough immigration officials to track them all down?

The most feasible proposals appear to be those that deal with a requirement for proof of U.S. citizenship or the right to be in the U.S., before employment, and that place strict penalties upon employers who violate the law. A tamper-proof, plastic identity card—including magnetic imprints that make it almost impossible to counterfeit—could be issued to some 5 million legal aliens.

U.S. jobs in times like these should be made available only to U.S. citizens and legal aliens.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Exotic Cattle—and Home on the Range

Should the U.S. fatten its beef cattle on grain that can feed humans? High food prices and world hunger are increasingly prompting that question.

In the U.S. West a generation or so ago, beef herds grew to maturity on grass. Then the feedlot—which is supposed to produce juicier, more flavorful meat—came into the picture.

On the lots, steers are stuffed with grain before slaughter—more than 40 million tons of it in the U.S. last year alone, plus five million tons more of high-protein feed like soybeans.

This produces the "Prime" and "Choice" grades of beef with their fatty "marbling" that Americans favor in their steaks and roasts.

It also produces an enormous amount of waste in the fat the butcher removes and that which remains for the chef, the cook, and the diner to trim away. The marbled fat, of course, is a major source of the cholesterol doctors warn against.

Money is wasted as well. It is estimated that beef might be as much as 50 cents a pound less if it were grass-fed instead of grain-fed. The U.S. feed grain bill in 1973 was \$5 billion—paid for by housewives at the meat counter.

Furthermore, turning grain into meat is inefficient from a nutritional point of view. It takes six to eight pounds of grain

to add one pound to an animal's weight. The grain, of course, if it were not fed to cattle, could feed humans directly. In many areas of the world, it is grain, not meat, that is the primary source of protein.

Two interesting things are happening as a result of all this. Cattle growers are experimenting with new, so-called "exotic" breeds; and grassland cattle may make a come-back to challenge feedlots made unprofitable by grain and operating costs.

The exotics—in contrast with such familiar strains as Hereford and Angus from Britain—are mostly continental European with names like Simmental, Chianina, or Charolais. They grow faster, and bigger-muscled, and produce leaner meat than the cattle we Americans have generally been accustomed to.

Whether the U.S. consumer will be willing to go back to range-fed cattle for his beef, or opt for the newer breeds, remains to be seen. There is controversy, as there usually is in such matters, between the growers as to the relative merits of the meat they can produce; and disagreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture over grading.

But in the long run, the consumer should benefit as the various pressures at work interact to produce the product or products most acceptable in the marketplace.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia and the Mason-Dixon Line

Most West Virginians undoubtedly know that the Mason-Dixon Line was the symbolic boundary between North and South in the Civil War. But do they also realize that this celebrated line, marking Pennsylvania's southern border with West Virginia, also gave the Mountain State its Northern Panhandle?

A glance at the map of our state surely must have led many individuals to ask why the long finger of land between the Ohio River and Pennsylvania's western boundary is part of West Virginia. Why didn't Pennsylvania's southern border extend to the Ohio?

The answers go back to the border disputes between the colonists before the American Revolution. First, Pennsylvania and Maryland disputed their border; then, when Virginia pioneers crossed the mountains into their northwestern lands, they and the Pennsylvanians fell into violent disagreement over their line of demarcation.

To settle the first controversy, two English astronomers, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, in 1763 were commissioned to determine the proper boundary. They ran a line north and south to divide the "three lower counties of Pennsylvania"—now the state of Delaware—from Maryland; and in four years they had completed their east-west line to the point where Maryland,

Pennsylvania, and West Virginia now come together. Beyond that point they were stopped by Indians.

The Virginia-Pennsylvania dispute grew worse, with Virginians occupying much of the land around the "forks of the Ohio," now the site of Pittsburgh. But nothing further was done to settle the dispute until 1779, when the two colonies finally agreed to extend Mason and Dixon's line five degrees of longitude westward from its beginning. At the western termination of the line, they agreed, another line would be drawn north to Lake Erie to form Pennsylvania's western boundary.

Thus, with the Mason-Dixon Line's five degrees of longitude ending some ten or twelve miles from the Ohio River, the Panhandle—now Marshall, Ohio, Brooke, and Hancock Counties—came into being.

The use of the Mason-Dixon Line to mark the division between the free and slave states before the Civil War derives from the Missouri Compromise and the admission of Missouri as a slave state in 1821. The line was construed then to follow the Ohio River southwestward to Missouri, from whence it extended west along the 36-30 parallel.

Mason and Dixon probably never dreamed how their names would endure.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Orderly Growth Essential to Prosperity

Problems associated with preservation and restoration of the environment have raised the old question of the desirability of strong economic growth versus little growth or no growth.

The adverse effects of the current recession, I believe, should provide the answer to that question beyond any reasonable doubt. Growth—not wild, uncontrolled boom-and-bust activity—but sound, continued growth is essential to provide both jobs and the necessary government revenues to carry on worthwhile public services.

Looking at contaminated lakes and streams and polluted air, many have argued persuasively that destruction of the environment is too high a price to pay for industrial progress and economic growth. Until the unemployment curve started upward, there were few to question the wisdom of such arguments.

But now, with a falling gross national product, not only are the ranks of the jobless increasing; the public and private resources needed for environmental cleanup are also shrinking.

A hundred and fifty years ago, Malthus, the British political economist, feared that population growth would outrun the capacity to produce enough food from the available land. Recurring famines in Africa and India have revived such fears only recently; and spreading pollution in urban areas has

underscored the understandable concern for both the quality and preservation of life in an increasingly crowded world.

But there are innumerable examples to prove that, with improved fertilizers and farming practices, people can be fed. And there are equally numerous examples to show that pollution can be overcome—as it should be overcome. What is required in both instances is a dynamic economy, with increasing agricultural productivity—and the funds to do the job.

A year or so ago, our GNP—the total value of all goods and services—passed the trillion-dollar mark, and progress was being made on all fronts. The world had seen nothing like it before. But last year, we had a 2.2% drop in the real GNP—and there was stagnation on all fronts.

The no-growth arguments, in my judgment, have lost any appeal they might once have had. Neither jobs for Americans, nor environmental improvement—nor the maintenance of the standard of living that has made life so much better for so many millions—can be sustained without economic vigor.

A bucolic America of cottage industries and old mill wheels may have a nostalgic hold on the imagination. But present-day reality also demands continued, orderly industrial, agricultural, and economic growth.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Place Names Tell Story of Earlier Days

Not long ago I wrote about some of the colorful place names in our state. It would take many columns to exhaust the subject. It can tell us much about the history and character of our forebears.

The early settlers for the most part were religious folk. Names of many places in West Virginia come from the Bible or have some relationship with religion. Names like Eden, Canaan Valley, Herods Creek, Pharaoh Run, Job Knob, Moses Creek, and Pisgah are cases in point. And there are others like Paradise, Purgatory Knob, Shades of Death Creek, and Hell for Certain Branch.

Indian names abound, taken from the tribes that inhabited or frequented the area: Mingo, Seneca, Mohegan, Mohawk, Guyandot, Shawnee. And before them there were the mound-builders, which gave us the name Moundsville.

There are clues to the rich ethnic stock that settled on the western slopes of the Alleghenies. There is Little Italy, Ireland, Germany Valley, Polandale, Welsh Glade, and Helvetia—the Swiss name for their native land.

And that some of these sturdy folk might have liked a nip now and then is indicated by Still Run, Mash Fork, Grogg Run, Rum Creek.

The pioneer women had their influence, too, as illustrated by such names as Kitchen Creek, Cupboard Run, Kettle Run, Pot Branch, Skillet Run, and Tub Run.

And, even then, West Virginia's settlers took note of the environment. There are dozens of names like Elk River, Pigeonroost, Ramp Run, Panther Fork, Wild Cat Knob, Copperhead Branch, and Mount Storm. There are names that reveal the frontiersmen's feelings, too: Hardscrabble, Big Ugly Creek, Hateful Run, Stinking Creek, and Desolate Branch.

But the hardy souls of the early days were not without their book-learning, too, as witness Socrates Mountain, Polemic Run, Styx River, Caesar Mountain, and Eureka Island.

There was also the poetry of the Indian inhabitants in such names as Kanawha, derived from the Canoy tribe; Monongahela, the "river of falling banks;" Pocatalioc, the "river of fat doe;" and Ohio, the "river of many whitecaps."

There are many, many more fascinating place names in our state—Sam Black Church, Sassafrass, Horsepen, Ambrosia, Czar, Confidence — and virtually all of them have a story to tell of events in years gone by.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Congress Strengthens a Basic Principle

Strengthening changes in the Freedom of Information Act became effective February 19—straws in the new wind of openness in government that is blowing across Capitol Hill, and that, hopefully, will make all of the federal government more responsive to the people and more candid.

The coverups about which the country heard so much last year gave secrecy in government a bad name, indeed. But Congress was moving toward more openness before that. It passed the original Freedom of Information law nine years ago; and there are other evidences to indicate that it does, in fact, believe in the people's right to know.

Many Committees of Congress, for example, are now meeting in public to transact business that formerly was handled behind closed doors. And, as readers of this column may know, for some time I have been advocating the televising of sessions of the Senate. I believe that will ultimately be done.

The trend toward openness is a healthy one. I emphasize that there are, of course, national security and other issues that must not be publicized. But insofar as it is practical to do so, the public's business should be conducted in the public view.

The Freedom of Informa-

tion Act lays down the principle that government files—except in nine specific categories such as defense, trade secrets, investigations, internal policy memos, etc. — shall be available to press and public. It was enacted by Congress in 1966 despite opposition from the federal bureaucracy.

Congress made the changes to overcome continuing bureaucratic resistance to the law.

Departments and agencies will now be given ten working days for meeting public requests for documents; excessive copying fees will be banned; and winners of court cases to force release of files will have their legal fees paid for by the government.

President Ford, a more open and candid man than some persons in both parties who have occupied the Oval Office, vetoed the bill because of Executive Branch opposition to it. But the Congress overrode him.

Like other human institutions, Congress is far from perfect. It is accused of many things. But its instincts favor the public good, and it accomplishes much more for the public good than some of its critics are willing to admit.

In strengthening the Freedom of Information Act, Congress has strengthened a basic American concept.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Arms Sales of Growing Concern

I am concerned by the growing volume of U.S. arms sales to other nations, especially the buildup in the Persian Gulf area.

One can understand the desire of any country to protect itself against attack or invasion and internal disorders. But the arming now under way goes far beyond that sort of necessity. The most sophisticated weapons, from tanks and rockets to naval vessels and aircraft, are being acquired by every nation that can afford them, and by many that can't.

It is argued that if we don't supply other nations with arms, the Soviet Union, or France, or someone else will do so. That ignores the initiative that is being employed by American manufacturers and salesmen.

The sales, of course, are licensed by government. Official policy—especially as it relates to foreign relations, political and economic—is deeply involved.

Last year, the U.S. sold \$8.3 billion worth of war equipment to 136 different nations. Since 1950, arms transfers from the U.S. abroad have totalled \$86 billion, making our country by far the leading arms

merchant. Russia is second with \$5.5 billion in sales last year and \$39 billion since 1950. The international arms traffic has jumped more than 550% in the last ten years.

Formerly the bulk of U.S. munitions went to NATO allies and others involved in the effort to contain communist aggression. But in the last few years, Middle Eastern countries have become big customers.

The U.S. is supplying both Iran and rival Saudi Arabia, as well as Kuwait, Oman, and other Middle Eastern clients—in addition to our long-time support of Israel.

The Soviets are supplying Iraq and Syria, as they have supplied Egypt and others. The ominous possibility of superpower confrontation cannot be dismissed; nor can the possibility of adventures by Third World nations now being armed by America and Russia be ignored.

Where will it all end? Has our government even weighed the potentialities ten years hence? Is munitions plant employment, or improving our balance of trade, worth the risk of wars and more wars?

The answers to such questions must surely be in the negative.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Lock Up the Criminals

I have always felt that the best way to halt crime in the United States is to lock up the criminals. But that view has been unpopular with those who believe the crime problem is too complex to be solved simply by putting criminals in jail.

In the wake of 1974's startling crime figures, the logic of removing the criminals from the rest of society seems inescapable—and the call for mandatory prison sentences is equally loud in the academic and law enforcement communities.

Harvard government professor James Q. Wilson claims we have paid too much attention to "the causes of crime," and worrying whether a mandatory prison sentence "would act as a deterrent." It is obvious, he says, that putting criminals in jail would "serve to incapacitate them and thus prevent them from committing additional crimes."

And a study by the City College of New York and released by New York police officials proves that point. The study notes the unnerving practice of not sending convicted criminals to prison, and says that, if everyone convicted of a serious crime were put be-

hind bars for a minimum of three years, the crime rate in New York state would be one-third less than it is today.

The same decline could hold true for the rest of the country, as well. Last year's 17 percent increase in serious crime was the largest annual rise since the FBI began keeping statistics 45 years ago. Violent crimes rose 11 percent; there was a 17 percent jump in crimes against property; robberies increased 14 percent; forcible rape and aggravated assault nine percent; and murder five percent.

Let's face facts! For the past decade, there has been a crime wave in America. And all the sociological experimentation, and all the expensive efforts at rehabilitation have failed to win a single battle in the war on crime.

To win battles, and to eventually win the war, we need to get the criminals off the streets and into the prisons. It is past time that we recognized a simple fact: some people belong in jail. And the sooner they are put there, the sooner the law-abiding members of society will be able to live their lives without the fear that is so prevalent in America today.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

OPEC Cartel Is Under a Strain

A funny thing has happened to the oil shortage; it has turned into a glut. That doesn't mean our petroleum problems are over. What it does mean is that the oil-consuming countries have a chance to crack the cartel and bring the price down.

A decline in consumption, especially in Europe and Japan, and the recession—which ironically OPEC's extortionate price-rigging helped to bring about—are causing a worldwide surplus of petroleum products. Industrial production is down everywhere—around 12% in the U.S.—and oil use is down with it.

Sufficient reason for seeking to break the cartel exists in the fact that there is little or no relationship between the price of producing a barrel of oil and the price OPEC has been demanding for it. In a good part of the Middle East it costs about 10 cents a barrel to get crude out of the ground—for which U.S. consumers have had to pay \$11.65 or more a barrel.

Secretary Kissinger has proposed putting an artificial \$7-a-barrel floor under the price of imported oil. That is probably unsound economics, even if the laudable objective is to protect U.S. efforts to develop alternative fuels. If market forces are allowed to

operate, prices are almost sure to be forced down.

The oil exporting countries would like to produce about 20% more oil than they have a market for at present prices. Production has therefore been reduced by varying amounts in cartel states—about a third in Kuwait and Abu Dhabi, for example, and as much as half in Libya.

The cartel is under a strain for this and other reasons. Its members are making under-the-table deals with purchasers in hopes of keeping production up. Discounts are being offered; accounts are being carried without interest; shipping charges are being absorbed—all gimmicks which, in effect, cut the price of crude. Tensions between leaders within the cartel also have been growing, and the future course of Saudi Arabia's new leaders with respect to the price of oil is uncertain.

It has always been the price—not the availability of supplies—that has been at the heart of the petroleum problem. In January 1974, at the height of the embargo, shipments of oil from the Middle East were five percent greater than they were in January of this year.

The cartel is vulnerable. Every effort should be made to break its stranglehold.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Military Eyeing Cheaper Weapons

The U.S. Defense Department, reflecting the concern of the Congress and the people over the spiralling costs of military equipment, is taking a new look at less expensive weapons.

Inflation has played a major role in the efforts to reduce the costs of our military arsenal. A World War II fighter such as the P-47 carried a price tag of \$89,000, while today's comparable plane, the F-15, costs \$15 million. And of the \$104 billion Defense Budget requested for fiscal year 1976, 55 percent would go for pay and allowances of personnel—compared with 43.3 percent in 1964.

Yet, another pertinent fact is that cheaper weapons proved effective during the Arab-Israel fighting in the Middle East. About 1,000 American-built tanks costing \$400,000 apiece were knocked out by the Soviet-made RPG-7 shoulder-fired rockets that cost about \$75 each; and a \$400,000 Russian "cruise missile" sank an Israeli destroyer with a replacement cost of almost \$1 billion.

In all, the cost to the United States to resupply Israel was \$2.2 billion, or more than \$700 million for

every week of the fighting.

There is no doubt that American military equipment is the best in the world, and that sophisticated weapons are needed. Indeed, it was our significant edge in nuclear armaments that convinced the Russians to back down during the Cuban missile crisis. But too heavy a reliance on complex weaponry can prove unnecessarily costly—not only in terms of dollars, but also in terms of military effectiveness.

The \$15 million F-15, and the \$20 million F-14 are prime examples. They are the most sophisticated fighter planes in the world, and, in a one-on-one battle with their Soviet counterpart, the MIG-21, they could win almost every time. However, if built in the United States, the MIG-21 would cost \$2 million, which means seven MIG-21s could be put in the air for every American F-15, and 10 of the Soviet planes could be sent out to do battle with a single American F-14.

Obviously, there is strength in numbers, and the Defense Department is realizing that less expensive weapons could provide the numbers without lessening America's strength.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Let Communists Underwrite Indochina

The new communist governments in Cambodia and South Vietnam have publicly thanked the Soviet Union and The People's Republic of China for their military aid during the war in Indochina. Yet, at the same time, officials in Phnom Penh and Saigon have said they will accept economic aid from any and all countries wishing to give it.

The United States should not offer any economic aid to South Vietnam and Cambodia, and I would oppose any legislation that would send more American taxpayers' dollars to those countries.

The fall of Cambodia and South Vietnam was the direct result of two things—internal weaknesses within their governments, and the massive military aid supplied by Russia and China. The United States, meanwhile, sacrificed 56,000 lives, over 300,000 casualties, and more than \$150 billion—not to conquer or colonize, but to give the Cambodians and South Vietnamese an opportunity for self-determination in their fight against commu-

nist aggression.

For the United States to move now to prop up the communist governments in Indochina would be sheer folly, in my opinion.

Russia and China enthusiastically supported the war effort of the communists in Indochina, and joined in the rejoicing when Phnom Penh and Saigon eventually fell. As far as I am concerned, now that the communists have taken over Cambodia and South Vietnam, they should also take over the economic problems of the two countries.

If other countries—especially countries which stood silently by while the United States bore a disproportionate share of the burden of war—want to help rebuild Indochina, let them. Uncle Sam has been a softie too long, and it's about time the American taxpayer got a break.

The United States should turn its attention and more of its resources to tackling domestic, economic and social problems, and to building up our defense in a way that will truly enhance our own national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Education or War in the Schools?

Many of our nation's public schools have turned into virtual battlefields; and unless dramatic action is taken to reverse the current trend of lawlessness, it will be impossible for serious students to receive any kind of education.

From 1970 through 1973—the last year for which complete data are available—homicides in public schools increased by almost 19 percent. Rapes and attempted rapes increased by over 40 percent; robberies rose by 36.7 percent; assaults on students by 85.3 percent; assaults on teachers by 77.4 percent; and burglaries of school buildings by 11.8 percent.

Each year, according to the National Education Association, 75,000 teachers are injured seriously enough to require medical attention; and 155,000 have their personal property stolen or maliciously damaged.

Obviously, the personal dangers involved in teaching today have persuaded many young college graduates not to enter the profession, and have forced many experienced teachers to leave it. The inevitable result has been a deterioration of quality education.

And the quality of education has been further jeopardized by the cost of

vandalism in our public schools. In 1972, \$500 million worth of school property was destroyed—an amount equal to the total expenditures for textbooks during that year. The taxpayers of Los Angeles alone now pay \$8.5 million annually for security measures designed to stop vandalism.

Lack of school discipline is an obvious cause for much of the violence in our schools. And the lack of discipline has been encouraged by too little official support for teachers and too much official emphasis on keeping students in school who simply do not belong there. It is no coincidence that, while lawlessness by students increased greatly from 1970-1973, the expulsion rate nationwide decreased by six percent.

We do not need more funds and programs aimed at rehabilitating juvenile delinquents at the expense of serious-minded students. What we need is to give teachers the support they deserve, and serious students the kind of atmosphere in which they can learn.

The students intent on breaking rules should be expelled. And those who break the law should be arrested and punished. It may be old-fashioned, but it's as simple as that.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's New Image

Not too many years ago, national publications and the television networks devoted a great deal of coverage to West Virginia—and their stories were far from complimentary. They told of an impoverished state, with a declining population, and little hope for the future.

Many West Virginians, myself included, spoke out against those stories. I considered most of the accounts to be biased, superficial reporting, which failed to recognize our state's natural resources, natural beauty, and the strong character of our people.

Now, however, the national media are rediscovering West Virginia; and their 1975 stories differ greatly from those of the 1960's.

The state's coal reserves are being hailed as the single best hope for solving the energy crisis, and Americans increasingly are finding West Virginia to be an ideal vacation spot.

Unemployment in the coal fields caused West Virginia to lose population in the 1960's, with many residents travelling to Detroit for jobs on automobile assembly lines. But with auto factories closing, West Virginians are com-

ing home to new jobs in a resurgent coal industry.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says not only is West Virginia's unemployment rate of 8 percent lower than the national rate of 9.1 percent, but also that unemployment in some of the coal-producing counties is as low as 5 percent. The Bureau further notes that the state's population rose an estimated 2.5 percent between 1970 and 1974—from 1,744,000 to 1,791,000.

And tourists are flocking to our state. In April of this year, there were 42,415 requests for travel information about West Virginia—compared with 10,585 requests in April, 1974. The dollar volume of tourism in the state jumped from \$540 million in 1972 to \$568 million in 1973.

What all this means is that West Virginia is in a growth period, and is being recognized nationally as a state on the move.

A little over a decade ago, *The Saturday Evening Post* described West Virginia as "a dying state." It is noteworthy that the original magazine that predicted the state's death is not around to see this period of growth. *The Saturday Evening Post* folded in 1969.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

"Baited" Bucks Bust Burglars

Banks have been using the most sophisticated equipment to halt robberies, including hidden and conspicuous cameras, silent and noisy alarms, and plain-clothes security officers who pose as customers. Now it turns out that the most effective crime-stopping devices might be the money bags and stolen bills themselves.

In Philadelphia, for example, a woman recently held up a bank and made off with \$3,200. When she reached what she felt was a safe distance from the bank, she stopped to count the money. But as soon as she opened the bag, a bomb of tear gas and red dye exploded in her face.

The tear gas-dye bomb, incapable of doing permanent damage, had been concealed in a stack of bills placed in the bag by the bank teller. It was activated as the robber passed through a magnetic field at the door of the bank.

"Devices such as these have proved themselves to be very effective in catching criminals, and their deterrent-value will increase as potential criminals learn of their effectiveness," notes a police official, who also points out "the dye leaves a stain that lasts for several days and makes the robber easily recognizable

to police."

Many manufacturers of security equipment such as alarm systems are moving into the production of alternative deterrents. And one that is currently in limited use is referred to as "smelly money." It involves having a small cash reserve of "scent" money at each of its windows, and making sure the robber's loot includes "smelly" as well as clean cash.

The scent, which rubs off on the robber and his clothes, "is hardly discernible to humans," according to a security systems expert. "But it is easily picked up by trained police dogs."

By scenting the money, security officials are not under pressure to stop the bandit before he or she leaves the bank, thereby lessening the danger to those innocent persons who might be inside at the time of the holdup. Also, if hostages are taken, police can follow at a distance safe enough to keep the criminal from getting jittery.

The tear gas-dye bombs and the "smelly money" are just two examples of what appears destined to become an all-out chemical war on bank robbers in our society. Hopefully, society will win the war.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Needs a Grain Policy

Although three years have passed since America signed the disastrous wheat agreements with Russia, the United States is still without a national grain policy. And lacking an effective policy could spell more trouble for the American taxpayer in the years ahead.

The wheat deal was announced on July 8, 1972, and allowed Russia to buy, largely through American loans, \$750 million worth of American wheat—20 percent of the total 1972 crop—over a five-year period. To the surprise of the U.S., the Soviets chose to exercise almost their entire option in the first year, with the result being a near doubling of the cost of a loaf of bread for American consumers.

More disturbing than the wheat deal itself, however, is the fact that little has been done to avoid a repeat performance.

The U.S. is still without a central gathering place for information on the world grains situation; and responsibilities for exporting American grains are still shared—and uncoordinated—by the State Department and the Department of Agriculture.

A central location where information can be gathered

and analyzed would result in farmers being better informed than they were in 1972. Although suppliers of grains knew of the massive failure of Russia's wheat crop, farmers were kept in the dark. And since they had no national forecast on which to base their planting, they were unable to adjust the size of their crops to meet both the Russians' demands and our own domestic needs.

Consolidation of responsibilities could prevent a recurrence of 1974, when Russia requested additional wheat from America. Despite Congress' action to avoid another deal like the one in 1972, and despite the President's rejection of the subsequent request, the Department of Agriculture still had the power to sell the Soviets an additional 1.2 billion tons of wheat. And consolidation of responsibilities could halt the current practice of drawing up trade regulations which, one expert says, "protect the interests of the traders at the expense of farmers, taxpayers, and consumers."

Obviously, a national grains policy is needed—and needed now—in order to keep the Soviets from taking the bread off American tables.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

First Settlers Found Tame Country

America, as we all know, is a nation that was carved out of the wilderness by the blood, sweat, and toil of its early settlers. But the earliest settlers—for example, the pilgrims who arrived in 1620 at Plymouth Rock—did not do as much of the carving as did later ones.

In fact, the America the pilgrims found was, in many ways, much more tame than the England they left. Devon, in the west of England, had not been colonized; nor had Lancashire, Cumberland, or Yorkshire in the north. And marshlands, forests, and heavily-wooded areas were abundant throughout England—and all of them were inhabited by wolves and wild boar.

The environmental obstacles the pilgrims faced in America were often less severe than those they would have faced had they chosen to "colonize" many of the unexplored parts of their native country.

In what is now New England, the indigenous Indian tribes had a semi-annual practice of burning out the underbrush and younger trees in the forests. The result was to make the New World forests less hazardous than many in the Old World, with grace-

ful columns of trees whose branches were 20 to 30 feet above the ground. One pilgrim compared the forests of America to "our parkes in England."

That is not to say, however, that the first settlers endured no hardships. The trip to America alone took a heavy toll, and the pilgrims were faced with establishing a civilization in the New World—an exacting task to which they and their posterity proved equal.

The settlers who came later expanded the boundaries of America, conquering human and environmental hostilities all the way to the Pacific Ocean. But they owed a debt to the early pilgrims, who came first to the New World and who showed by example that it offered the chance for freedom and liberty and opportunity that peoples throughout Europe were searching for.

As historian Michael Kammen has noted, the pilgrims and the settlers who followed "had the most extraordinary sense of optimism about the future of America." It would serve the future of our country well if all Americans could regain that sense of optimism as the United States approaches its 200th birthday.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Undersea World of Everyman

Man is exploring the sea with more intensity than ever before in history, and the result of all the underwater experiments could portend some dramatic changes in our way of life in the future.

The seas contain tremendous natural resources. That fact has been known for a long time. Yet, it has only been in recent years that countries and private companies have gone after those resources with the kind of enthusiasm necessary to make their operations a success. Japan's undersea mines now produce about 10 million tons of coal a year, while Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand mine tin beneath the seas. And the United States—because of our energy problems, and despite the heated environmental debates—is giving a new importance to offshore oil-drilling.

All the operations which take from the seas—whether in the mining of natural resources, or in the increasing use of the seas as a food supplier—must be conducted with care. And there is evidence that, in most cases, man is exploring the seas with a knowledge of their importance to the whole scheme

of life.

Far from simply taking natural resources and food from the seas, a great many experiments are designed to see if man can make the oceans a more important and integral part of his everyday existence. He is, for one thing, learning to predict—and could eventually control—weather patterns through his knowledge of the seas; and to disrupt the balance of nature in the ocean could destroy that valuable weather research.

Man is even learning to live with and work with the creatures of the seas. Scientists have developed an artificial gill—a synthetic membrane that lets air in but keeps water out—that they say could lead to apartment houses and sea-related factories being built beneath the oceans. And Russian scientists have trained fish to clean algae from filters in pumping stations, while dolphins have been trained by Americans to carry tools to aquanauts.

As man becomes more intimately acquainted with the seas, his horizons will be expanded—and human potential is then bound to take a giant step toward fulfillment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Look At Education Needed

America's strong emphasis on higher education has its good points and its bad points.

In the 1960s, a new junior or community college was built in this country every 10 days; and, as a result, a full 25 percent of the American work force will have college degrees by 1980. Another 20 to 25 percent will have one or two years of college. Thus, our workforce, which long has been the best-educated in the world, will, by the next decade, be the best-educated in our nation's history.

But there will be some drawbacks to that situation, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Although 25 percent of the workers will have degrees, only 20 percent of the jobs will require a college education in 1980—at which time we will begin having a surplus of 140,000 college graduates annually.

The situation could be one of massive underemployment, which, psychologically, can be as damaging as unemployment. Indeed, 35 percent of the current work force feel they are overqualified for their jobs.

Obviously, corrective action is needed; and one step that should be taken is to change our attitudes

about education.

For one thing, Americans must stop unquestioningly equating a college degree with intelligence. There are, right now in America, three times as many laborers with IQs of 130 as there are Ph.D.s with equal or superior IQs. And there is a much greater demand for skilled workers than there is for B.A. generalists.

A greater emphasis is needed on vocational education which would prepare students for satisfying careers in existing jobs; and students pursuing a bachelor's degree program in a liberal arts field must realize that attaining their B.A.s will not automatically assure them of securing the top jobs in our society. Skills, not merely academic letters, are going to determine their future in many instances.

An educated society is a worthwhile goal—one that America, by and large, has already achieved. But Americans must recognize that there are two kinds of education: one which prepares students to earn a living and make a contribution to society; and one which enriches the students' personal and cultural lives. Often, it's difficult to wrap both kinds of education in a single program.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia and the Federal Dollar

Does West Virginia get too much federal money?

Some national correspondents would have us believe that it does. They perpetuate the myth that the economy of our state depends heavily on federal facilities and federal programs.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

In fiscal year 1974—the last year for which comparative figures are available—West Virginia ranked 41st among the states in the amount of federal funds it received. To be sure, that ranking represents a dramatic increase from the 48th position West Virginia occupied in 1970; but it still serves to refute the charges that our state is getting more than its share of federal dollars.

With 0.85 percent of the country's population, West Virginia, in fiscal year 1974, received 0.72 percent of the federal outlays—\$1,098 on a per capita basis, compared with a national per capita average of \$1,321.

I serve on the Senate Appropriations Committee and am Chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations. Through those assignments, I have been able to secure a number of projects for our state—each one of which was fully justified before any funds were allocated.

Those projects—such as, for example, the National Mine Health and Safety Academy, the Forest Products Marketing Laboratory, and watershed and airport development programs—are a source of great pride for me, as I am sure they are for all West Virginians. And I intend to continue my efforts to secure new federal facilities and programs for our state—when they can be justified—and to keep the existing projects fully funded.

The critics of the federal outlays to West Virginia should look at the facts—and look at recent history. For too many years, West Virginia and the other states of Appalachia were overlooked by the federal government. The potential of the area was largely disregarded by those planning federal programs. We were at the bottom of the totem-pole.

Now, West Virginia is being recognized as an ideal site for some federal projects, and department and agency workers located elsewhere—especially in large cities—are eager to transfer to our state. I am confident that the Appalachian region and the nation as a whole—and not just our state—will benefit from increasing the number of federal facilities in West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Mobile America

There was a time when Americans stayed pretty close to home. In fact, estimates show that, in the first decade of this century, the average American travelled just 1,640 miles a year—and 1,300 of those miles were going to and coming from work.

But times have changed—and changed dramatically.

Today, the United States is the most mobile society in the world. Not only do Americans, on the average, drive about 10,000 miles annually; they also take vacation or business trips, or change their residences at an astounding rate.

In 1967-1968—the most recent years for which documented facts are available — 108 million Americans took 360 million trips of at least 100 miles and involving an overnight stay. Those domestic trips accounted for 312 billion miles of travel, while additional miles were covered by the estimated 4 million Americans who go abroad each year.

Also during the years 1967-1968, 36 million citizens moved their place of residence, which social commentator Alvin Toffler notes "is more than the total population of Ghana, Guatemala, Iraq, Israel, Mongolia, Honduras, Nica-

ragua, and Tunisia combined." And every year since 1948, approximately one out of every five Americans moved. In Washington, D.C., alone, over half the 885,000 listings which appeared in the 1969 telephone directory were different from the year before.

To accommodate our mobile society, the United States has built an average of 75,000 miles of road annually for the past 20 years. Road mileage, in other words, increased 100 percent while the country's population was increasing by about 38 percent.

The way society has changed over the past several years is, in large part, the result of the increasing mobility of Americans. Travelling has moved much of the country's recreational activities out of the home, and changing residences has caused breakdowns in the traditionally strong family ties in America.

Undoubtedly, citizens have become more sophisticated as a result of their increased mobility—and, to some extent, freer. But society has paid a price in the weakened family and community ties. Only time will tell how high has been the price.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ozone Debate Continues

One of the most significant scientific debates occurring in this country concerns ozone. And it is a debate filled with ironies.

Ozone is that part of the stratospheric gas layer which protects all life on earth from the sun's deadly ultraviolet rays; and as long as it remains 10-20 miles above the earth, ozone is beneficial. But ozone is highly unstable. Once it drifts downward from the stratosphere, it becomes the most toxic pollutant known, more deadly than carbon monoxide, cyanide, or strychnine.

The problem for scientists, then, is how to keep ozone where we need it—how to harness its positive aspects without unleashing its negative ones.

Fear of destroying the ozone layer was the main reason America abandoned plans to mass produce supersonic transport planes. Some scientists argued that 500 SST's operating for one year could knock away half the layer—a development that would not only expose earth to more ultraviolet rays, but would also send more ozone down into the earth's atmosphere.

Ironically, ozone was widely used as a bleach

and deodorizer during the first half of this century. Then, in the 1940's, it was found to have a deteriorating effect on rubber products. Further research showed it to be harmful to crops and plant life, and to the lungs of asthma victims.

Thus, pressure mounted to leave ozone undisturbed in the stratosphere, and unused on earth. That pressure reached its peak with the decision against the SST.

The most recent research, however, has shown that ozone, if strictly controlled, could serve as an alternative to chlorine for purifying water. Controlled ozone kills only bacteria and viruses, while chlorine's ill effects on fish and other stream life are just becoming known. Ozone also oxidizes, rather than simply covers, offensively odorous molecules, and, therefore, could be used to treat waste and sewage.

American scientists are effectively identifying the good and bad sides of ozone. Their research must be followed by wise decisions that will leave the stratospheric layer of ozone intact, while harnessing the ozone on earth for man's benefit.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Investment Needed Here At Home

One of the contributing factors to our high unemployment rate is the fact that, over the past several years, too many American companies have opted to invest overseas, rather than expand their operations here at home.

Take the period between 1960 and 1970, for example. During that decade, \$31 billion of American capital went directly into manufacturing and other industries abroad—which was the same as sending three to four million jobs overseas, and leaving three to four million of our own citizens jobless in the United States.

The situation is alarming, despite the optimistic predictions by some labor statisticians that it will correct itself over the next few years. Wage demands by foreign workers will continue to increase, the optimists predict, and the salary gap between foreign and American workers will narrow, if not entirely disappear.

True, as the salary levels in foreign countries increase, it will become less profitable for American companies to locate abroad. But, in the meantime, heavy American investments in overseas' manufacturing operations has already taken its toll on domestic production.

For instance, United States manufacturing industries currently operate the oldest metalworking

machinery in the industrialized world, with 67 percent of our metalworking machine tools being 10 years old or older. This is an extremely important statistic, because metalworking machinery is a central element of production.

And in non-military industries in the United States, the ratio of professional technicians—engineers, scientists, and the like—to production workers has fallen sharply. The ratio is currently one technician for every 100 production workers, and, ideally, the ratio should be the same as exists in military industries—seven to 100. Technicians are the ones who develop means to lower production costs, thereby increasing productivity and jobs. Their absence reflects the declining investment of American companies in domestic operations.

If more incentives have to be offered to keep United States industries at home, they should be offered. And if tariffs have to be raised to prevent cheap foreign products from threatening American men and women, they should be raised.

The first economic responsibility of the United States government is to the U.S. economy—and we cannot protect our economy and our own workforce if American companies continue to find advantages overseas which do not exist at home.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Economic Planning

The high unemployment, recession, and inflation that are currently putting strains on America have pointed up the need for better long-range economic planning at the national level.

The lack of such planning is a weakness that should be corrected, and a panel of distinguished economists has suggested establishing an Office of National Economic Planning as a first step toward avoiding future problems.

A good case can be made for creating the planning office. Indeed, Congress has already established a Budget Committee, which, hopefully, will give the legislative branch greater control over federal expenditures; and the executive branch has its own Office of Management and Budget. But both the congressional committee and the Administration's OMB deal with the economy, for the most part, on a year-to-year basis.

What the panel of economists has in mind is an Office that would look several years down the road, define long-range national goals, and suggest programs to the Administration and Congress to meet these goals. Among other things, the Office would accumulate and analyze economic information from all sources, realizing that such problems as energy, transportation, and housing in-

teract, and ought not be considered only as separate entities. The Office would examine major economic trends, monitor the nation's supply of essential resources, and formulate alternative long-term economic proposals to cover a multitude of potential occurrences.

Ideally, the Office of National Economic Planning would not only enable America to avert economic disaster, but would also allow the nation to plan its economy in a way consistent with its values and goals. As the panel points out, "just as it would have been impossible for a man to go to the moon without our space program being fully planned, so, too, is it impossible for us to achieve our economic objectives by accident."

American businesses plan far ahead to assure their economic success. And Americans as individuals have long-range economic plans—such as a regular savings program to assure a college education for our children. Certainly, the economy of the nation as a whole is important enough to warrant better long-range planning than is now conducted.

At the very least, the establishment of an Office of National Economic Planning is an idea that should be given the most serious consideration at the highest levels of government.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Society With a Choice

Critics of modern technology, with its heavy emphasis on the assembly line and other techniques for mass production, claim it produces a sameness in society. Everything looks identical, they say, and the individual no longer has any choice.

To some extent, the critics are right. Mass communications and modern highways have made our nation smaller, culturally. Northerners are familiar with grits, and southerners enjoy Yankee pot roast. Regional differences have all but disappeared and our tastes, from coast to coast, are pretty much alike.

On the other hand, however, Americans are being given an unprecedented number of choices because of, and not in spite of, modern technology.

For example, in 1950, American grocery stores carried 65 different brands of soaps. By 1963, the number had risen to 200. During that same 13-year period, the number of frozen foods jumped from 121 to 350; and the number of flour and baking mixes went from 84 to 200. There was even an increase from 58 to 81 in the various brands of pet foods available.

It was the advancement of food technology—proc-

essing, packaging, and marketing—that made it possible to put more kinds of products on the grocery shelves. Each time a new form of automation was introduced in the food industry, it opened up new possibilities for additional products.

The assembly line in the automobile industry had a similar effect. With modern production equipment, the industry has been better able to adapt to the changing desires of the consumer—something it, like the food industry, could not do in the days before automation.

According to Marshall McLuhan, automated electronic production makes "it just as cheap to turn out a million differing objects as a million exact duplicates." Indeed, one computer expert took all possible combinations of styles, options, and colors available on an American-made family car and found there were 25,000 different versions of the same automobile.

A lot of us, myself included, remember with fondness—and with justification—the craftsmanship of years gone by. But we should not let nostalgia lead us to a blanket indictment of the advances made possible through American ingenuity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Misgivings on Detente

In theory, detente is a policy well worth the support of the American people. It is aimed at easing tensions between the United States and Russia, and increasing the chances for a lasting world peace.

But in practice, detente has led many Americans—myself included—to have serious misgivings about the policy.

Russia has thus far gotten the best from detente. In 1972, and again this year, millions of tons of American grain have been sold to the Soviet Union, saving the Russian economy from falling victim to the inadequacies inherent in the communist system. Also, the United States participated in the Helsinki Conference, which recognized the borders of eastern European countries and Soviet domination over that part of the world. True, the document signed at Helsinki is not legally binding; but our participation in the ceremony was a detriment to the hopes and aspirations of the Czechs, Poles, Hungarians, and other peoples of eastern Europe—all of whom know full well the repression which comes with Soviet control.

In return, the United States has received only

promises from Russia—and with the Soviets' history of breaking promises, that return hardly seems to be worth the investment made by the United States.

Even as Russia promises to promote world peace, it is continuing to funnel huge amounts of money—at least \$50 million, according to Secretary of State Kissinger—into the hands of Portuguese communists. The Soviet funds are being used to enable the small minority of communists there to subvert the will of the anti-communist majority. And even as Russia promises to grant greater freedoms to the people of eastern Europe, it openly supports Prime Minister Indira Ghandi's efforts to destroy freedom in India.

I do not advocate a return to the Cold War, and I welcome any easing of tensions between Russia and the United States. But I am aware of the Soviets' flawed track record in international cooperation.

We should get more than promises out of detente. We should expect performance from the Russians—performance to match the many contributions being made by the United States to make detente work and to increase the chances of world peace.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Facts on Americans

The average age of Americans is increasing, and the country as a whole is becoming more conservative, according to demographers who have just completed a study of our population.

In 1965, about half of all Americans were under 25, and the average age was in the 18-24 range; but, by 1985, for the first time in our nation's history, less than 40 percent of our population will be younger than 25. The average age a decade from now will be between 25 and 39.

The baby boom of the 1950's and early 1960's has ended, and, currently, the birth rate in the United States is about one percent annually. Looking at a 20-year period that began in 1965 and will end in 1985, the demographers call the rise in the over-25 age group "truly breathtaking." An estimated 24 million Americans will have been added to that age group by the end of 1985, which will be an increase of 70 percent in the number of citizens between the ages of 25 and 39.

And the study says "our country is a great deal more conservative than the popularizers of new living styles might suggest." For example, the demographers predict "a continuation of traditional household for-

mation at near-record levels" through the remainder of this decade and into the mid-1980's. By 1985, there will be almost twice as many traditional households in America than there were in 1955—which means that communes and other alternative living styles have been getting more publicity than they deserve.

The increasing number of families in the next decade, however, will have fewer children than those of today. And there will be a larger number of women combining both a home-making career and a career outside the household. In fact, four out of every 10 persons in the nation's workforce in 1985 will be women—that's a doubling over the percentage of the workforce made up of women in 1955.

According to the demographers, the facts that more women will be working and having fewer children will result in greater affluence for the average American family—and they predict that affluence will be reached at an earlier age than is now the norm.

The study concludes that Americans have every reason "to take pride in their accomplishments of the past 20 years, and to be optimistic about the foreseeable future."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Well-Read America

Americans, according to recent statistics, are reading more than ever before; and that fact has to be viewed as good news by educators who have expressed concern over the potential negative effects that television would have on the reading habits of the country.

Expenditures for books—which have been rising steadily for the past decade—now total almost \$3 billion annually, with the nation's largest book club selling 10 million volumes a year to its 1,150,000 subscribers. And a Gallup Poll claims that nearly 20 percent of the American people spend their evenings reading—a higher percentage than was recorded on any poll in recent years.

Reading is, of course, a worthwhile recreational activity; but the significance of having a well-read society goes much deeper than that. Throughout history, the march of knowledge has kept in step with the pace set by the printed word.

For instance, with the invention of movable type by Gutenberg in the 15th Century, the world was able to produce 1,000 books a year. By 1950, 120,000 titles a year were being published; and today, over 1,000 new volumes daily are being produced.

It is no coincidence that scientific advancements have paralleled the technological progress in printing.

In chemistry, for example, the 11th chemical element, arsenic, was discovered in the 13th Century; but the world had to wait over 200 years before the 12th element, antimony, was discovered. However, scientists, since 1900, have been isolating the remaining chemical elements at the rate of about one in every three years.

On a worldwide basis, scientific and technical literature now totals over 60 million published pages a year, and accounts for nearly 28 percent of the material read by Americans.

It is entirely proper for educators to warn against any decline in the reading habits of Americans—especially of young Americans in whose hands the future rests. Right now—with 1,000 active publishers and a highly financed educational system—the United States is the best-read society in the world; and largely as a result of that, it is also the most technologically-advanced society in the world. To keep our place as a leader in the world, we must assure that each generation has the ability to read—and to master what it has read.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Started Penniless

Much has been made of the fact that America is a nation that was carved out of the wilderness; conversely, too little has been said about how our nation began in the depths of financial ruin.

The Revolutionary War, which gave birth to the United States, left the new nation and its citizens virtually penniless.

True, using the fixed standard of the value of gold, the war cost the colonies only \$104 million. But that was a huge sum in the 18th Century, and was not easily raised. Aid from France and Spain amounted to just 10 percent of the total; and special war taxes levied on the colonies accounted for only five percent.

Most of the funds were raised through contributions from landowners and merchants who favored independence — men who staked their lives and fortunes on the rightness of their cause. Yet, even though they were on the side which prevailed, contributors to the revolution, like practically all Americans, had to start anew when the United States gained freedom.

There were two main reasons for America's impoverished beginnings.

First, the Continental Congress issued too much paper money during the war, and the results were

disastrous. In 1780, \$250 million was printed, which devalued American money to one-fortieth of its original worth. And when independence was achieved, there was \$483 million of continental money in circulation — it was literally not worth the paper it was printed on.

Secondly, after the war, England continued the restrictive trade practices which helped fuel the revolution in the first place. In 1699, Parliament prohibited the colonies from exporting wool and yarn, processed iron, and paper to anywhere in the world. The post-war Parliament forbade the British Empire from importing anything from America, banned the exportation of textile machines to the new nation, and prohibited the emigration of skilled workers to the United States.

So broke was America that, in 1786, Massachusetts' jails contained three times as many debtors as they did prisoners for all other crimes combined!

But our Nation climbed from bankruptcy to a status where its citizens now enjoy the highest standard of living in the history of the world. Americans should remember that the fiscal recovery of the country was as impressive as the physical taming of the wilderness.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Has Always Meant Opportunity

Immigrants still flock to America's shores in search of opportunities that do not exist in their native lands. In that respect, our country has changed very little from its earliest beginnings, because the New World's first settlers were motivated by the enormous opportunities to improve their lives.

In the 1600's, salaries for laborers in America ranged from 30 to 100 percent above the equivalent of \$10-\$15 a year that laborers earned in England. No wonder, then, that so many Englishmen mortgaged their futures, and became indentured for as many as seven years to raise the \$50 needed for transportation to America.

It is estimated that, at the time of the American Revolution, indentured immigrants accounted for 75 percent of the populations of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland. But even from their rather restricted status, they could see the promise of their new country.

And they seized the opportunities as soon as they could.

Land was readily available, and 95 percent of all Americans were engaged in agriculture from 1600-1800. Many of the first farmers, however, recognized the clothing and fabric shortage which existed, and

turned their farms into sheep ranches.

With the increase in sheep raising came the opportunity to process the wool, and, as early as 1640, Massachusetts was paying bonuses for spinning yarn and weaving linen. Thus, some of the farmers-turned - sheep - ranchers moved into manufacturing.

The same kind of growth was evident in the fishing trade. Originally, fish were caught by individual settlers for food, and any surplus was sold to the farmers for fertilizer. But the ingenious Americans soon discovered the economic potential of the 200 kinds of fish in the waters off New England. By 1675, more than 600 vessels and 4,000 men were engaged in cod fishing alone; and by 1800, the New England fishing industry earned over a million dollars annually from its exports.

Throughout our history, the story of America has been the story of opportunities seized. It has been the story of men and women who saw America as the promised land, a nation of destiny.

America still contains countless opportunities, and it is the duty of all of us to keep America a nation of destiny by emulating the strengths of our early settlers—because the character of the first Americans was their greatest legacy to us.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Super-Industrial Society

The developed world has moved into what experts refer to as "the age of super-industrialism" — that is, an age in which society no longer depends primarily on agriculture or industry, but rather places its emphasis on so-called white collar, service jobs.

Agriculture was the original basis of civilization, and has occupied the vast majority of the world's workers for thousands of years. But in the United States, where farms produce enough food to feed more than 200 million Americans and another 160 million persons around the world, less than 6 percent of the population is now employed in agriculture. A dozen other major countries of the developed world currently employ less than 15 percent of their populations in agriculture.

The industrial revolution, of course, moved workers off the farms and placed them in factories and mines and other industries. Yet, in recent years, the industrial revolution seems to have come to a halt.

Ever since 1956, over half the population of the United States has been employed in so-called white collar occupations, and the percentage has been growing almost annually. America was the first nation to move to a service-oriented

economy; but England, Sweden, Belgium, Canada, and the Netherlands now have populations where white collar employment outnumbers blue collar workers.

The situation has left many social planners asking this question: "Now that we have entered the age of super-industrialism, where do we go from here?" The answer might be "Backward, rather than forward."

Our energy problems have shown the need for America to increase its production of coal and other fossil fuels; the economic condition of the country has proven the need to increase industrial production as a means of fighting unemployment; and the world food situation has placed new importance on the farms of the United States.

White collar, service industries will remain important, of course, because the United States and the rest of the developed world will not retreat from the modern age. But there is a likelihood that society will again place a heavy emphasis on agriculture and industrial production, and that history will show that the developed world had just a flirtation with the age of super-industrialism, rather than a lasting romance.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Economic Emergence

Troubled, as we currently are, with a myriad of economic problems, it is difficult for us to fathom the phenomenal economic growth that enabled America to become one of the world's great economic powers in the mid-1800's.

But it would be well for us to recall the reasons for that unparalleled growth, especially as we near our nation's bicentennial.

True, the mid-1800's saw 50 million additional acres of land brought under cultivation, and statehood granted to all the area east of the Mississippi, as well as to eight states in other parts of the country. But more important than those physical facts was the attitude of the people that began to surface in the middle of the nineteenth century.

As one social historian put it, "the people came to realize that they could reach the top with broad vision, and a driving desire to be first and best."

That realization produced men like Scottish immigrant, Andrew Carnegie; blacksmith's son, Cyrus McCormick; farmer's son, Cornelius Vanderbilt; and countless others.

Thus, the mid-1800's saw the United States, which had a national debt of \$128 million in 1815, completely

erase its debt in 1835. The period also saw the value of individual property in the country rise from \$6 billion in 1850 to \$16 billion in 1860.

The desire to be first and best inspired the invention of machinery, which, in turn, enabled America's dairy industry to become the world's largest by 1860, and increased the nation's wheat output from 44 million bushels in 1840 to 200 million bushels in 1860.

In a seven-year period—from 1853 to 1860—foreign investments in United States companies rose from \$222 million to \$400 million; and, more importantly, American businessmen began, for the first time, to reinvest their profits at home. America's largest shipping company had none of its profits invested domestically in 1828; yet, by 1840, it had poured \$1 million into United States businesses. One of the country's largest iron works companies grew from a worth of \$24,000 in 1821 to \$500,000 in 1845 without a single dollar of foreign money.

The faith in America displayed by citizens of the nineteenth century should be an inspiration to all of us today. If we keep true to the spirit of America, the future can be as bright for us as it was for them.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Education Pays

The United States was the first country to make a college education available to the general population, rather than limiting access to college to only the wealthy. And the facts show that, for most of those who seize the opportunity to advance their education, there are tangible rewards.

Foremost among the tangible rewards, of course, is money. Estimates are that a college graduate will earn \$585,000 in his or her lifetime, compared with \$350,000 for a high school graduate—and \$294,000 for a high school dropout. And the main reason there are more financial rewards for college graduates is the changing nature of the American job market.

The labor force increased from 64.5 million jobs in 1960 to 77.3 million in 1970; but there was a decline in the number of unskilled jobs. The number of semi-skilled jobs remained about the same. It was the professional and technical positions which showed the largest increase. Less than 5 million Americans were engaged in technical or professional occupations in 1950, and less than 7 million in 1960; by 1970, however, the number had risen to over 11 million professional or technical workers in the United States.

No wonder, then, that over 9 million persons are now enrolled in college,

compared with the 3.5 million enrolled in 1960. They recognize that the future belongs to those who prepare best for it; and education is one of the best preparations.

In America, the opportunity to attend college or technical schools today is available to almost everyone. Universities offer evening and weekend programs; two-year community colleges offer courses that prepare for better jobs; and there are programs which combine work and study. And of equal, if not greater, importance is the trend of trade and technical schools to become degree-granting institutions—a trend which will enable their graduates to compete on an equal basis with graduates of traditional colleges.

Today, about 60 percent of American college students are from families where the fathers and mothers never attended college. And about 21 percent of young people from homes with annual incomes between \$3,000 and \$5,000 are in college—a larger rate than for France, Germany, England, and Italy combined.

A recent survey asked Americans what they would do differently if they had their lives to live over again, and the largest response—43 percent—was “Get more education.”

Well, in the United States, the opportunity is there for the taking.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Women and the Job Market

Women are becoming an increasingly important part of the American workforce — for a number of reasons.

First, of course, is the fact that the government has moved forthrightly against sex discrimination, and has been especially active in guaranteeing equal pay for equal work between men and women. The government's actions have encouraged more women to seek more and better jobs.

And to secure those jobs, women have come to realize the importance of getting as much education as possible. Eighty percent of the nation's women now graduate from high school—compared with 81 percent of young men who are graduating; and 28 percent of the women are going on to college—compared with 32 percent for men.

But just as important as government actions and increased education is the fact that many of the myths about women workers have been exploded by recent studies.

For instance, it was long believed that absenteeism among women was far greater than among men, and that women switched jobs at a much faster pace than men. However, a national health survey shows that the female absentee rate is 5.6 days per year; the rate for men is 5.4. And a 1970 U.S. Department of Labor study revealed that the "monthly

quit rate" for women was 2.6 percent, and 2.2 percent for men. The reports note further that, while women do leave work for childbirth, their absence, more often than not is temporary.

Fifty percent of all women with children between 6 and 17 are currently employed, and 38 percent of all women with children between 3 and 5 are now working. In fact, of the almost 32 million women in the American workforce, 4 out of 10 are mothers.

That women are now being given greater opportunities in the job market is both just and proper—and, in many instances, overdue. But while focusing attention on women working outside the homes, we should not forget the very real contributions being made by housewives.

It is impossible to put a price tag on the work they do, although one estimate says the gross national product would be increased by at least \$105 billion annually if housewives were paid for their work.

Just as women desiring outside employment were getting too few opportunities for too long, women working in their own homes have been getting too little credit. That is a situation that should be rectified. After all, the housewife has the most important job of all—rearing the children. "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Is the American Worker Satisfied?

Most Americans have heard the expression "Blue Collar Blues," which social theorists coined to describe the dissatisfaction of Americans with their jobs.

But how widespread is worker dissatisfaction?

In the five-year period between 1967 and 1972, an estimated 3,900 books, reports, and articles were published on the subject—and the vast majority of the publications concluded that job alienation was very real, indeed, and that it existed throughout the American labor force. So powerful was the impact of the various studies that the existence of the "Blue Collar Blues" became accepted without question. Manpower training programs were redesigned, with more consideration given to the worker as an individual, and unions and management undertook projects aimed at increasing the intrinsic benefits of work.

All those were positive steps, and, undoubtedly, workers have benefited from them. But a new, definitive study by the U.S. Department of Labor shows that the American worker is as satisfied with his job today as he ever was, and, in fact, the study questions whether job alienation ever existed in the United States to the extent the social theorists said it did.

Looking at the decade 1963-1973, the Department found "no evidence of a

dramatic decline in job satisfaction." The study was based on eight Gallup Polls taken during the 10-year period, each of which measured the percentage of American workers "satisfied" with their jobs.

In 1963, 89 percent of the workers said they were "satisfied," while in 1973—the last year for which data is available—88 percent described themselves as "satisfied." In fact, the lowest rate of job satisfaction was 86 percent, recorded in 1971. The highest rate was in 1966—92 percent.

That means that, between 1963 and 1973, there was never any more than 14 percent of working Americans who felt "alienated" in their jobs.

Although studies on the "Blue Collar Blues" may have blown the problem out of all proportion, they were not without value. Young people, the studies found, were too often pushed into college by social pressures—and then wound up in a job which did not require a college education. They are the ones who make up the bulk of "dissatisfied" workers.

Therefore, the problem could grow unless more emphasis is placed on career and vocational education in the future for those students for whom college is not a viable or desirable choice. It is a step I have been advocating for years, and one which most of the research says is strongly needed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Russia's Army of Civilians

Despite paying lip service to detente, the Soviet Union continues to be the most highly militarized nation in the world—and indications are that military training for Russian civilians is increasing.

About 30 million civilians belonged to paramilitary organizations in the Soviet Union during the height of the Cold War. Today—in the midst of the era of detente—an estimated 150 million civilians are members of such organizations.

For all Soviet citizens, military indoctrination starts early.

The bulk of reading material taught to the first three grades centers on the armed forces, with the heroes of the children's stories either being military officers or young people who aspire to military careers. Then, in the fourth grade, training begins in earnest.

Soviet students — boys and girls alike — are required to take two hours of military training a week from the fourth grade through their sophomore years in high school. While girls continue in the two-hours-per-week program during the upper years in high school, training for boys is intensified.

Each male student must take 138 hours of military instruction in his junior and senior years before graduating. The program is broken down into 67 hours of basic infantry training, 40 hours of studying mechanized warfare, 21 hours

of practicing civil defense, and 10 other hours of instruction.

Since one out of every six Russian boys never starts high school, and since one out of every three who start never finishes, there is a military program for dropouts. Their 138 hours of training is conducted at "study centers" in factories, offices, or farm villages.

The high school graduates and dropouts then join the paramilitary organizations, the largest of which is the 40-million member "All-Union Voluntary Society for Support to the Army, Navy, and Air Force." Their training, then, becomes a regular part of their adult lives.

For the students who go on to college, there is ROTC—which the Soviet Union unashamedly copied from the United States' Reserve Officers Training Corps program. In fact, it is one of the ironies of the era of detente that Russia is increasing its ROTC programs at the same time America is de-emphasizing its training of reserve officers.

The lesson to be learned from studying Russia's militarization of its civilian population is one that history should have taught us already—that is, in dealing with the Soviets, the United States must move cautiously, because the difference between what Russia says and what it does is often very great.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Electronic Warfare

Laser beams, sound-rays, and self-propelled rockets used to belong solely to science fiction. Today, they are integral parts of this nation's defense system.

In fact, electronic weapons research currently constitutes the area of greatest competition between the United States and the Soviet Union, with each country spending an estimated \$2 billion annually. The bulk of the money is spent on research and development, but a considerable amount is used to gather intelligence on the other country's projects.

The Pueblo was captured while trying to get a closer look at Russian-built detection systems in North Korea; the U.S.S. Liberty was attacked while on a similar mission in the Middle East; and the U.S. plane ELINT — which stands for Electronic Intelligence — was shot down while monitoring Soviet radar systems in North Korea. Russia, with its obsession for secrecy, refuses to admit to any losses in its intelligence-gathering missions — but its interest in American systems is obvious.

Russian ships, for instance, constantly follow U.S. fleets at sea; and Soviet planes, returning to Russia from Cuba, regularly fly down the U.S. Atlantic Coast to trigger American radar reactions to their presence.

There are good reasons for the emphasis being

placed on electronic weapons research. For one thing, computerized missiles and bombs can give a few planes the effectiveness that could only be gotten from several squadrons a few years ago; and, for another, the manpower requirements are reduced under an electronics warfare system.

But even more important is the fact that possession of a sophisticated electronic weapons system could decrease the possibility of a nuclear war.

America's research emphasis has been on defensive equipment — radar systems, and computerized anti-missile missiles. And the presence of such equipment, besides giving Americans adequate warning in the event of an attack, could convince a potential enemy that launching a strike against the United States would be unsuccessful at best.

On the offensive side electronically-propelled weapons have an almost flawless degree of accuracy — which, according to one expert, means that "a conventional bomb or missile can do the job that, in the past, could only be done with the bigger bang of a nuclear weapon."

Extensive research on electronic weaponry will continue—both in America and in Russia. And, as in all areas in which America is competing with the Soviet Union, we can ill afford to come out second best.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Garbage Being Used As Energy Source

American technology, with a long history of producing some of the most important innovations in the world, is now launching a single attack that could help solve two seemingly separate problems—the energy shortage, and the disposal of pollution-causing garbage.

At least 30 projects aimed at recycling garbage into energy are now in operation, and another 100 are either in the planning or in the construction stage. That represents considerable progress, because as recently as 1972 no facilities existed to turn garbage into usable energy.

Most of the current projects are in large metropolitan areas, since cities have the greatest problems disposing of garbage. And already, an estimated 14 million tons of waste annually—about 10 percent of the yearly accumulation of garbage in the nation's large municipalities—are being recycled into energy.

In some of the facilities, steam is produced by burning the garbage in an airtight container; in others, the waste matter is turned into a substitute for natural gas; and in still others, experiments are being conducted to convert garbage into a liquid fuel that would be used to generate electricity.

The results, thus far, have been inconclusive, but

the early findings have been encouraging, and the projections for the future are very optimistic. A recently-completed recycling facility in Baltimore, for instance, is designed to handle nearly 1,000 tons of garbage daily. From that waste will come 200,000 pounds of steam hourly—enough to heat or air condition half the high rise buildings in the city's downtown area; and, when completely operational early in 1976, a Massachusetts plant is expected to save 73,000 gallons of fuel oil daily.

There is a certain irony in the fact that American technology has combined a solution for the pollution problem with a solution for the energy problem. Not too many years ago, a great deal was written about the conflicts between the scientists in the environmental fields and their colleagues specializing in energy matters.

Today, however, the scientists are working together, and they are calling the recycling projects major developments. Not only do the projects hold out hope for lasting solutions to pollution and energy problems, but also, and perhaps even more importantly, they clearly show that American technology continues to be resourceful enough to meet the crises facing the nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Weather Forecast Is Far From Sunny

The world is getting colder, according to many scientists who attended a recent international meeting. And the cooling trend that began in the 1940's could have serious implications for the world.

To be sure, the annual temperature decline of less than one degree does not signal the coming of a new ice age—but its effects can be seen on the ability of the world to produce sufficient food. In England, for instance, the growing season has been shortened by about two weeks since 1945; and at least one scientist present at The International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Study meeting blames the cooling trend for the floods, droughts, and freezes that hurt American farmers in 1972 and 1974.

Thus, climatological changes—even those that change the temperature by less than one degree a year—are extremely important; and atmospheric conditions must be taken into consideration when formulating national and international policies.

The United States, with its superior agricultural industry, faces fewer problems than does most of the rest of the world. Even looking far into the future, researchers see no threat of America being unable to feed its own people.

But we live in an international age. Many countries are dependent on American

grain for their very existence, just as we depend on other nations for fuel and other natural resources. Since scientists predict "colder average temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere for the next 20 or 30 years at least;" since underdeveloped countries, where starvation and malnutrition are already rampant, show no signs of being able to cope with their own agricultural problems; and since the present world grain reserves are at only a 30-day level—for all those reasons, the importance of the United States as a food producer is bound to grow.

In other words, if the growing season in the United States were to be affected only slightly by a climatological change, the impact on the rest of the world could be dramatic. One atmospheric scientist even went so far as to warn that major crop failures could result "in mass deaths by starvation and perhaps in anarchy and violence that could exact a still more terrible toll."

A suggestion that should be taken to assure that America can meet both its domestic and international obligations is the one offered by physicist Stephen Schneider, deputy director of the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research—namely, begin immediately to increase our food reserves sufficiently enough to offset unfavorable climate trends.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Travelling in Colonial America

Looking at the super highways that crisscross the United States today, one might find it difficult to imagine the perilous nature of travelling in colonial America.

One young colonial woman wrote of her trip from Pennsylvania to North Carolina: "It wasn't a tiring journey—only a month." And another American warned a friend to "take every precaution before you begin the hazardous" four-day, 150-mile trek between New Haven, Connecticut, and Boston.

Before the early 1700's, the only countryside roads that could be travelled were Indian paths—too narrow for any form of transportation except a horse; and, as one historian has noted, it was not uncommon for two travellers to share one horse. When that kind of partnership developed, one traveller would begin the journey on horseback, the other on foot. The rider, after going a predetermined distance, would dismount, tether the horse to a tree, and continue on foot. By the time the traveller who began on foot reached the horse, the animal would be rested and ready to give the second traveller a ride.

This "leap-frogging" was the accepted mode of travel for individuals. For the shipment of goods, packhorse companies were hired. And the importance of those companies can be seen in the fact that they

successfully lobbied the colonial government to keep wagon-wide roads from being built.

The packhorse firms said building roads to accommodate carts and wagons would be "a waste of public funds." And, indeed, no funds for such roads were appropriated until about 1740. By then, everyone recognized the value of "modern" travel.

Stage wagons—so named because they stopped at various stages along the way — became popular among the increasingly mobile Americans. Horse-drawn flat carts, with four times the load capacity that previously was piled on the back of a horse, became the most efficient way of transporting goods.

America began spreading out. Where the traveller going from New Haven to Boston once had to "take every precaution," he could stop, by the mid-1700's, at any one of a number of inns that had sprung up about 20 miles apart along the journey.

The whole story of travelling in colonial America says something very positive about the character of our forebears. Before the wilderness could be conquered, the will to conquer it had to be present in the Americans of that time.

As we approach our nation's bi-centennial, we should strive to rekindle that strength of character in ourselves.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Had Famine Before Feast

Although the United States is now the greatest agricultural power in the history of the world, the early years of farming in America were filled with failures and disappointments.

The earliest settlers experienced a succession of crop failures, and were unable to cultivate English grains in the American soil. In fact, the situation was so tragic that, in the winter of 1609-1610, two-thirds of all the settlers in Jamestown, Virginia, starved to death.

It was not until farmers began experimenting with Indian corn, and with the methods the Indians used to cultivate their crops, that survival in the New World was assured. The experiments continued, and, through an often painful trial and error method, the agricultural base of America began taking shape. Crops such as corn and beans flourished, and, eventually, even the English grains took root.

Along with the technical experiments, the settlers also tried a number of social experiments—and the results helped form the basis of America's respect for individual effort, and its commitment to the free enterprise system.

Throughout Virginia, and in Plymouth, Massachusetts, farm communes were organized. The settlers had

to work together, placing everything they produced in a common warehouse. Each farmer received a subsistence from the warehouse, and the profits went to the business companies which had financed the colonies.

The commune system was a dismal failure in America. It penalized the hard worker, and benefited the shirkers. Thus, Virginia abandoned it in 1611, replacing it with the "head-right" system which gave each new settler 50 acres of unclaimed land. Massachusetts gave up on the commune idea in 1623, and substituted a "township" system. Groups, primarily religious congregations, were given land to develop as they saw fit.

It is no coincidence that there was a marked increase in agricultural production once the settlers moved away from communal farming — just as it is no coincidence that the early settlers survived the initial crop failures.

The first settlers were resilient men and women. They had come to the New World seeking freedom, and a way of life in which they would control their destinies—and they were determined to succeed.

The strength of character that they possessed was much in evidence in the Americans of more than a century later—in 1776.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Russia and the American Computers

The Soviet Union, which has used American grain to compensate for the failings of its agricultural system, has also begun to lean heavily on American computer expertise to overcome the shortcomings of Russian technology.

To be sure, the Soviets can produce computers; but they lack the technology to both manufacture them in any great quantity, or with sufficient quality to meet the problems of today.

Russia, therefore, has spent the past few years acquiring computers, scientific instruments, and advanced equipment from Western manufacturers. Soviet trade in such machinery and instruments reached \$2.7 billion in 1974—a 60 percent increase over the 1972 purchases—and \$500 million worth was from the United States.

The Soviet Union is also obtaining computer technology through data exchanges, contacts with computer firms and scientists, and from joint research projects. Typically, Russia has gained more than it has given through the exchanges and joint projects.

There is a very real danger in the United States' being too cooperative in sharing our computer know-how with the Soviets. Whatever military superiority America currently possesses over Russia is a direct result of our advanced computer science—

American submarines run quieter, and American missiles are more accurate than their Russian counterparts.

The United States military advantage could disappear quickly if, in the name of detente, we supply the Soviet Union with the technology needed to become our equal in the field of computer science—especially since experts have testified that while the Soviets have not achieved great success in adapting their purchased computer technology to civilian purposes, they have obtained some very good results in military applications.

I believe that a moratorium should be called on the sale and exchange of sensitive computer expertise to Russia. Both the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Department of Commerce should use the moratorium to evaluate both the benefits and dangers of selling and exchanging computers and other scientific equipment to a country intent on using American technology to beef-up its own war machine.

If the transfer of computer technology, either through commercial agreements or cooperative research, brings our greatest competitor to our level of development, then we could be impairing not only our own commercial interests but also our own national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Suffering From Lack of Research

In the years immediately following World War II, government and industry combined to make the United States the undisputed leader in the area of basic scientific research. And being the leader meant that the export market was dominated by American technology and, more importantly, the products which resulted from that technology.

The situation has changed today, however; and unless renewed emphasis is placed on basic scientific research, the United States may find itself an also-ran in the international marketplace.

Between 1964 and 1974, according to the National Science Foundation, federal expenditures for basic research within the government rose from \$2.6 billion to \$4.6 billion—but that 77 percent jump, when translated into constant dollars, becomes an increase of less than 10 percent. Private sector funds for basic research went from \$549 million in 1964 to \$770 million in 1974—a 40 percent increase which becomes a 14 percent decrease when put in terms of constant dollars.

Most of the basic scientific research is done on a combined government-industry basis, which makes

the 36 percent shrinkage in constant dollar output for those joint ventures even more alarming.

There are a number of reasons for the decline in basic research conducted in the United States. The most obvious are the de-emphasis of the space program, and the opposition to defense spending. Research done in these areas often resulted in spin-off benefits in the form of consumer products, medical supplies, and job-producing computer advances.

But equally important is the multi-national composition of many of our leading corporations. The federal government, which once poured millions of research dollars into American-owned companies, is reluctant to invest tax revenue for research which a multi-national corporation might feel obligated to share with other countries.

Obviously, there is a two-fold need. Government must increase the basic scientific research being done by its own agencies; and, as scientist J. E. Goldman of the Xerox Corporation has warned his private sector colleagues, companies "will have to spend more to make up for the decrease in federal support if they want to stay in business."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Defense: More Dollars Buy Less

The U.S. Defense budget for the current fiscal year is about \$90 billion; and, since that is more than twice the \$43 billion spent for defense in 1960, a number of critics have been pushing for massive cuts.

But the dollar figure is far from the be-all and end-all to the story of military spending. In fact, an examination of what kind of defense America is actually getting for the \$90 billion shows that any additional, large-scale reductions could pose a threat to our national security.

For instance, 59 percent of the 1960 defense budget went for military equipment, while only 41 percent went for personnel. Because of increases in pay and retirement benefits, 55 percent of the current defense budget is used for personnel costs, while just 45 percent goes for military hardware. And there are about 500,000 fewer servicemen today than the 2.5 million Americans who were in uniform in 1960.

The Pentagon estimates that our armed forces are about 14,000 men below strength, and adds that budget cutbacks have resulted in shortening the traditional training period for new recruits. Even seasoned servicemen—such as pilots who need periodic re-training—are feeling the crunch.

Still, personnel reductions do not pose as serious a long-range threat to our national security as do cutbacks in the research,

development, and production of military equipment. New men and women can be recruited and trained in a relatively short period. But shortcomings in military hardware cannot be so easily overcome.

The ship strength of the U.S. Navy will decrease from 502 to 491 by July of 1976, and the U.S. Air Force and naval air units will also be operating with 100 fewer planes by the middle of this year. Additional slow-downs and outright curtailments are planned for a number of research programs which the Pentagon considers essential.

The fact is that the \$90 billion in the current defense budget buys 10 percent less in goods and services than the \$43 billion in 1960; and at least one analysis claims that defense spending now has "the least impact on the American economy in a quarter century"—accounting for just six percent of total government outlays, compared with nine percent in 1960.

I have never believed that the defense budget was sacrosanct, and I have supported reductions when I felt they could be made without jeopardizing our national security. But it is important for all of us to keep military spending in proper perspective. In our justified desire to reduce government spending, we must make certain that our defense posture is not irreparably weakened.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Choosing a National Symbol

Choosing the eagle as our national symbol was not an easy task for the early Americans. In fact, the selection process itself took six years, with everything from a rattlesnake to a turkey being considered before the American Bald Eagle was finally chosen.

Almost immediately after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a three-man committee of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin was assigned the responsibility of finding a symbol for the new nation. Adams and Jefferson favored religious mosaics that proved impossible to reproduce as a seal; and Franklin, after his two colleagues vetoed his nomination of the rattlesnake, suggested the turkey. After all, Franklin argued, the turkey was uniquely American and had been part of the country's traditions since the first pilgrims arrived in the New World.

Adams and Jefferson outvoted Franklin, but did agree that a bird should be the central part of the Great Seal. Thus, the Bald Eagle, which Franklin complained was "a bird of bad moral character," was chosen. Congress agreed with the committee's selection, and another committee was formed to complete the overall design. The second, and subsequently a third, committee failed to come up with an acceptable proposal. Finally, William Barton, a heraldry expert, and Charles Thomson, First

Secretary of the Continental Congress, designed a Seal that met with the approval of Congress.

Using the eagle as the central figure, Barton and Thomson added a shield on the bird's heart. In the eagle's separate talons, the designers put an olive branch and 13 arrows. The number 13—symbolizing, of course, the original colonies—is a recurring theme throughout the Great Seal. Besides the 13 arrows in the left talon, there are 13 stripes on the shield, and 13 stars above the eagle's head. Even the phrase the designers incorporated in the Great Seal—"E Pluribus Unum," which means "Out of Many, One"—contains 13 letters. Another 13-letter Latin phrase—"Annuit Coeptis," or "He has favored our undertakings"—is part of the design, and the pyramid in the Great Seal is a 13-tier structure.

Initially, the designers hoped that the eagle's head would be turned left to the arrows in time of war, and right to the olive branch in time of peace. The constant changing of the symbol proved impractical, and the eagle constantly gazes upon the olive branch.

Wherever it appears—on government documents, coins, or \$1 bills—the Great Seal of the United States remains a cherished symbol of our history, and of the unity needed to assure a bright future for America.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stand and Face the Flag

As every schoolchild knows, Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner" in 1814, during one of the most dramatic moments in our nation's history. But a lesser known fact concerns the practice of standing while the National Anthem is being played—a practice which did not begin until 1893.

Historians credit Rossell G. O'Brien with originating the tradition of rising and facing the flag during the playing of the National Anthem. He was an Irish immigrant, who served in the Union army in the Civil War, and who rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the National Guard when he moved West after the War Between the States.

O'Brien believed that Americans had begun taking their flag for granted, and was intent on developing a way to pay special honor and tribute to that great symbol of liberty. As a member of the Commandery of the Loyal Legion, an organization of National Guardsmen in Tacoma, Washington, he offered a resolution calling for all Legionnaires to "immediately rise and face the flag whenever the music of 'The Star-Spangled Banner' shall be played, and to remain standing until the

music of its inspiring strains shall have ceased."

The resolution passed unanimously, and newspapers in the State of Washington hailed the practice, one of them referring to it as "doing an honor in public, though not in an ostentatious manner, to the flag of our country, the glorious stars and stripes." For his part, O'Brien began personally contacting Legion posts throughout the United States in an effort to have his resolution adopted nationwide.

Eventually, Congress recognized the custom, although, ironically, O'Brien received no credit as its originator. In fact, it was not until 1966, after historians had researched documents in Tacoma, that a plaque paying tribute to the immigrant patriot was placed on the Legion's old headquarters.

One gets the feeling that O'Brien, who died in 1914, was never concerned with the lack of credit accorded him—but would be deeply upset that the custom of standing during the National Anthem has become almost a reflex action for too many Americans, rather than a thoughtful act of paying tribute to the flag and all it represents.

During the Bicentennial, we should all make a special effort to remember why we are standing.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia a Leader in Natural Gas

The natural gas industry in West Virginia is one with which most citizens are unfamiliar; yet it combines with the coal and oil industries to make West Virginia one of the leading energy states in the nation.

For instance, our state currently has more than 21,000 natural gas-producing wells—only Texas has more. And West Virginia ranks fifth among all the states in the ultimate capacity of existing underground storage reservoirs, with a 452.5 billion cubic feet potential.

Overall, the natural gas industry in West Virginia brings the state more than \$115 million annually in revenue, which is a sizable sum considering how comparatively young the industry is. True, there is evidence that the Chinese were utilizing natural gas as early as 940 B.C.; but it was not until 1807 that manufactured natural gas was introduced for lighting in London. Nine years later, beginning in Baltimore, natural gas-powered lamps were introduced in the United States.

The 1855 invention of the Bunsen Burner enabled natural gas to be used efficiently for all fuel purposes, and the industry began to boom. West Virginia was part of that boom. In 1879, a 15-mile pipeline was built, extending from a volcano field to

a Parkersburg refinery, and the first natural gas company in the state was formed in 1898—less than a decade after the discovery of the Mannington-Dolls Run Pool reserves.

West Virginia, besides possessing the natural gas reserves, had another advantage that helped it become an industry leader almost from the beginning. The first hard rock drilling tools were designed and put to use in the Kanawha Valley as early as 1859, and those West Virginia drillers disseminated their knowledge of tools. Thus, West Virginia had the skilled craftsmen so necessary to the advancement of the industry.

And the industry did advance in our state. West Virginia—specifically, Hastings, W.Va., in Wetzel County—was the home of the first commercial oil absorption plant in the United States, which was built in 1913 to extract gasoline from natural gas; and it was the home of a 1940 experimental natural gas liquefaction plant which laid the groundwork for today's intercontinental transactions.

The natural gas industry in West Virginia, like our state's oil and coal industries, continues to be a pacesetter—and continues to play a vital role in keeping West Virginia in its position as the nation's powerhouse.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Farming and the American Indian

The Hollywood stereotype of the American Indian is one of a hunter and warrior—and, like most stereotypes, it is highly inaccurate. A more authentic historical picture would show the Indian not chasing buffalo or wagon trains, but, rather, industriously working on a farm.

In fact, so important were the Indians' contributions to American agriculture that, as recently as 1915, an estimated 57 percent of the farm value of U.S. crop production resulted from plants domesticated by the various tribes which inhabited America long before the first white settlers arrived. All the current commercial corn types, for instance, had been developed by the Indians before Columbus discovered the New World.

The Pilgrims, after watching their own farming methods fail repeatedly, finally realized the Indians were skilled agrarians, and not the ignorant savages the settlers originally thought them to be. A Wampanoag Indian named Squanto showed the Pilgrims how to grow corn in 1621, and taught them the value of row-cropping—planting individual seeds in hills, and allowing for the land in between to be tilled. The European method unsuccessfully employed by the settlers did not permit intertillage.

At least one historian claims the Indians' devel-

opment of corn was "the most extraordinary achievement in plant breeding in all of man's existence," and estimates that, if the Pilgrims had not adopted the Indians' crops and farming methods, "it would have taken our pioneer ancestors a century longer to settle the American wilderness."

Overall, the Indians cultivated about 150 species in what is now North America, 18 species in the current Southwestern United States, and another 12 in the Eastern part of the country. The average Indian family was farming six acres of land when the Pilgrims arrived, and the crop yields often reached 100 bushels per acre.

That the Indians were successful farmers can be seen in the fact that, at the time of Columbus' arrival, agriculture accounted for 75 percent of the Indians' food supply—and only 25 percent came from a combination of hunting and fishing. And the storage of surplus production—both for use as barter for the fur trade, and as insurance against a bad crop year—was a common practice among many tribes.

The Pilgrims were mindful that the Indians' knowledge of agriculture enabled the settlers to survive in the New World, and we should not forget the Indians' contributions to the good life we lead today.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Dangers of Police Work

Law enforcement has never been a safe occupation; but, according to recently released statistics from the FBI, there are more dangers involved in police work now than ever before.

In 1974—the last year for which complete figures are available—132 local, county, state, and federal law enforcement officers were killed in the United States. That was the second highest annual total for the decade 1965-1974, during which 947 officers were slain.

The FBI, in an effort to curb the trend of ever-increasing police killings, did an exhaustive examination of the decade. One finding was that “more officers were killed in attempting arrests than in any other police activity,” and the FBI followed that discovery with a warning to officers that “no arrest should be considered routine.”

In addition to examining how and why police officers were slain during the 10-year period, the FBI also took a long, hard look at the persons responsible for the killings. A total of 1,330 persons were identified and charged in the killings, which cleared 95 percent of the cases; and,

from studying those persons, a very interesting picture of the police-killer developed.

For instance, of the 1,330 persons, a full 77 percent had been arrested previously on criminal charges—and 57 percent of the total had prior convictions on criminal charges. Forty-one percent of the 1,330 persons had been arrested for crimes of violence; 21 percent for weapons violations; 15 percent on narcotics charges; and, most surprising of all, 10 percent for prior assaults on law enforcement officers.

Police officers, then, are being attacked and killed by repeat offenders, the same kinds of habitual criminals who pose a threat to the general population. And the remedy to curtail the number of police killings, to help restore respect for law enforcement officers, is identical to the solution to the overall crime problem—namely, make sure that criminals, once convicted, are sent to jail, and not permitted to remain on the streets to repeat their heinous crimes.

To do any less is to guarantee a continual spiralling of the crime rate, and to insure additional police officers being killed in the line of duty.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Russia's African Failures

The Soviet Union's involvement in the civil war in Angola has not only pointed out the weaknesses in the policy of detente, but also has highlighted the shortsightedness of Russia's foreign policy.

Through the tragic Vietnam experience, the United States learned the futility of trying to buy, either through massive military aid or direct military intervention, influence in the underdeveloped world. Yet, Russia persists in its attempts at interference, military and politically, in Angola's internal affairs.

Ironically, the Soviets' previous adventures in Africa—adventures which consistently resulted in failures—should have been lessons enough to convince Russia to stay out of Angola.

For instance, in the Congo—now called Zaire—the Soviets sent military supplies to rebel forces in 1960, only to have the rebels defeated despite the heavy Russian investment. The Soviets also underwrote the government of Ghana for several years, but were thrown out when a coup overturned the government in 1966. Another Russian setback was suffered last year in Mozambique, when, after the Soviet-backed group took power, the Russians were denied the military bases and political influence they had demanded.

The U.S.S.R. experienced similar rebuffs in Mali, Nigeria, Uganda, and the Sudan without ever gaining a single ally in Africa. Thus, even if the Soviet-supported faction in Angola—through the massive infusion of Russian military equipment and Cuban "volunteers"—should win control of that small nation, it is likely that Russia itself will have won nothing in the long run.

That is not to say that the United States should let the Soviet involvement in Angola go unnoticed. Through diplomatic channels, world pressure should be brought to bear in an attempt to get all foreign powers out of that civil war. And America, which is now engaged in a policy of detente with Russia, should let the Soviet leaders know in no uncertain terms that their actions in Angola are jeopardizing the future of detente.

If detente is, in fact, a policy of cooperation between the two super powers, then the Soviets should heed our warning and stop fueling the fires of civil war raging in Angola. But if Russia continues to supply one of the warring factions there, the chances are that it will eventually learn that African nationalism, and not Soviet communism, will be the dominant force when the conflict has ended.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Decline of the Megalopolis?

America's largest population center has always been the 450-mile strip of land running from Manchester, New Hampshire, to Washington, D.C. In fact, it was this area which gave birth to the term "megalopolis," used to describe a series of urban communities so heavily populated that they actually sprawl into each other.

But now, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, population in the megalopolis is shrinking, with people seeking an escape from high crime rates, deteriorating school systems, and a generally harried way of life.

To be sure, the population in the area remains huge—almost 40 million persons, according to the 1974 Census Bureau figures. But the growth rate between 1970 and 1974 was only 0.3 percent, compared with a 5 percent increase for the nation as a whole—and compared with a phenomenal 12.9 percent population rise in the megalopolis during the 1960's.

The five major cities in the area—Baltimore, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington—all experienced population decreases over the 1970-1974 period; and, if the birth rate had not surpassed the death rate by 812,000, the entire 35,736-square mile region would have shown a decline. One telling statistic shows that people leaving the area between 1970 and 1974 exceeded the

number of persons moving in by 687,000.

There are two theories as to why America's largest megalopolis is declining in size. One holds that the area simply reached its saturation point several years ago, and the number of persons moving out represent a recognition of this fact. The second theory is more complex, but no less logical than the first. It suggests that Americans are looking for more quality in their lives, quality which cannot be found where the population density averages 1,109 per square mile.

The rest of the nation, after all, has a population density of under 50 persons per square mile, yet still contains sufficient economic and cultural opportunities for a highly pleasant way of life.

All indications are that the trend away from the currently-heavy population areas will continue. It is no coincidence, for example, that the median age for the nation is below that for the megalopolis— younger people are simply not attracted to the skyscrapers and night lights as they once were.

They want more out of life, and the result could prove interesting. States like West Virginia—states which offer a way of life which parallels our national values—should continue to grow. And the megalopolis could shrink to a level where living there would once again be enjoyable.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Violent Crime Wave Continues

All the public opinion surveys show that crime continues to be a major concern of American citizens—and for good reason, because crime, especially acts of violence, continues to increase at alarming rates.

For example, a recently-released report reveals that, from 1969 to 1974, the overall crime rate jumped by 38 percent. And the 969,820 murders, rapes, aggravated assaults, and robberies that occurred in 1974 represented a staggering 47 percent increase over the number of violent crimes recorded in 1969.

There were an estimated 20,600 murders in the United States in 1974—up 40 percent since 1969. There were an estimated 55,210 forcible rapes in 1974—a 49 percent increase since 1969.

The 1974 figures for aggravated assaults and robberies were 452,720 and 441,290, respectively; and those figures mean that, between 1969 and 1974, the increase in aggravated assaults was 47 percent, and the rise in robbery offenses was 48 percent.

Americans have expressed shock and outrage at our spiralling crime rate for the past several years; but there is evidence that our emotional response to acts of violence may now be followed with a positive response. At a January

meeting of a panel of distinguished judges, for instance, a resolution was approved calling for an end to suspended sentences and parole.

Criminals, the panel said, should serve their entire sentence in jail. And Americans should recognize the hard fact that rehabilitation, however lofty a goal, has simply not worked—and criminals should be sent to jail not to be reformed, but rather to be gotten off the streets.

The panel's ire was caused by the number of criminals who have been allowed to walk the streets, and repeat their offenses time and time again. It is estimated that, when viewed by the type of crime for which they were arrested between 1969 and 1974, repeaters for murder were 68 percent; rape, 65 percent; aggravated assault, 65 percent; and robbery, 79 percent.

The fact that panels of professionals from the judiciary branch of government are making specific recommendations to deal firmly with criminals is bound to be encouraging to the American people—and to those of us in the legislative branch who have long advocated minimum mandatory sentences, without suspension of parole, as one positive step toward getting the criminals off the streets.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Terrorist Bombings

Terrorist activities, once confined to unstable countries overseas, are now a very real and frightening part of everyday life in the United States. And unless quick and positive action to halt terrorism is taken, America may become as ripped apart with civil strife as some of those troubled nations we see on our television screens so frequently.

Last year, 2,053 actual and attempted bombings were recorded in the United States. That is only nine more than occurred in 1974, but the 1975 terrorist bombings took 69 lives and injured 326 other persons—compared with 1974 casualty figures of 24 deaths and 207 injuries. Property damage that resulted from last year's bombings totaled \$26.9 million—an almost 250 percent increase over the damage figure recorded in 1974.

The statistics for 1974 and 1975 are shocking, indeed; but equally alarming is the prediction by several experts that 1976 will be even worse. Terrorist groups, according to the experts, are planning to step up their murderous activities in an effort to disrupt the nation's bicentennial celebrations.

Two things seem necessary if the trend toward ever-increasing terrorist bombings is to be reversed. First and foremost, stiff punishments must be

meted out. A bombing which results in the loss of life—such as the unconscionable explosion at New York's LaGuardia Airport at the end of last year, in which 11 persons died and 51 others were injured—should be punishable by the death penalty. Life imprisonment—with no chance for parole—should be given to persons convicted of bombings in which no deaths are caused. And a mandatory sentence—one year in jail with no chance for parole or suspension—should be handed down to persons convicted of bomb threats.

Secondly, there should be a general recognition of the heinous nature of terrorist bombings. Those responsible would have us believe the bombings are political acts, and the media, in some instances, have been too quick to publicize the "cause" behind the explosions. In the United States, where legitimate channels exist for all persons to freely express their political beliefs and seek redress for grievances, bombings can never be justified.

Terrorist activities are, simply, criminal activities. And those who resort to terrorist tactics are criminals. They should be treated as such, if America is ever going to be made safe for the innocent men, women, and children to whom the country belongs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Mixed Bag For Construction Industry

Economists in the construction industry have finished their studies of 1975 and their evaluations of the first two months of 1976—and their predictions for the rest of this year contain both good and bad news.

Overall, the construction industry is expected to grow by about 12 percent, with the dollar volume of all work estimated to exceed the \$100 billion mark. Yet, when the anticipated 7-percent inflation factor is taken into consideration, the actual growth rate is reduced to just 5 percent.

The largest increase in the construction industry this year will be in housing—the bellweather of the building trades—where the growth is expected to be 30 percent over 1975. More than 1 million new houses will be built by the end of this year, and construction of new apartments is expected to reach 500,000. That is a significant increase over the combined houses-apartments total of 1,150,000 built in 1975, although it falls far short of the needed 2 million new units this year.

Public utilities are also scheduled for an outstanding year, according to the economists who predict a 10 percent real growth rate in that area of construction. Total expenditures for public utilities construction should exceed

more than \$2.7 billion in 1976.

But the increases in public utilities and housing construction will be diminished by the predicted lack of growth in institutional building, highway construction, and public works development.

Institutional construction—hospitals, schools, etc.—is estimated to remain at the \$16 billion annual level it has maintained for the past several years. Public works projects, which grew by 6 percent in 1975, will increase by only 1 percent this year, according to experts. And economists say there will be no gain in highway construction “without shots in the arm from government.”

A healthy construction industry is of vital importance to the overall health of our economy. Increases in home construction, for instance, bring concomitant benefits to related industries—carpeting, furniture, draperies, and so forth.

And all of it translates into jobs, which is what America needs more than anything else today.

Wherever the “shot in the arm” needs to be given in the construction industry, and can be given without threatening to skyrocket inflation out of control, it should be given. America can only work if Americans themselves are working.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

First Step Toward the Moon

Since this is America's bicentennial year, it is both natural and proper that we recall many of our nation's great achievements. And one that should not go unnoticed is our leadership in space technology — especially since, besides being the United States' 200th anniversary, 1976 is also the 50th anniversary of man's first step toward the moon.

It was March of 1926 when Robert Hutchings Goddard, a physics professor with an unshakeable faith in the potential of space exploration, met with his wife and two friends in a deserted field near Auburn, Massachusetts. With a blowtorch, he ignited the first rocket using a liquid propellant.

The space age had been ushered in, although, admittedly, few people realized it at the time. After all, the 10-pound rocket only rose 41 feet and crashed just 184 feet away from Goddard's makeshift launch pad—and the entire flight lasted less than 3 seconds. So unimpressed was the non-scientific world that *The New York Times* commented that Goddard "lacked the knowledge ladled out daily in our high schools."

But scientists knew the significance of that first flight and of the American professor's knowledge of rocketry. When Wernher von Braun and the other German scientists who

came to the United States after World War II were asked to explain Germany's advanced rocket program, they suggested the questions be directed to Goddard — because the "advanced" German V-2 rocket of 1944 was based on a model designed by Goddard in 1939.

Goddard died in 1945, virtually unheralded in his own lifetime. And it has only been in recent years that the scientist has been receiving the credit due him.

In 1970, a number of his previously-unpublished papers were released by the Smithsonian Institute. They show his plans for manned and unmanned space exploration, including sending a rocket to land on the moon. The plans were very detailed and amazingly accurate — and they were written in 1917. In all, Goddard had 214 patents issued in his name, ranging from the bazooka to vital components of America's Atlas, Thor, Jupiter, and Vanguard rockets.

The greatness of the United States has always rested with its people, and with their willingness to use hard work to make their dreams come true—to accomplish what other nations and other peoples did not try. Robert Goddard was typical of so many Americans. He reached for the moon—and because of his reach, we made it.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Crisis in Raw Materials

Experts are warning that, unless positive steps are taken soon, the United States could face severe shortages in raw materials — shortages that could jeopardize our position as an economic world leader.

Almost all Americans know of our nation's dependence on imported oil — the 1973 embargo was a grim reminder of that unhappy fact. But less well-known is the extent to which we depend on imports to meet our needs for other raw materials.

More than 50 percent of the aluminum ore, tin, iron ore, asbestos, and chromium used in the United States comes from abroad. Overall, there are 23 raw materials imported in large quantities, and without which our nation would be seriously weakened.

To a large extent, the raw materials America needs are found in Third World countries. And, encouraged by the relative success of the 1973 oil embargo, those Third World countries have been trying to organize for the purpose of driving the price of the materials sky high. Nationalization has been one tool employed. In 1974 and 1975, a dozen underdeveloped countries took action to bring copper, tin, and bauxite more firmly under governmental control. Venezuela, alone, nationalized mines that produce 15 million tons of iron ore annually.

Predictably, the cost of

raw materials to the importing nations has risen sharply — up 159 percent between 1971 and 1974. And expected future rises make it even more crucial for the United States to act quickly.

At least four things should be done: strike a better balance between our environmental desires and economic needs; stockpile the scarce raw materials while we have a chance to do so; practice strict conservation of scarce raw materials; and develop alternate materials.

The U.S. Government controls about one-third of the nation's land, much of it rich in raw materials. Yet, mining is prohibited on 67 percent of the land — compared with a mining ban on 17 percent in 1968. Unless we get more from our own land, we are going to become even more dangerously dependent on foreign sources.

Stockpiling now, while we can still get the needed materials, could avert future price increases from going out of control. It could also enable the U.S. to implement a conservation program, and give us the time needed to develop substitute materials through research.

American ingenuity has always been one of our most prized character traits. We had better revive it if we are to survive the raw materials crunch predicted for the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Heroin Use Increases

Three years ago, leading authorities predicted that the use of heroin in the United States would decline steadily for the next several years. Now, however, the same authorities say their predictions were wrong, and that the use of the illegal, highly dangerous drug is increasing at an alarming rate.

The peak period for heroin use in our country was 1971, when there were an estimated 500,000 to 600,000 daily users. A crash program was undertaken at that time to establish treatment centers, and to develop drugs that would ease addicts away from their dependency on heroin. By mid-1973, experts were declaring the crash program a success, pointing to the fact that the number of daily users had dropped to an estimated 250,000.

But new statistics, released in March of this year, claim that the number of daily users of heroin has risen to somewhere between 300,000 and 400,000, and experts say the increase could continue for some time to come. The main reason for the pessimistic predictions currently being voiced is the fact that, where heroin use was once confined to two or three large cities, its use has now spread to many smaller cities and towns

throughout the country. That grim fact is based on a careful analysis of overdose deaths in 24 cities, and 15,000 reports from hospital emergency rooms.

To halt the rise in heroin use and addiction, it is vital to realize what caused the decline in 1972-1973. And although the treatment centers were helpful, they were not responsible for the short-lived victory over increased heroin usage.

What was responsible was a two-part attack by the government. The first part was diplomatic. Turkey was persuaded to ban the growing of opium poppies, and other foreign governments were persuaded to crack down on drug smuggling from their countries to the United States.

The second part of the attack was tough law enforcement at the federal, state, and local levels. The famed "French Connection" arrests that curtailed the transporting of drugs from Marseilles occurred during this period.

What is needed now is a renewal of that successful 1972-1973 effort, because the new figures on heroin use show the dangers of dropping our guard against drug smugglers and pushers.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The CIA and the KGB

While the United States Central Intelligence Agency has been undergoing close scrutiny in recent months, the Soviet Union's spy network — the KGB — goes about its business unquestioned. And, in fact, evidence suggests that the past few years have seen a sharp rise in Soviet espionage activities.

In 1964, there were 1,485 Soviet officials stationed in Western Europe; by 1974, that figure had risen to 2,146. The non-partisan Institute for the Study of Conflict claims the more than 50 percent rise in Soviet representation abroad proves that "Soviet intelligence activities are on the increase," since "in NATO countries, of every four Soviet officials accredited as diplomats, three are spies of one kind or another."

The United States, of course, is a major concern of the Soviet Union, and therefore a prime target for KGB activities. Currently, there are about 190 registered diplomats from Russia stationed in America — compared with approximately 100 Americans posted in Russia. One estimate states that "half or more of the Soviet representatives in the United States work for the KGB." And, according to a captured KGB recruiting manual, "In the U.S. we use various international orga-

nizations. The most important is the United Nations and its branch institutions."

Doubtless, there is no public outcry in the Soviet Union to curtail KGB activities, or to expose the atrocities for which the KGB has been responsible. And the reason Soviet citizenry dares not question the KGB is that the spy apparatus is probably the most powerful institution within the Soviet government. The KGB answers to no one, and everyone in the Soviet Union answers to the KGB.

The first agency of government created after the Communists took control of Russia was Cheka, the intelligence branch which grew into the KGB. Its tentacles reach everywhere, accounting for political arrests too numerous to estimate, and monitoring the everyday lives of everyday citizens.

We should remember the KGB as we go about questioning our own CIA. Abuses by our intelligence agencies should be halted, indeed; and we should be grateful that, in the United States, the intelligence agencies are accountable for their actions. But we cannot allow the intelligence gathering agencies in the United States to be dismantled—not if we want the United States to remain free.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Battling the Burglars

The alarming increase of burglaries has caused the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and the National Sheriff's Association to launch a program designed to educate potential victims.

The most important part of the crime prevention program is citizen participation. In areas where burglaries have been especially rampant, police have trained private citizens and organized civilian patrols. They are not vigilante groups, police emphasize. Rather, the citizens patrol their neighborhoods unarmed, and report any suspicious happenings to the police.

"We have had burglars tell us they will not go into an area where they know there is a citizen patrol," claims the director of the National Sheriff's Association Neighborhood Watch program.

There are, of course, some persons who feel private citizens should not be organized into such patrols. Those critics say that such patrols are an invasion of privacy, and could lead to citizens taking the law into their own hands.

Yet, the fact remains that the police and sheriffs began organizing the citizen patrols precisely to prevent such potential

abuses. In many cities, groups were organized spontaneously after a rash of burglaries — and the groups were always untrained, and their members often armed. The sponsorship of the police and sheriffs has led to greater discipline among the groups, and has lessened the chances of any sort of mob violence.

And there seems to be no doubt that the police need all the help they can get in combatting burglaries.

In the last five years, burglaries nationwide have increased by 53 percent, to the point where a burglary occurs at the rate of every 10 seconds today. The annual cost to victims is \$1.2 billion, with residential losses alone amounting to \$758 million a year.

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and the National Sheriffs Association have reason to be pleased with the success of their program thus far—but officials in those organizations are the first to admit the limited nature of that success.

In the final analysis, officials say, the best way to check the rising rate of burglaries is for neighbors to once again begin caring about neighbors. We are indeed our "brothers' keeper."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Solar Satellites

Energy scientists, environmentalists, and legislators in Washington are talking excitedly about solar satellites — a potentially new energy source for the 21st century.

Imagine, for a moment, large sail-shaped metallic satellites flying in space 25,000 miles from earth, collecting the rays of the sun and transmitting this energy back to the earth where it would be collected by giant dish-like antennas. From these antenna stations, the energy would be sent to nearby power stations which would convert it into electricity.

Although the idea sounds incredible, it has been getting a lot of serious attention in Washington and in many research laboratories around the country. One reason scientists are so interested is because the solar satellites are an advancement over the earth-based solar heating plants already in operation. The solar satellites could collect and transmit the energy from the sun around the clock and would not be limited to the daytime or clear weather—the prime drawback with the existing solar plants.

Scientists working on the solar satellite idea say that by the year 2025, 100

of these satellites could be positioned around the earth, arrayed like small stars but serving as sources of energy, like miniature suns. Although much of the talk about this revolutionary source of energy is optimistic, the scientists say that they want to get all of the environmental and safety bugs worked out first. They don't want their project to become controversial, like the Concorde or Alaska Pipeline.

In the meantime, the high cost of solar satellites will rule out any substantial funding until the problems have been solved and the system can be shown to be safe, reliable, and affordable. The current estimates, however, are staggering. Scientists say that it would take \$20 billion dollars just to develop more efficient solar cells, and another \$24 billion for the heavy rockets which would take the materials to deep space where they would be assembled. In addition, it would cost around \$7.6 billion to put up each of the satellites.

But one thing is certain—we are going to be hearing a lot more about solar satellites in the years to come. Our energy needs are growing each year and we can't afford to be caught short.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Seeds for the Future

In a series of buildings in Colorado, the government has stored thousands of cans in dark, cold, temperature-controlled rooms. In the cans—some 90,000 at last count—the U.S. Department of Agriculture has stored plant and grain seeds from all over the world as insurance against a future disaster.

The USDA has been storing the seeds for their National Seed Storage Laboratory in Fort Collins, Colorado, since 1958 and they have gone to the remote corners of the world to collect rare, old, and unusual types. But the seeds are not being collected simply because they exist—for in the event of a disaster this seed bank could be holding the reserves for the world's future food supply.

The demands of the world's increasing population have led scientists to produce higher-yielding 'miracle' seeds. But oftentimes the disease-resistant qualities of the original stocks are not passed on to the newer seeds. Future crops are then susceptible to common plant diseases which could wipe out an entire strain. This is what happened in 1970 when the U.S. corn crop was hit with a corn blight. But

because of the seed bank, a newer strain of corn—resistant to the blight—was developed.

With these 'miracle' seeds, agriculture in recent years has become dependent upon fewer and fewer crops to feed more and more people. Because of this trend, there is a danger that the older, hardier seeds could be lost. Many of these older seeds are descendants of centuries-old crops highly resistant to disease.

The USDA has sent expeditions around the world to collect these hardier, ancient seeds. Once they have built up the stocks, scientists experiment with them to reproduce their highly desirable qualities. Over the years, the Colorado seed bank has become the largest of its type in the world and is the only source for several hundred varieties.

For years, American farmers have been asked to grow more food for more people — in China, Russia, Latin America, and Africa. The peoples of the world realize that American hard work and farsightedness — as with the Colorado seed bank — are sometimes the difference between hunger and a full stomach.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Newspaper Ads and History

Newspapers, as everyone knows, played an important part in our nation's founding. But what some people may not realize is that the advertisements in colonial journals were as historically significant as the news columns.

On May 8, 1704, the *Boston News Letter* carried the first ad, which sought to sell or lease a Long Island estate. And when America's first daily newspaper, the *Pennsylvania Packet & Advertiser*, began operations on September 24, 1784, 10 of its 16 columns were devoted to ads.

Benjamin Franklin, of course, was very ad-conscious, and his *Pennsylvania Gazette* regularly carried offers for medicine, sugar, tea, cotton, wool, hardware, false teeth, and dance lessons. Most of the ads were written by Franklin himself, who introduced bigger headlines in his advertising columns long before he used the innovation for news stories.

Even George Washington wrote and responded to ads. In an effort to sell some property, Washington placed an ad in the *Maryland Advocate & Commercial Advertiser*, in which he wrote of "the luxuriance of the soil, convenience to river transportation, and the inevitable rise in value if a new government is established." And he frequently bought cloth for

himself and his wife through ads which appeared in New York newspapers.

But ads were not only important to commerce in the colonies; they were also important to the cause of independence.

Much of the recruiting of soldiers for the Revolutionary War was done through newspaper ads, many of which carried George Washington's name prominently. One typical ad invited "all brave, healthy, able-bodied young men" to join "George Washington for the defence of the liberties and independence." And an ad aimed at raising a navy of privateers called for "all those jolly fellows who love their country to repair immediately to Governor Hancock's wharf."

The recruitment ads told of "liberal and generous encouragement" to enlist, namely "a bounty of twelve dollars and an annual and fully sufficient supply of handsome clothing, together with sixty dollars a year in gold." There was also mention of the opportunity "to spend a few happy years seeing this beautiful continent."

Colonial newspapers, like modern ones, survived because of the advertisements they carried. And together with the editorial columns of our early papers, they helped the nation itself to survive.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America in the Future

During this bicentennial year, we are being reminded constantly of America's past—a worthwhile endeavor, since ours is indeed a glorious history. Yet, as we celebrate our 200th anniversary as a nation, we should spend as much effort looking at where we are going as we spend looking at where we have been.

Experts predict that, from a material standpoint, the future looks bright for the United States. By the year 2000, for example, our gross national product will have more than doubled to at least \$3 trillion, and, with a projected population of 250 million persons, the average family income is expected to be about \$23,000 annually.

The trend toward smaller families is expected to continue, which will help to balance the increased costs of education for the American family. And, because of the smaller number of children per family, women will be holding more than 40 percent of the jobs by the turn of the century. Employment opportunities for both men and women should accelerate, specifically in the serv-

ice sector of our economy, and one of the main reasons for increased employment will be the fact that more persons will be working fewer hours per week.

Currently, the average work week is 37 hours. It could be as low as 32 hours by the year 2000. Thus, leisure time will play a greater role in the lives of most Americans.

Also, the rivers and lakes of America are improving, according to many environmentalists, who point to the return of some fish in the Hudson River which had not been seen for several years. It seems obvious, one authority says, "that we now have the technological expertise needed to meet most, if not all, of our environmental problems."

Thus, the future of America can be bright. But to insure that it is, we must remember what our founding fathers knew very well—a nation's spiritual wealth is as important as its material wealth. The spiritual legacy we inherited from earlier Americans must be rekindled in our lifetimes, and transmitted to those generations who will come after us.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Two Hundred Years of Free Enterprise

In all the celebrations, festivities, and parades planned for the nation's Bicentennial, we should not overlook another event which also took place in 1776 and played a very important role in the future welfare of our country. In March, 1776, just four months before the nation's founders signed the Declaration of Independence, the Scottish philosopher Adam Smith published his famous book, *The Wealth of Nations*, which outlined the theory of free enterprise from which capitalism evolved.

In many ways, *The Wealth of Nations* and our Declaration of Independence are companions. Both were revolutionary documents published in 1776 and both were written against the tyranny of the state. *The Wealth of Nations* was written to protest the British mercantile system which entrapped the workers with low wages, poor conditions, and limited opportunities.

Smith promoted the virtues of a free enterprise system in which the marketplace—rather than the government—would be the determining factor. He said that more could be accomplished with private enterprise, and men and women would be free to determine their own destiny.

Observing the British, Smith wrote about the dangers of a planned economy where the government sets the conditions of labor, wages, and prices. Under such a system—as we readily see by observing the communist nations—the workers, society and the nation all suffer. Capitalism, on the other hand, allows the individual and society to benefit by their own devices while the nation's economy prospers.

But Smith did not totally rule out the role of government. He said that the government was better able to handle broad responsibilities—like national defense, justice, and public works. He saw best that a fine line had to be drawn between the government and private enterprise.

Many of Adam Smith's thoughts are just as alive today as they were 200 years ago. It is encouraging to know that, just as America has been able to live under the guiding principles of the Declaration of Independence, the nation has prospered, thanks to the wisdom of this Scottish philosopher.

And, at a time when capitalism is under attack abroad and its merits questioned at home, we should not forget that independence and free enterprise go hand in hand—just as they did in 1776.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Looking Back at 1876

In May, 1876, the Centennial Exposition opened in Philadelphia to celebrate America's first century as a Republic. During that summer, millions of Americans and foreigners from all around the world travelled to Philadelphia for the gigantic birthday party planned to be the grandest exposition the world had ever seen.

Even after only 100 years of independence, America was already recognized as a leader among nations. We were a young and diverse people, and were respected for our energy, foresight, and initiative.

In 1876, America was hard at work, rebuilding the economy and healing the old wounds left over from the Civil War and the Reconstruction era. The hardy and the adventurous in the land were going West to carve out a nation from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Rather than looking back, people were optimistic and were talking anxiously about the future. A new machine age—which promised to ease everyone's burden and provide more goods and services—was just around the corner.

Everyone who went to Philadelphia in the summer of 1876 wanted to see some of these new machines and gadgets. One of the biggest

hits was a steam locomotive representing the railroads which had helped to open the West.

Two unrelated events which also occurred in 1876 represented the watershed the country had reached after 100 years. Custer and his troops were massacred at the Little Bighorn in Montana, and Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. America's westward expansion was about over and a new age of inventions and industry was beginning.

Looking back, it is refreshing to see how much our ancestors had accomplished in their first century. And being a proud and dedicated people, they wanted the whole world to come to Philadelphia to celebrate their Centennial with them.

And today, with America celebrating her Bicentennial, we have just as much to be proud of. After two world wars we helped out our allies and former enemies alike and rebuilt Europe and Japan. We have landed men on the moon and are leading the world in the all-important technological revolution.

When our grandchildren and their children look back at us during their Tricentennial in 2076, I am sure they will be just as proud of us as we are of our ancestors.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Women and the U.S. Revolution

America's fight for independence produced countless tales of extraordinarily brave men, but, as a whole, women have never received proper recognition for the important role they played in the founding of our nation.

Only a handful of women emerged from the Revolutionary War with their names forever guaranteed a place in history. Betsy Ross, the famous seamstress, and Mary Hays, who carried pitchers of water to the fighting men and earned the nickname Molly Pitcher, are two of the best-remembered women.

But there were many, many others. Deborah Champion and Molly Corbin are just two examples of women whose heroism could match that displayed by the men of the period. Miss Champion was called "the female Paul Revere," because she used her equestrian skills to carry dispatches through enemy lines in the cause of freedom. And Mrs. Corbin, who took her husband's place behind a cannon after he was fatally injured, fought so bravely that, when she died several years later, she became the only woman ever buried in the West Point Cemetery.

It was not uncommon, during the Revolutionary War, for women to follow their husbands off to war.

Nor was it uncommon for those women to join in the fighting when the need arose.

The women who stayed home also showed tremendous courage. With their husbands off at war, they became solely responsible for running the farms and businesses — and their efforts contributed greatly to the cause of independence. Mary Katharine Godard of Baltimore took over her husband's newspaper, and became a crusading editor; Mary Draper found herself in charge of the family bakery, and used her skills to establish an unofficial quartermasters' service for the Continental Army; and Catherine Schuyler, left alone to run the farm, made a most courageous decision, setting fire to the family home and all the crops rather than have them captured by British General Burgoyne's army; and the wives of Groton, Conn., organized themselves into a self-defense unit, and, armed with whatever weapons they could find or make, kept the British from crossing the bridge into their town.

The Bicentennial is a special time in our nation's history; and, in recalling our past, we should remember that, without the contributions of pioneer women, America might not have won independence.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Was Founded on Sacrifice

When the 56 men signed the Declaration of Independence, they said "we mutually pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor" to the cause of freedom for the United States. That pledge was more than mere rhetoric, and, as we celebrate our nation's Bicentennial, we would all do well to recall the tremendous sacrifices made by our forefathers in founding America.

Every signer of the Declaration of Independence was considered a traitor, and every one was hunted during the Revolutionary War. Most of the signers were offered immunity, freedom, rewards, property, or, in some cases, their lives if they would break their pledged word and take protection from the British. Not a single signer broke his pledge, despite the fact that practically all suffered severely.

Nine of the signers died of wounds or hardships during the War; five were captured and imprisoned, in some cases with brutal treatment; twelve had their homes burned to the ground; seventeen lost everything they owned; and the wives and children of some of the signers were killed, jailed, persecuted, or left penniless. Still, the signers valued their honor so highly that their pledge

remained unbroken.

Had those men flinched, or betrayed their word, the history of this country would have been very different. The fact that they refused to budge in their commitment to independence set a glowing example for the rest of the early Americans.

Throughout the colonies, men and women made tremendous sacrifices on behalf of the Revolution, sublimating their own wants and desires to the needs of the new country. Buoyed by the words of the Declaration of Independence—and by the courage of the men who signed it—the early Americans began building the greatest civilization in history.

It should always be remembered that America is not the result of historical chance. The wealth and freedom of this nation came at a price—the price of struggle, of determination, of ingenuity, of life and death. If one generation were to break faith with the American dream—if one generation were unwilling to pay the price of personal independence and responsibility—the heritage of the American dream for future generations would be forever tarnished and diminished.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Victory Gardens in the 70's

In this age of modern technology, fancy gadgets, and instantaneous communications, it is nice to know that people are returning to one of man's earliest pursuits—working the soil. Home gardening in the United States has become popular once again.

Home gardening has actually become a regular part of life for many families. Spring planting and summer and fall harvesting are such a way of life for so many that it is easy to forget how many people have never experienced the real joy of planting a seed and watching it grow. But now, in large cities and small towns all across America, people are enthusiastically taking up gardening. In cities, vacant lots are being re-claimed, and even rooftops and balconies on high-rise apartments are being used for gardening. In small towns, church and civic groups are sponsoring neighborhood plots for those who do not have a backyard.

But this is nothing new. Those who remember World War II recall the famous "Victory Gardens," when nearly everyone planted gardens to save precious resources for the war effort. At its peak,

there were nearly 20 million "Victory Gardens" producing 40 percent of all the vegetables grown in the country. These "Victory Gardens" ranged from small 8' x 10' backyard plots to farms of several hundred acres managed by war-time factories for their employee cafeterias. It seemed as if every vacant piece of land in the country had a "Victory Garden."

And now, more than 30 years later, families and individuals are taking up gardening on a scale reminiscent of the past. A nationwide survey conducted this year revealed that the number of vegetable gardens in the U.S. could increase by as many as 3 million over the approximately 27 million households with a garden last year. Seed companies are saying that the 1975 boom in planting will easily be eclipsed this year.

It is reassuring that people of all ages and occupations are turning to the soil much like their ancestors did when they were carving out a nation. That pioneering spirit and the desire to work the land are still strong in Americans—and that is a healthy sign.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The U.S. Merchant Marines

After reaching a low point in the 1960's, the United States Merchant Marine Fleet now appears ready to regain its dominance on the high seas. And that is good news for all Americans, since the merchant fleet is an important part of the overall defense structure of our nation.

The United States, in the period immediately following World War II, had an impressive merchant marine fleet which handled better than 50 percent of our foreign trade tonnage. Yet, as the years passed, other maritime nations modernized their fleets, while America did nothing to keep pace.

Thus, American-flag ships, which carried 58 percent of U.S. import/export cargoes in 1947, hauled only 42 percent in 1950. It continued to be downhill from that point on—to 23 percent in 1955, 11 percent in 1960, and to less than 5 percent in 1969.

The main reason for the decline in American participation in maritime commerce was the change in the type of cargo being carried. While the amounts of general cargo being shipped showed little change, shipments of oil experienced a 170 percent increase between 1956 and the early 1970's. And the

U.S. fleet simply did not have the tankers necessary to participate in the transporting of oil.

All that is changing now, due in large measure to the Merchant Marine Act which Congress passed in 1970. The legislation—the first dealing with the merchant fleet since 1936—provided incentives for the manufacture of tankers and bulk carriers, and generated \$3 billion worth of new contracts. It also recognized that improvements in the merchant fleet had spin-off benefits for America's defense, since manufacturers of the merchant ships also conduct construction for the Navy.

In the past three years, American shipyards have delivered 76 new vessels and have completed construction on 17 others. The result has been a 3.5 million-ton jump in the amount of cargo carried by U.S.-flag ships over that period.

The United States cannot let itself become dependent on the merchant fleets of other nations. That precarious position was almost reached in 1969, and, now that the U.S. Merchant Marine Fleet is again moving toward a position of dominance on the high seas, we should make sure that its journey is not impeded.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Eloquence of a Silent Bell

Probably the most beloved bell in the world is the Liberty Bell. No great American symbol commands more respect; the Bell has earned a place of honor with the Declaration of Independence, The Bill of Rights, and the Constitution.

Ironically, the Liberty Bell was made in England, cast in London in 1752. After its arrival in Philadelphia, it cracked on its first test and had to be recast. The second model passed the test—after the addition of a small quantity of American copper to the mixture.

Finally, hung in the Statehouse in Philadelphia in June, 1753, the Bell has a weight of 2,080 pounds, a circumference around the lip of twelve feet, and a height of three feet. The clapper is three feet, two inches long.

Prior to the Revolution, the Bell was rung to celebrate public occasions or to assemble the people of Philadelphia. Contrary to popular belief, the Liberty Bell did not ring on July 4, 1776. Though the Declaration of Independence was finally accepted on that day, it was not publicly proclaimed until July 8, at which time the Bell

rang continuously day and night while the people celebrated the birth of the new nation.

When the British were about to capture Philadelphia in 1777, Congress ordered the Bell carried to safety in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where it remained buried under a church for a year. Returned to Philadelphia, it clanged to the joy over the surrender of Cornwallis in 1781. Thereafter, the Bell was rung only on the most important occasions, such as the death of George Washington, the election of Thomas Jefferson, and the deaths of Hamilton and Lafayette.

On July 8, 1835, the Bell cracked as it rang in memoriam at the death of John Marshall.

Since then, the Bell has become an incarnation of our political freedom. It has travelled more than 20,000 miles on exhibition. This year, thousands will view it in the new Liberty Bell Pavilion in Philadelphia.

Voiceless for well over a century, the Liberty Bell now speaks in eloquent silence, reminding all Americans of the price of the liberties we often take for granted.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

On America's Doorstep

Over 100 million Americans—nearly half of our population—can trace their ancestry back to immigrants who first set foot in America on Ellis Island. Located one mile off the southern tip of Manhattan, the small 27.5 acre island was the reception center for the great waves of immigrants who arrived in this country from Europe in the late 1890's and early 1900's.

In recognition of its place in American history, Ellis Island was recently re-opened to visitors and tourists by the National Park Service. Few places in the country represent a common reference point for so many Americans as does Ellis Island.

From 1892-1954, Ellis Island served as the processing center for 12 million immigrants who arrived on our shores to escape hunger, and political and religious persecution. They came because America promised a new start—a better life, a higher paying job, and rich land to farm. America was the land of opportunity and freedom—precious commodities that were lacking in their homelands.

Immigration to America was an exhausting ordeal, and Ellis Island became known as the "Isle of Tears." After spending two weeks on a cramped and

cold boat, immigrants landed at Ellis to face a battery of inspectors, doctors, and social workers who questioned and examined them through interpreters. Most who arrived could not speak a word of English and had no one to contact when they landed in New York. For them, America was a strange and forbidding place to begin a new life.

But what lay ahead was a vast improvement over what they had left behind, and they were eager to accept the challenge of America, even though they were penniless, alone, and struggling against great odds.

Many who came achieved success even within their own lifetime—Irving Berlin, Felix Frankfurter, Knute Rockne, and Edward G. Robinson, to name just a few. It is a tribute to the millions of immigrants who worked hard, that many of their children became leaders in business, education, and government.

As the pace of immigration slowed and the airplane became a common means of transportation, Ellis Island outgrew its function. But history will record, and Americans will long remember, that, for millions, Ellis Island was the doorstep to America—and the chance for a new life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Is World Food Leader

On farms, ranches, and orchards all across America, farmers, ranchers, and growers are hard at work producing what appears to be another bumper crop for American agriculture. This is a certainly a good sign, because, when American agriculture is healthy, everyone benefits.

For those who do not have the opportunity to see at first hand the vastness and complexity of our agriculture, it is easy to overlook the tremendous contributions it makes to our nation. The riches produced annually on our farms are spread across the entire spectrum of American economic life, and they reach overseas into many foreign markets. When we have bountiful harvests, Americans eat well, our economy receives a massive shot in the arm, and foreign governments are eager to buy up the surplus.

One cannot help but be impressed by the statistics on American agriculture. We lead the world in the production of meat, milk, eggs, turkeys, chickens, vegetables, feed grains, citrus fruits, and many other foods. We produce more food and fiber than does any other nation, and the most powerful nations are dependent upon our agriculture because of its un-

excelled quality, productivity, and efficiency.

Agriculture is America's greatest growth industry and our largest employer, with 4.4 million workers on the farm. From the farm to the dinner table, the nation's agriculture and related industries require an additional 10 million workers to store, transport, process, and merchandise the food and fiber produced from fewer than 3 million farms.

American agriculture has been a remarkable success story. Since 1970, our export sales have tripled from \$6.7 billion to nearly \$22 billion forecasted for 1976. And in only one decade, production on our farms has increased a full one quarter, to over 534 million metric tons of crops, meats, and consumable by-products. This staggering figure represents 2½ metric tons for every man, woman, and child in America.

Historians write that Napoleon said an army travelled on its stomach. It wouldn't be much of an exaggeration to say that a nation's economic and social welfare depend largely on its ability to feed itself. With the abundant harvests we have come to expect from our farms every year, the fate of the country seems to be in good hands.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cornerstone of Our Constitution

Resting in a place of honor in the Rotunda of the Capitol is one of the four surviving original copies of Magna Carta. On loan to us by the British government in honor of our Bicentennial, Magna Carta was recently unveiled at an elegant dedication ceremony attended by British and American officials.

In the history of human rights, Magna Carta played a distinct and singular role. From its basic principles can be traced many later documents in Western civilization which conferred on man the rights and freedoms we have long cherished.

Magna Carta, or "Great Charter," was a petition that King John of England was forced to agree to at Runnymede, England, in 1215. It limited the power of the King and bestowed specific rights and freedoms on the feudal barons who had rebelled against the crown.

The theory incorporated into Magna Carta—and its symbolic value—was its most important contribution. This theory was that an established code of laws respecting the rights of the people could not be overruled or nullified by any ruler—even a King.

Some of the basic rights that can be traced back to Magna Carta are the right to due process, rights of

inheritance, the right to own and transfer property, and even-handed justice without regard to wealth or station title.

Down through the ages, Magna Carta came to be interpreted as a document of fundamental liberties for all. It took a hold on the popular imagination which has never been lost.

When the first English colonists settled in North America, they brought with them an acute awareness of the rights and liberties guaranteed by Magna Carta. These fundamental liberties were expressly written into early Colonial charters and represented the rights that the colonists fought for and won in their War for Independence from the British crown 200 years ago. Later, they were incorporated into the Constitution and laws of respective states.

Historians and legal scholars, in tracing the origins of our Constitution and Bill of Rights, begin their studies with Magna Carta. Honored as a cornerstone for all human rights, it is appropriate that during our Bicentennial celebrations, Magna Carta has been brought to America in proud recognition of the common heritage of liberty that binds our nation and the mother country of England together.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Food is a very sensitive subject for the people living in the communist countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Communist governments control the production, distribution, and price of food, as they do with all goods. With the government having this awesome control, the people realize there is little they can do about the quality and quantity of consumer goods. This feeling of impotence is most acutely felt with the limited food supply, and the people are nervous about anything that affects food.

The explosiveness of this situation was revealed once again when food riots swept Poland this summer. The Polish Communist government had announced steep price rises as high as 100% on meat, sugar, milk, and other staple foods. The announcement shocked the Polish people, and they immediately took to the streets.

Demonstrations broke out in the Polish capital of Warsaw and throughout the rest of the country. A Communist Party headquarters was burned down, and miles of railroad track were torn up. Two fatalities were reported, and thousands were injured in the riots.

Clearly the people had spoken—they did not like

the communist government tampering with food prices. In 1956, and again in 1970, the Polish government had announced similar price increases, and the people rebelled. Both times, new governments had to take over and promise no price increases.

Food is very expensive in communist countries and is generally of marginal quality when compared to Western European and American standards. Seasonal food shortages limit many people to a diet of potatoes, bread, and cabbage in the winter. The average Soviet citizen eats only 40% as much meat as an American citizen, and fruits and vegetables are expensive and scarce. Last year, the Soviet government had to import 16 million tons of grain to cover up for its disastrous harvest.

If anything, the failures in the communist agricultural system expose the hollowness of the Marxist ideology which promises equal social and economic benefits to all, while the governments cannot even produce enough food to feed their own people.

More directly, the recent Polish food riots reveal the thin line that the communist governments are walking between a pacified populace and open rebellion.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Religious America

It was not too many years ago that some social commentators were trumpeting the theme "God is dead," and predicting that the United States would become a nation of agnostics, or even atheists. But few themes have turned out to have less substance, and few predictions have turned out to be more wrong.

A recent Gallup Poll found that God is not dead in America, and, in fact, our country is presently undergoing "a spiritual renewal." Churchgoing, which suffered a decline in the turbulent 1960's, is now on the rise; and 94 percent of all Americans profess belief in God and list themselves as having a specific religion — 61 percent are Protestant, 27 percent Roman Catholic, 2 percent Jewish, and 4 percent other religions.

Of all the industrial nations, according to the poll, the United States ranks at the top in the importance religion plays in the daily lives of its citizens. Japan ranks at the bottom—just below the Scandinavian countries.

Why the "spiritual renewal" in America? The poll does not give precise

reasons, but it does suggest a rather logical explanation.

The United States has just emerged from a very difficult period, when every day seemed to bring with it a new crisis or a worsening of an existing problem—Vietnam, Watergate, and a general lack of trust among various segments of our society. It was a period during which many Americans lost faith in the destiny of our nation and our people.

Simply put, we came close to hitting rock bottom spiritually.

Americans to look inward for strength, and to reflect upon the spiritual values of our forefathers—spiritual values that were the cornerstone of America's greatness. Reflection meant resurrection, and Americans are apparently ready to regain the boundless faith of our ancestors in the destiny of the United States. They seem, as the poll states, "to be in the first stages of a spiritual renewal," since "the findings seem to offer a positive outlook for religion in America."

That portends well not only for religion, but also for the future of America.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hotline for Science

Off the coast of Japan, an undersea volcano erupts and spews molten lava to the surface and an island is born. In Colorado, a meteorite shower rains down in a remote mountainous area. And, in the Philippines, a small tribe of natives, dating back to the Stone Age, is discovered.

Oftentimes, we read or hear about such events, only to have them quickly forgotten in the rush of everyday life. But to scientists, these natural events are important, since they offer the opportunity to share in the observation of a rare event or discovery.

And thanks to a small scientific reporting team located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, these brief but important natural events now can be more readily studied. The Center for Short-Lived Phenomena, a division of the Smithsonian Institute, has grown since its founding in 1969 to become a highly-regarded operation. Even the normally skeptical Soviet Academy of Science acknowledges the Center as "the greatest scientific service."

With a staff of only five scientists, using the global communications network available to it at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Massachusetts, the Center receives and evaluates reports of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, oilspills, meteorites, insect infestations, and animal migrations. In a matter of minutes, the Center reports these events to thousands of scientists located in 148 countries who often travel to the site to conduct studies.

"It is the short-lived events in nature that tell you most about natural systems," says the director of the Center. "We are right on the frontier of man's knowledge of this planet and we have to keep our finger on its pulse."

The Center plans on developing more sophisticated techniques so that it can store more information and allow non-scientific groups to participate. And by expanding its operation, the Center will be better able to alert authorities to the cataclysmic events which are a threat to human life or to the earth's delicate ecological balance.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Common Sense in Government

We hear a lot of talk these days about the evils of big government and how it is creeping more and more into our daily lives. In fact, from the minute we get up in the morning until we go to bed at night, there seems to be some branch of government that touches our every action.

Government is all around and it reaches into homes, schools, and working places all across America. Most government actions and regulations are meant to serve the best interests of all citizens, but there are times when they go too far.

This was most shockingly revealed when an unnamed official in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare ruled that father-son, mother-daughter school banquets violated federal statutes on sex discrimination. Few would argue that the ruling was a blatant intrusion on the part of the government into the inviolable rights of the American family.

We all realize that government plays an important and vital role in the conduct of our nation's business, both at home and abroad. The federal government must raise and support armies, print

money, negotiate with foreign governments, protect the nation's resources, monitor commerce, and support research in health and science.

But in the case of the HEW ruling, the government overstepped the bounds of responsible government and interfered in a non-governmental matter. By saying that the peaceful assembly of citizens at father-son or mother-daughter functions would be in violation of a federal regulation, the government official mistakenly and stupidly tampered with one of the most hallowed institutions in American life—the family.

Fortunately, the President recognized the foolhardiness of that ruling and had it rescinded immediately. Like so many others, he recognized the difference between the intent of a federal regulation and good old-fashioned common sense.

And in the future, the government will better serve the people if it represents these common sense values of Americans rather than the narrow, nonsensical, short-sighted interests of a faceless bureaucracy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Trouble Ahead in Moscow Olympics

If recent events are any indication, the 1980 Moscow Olympics may become the most troubled and political Olympics ever held.

Ever since the modern-day Olympics were begun in 1896, people have become accustomed to some type of political intrigue during each of the games. But all of this will pale if the Soviet Union hosts the 1980 Olympics and turns them into a political contest between the East and the West.

A recent story in an American newspaper reporting on negotiations between Soviet officials and American television network executives referred to some suspicious hints at Soviet censorship. The Americans said that the Soviets are talking about some "other considerations" — exclusive of money — which will be weighed before the final contract is awarded.

It doesn't take much of an imagination to see that the Soviets will be trying to impose a form of censorship on any news organization that wants to cover the Olympics. It is conceivable that they would hold up issuing press credentials until just prior to the games to "evaluate" a news service or newspaper's past reporting from

Moscow. In effect, they would be seeking a four-year moratorium on information that would expose their tyrannical system.

But none of this is new. The Soviets have always manipulated news and information to cover up the repression that is constant throughout the country, and to give the appearance that their "socialist" system is the wave of the future. Their propaganda is seen as nothing more than subtle lies and hypocrisy manufactured by political leaders who are insecure and must use subterfuge, repression, and violence to retain their power.

There have already been reports in the Soviet press which indicate they are planning on using the Moscow Olympics for blatant political purposes. We must guard against the eventuality that the U.S. and other democratic nations are not presented with any 11th hour ultimatum in 1980 that would be embarrassing.

If the Soviets want to use the 1980 Olympics for their own narrow propaganda purposes, then the appropriate authorities in the United States must take whatever steps are necessary to assure that we do not become a party to their efforts.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Public's Responsibility

The success of the American system of government depends, to a large extent, on citizen participation in, and knowledge of, governmental processes. Thus, a recent survey should be cause for concern.

According to the survey's projection, fewer Americans may vote this November than voted during the last national elections in 1972, when the turnout was a disappointing 54.9 percent. And even more disturbing than that projection were some of the cold, hard facts discovered by the survey.

Only a little over half the voting public—55 percent—knows that each state is represented by two U.S. Senators, and two-thirds of Americans over the voting age are unable to name both their Senators or their Representative in Congress. Just 35 percent of those eligible to vote know what the Electoral College is; only 21 percent know what the Bill of Rights is; and a sparse 19 percent understand that the three branches of government are Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

The researchers who conducted the survey noted that "low levels of political knowledge and participa-

tion have serious effects on our democratic system," and they hope that, by calling the discouraging facts to the public's attention, they might inspire citizens to become more aware of the workings of their government. Yet, the researchers admit that the results of their survey will likely reach only those Americans who actually do take an active interest in their government — only those Americans who actually do go to the polls.

Americans are a proud people—and rightly so. The liberties and freedoms we enjoy resulted from hard-fought victories and a tremendous faith in the destiny of our nation. Peoples from all over the world flocked to America's shores to find opportunities that did not exist in their homelands; and, even today, the United States remains the beacon of hope for millions of people living under dictatorships.

But what we have in America will not be preserved without continued diligence on the part of the citizens—citizens who care enough about their government to fully participate in its operations; citizens who realize that freedom is a lot easier to lose than to gain.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Educational Standards Decline

Educators, parents, business, and community leaders are growing increasingly worried about the decline in educational standards in America. Several studies and reports looking into the problem have come to the same conclusion—the decline is real, and it affects education at all levels.

A few years ago, there were reports that scores from standardized tests were showing a steady decline. By itself, the decline was not overly disturbing, since it could have reflected a temporary trend or expectable fluctuation. What is alarming is that the decline was not arrested, and currently shows no sign of reversing itself. Documentary evidence reveals that it cuts across all social, economic, and geographical boundaries. According to one report, "It is a nationwide event."

All of the test scores and studies are uniform when they point out that the decline began in the mid-1960's, when experimentation in education was permitted and traditional disciplines were relaxed. Bowing to pressure from students and some experimentalists, required courses—mainly math, English, history, and foreign languages—were de-emphasized in favor of more electives and "non-academic" programs. In a

short time, the students began losing their ability to handle sophisticated and regimented concepts and ideas which demand critical thought. The time-tested disciplines of the past were replaced by the unproven theories for the future.

It was not long before colleges and universities were saying that incoming students were not fully prepared in essential areas. Many had not developed the ability to think and write correctly. Even top universities had to send students to remedial classes before they could enter their regular courses.

As one newspaper wrote, "American education appears clearly to be on a dangerous course that could have serious repercussions." This is a warning that should be heeded by all who have a sincere concern for the future of American education and the welfare of the nation.

America's future leaders—today's students—will have to cope with problems that require self-discipline, creativity, and rugged determination—skills which are learned, for the most part, in the classrooms. Whether striving to be mechanics, teachers, businessmen, or doctors, they must have an academic preparation that is second to none.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Disease Fighters at Work

A cholera outbreak in Nicaragua, an anthrax epidemic in Haiti, cases of histoplasmosis in Ohio—all are recent examples of dangerous diseases which have been diagnosed and treated by teams of American health specialists whose job it is to prevent a local threat from turning into a worldwide epidemic. Assigned to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, the epidemiologists, or disease control specialists, travel all over the world and have been credited with saving thousands of lives by their swift action.

The Center traces its roots back to the old World War II "Malaria Control in War Areas Program," that was started in Atlanta in 1942. Over the years, the name changed several times, and various health preventive programs were consolidated, until the present-day Center was established in 1970.

The Center has grown into a complex of laboratories and technical facilities that include sophisticated communications links to world-wide agencies such as the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization. Recognized around

the world as having the finest in resources, training, and experience, the Center maintains ready teams of epidemiologists on 24-hour alert to fly any place in the world to investigate and isolate dangerous diseases. Oftentimes they are the first medical people at the site of an epidemic outbreak. They are quick to respond because, in this age of jet travel, any disease or epidemic in any part of the world — no matter how remote — is only hours away from America's shores.

Even though it is active abroad, the Center's main work is done at home. With field stations in West Virginia and many other states, it coordinates with state and regional health departments on local problems, and oversees several domestic programs, such as occupational health and safety, urban rat control, and black lung.

The Center for Disease Control has been in the news recently as a result of the "legionnaires disease" and the national program to inoculate against a possible swine flu epidemic which poses a danger to Americans.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

American Inventors

The inventor has always been considered a special kind of person—creative, imaginative, and a person whose products have a profound effect on the way we live. And the United States, because of the freedom it offers its citizens, has provided the kind of atmosphere in which inventors flourish.

In few other countries would bicycle manufacturers have had the chance to test their theories of flight—but Orville and Wilbur Wright had that opportunity in America. So, too, did portrait painters Samuel F.B. Morse and Robert Fulton have the freedom to invent the telegraph and the steamboat, respectively.

The telephone, as everyone knows, was invented by Alexander Graham Bell, and Eli Whitney invented the cotton-gin. Both those men were teachers by profession, but the United States offered them the flexibility needed to experiment with ideas outside the classroom. The same was true for Charles Goodyear, a medical doctor whose invention of vulcanized rubber led to the modern tire, and for street-car conductor George Pullman, who developed the railroad sleeping car that bears his name.

Even our founding fathers

dabbled successfully at inventions. Among George Washington's accomplishments were a drill for sowing seeds and a 16-sided barn with a theretofore unheard of threshing floor. The talented Thomas Jefferson invented a machine for measuring strength, a weather vane, a folding ladder, and swivel chairs. And Abraham Lincoln developed a system of inflatable tubes for boats.

Practically all inventions of lasting value resulted from months and even years of hard work, and many obstacles had to be overcome before the task was accomplished. One of those obstacles was enduring the ridicule of people who could see no wisdom in moving through unexplored areas.

For instance, the magazine *Scientific American* once ran an article highly critical of Thomas Edison's plan to combine two of his inventions—the kintoscope and the phonograph—into a new form of communication. The article was titled "Curious Inventions," and the idea which it ridiculed turned out to be the talking motion picture.

Resourcefulness and perseverance were two qualities of our ancestors that are particularly worthy of revival during this Bicentennial Year.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Legend of the Cowboy

The American cowboy is perhaps the most romanticized and misunderstood figure in history. True, most of the men who rode the range between 1865 and 1886 were tall, silent types. But they were far from the glamorous, quick-drawing heroes that Hollywood has portrayed them to be.

One western historian says "their job was more boring than romantic, more tiring than heroic." Facts support that assessment.

Most cowboys were between 18 and 25, with a grade school education at best. They drifted west after the Civil War, which uprooted countless Americans; and they took the first job they could find—herding cattle.

Cowboys earned \$25-\$40 monthly, plus room and board that consisted of a cot in a shack and a steady diet of beans and bacon. In return, they worked 18 hours a day, seven days a week, in an occupation where the difference between life and death was often determined by their ability to maneuver their horses. In fact, being dragged by horses was listed as the leading cause

of death among cowboys.

Concern for their own safety kept many cowboys from ever carrying a gun while on horseback. A fully-loaded pistol weighed over three pounds, and impeded their mobility, while a rifle often rubbed the horse's skin bare or tangled the cowboys' reins and lariats.

Cowboys began disappearing in the mid-1800s, the victims of an expanded railroad system, a succession of winter blizzards, a glutted cattle market, and the introduction of barbed wire. They may have gone completely unnoticed in history were it not for another development of the mid-1800s—the establishment of the Buffalo Bill "Wild West" show, which gave birth to the legend of the cowboys just as the cowboys themselves were fading from the scene.

Movies and television have kept the cowboys very much alive for all of us. And even though much of the image is a myth, we can still learn something from the facts about the cowboys — their courage, their love of freedom, and the satisfaction they took from a hard day's work.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Treasure Chest Under the Ice

It looks as if Antarctica, that vast continent under the southern polar ice cap, soon is to become a region of intense international competition. As a treasure chest of natural resources, it is truly one of the earth's last and richest frontiers.

A continent as large as the U.S. and Mexico combined, Antarctica was not even discovered until 1820. Earlier in this century, expeditions of scientists began conducting experiments on Antarctica, but it was not until 1960 that the first international treaty affecting it was signed. The 1960 protective treaty outlawed territorial claims; declared Antarctica a nuclear-free, demilitarized zone; but permitted extensive meteorological, geological, and oceanographic study by all nations.

The recent surge of interest in the home of the penguins came about as a result of this scientific work. Scientists also found that Antarctica and the oceans surrounding it are a rich storehouse of valuable resources.

The living resources attracting attention are the fish, lobsters, crabs, and krill which swim in the cold-water southern oceans. Krill — a finger-sized,

shrimp-like crustacean — are so plentiful that experts are saying that they are the most valuable food resource for the future. It appears to be only a matter of time before krill can be economically harvested, processed, and transported around the world.

Antarctica is also full of non-living resources. The U.S. Geological Survey recently discovered natural gas — a general indicator that oil also may be nearby. Not long ago, the prospect of drilling for gas or oil in sub-zero weather would have been unthinkable. But after the development of the Alaskan North Slope, American technology in frigid weather drilling has become the most advanced in the world. Not to be forgotten are the massive deposits of gold, silver, coal, platinum, nickel, and other precious metals that have already been discovered.

But before any mining, drilling, or fishing can be done, international ground rules must be established. Much is at stake in the quest for riches under the ice, and provisions must be set down so that the rush southward does not lead to snarls in international and scientific diplomacy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Danger of a Water Shortage

The United States must take steps to assure that, in its efforts to solve the energy problems facing our country, it does not create a water shortage. Already, some experts are predicting that such a shortage of usable water could occur within the next 15 years.

Long-range water planning, with emphasis on conservation and proper distribution, is needed, according to several authorities. They point out that the rush to guarantee an adequate supply of energy has resulted in increased experiments in nuclear power, the plants of which use enormous amounts of water.

For instance, a nuclear-fueled electric generating plant proposed for a medium-sized city in Kansas will consume an estimated 26.4 million gallons of water daily. No wonder, then, that The Water Resources Congress says that, by 1985, the United States will need to develop an additional 7 million acre-feet of consumable water just to meet the nation's energy requirements.

The areas of the country for which the experts predict the greatest potential danger are the Southwest, where there have been

water problems, and the Northeast, where the largest number of consumers live.

To avoid a water crisis, authorities suggest two specific actions.

First, they suggest expanded use of inland and coastal waterways for cargo transportation—an action that would lead to a more valuable use of the waterways, while at the same time not detracting from the rightful emphasis that is placed on the traditional means of transportation.

Second, the experts recommend that more attention be paid to the development of hydropower, a product of solar energy. Water evaporated from the land and seas by the sun returns to earth as rain or snow, and eventually flows back to the seas. Hydroelectric projects attempt to harness that flowing water and produce electricity from it. The Federal Power Commission says that the nation has the potential to produce an additional 90 million kilowatts of conventional hydroelectrical power.

Every schoolchild knows the essential nature of water, and all Americans should be concerned about its conservation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Profit Is Not a Dirty Word

The word "profit" in many circles these days conjures up snarls and expressions of distrust. It almost seems as if profit, the key indicator of success in business, has become a dirty word in the American language. This is unfortunate, since it reveals a lack of understanding of the basic tenets of economics. Many Americans apparently want to enjoy the fruits of the free enterprise system without understanding how it works.

Profits are important to business for many reasons: they indicate how effective and successful a business is operating; they can be given back to investors as dividends; they can be plowed back into improving or expanding present operations; and, most important, they are the best means of providing additional jobs.

How poorly Americans understand the profit concept was indicated by a recent poll which asked how large corporation profits were. Many Americans answered 30%, 40%, and even higher. In reality, however, the figure is much lower. A survey of the nation's 500 largest industrial corporations in 1975 revealed an average profit margin of only 3.9%, the lowest in many years.

What many people in America may not realize is

that nearly everyone's future security and welfare are dependent upon the success of the nation's corporations, companies and businesses — large and small. Retirement plans, health and life insurance, and other benefits can only be offered if businesses are making profits.

Business profits are also vital to all branches of government. In 1975, corporations paid more than \$40 billion in federal income taxes and an estimated \$6.6 billion to state and local governments. If business profits decline, so do taxes and the services that they provide for all citizens.

One of America's most noted economists, a Nobel laureate, summed up the durability and effectiveness of the profit motive in business when he wrote, "Many try, few succeed." To those who succeed, go the rewards for their hard work and the responsibility to improve their product or service for everyone's benefit.

All of us in America, no matter how far removed from the corporate or business life, have a stake in the preservation of a strong, dynamic, and healthy free-enterprise system. Profits are the lifeblood of that system. And without them, progress becomes only another word in the dictionary.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

World's Future Looks Bright

Not long ago, it was fashionable for institutes and "experts" looking into the future to paint a bleak picture. They said that the world was going to be swallowed up by the problems of diminishing resources, overpopulation, and hunger. Economic growth, capitalism, and progress were criticized and "limited growth" was hailed as the wave of the future.

But according to a detailed study conducted by a group of scientists, these past theories of gloom and despair were simply that—theories without justification. According to new scientific projections, the future for the U.S. and the world will be one of hope, progress, and an improved quality of life.

The keys to the future, according to these scientists, will come from breakthroughs in modern science and technology. Advanced techniques in mining, farming, energy, and transportation will lead to increased production and improved efficiency.

Everyone agrees that population, food, and energy are potential problem areas in the future. But with long-range planning and research, each may be managed before a crisis develops.

Population rates around the world have been showing declines in recent years. Vast agricultural projects are already underway to reclaim land from the deserts, harvest food from the sea, improve present cultivation techniques, and produce higher-yielding crops. The goal is to put to use the nearly three-quarters of the earth's surface not presently being cultivated.

Fossil fuels and nuclear energy will continue to share the energy burden throughout the century, until advancements in solar, geothermal, and heat transfer projects are available to meet increased demands.

By the year 2000, projections show that the U.S. will have a GNP of over \$4 trillion. Rich and poor nations alike will enjoy steady growth as a result of new industrial techniques.

All of this does not mean that the future will be completely peaceful and harmonious. But it does show that the needs of the future can be adequately met through ingenuity, enterprise, and hard work. Nations and societies will be called upon to adapt to changing conditions and demands—something the world has been doing since creation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Where the Jobs Will Be

For young Americans about to make a choice on a career, the next few years will be very important ones. Whether enrolling in school or learning a trade, they will be charting a course they will follow for many years. With such important decisions to be made, it is helpful to know what the future will hold in various career fields.

The Department of Labor's *Occupational Outlook Handbook in Brief (1976-1977 Edition)*, available at most schools and libraries, analyzes the job market through 1985. With an eye to those who will be entering the work force in the next decade, the Handbook surveys 275 occupational fields.

Through the mid-1980's, the Handbook says we can expect a continuation of the rapid growth of white-collar and service jobs, a slower than average growth of blue-collar occupations, and a further decline in the number of farm workers. The demand for college graduates will continue to decline, but persons with vocational training will find increased opportunities.

Some of the most promising career fields for the next decade will be in accounting, engineering, food and hotel/motel manage-

ment, banking, mechanics, airlines, and science. One general area with a particularly bright future is the health and medical care field. With the number of hospitals and health care facilities increasing every year, the demand for more nurses, doctors, medical clerks, therapists, and lab technicians will grow steadily.

Of the vocational and technical areas which will expand, the computer, communications, and construction industries will offer excellent opportunities for those soon to enter the labor market.

The Handbook cautions those thinking of entering liberal arts fields such as law, history, and political science. Over the next decade, these fields will be flooded with many well-qualified people.

Most counselors recommend examining a career field for its pitfalls and benefits before making any long-range plans. Since career decisions can involve considerable expenditures of time and money, a little planning can pay off handsomely in the long run. The rewards of a successful career choice usually go to those who scrutinize the field wisely and with a little bit of foresight.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Weaknesses Plague Soviet Economy

One barometer for judging the strength of a country is to examine its economic system. When it comes to the Soviet Union, it is crucial for our national officials to have a thorough understanding of how effectively their economy is developing. A new Congressional study recently completed has reaffirmed the view that the Soviet economy, although large and productive, has some very serious weaknesses which cannot long be overlooked.

Periodically, Congress' Joint Economic Committee compiles a detailed study of the Soviet centralized economy to keep an eye on developments in science, industry, technology, and foreign trade. This most recent study says that although the Soviets have made some steady gains, growth has not been coordinated or necessarily beneficial. More cars and trucks are being manufactured, but roads are in miserable condition. Service stations and spare parts are virtually nonexistent. More meat is being produced, but poor transportation and inadequate storage have led to costly waste and spoilage. More housing is being built, but it is of inferior quality and deteriorates rapidly.

The past few years have not been notably good ones

for the Soviet leaders. They have had two disastrous harvests; inflation has cost them dearly; they have a serious international balance of payments problem; and their overall growth rate has been meager.

The Soviet Union is fortunate to have an abundance of natural resources, such as oil, natural gas, and minerals. However, it would require enormous investments to exploit these resources, and all branches of the Soviet economy are already stretched to the limit. Added to their problems is a serious manpower shortage which demographers say will only get worse.

Overall, the Soviet economy is limping along, but is making few advancements in the critical, high-technology areas vital to steady and long-term growth. Typically, the Soviet leadership is hesitant to undertake reforms or de-emphasize its heavy military burden.

The Joint Economic study is a valuable guide to understanding the severe economic problems confronting the Soviet leaders who have inflicted grievous burdens upon their people for years. As the study proves, no totalitarian system—no matter how powerful or large—can alter the basic economic facts of life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping the Past Alive

Sparked by a renewed interest in America's past, there has been a spirited nationwide effort to preserve the nation's historic landmarks. In recent years, many old homes, post offices, libraries, and municipal buildings previously threatened with destruction have been saved.

America's rich cultural heritage is preserved in more than the historical documents stored in our archives and libraries. Just as relevant to the nation's past are the countless homes, factories, and markets where earlier generations lived and worked. Over the years, many of these old buildings were torn down in the rush to modernize. However, by doing so, unique artifacts of Americana were lost forever. But no more. Thanks to an enthusiastic outpouring from local, state, and national officials, many of these historic sites have been preserved.

Much credit for this nationwide movement stems from the creation in 1966 of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Chartered by an Act of Congress, the Trust is a private, non-profit corporation designed to work for public and private preservation. The Trust maintains a National Register of Historic Places and currently lists more than 12,000 national historical landmarks.

Some of the sites that have been preserved are the Quincy Market and Old City Hall in Boston, the Decatur House and Woodrow Wilson's home in Washington, and the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco where the second Presidential debate was held.

But the Trust is interested in more than saving old buildings. It also has been instrumental in preserving ghost towns in the West, lighthouses on both coasts, and numerous railroad stations, canals, and warehouses which played important roles in the daily lives of earlier Americans.

Trust officials say that the most encouraging feature of the entire preservation movement is that it springs from the grass roots. Local community leaders who are working to maintain the historical integrity of their communities are eager to preserve local landmarks for future generations.

Historical roots are important to a neighborhood and to a nation. Although our daily lives are geared to working for the future, we must not overlook the past. Our national architectural landmarks are an intrinsic part of America and are as irreplaceable as the documents which declared our independence and established our constitutional liberties.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Riches From the Oceans

After thirty years of post-World War II industrialization, critical natural resources—oil, natural gas, and minerals—are becoming scarce. High-grade minerals are rapidly being depleted, and the known reserves are low-grade or located in far-away regions of the world. Meanwhile, the search is on around the world to locate the remaining reserves necessary for the future.

More than 70 percent of the earth's surface is covered by the ocean floor. Until recently, exploitation of the undersea resources was dismissed as too risky and expensive. But with the need for higher-grade resources has come the incentive to experiment with undersea mining technology.

The U.S. has an early lead in this area, having started off-shore drilling near the Louisiana coast in 1947. The gradual slope of the Gulf Coast seabed allowed technologists to develop systematically their underwater rigs. With the technology developed by American engineers, off-shore drilling in 1975 increased to nearly 20 percent of the daily world petroleum production.

But industry is not stopping with oil and natural gas drilling. Large concentrations of precious manganese, nickel, copper, and cobalt have already been located on the ocean floor

and preliminary recovery operations have been successful. Rich deposits of manganese have been found in the North Pacific in a narrow band south of Hawaii where the ocean floor is about 5000 meters deep.

The U.S. is heavily dependent on the metals contained in the manganese deposits. We do not domestically mine either manganese or cobalt, and our nickel production supplies less than 10 percent of our national needs.

The U.S. Bureau of Mines, the Geological Survey, and the National Science Foundation have been experimenting with undersea recovery operations and are planning on expanding their programs in the future. International competition will be keen as more nations become involved in marine mining.

Because marine equipment is very expensive, many Western nations have already formed teams or consortia to conduct undersea experiments. These international consortia may establish precedents for the future so that many nations can benefit.

We are fortunate that American scientists and engineers have anticipated the need for undersea mining. They have proved that we must always be seeking new frontiers to meet our critical national needs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

American Nobel Prize Winners

The Nobel prize is recognized as one of the most prestigious international awards in the fields of arts and sciences. Begun in 1901 in accordance with the will of the Swedish chemist, Alfred Nobel, the annual prizes are awarded to those individuals considered the world's leading authorities in their professions.

Nobel prizes are awarded in six categories: physics, medicine, chemistry, literature, economics, and peace. Although the awards have not always been given in all categories or in each year, Americans have been frequent recipients of the highly regarded prize. The post-World War II years have been notably good ones for Americans.

Twenty six of the physics laureates in the past twenty years have gone to Americans, and the U.S. has twice captured the three science awards in one year. In medicine, Americans have won or shared the prize for twenty eight years. Although the economics category was not added until 1969, five Americans have won or shared the prize in the eight years the award has been given.

To this distinguished record was added a new and more impressive honor in

1976 when the Swedish academies announced that all six awards for the year would go to Americans. This unique achievement has never occurred before in the 75-year history of the Nobel prize.

The seven Americans who won or shared the 1976 Nobel prizes live and work in many regions of the U.S. The economics and literature awards went to two residents of Chicago, the chemistry prize to a scientist in Massachusetts, the physics awards to two professors working in California and Massachusetts, and the medicine awards to doctors in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The American sweep of the Nobel prizes in 1976 can be interpreted in several ways. America has long been known as the land of opportunity. The Nobel prizes prove that America is the land where it is possible to excel in any chosen profession.

The American tradition of the pursuit of excellence is well-known. The Nobel prizes for 1976 are meaningful, but they are only a symbol of America's resourcefulness and creativity. The nation's talents are many, but need not receive awards to be appreciated.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Agriculture

One of America's greatest success stories is her bountiful agriculture, and the manifold benefits it brings to everyone. Responsibility for this success goes to many people—those who work the land, sell the machinery, transport the produce, and market it in the stores. American agriculture is truly a national effort, with each state contributing in its own way.

West Virginia's role in agriculture is a diverse and generous one. There are 26,500 farms throughout the state on which are grown or raised a wide variety of crops, animals, and poultry. In 1975, total marketing from farming was \$100 million from livestock and poultry and \$43 million from crops. The leading commodities produced in the state were dairy products, \$29 million; cattle, \$22 million; apples, \$21 million; broilers, \$12 million; and eggs, \$12 million.

West Virginia dairymen received \$27 million for wholesale milk in 1975—up \$1 million from the previous year; and poultry raisers sold \$15 million in broilers, compared with \$13 million in 1974.

Corn is the principal feed grain grown in West Virginia, and farmers were expected to harvest 5.1 million bushels of corn in 1976, with an average yield

of 80 bushels an acre.

The federal government continues to play an active role in West Virginia via several channels. The Farmers Home Administration made loans and grants of \$93 million in 1975 for rural development, and the Rural Electrification Program made loans to serve 4,055 rural customers. Other federal programs in West Virginia are the Agricultural Conservation, Commodity Disaster, School Lunch, and the Watershed Protection and Flood Protection programs.

Agriculture is an enterprise which rewards individual initiative, hard work, and perseverance and can flourish only in a capitalistic system. American agriculture is the greatest single contributor of new wealth in the country and with related industries, employs one out of every four people in America. Without question, our agriculture is the world's most efficient and productive and is the envy of the rest of the world.

The rewards that agriculture has brought to America are many. Part of the success can be attributed to the smooth working of its many parts. West Virginians continue to play an active role in that success story, and it is one in which they deservedly can take special pride.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Streamlining the Bureaucracies

One general law of physics states that once an object is at rest or set in motion, it will stay at rest or in motion until an outside force acts upon it. This physical property is called "inertia," and it seems to apply as well to certain government programs as it does in the physics laboratory.

Once a government program is instituted, "bureaucratic inertia" will tend to keep it going. This may be all right for those programs that satisfy continuing needs, but what about those that have outlived their usefulness? What is needed is an effective way to identify those programs and eliminate them. In that way, government could be streamlined.

But part of the problem is finding an efficient means of reviewing all government programs. One method receiving serious attention is the "zero-base budgeting" system.

As it applies to the federal government, zero-base budgeting—or "sunset provision" as it is also called—would require most government programs to be reviewed systematically by the Congress. On a rotating five-year schedule, Congress would select one broad government responsibility per year, such as education, transportation,

or welfare, and conduct an item-by-item review of all government programs in that area. Once identified, the superfluous programs could be eliminated from the federal budget.

The goal of a zero-base budgeting system would be to exercise greater control over the thousands of individual programs which make up the budget. It is but one of the management techniques being studied to determine their effectiveness and feasibility at the federal level.

Government and business both have grown rapidly in recent years. The American economy has more than doubled in the last ten years—from a GNP, in 1965, of \$680 billion to more than \$1.7 trillion in 1976. In that same period, the number of local, state, and federal civilian employees has increased from 10.6 million to 15.2 million, with nearly all of this increase at the state and local levels.

The demands of the future will require government and business officials to exercise skillful management practices. Whether the goal is proficient government or successful private enterprise, efficiency and economy are ingredients that cannot be ignored in today's world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Americans Go to the Polls

Political analysts are busily studying the figures for the November 1976 election, taking the many pieces and putting them together to understand better the results. Such work is important, and the statistics will be studied and interpreted by political scientists, government officials, and voters for years.

Some of the statistics were encouraging, others not nearly so. More Americans, 79,631,852, voted in this Presidential election than had ever voted before. However, this was only 54.3% of the voting age population, and represented a further decline in eligible voters participating that began in 1960 when 63.8% of the eligible voters voted. The 54.3% turnout in November also was the lowest percentage in a Presidential election year since 1948.

At the Presidential level, Governor Carter won the electoral college vote with 297 votes, only 27 above the 270 necessary to win. This was the lowest electoral margin since 1916 when Woodrow Wilson won by only 23 electoral votes.

The margin of victory was so close that a switch of 8,000 votes in two states would have given the vic-

tory to President Ford. On the other hand, if Governor Carter had gained 70,000 votes in eight states that he lost, his electoral margin would have been 67 votes.

In West Virginia, 741,416 went to the polls out of 1,278,000 eligible to vote. This represented a turnout of 58.0% of the voting age population, nearly 4% above the national average.

Voters across the nation also elected 17 new Senators, 63 new Congressmen, and 12 new Governors.

America's declining percentage of voters voting compares unfavorably with the turnout in national elections in other democratic countries. In 1976, 93.2% of the electorate voted in Italy; in Sweden, 90.1%; and in West Germany, 91.1%. In national elections in 1974, 73% voted in Great Britain and 83.4% went to the polls in France.

There are few freedoms in this country that should be treated more reverently than the freedom to vote. It is a privilege that is denied to millions around the world, and, once lost, is almost never regained. But when discharged with deliberation and wisdom, it has the potential to change the course of history.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making the Metric Changeover

It may not be too long before people start talking about how many kilometers their new car gets to the liter, or how many grams of meat they bought at the supermarket. America, after holding out for nearly 200 years, is converting—ever slowly and cautiously—to the worldwide metric system.

The metric system uses a base of 10 and is patterned after the French units of weights and measures adopted in the 18th century. The basic units are grams, meters, and liters. Each measurement, progressively smaller or larger, bears the prefix deci-, centi-, milli-; or deka-, hecto-, kilo-, respectively. Although it may seem complicated, the metric system is used extensively throughout the world, and in some of the scientific, business, and education communities in this country.

The system we use in America dates back to the early days of the Republic and was based upon the then prevailing British system. However, even at that time the French metric system was being used, and George Washington addressed the conversion issue in his first message to the Congress in 1790. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson also advocated

conversion but were likewise unsuccessful. The U.S., in 1875, went so far as to sign the Treaty of the Meter, but the country never quite got around to converting.

On December 23, 1975, the President signed into law the Metric Conversion Act which established as a national policy the conversion to metrics on a voluntary basis. This legislation was supported by a wide variety of businessmen, educators, and scientists who endorsed the uniform metric system.

The metric changeover has already begun. Some of the country's largest retailers are marking their merchandise in both systems, and individual states have erected metric road signs. Several states have metric conversion bills before their legislatures as the gradual move to conversion continues.

Along with jet travel and instantaneous communications, metric conversion is an example of how much closer distant parts of the globe are becoming. The national plan to go metric on a voluntary basis is a wise and prudent method. That way, each section of the country and every sector in American life will adopt it when it is ready—and not before.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting America's Leaders

Around the clock and around the world, a well-equipped and highly trained force of American security officers is working to protect the President and other government officials whose lives might be in danger because of their position. As members of the U.S. Secret Service, they act as bodyguards at a time when the world is becoming accustomed to blatant acts of political terrorism and blackmail.

Organized in 1901 to protect Theodore Roosevelt after the assassination of President McKinley, the Secret Service has grown in number and duties over the years. Originally authorized to guard only the President, the Service now offers similar protection to his family, the Vice-President, the President-elect, Presidential candidates, certain Cabinet members, and visiting foreign dignitaries.

As a branch of the Treasury Department, the Secret Service employs people of diverse technical and professional backgrounds and uses the most advanced communications and electronic equipment. Nevertheless, iron clad protection is not humanly possible; but the Service works to identify the individuals and those hazardous situations which could pose a threat.

To accomplish this, the Service examines every detail of the President's or

other official's schedule. Service agents walk through each area he will be in and look for potentially dangerous circumstances. The Service also screens a reported 200,000 items of information and interviews 4,000 suspects each year to identify those people who might attempt a hostile act.

But guarding political and foreign officials is not the Service's sole responsibility; for example, its agents protected the priceless Mona Lisa when it came to this country as a gift from the government of France.

Due to the nature of its work, much of what the Secret Service does is never reported. Its meticulous searching, interviewing, and investigating pay off only when nothing happens. The Service prefers it this way so that its methods and techniques are not compromised.

Atrocious acts of terrorism have reached dangerous levels in recent years. Political officials, Olympic athletes, members of prominent families, and businessmen have been kidnapped and even murdered. Not to take action against this threat would be negligent and irresponsible. Unless the government offers protection, it is leaving to the deranged fanatic the opportunity of using terror and blackmail to disrupt the flow of history.

JAN 12 1977



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Russia's Severe Housing Problem

There is probably no aspect of life in the Soviet Union which portrays better the confusion, inefficiency, and waste in that country than the chronic housing shortage. Scholars, journalists, and travelers have described it often, and few dispute the view that Soviet housing is the poorest of any industrialized nation.

Poor housing has been as much a part of life in Russia as rigid totalitarian rule. In earlier times, those living in the countryside existed in small huts, many of which are still in use. In the cities, the little housing available was overcrowded, unsanitary, and poorly heated. There were only modest improvements in these conditions until the mid-1950's when the Soviet government initiated mammoth housing projects to meet the needs of the new class of urbanized industrial workers. But even after more than 20 years of high-priority attention, housing is still limited and substandard.

For the overwhelming majority of Soviet citizens, housing consists of one or two small rooms with kitchen and bathroom facilities shared with neighbors. Most families live in communal or high-rise apartments whose services are notori-

ously inefficient. One recent newspaper story said that 60 percent of all apartments in Moscow do not have hot water.

Housing in major cities is so limited that even after marriage, divorce, or births change the family configuration, the family members must remain together in their old apartment, no matter how crowded or inconvenient it is.

Soviet newspapers frequently print articles and letters critical of the housing situation. Soviet citizens air their complaints readily, but their appeals appear to be futile expressions of frustration and despair. High level sources have voiced their concern, but the old problems remain — poor construction techniques, shoddy materials, and inadequate maintenance and inspection.

The housing problem is but one of many examples of how callously the Soviet government treats its own citizens. Whether in matters of privacy, freedom, or simple comfort, the Soviet rulers have inflicted enormous burdens and sacrifices upon their citizenry which appear to have little chance of being relieved. It is a high price for people to have to pay, and one that surely would not be borne if the choice were voluntary.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Weapon for the Future

Since 1972, our weapons designers have been testing a new missile which has the potential to be our most promising weapon for the future. Small, cheap, and deadly, the cruise missile has been impressive in flight tests, and many say it has the ability to move us further ahead of the Soviet Union in strategic weapons capability.

Cruise missiles are small, unmanned, torpedo-shaped aircraft which can be programmed to fly a predetermined flight plan. The Germans flew a primitive version as V-1 "buzz bombs" against Britain in World War II, and American military engineers have been experimenting with them ever since. Earlier models were too heavy, slow, and unreliable. However, recent advances in miniature circuitry and guidance systems have proved to be the technological breakthroughs scientists have been waiting for.

Versatility is the main factor which makes the cruise missile such a promising weapon for the future. It can deliver conventional or nuclear weapons and be carried on board aircraft, ships, submarines, or on trucks and trains.

One of the most sophisticated features of the missile is its guidance system. Called TERCOM, it allows a computer to guide the

missile away from enemy defenses and escape radar detection. This guidance system has been so accurate that test missiles have hit their targets within 30 feet of the center.

Cruise missiles are also relatively inexpensive. Costing less than \$500,000, thousands of them could be produced at a fraction of the cost of existing high performance bombers or missiles. Approximately 180 cruise missiles could be produced for the cost of a single B-1 bomber.

The Air Force and Navy are testing separate versions of the cruise missile, both of which measure less than 20 feet in length. If future testing is successful, they could be adding it to their weapons arsenals by the early 1980's.

The sophisticated nature of the cruise missile is a testimony to American electronics and weapons specialists who are working to keep us ahead in strategic planning. The peace of the world depends upon American preparedness and ability to respond to any military situation. To maintain that capability, we must continue to devote our finest resources and talents in the wisest and most productive manner—just as we have done in developing the cruise missile.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Students Lack Government Knowledge

Teenagers can be virtual jukeboxes when it comes to recalling the words of the latest hit tunes, or the steps to new dances.

It's certainly not unusual for a 17-year-old to rattle off Pete Rose's batting average with swift, computer-like accuracy.

But what about his knowledge of American government? A survey conducted by the National Assessment of Educational Progress is alarming.

Though they are within a year of being eligible to vote, 47 percent of the country's 17-year-olds apparently do not know a basic fact of the American political process—that each state has two United States Senators.

The survey, part of the Federal Government's largest continuing educational research project, attempted to learn the political knowledge of 13- and 17-year-old students. The National Assessment of Educational Progress polled 2,500 students, and the results of the sampling were projected for the entire population

at the two ages.

If the sampling is on target, it shows basic misunderstandings about the American system in which these young people are about to participate.

For example, half the 13-year-olds think it is against the law to start a new political party. One of eight 17-year-olds believes the President is not required to obey the law.

Furthermore, 20 percent of the 17-year-olds believe the United States is the only country with political parties. Also among the 17-year-olds, 29 percent did not know that state governments usually do not make laws about military service.

The tragedy, I believe, is that this lack of knowledge about government is not merely a malady of our youth.

Given the same questions, Dr. Evon M. Kirkpatrick, executive director of the American Political Science Association, says he believes adults would also be given a poor report card.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Renewed Unity

One of the most difficult things for people in other nations to understand about Americans is our political system. They see and hear our campaigns on television and radio. They are often puzzled about the noisy confrontation and angry words heard during our election years.

In today's world, when so many other nations are dependent on our economic and political stability, this American "sideshow" is of more than passing interest. What is said and done in the United States concerns people everywhere. In the past few years the tensions and problems of our own nation quickly became a part of international tensions.

That is why the amities demonstrated by both Mr. Carter and Mr. Ford during our recent change in administration were so important and valuable. When the new President walked from Blair House to the White House on the morning of January 20, President and Mrs. Ford greeted him and his family at the front door with warmth and courtesy.

At the inaugural ceremony a few hours later, Jimmy Carter spoke his first words as President by thanking Gerald Ford for his service to all Amer-

icans during a time of national crisis. President Ford was obviously moved by the thoughtfulness of the new man at the head of our government. As he rose to shake President Carter's hand, the whole world could see the dignity and decency of these two American leaders. I am sure that the symbolism of that kindness was not lost on either our friends or our enemies abroad. It was clear to the world that Americans—regardless of political party affiliation—stood together with renewed strength and pride.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said that the difference between barbarism and civilization was only a matter of degrees. I think we can be proud of the "degree" of civilization which we saw displayed in our nation's capital on January 20. Here, at least, orderly change can take place through the democratic process with good will and a generous spirit. The leaders of two great political parties have been the first to demonstrate the renewed spirit of America which we are all able to share. More than anything else, that spirit will help us all to contribute to the stable growth of a peaceful world in the years immediately ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Growing Unrest in Eastern Europe

From the Baltic Sea in the north to the Czechoslovakian border in the south, the East German communist government is erecting another "Iron Curtain" to keep its citizens from defecting to the West. This nearly impenetrable wall of mine fields, concrete walls, electronic sensors, and armed-guard towers is a further extension of the ugly and despised Berlin Wall built in 1961.

The construction of this great barrier reflects the growing insecurity of the East German and Soviet leaders who are fearful of the unrest in Eastern Europe. Many observers report that this unrest and discontent have reached crisis proportions and could erupt at any time.

Dissent and rebellion are nothing new in the Soviet satellites. Bloody uprisings occurred in East Germany in 1953 and Hungary in 1956.

Last year, food riots swept Poland and nearly toppled the government. Public opposition has not subsided, and the political climate remains tense.

In East Germany itself, the government was shocked recently when thousands of supposedly loyal and docile citizens boldly

applied for emigration to the West under the terms of the Helsinki agreement. The government refused the requests and had to obtain extra Soviet secret police to quell disturbances.

Much of the current discontent in some parts of Eastern Europe stems from the bleak economic situation found there. The Soviets have drained the economies of satellite countries to bolster their own economy. Added to this is the new burden of a debt of more than \$40 billion that the governments have built up to purchase goods from the West. For the average Eastern European, this has meant higher prices and continued shortages with no relief in sight.

The forecast for Eastern Europe does not appear bright. The Soviets apparently are willing to maintain nearly one million troops in uniform in that area just to keep order. However, the problem is not one that troops can solve. The problem stems from a political and economic system and ideology that fail to take into account the popular will and genuine human aspirations. The result is another sign of the bankruptcy of communism.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Look at the American Family

Twenty-five years ago, only one mother in four was working outside the home. Today, more than half of all mothers of school-age children are working.

Divorces have almost tripled in that same period. The number of illegitimate births has increased from four percent to ten percent—and most of that increase is due to babies born to teenagers. Tragically, it is not uncommon today for a mother to desert her home—or for both parents to refuse custody of the children in a divorce case. Child abuse is an increasingly serious national problem.

Crime committed by juveniles is growing at a higher rate than crime by any other segment of our population. Arrests of juveniles for murder, rape, and robbery are up more than 200 percent in the last fifteen years.

There has been a serious decline in the academic ability of our youngsters. Average scores for college entrance examinations in the last fifteen years have gone down 44 points in verbal skills and 30 points in mathematical skills.

All of these disturbing

trends are now being tied to the disintegration of the family, especially in our cities and suburban areas. In looking for causes, social analysts point to changing attitudes toward children, to the increased pressures on the time of adult family members, and to the decrease in time spent by parents with their children. These researchers suggest that we have encouraged an over-emphasis on the individual, with a parallel lack of commitment to the family—especially to children. “Too much TV, too few family picnics”—that is the kind of comment which these researchers are making.

Fortunately, there are still many small cities and rural areas where the family is important and vital. Parents there are involved in the moral and academic development of children. The existence of these old-fashioned families is a healthy antidote to the discouraging statistics of recent years. As we look for ways to turn those statistics around, I am happy to note that sociologists are once again recognizing the power of the family in developing the character and strength of the next generation of American citizens.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Our Runaway Energy Appetite

More than 1.5 million men and women are out of work as a result of the shortage of natural gas and the severity of our winter. Nearly 100 people are dead. Most of us have undergone at least some discomfort in the last few weeks, in our efforts to keep working, to keep going to school, or just to keep warm.

As a result of this difficult struggle, we are all searching for better ways to conserve our resources—especially our limited energy resources. Once again, we must face up to the reality of our enormous energy appetite. We must strive to be conservationists, and re-learn some of the commonsense ways in which our parents and grandparents saved both money and energy.

How does the average family spend its energy dollars? Most of our energy spending is in our automobiles—twenty-eight percent. If every family in the nation took one less trip in the car every week, the nation would save almost 3 billion gallons of gasoline and more than \$1 billion a year! Smaller cars, carpooling to work, walking when possible—all of those simple conservation ideas have been talked about, but we Americans have not been very successful in changing our habits.

In our houses we spend another twenty-eight percent of our energy money just for heating our rooms, with appliances and water heating taking another nine percent. Energy experts at the Federal Energy Administration, at HUD and at ERDA, have pinpointed some simple and basic things which we can do to save both dollars and energy at home. A lot of those ideas are old-fashioned ideas which our forefathers used to great advantage, but which we have neglected in recent years. Attic and floor insulation; basement insulation; weather-stripping doors and caulking windows and joints; wrapping ducts and pipes with fiberglass blankets; checking on the efficiency of furnaces, thermostats, and fireplace dampers; closing off unused rooms—all of those very simple steps can be a better investment than the stock market in dollar returns. In addition, they will help measurably in meeting the energy shortfall we face in the years ahead.

As worried as we are over the current hard winter, I think the long-term effect of our difficulties this year may be very valuable. We are being forced to go on an energy diet—and that may make us a much leaner and healthier nation in the long run!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Weather Warnings Affect Our Food Policy

For years we heard about a 'future' energy shortage. Most people only paid attention to those predictions when gasoline prices shot up, or when an electricity shortage caused a power failure in one of our cities. Recently, we again paid attention as the natural gas shortage made headlines in our Northeastern states.

The new Administration is moving quickly to formulate a realistic national energy policy, at last. We must examine our alternatives and make tough decisions about energy consumption. That is the responsible approach for America to take, and action is needed on this serious problem.

There is another possible future problem about which we have begun to receive warnings. That problem concerns food production, food shortage, and food demands and needs in an overpopulated world.

Two years ago, the CIA released a report concerning the serious implications of current trends in population growth, food production around the world, and changes in world weather. CIA analysis revealed that many climatologists are predicting a cooling trend which could drastically affect the production of food, and which could bring tragic threats of famine to many less developed countries. Unfortunately, not many Americans heard about that CIA report. We should think about what

its message could mean to us.

Even if weather remains about the same in the next fifty years, the United States will become more and more influential and important as a food exporter. We are the leading grain exporter today, and our ability to increase production is unique even among developed nations. Our agricultural lands are vast, and they lie within a weather zone which could still produce, even if world temperature changed a few degrees. However, Canada, the Soviet Union, China, and other major food producers would be severely affected and would probably not be able to feed their own populations. Smaller countries, where population growth is not yet controlled, could face tragedy.

We would be forced to make life-and-death decisions about where to send or sell our surplus commodities. Even with large increases in our output, we could not satisfy all demands.

This means that our national food policy must include all the available information about food-population balance and possible weather changes. We must think seriously about what this threat could mean to the world balance of power and to our own security. Our experience with energy needs has taught us how important even a temporary shortage can be. A world food shortage could be catastrophic.

MAR 9 1977



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Starring Role for the Lowly Potato

In the sixteenth century, Spanish explorers in South America discovered a new kind of food—a vegetable which grew profusely underground, which could be stored for long periods of time, and which tasted just fine—either boiled or baked.

Fortunately for the world, those early adventurers found room to pack a few potatoes along with the gold and Inca treasures they took home. The rulers were delighted to get the gold—and farmers were glad to get the potatoes!

That introduction of a new, fast-growing food staple to the diet of Europeans made a real difference. For the first time, a farmer with a very small piece of land could grow enough food for a large family. Historians still argue over whether or not the plain old potato sparked the industrial revolution as a result of the population growth!

We all know that the potato changed the history of Ireland. We don't often remember that it was important to the history of the United States, as well. For the colonists and pioneers, this good staple became as American as apple pie!

The real power of the

potato lies in its high protein content per acre of food produced. In a protein scale used by most world food planners, eggs receive a perfect score of 100, most meat scores in the 80's, and the potato rates at 71—higher than wheat or rice or beans. An acre of potatoes will fill seven people's protein needs for a year—an acre of wheat only feeds three!

In recent years, the potato has had to fight snob-bishness. "Just plain potatoes" have been replaced by exotic pastas and oriental rices. Now, however, our old friend, the potato, is coming into the limelight again. *The New York Times* has reported that explorers in Peru are searching for ancient Inca treasure—a blight-free potato which will grow even in hot climates. One researcher believes he has found that treasure, and is testing it at the International Potato Center.

If he is right, the lowly potato will once again make history around the globe. In West Virginia, farmers who have worked hard to develop stronger and better potato strains may suddenly find that coal is not the only treasure in our West Virginia soil!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

What Is the Value of Work?

Chief Justice Earl Warren is reported to have said that he always read the sports page of the newspaper first. On the sports page, he claimed, he could read about man's victories. On the front page, he had to read about our defeats!

I think most of us can understand what he meant by that remark. Our newspapers have been more than usually full of bad news in recent months—bad news about the weather, about jobs, about inflation, about our economic future. We are all a little tired of that kind of news.

That is why I was interested to see some good news recently being reported from two groups which do not always agree. Both the *AFL-CIO News* and the *Voice of Business*, a publication of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, have reported on the recent study by an international bank comparing the real purchasing power of people in nations around the world.

In spite of what one may have read on the front pages recently, it turns out that we Americans still have the highest standard of living in the world—and the best buying power of people anywhere.

There are various ways to measure wealth. If we simply divide the gross national product by the number of people in a

country, we discover what the per-person income is. That is not a very realistic way to measure one's real income, however. It does not tell anything about what can be bought with income.

A better way is to consider the cost of a typical package of goods and services which a family would need—and the number of hours one must work to buy that package.

When those figures are compared, the United States is "clearly in the lead of the purchasing power comparison" according to the study reported in both business and labor newspapers. Four American cities led all other cities in the world in the value of goods which could be purchased per hour of work performed.

Of course, American prices are not the lowest in the world—but American salaries and wages are near the top. We are able to provide more for less work, as a result. In addition, we probably have a greater selection of goods available from which to choose than do people in most other nations.

This is a good thing to remember the next time the front page is discouraging. Most Americans work hard—but here in America that is worth more to the worker than in most other places in the world!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The End of Recess

The Oxford English Dictionary lists eleven definitions for the noun *recess*; it can mean "the act of departing," "the act of retiring," "the act of leaving a job," "a delay," "a secret hiding place," "the act of going backward," "a dislike or distrust," "a remote part of something," "an indentation," or "an agreement or convention."

None of those definitions fits the period when Congress is not in session—although historically we have always called that period a Congressional Recess. It was once a good word to describe what happened when Congress adjourned. The job of a Senator or a Congressman was only a part-time avocation in the old days, and, when Congress was not meeting, the representative rushed home to run his farm or business.

Now, of course, that is impossible. A Senator is required to do many hours of work off the floor, even when the Senate is not meeting. He must find time to absorb reports, statistics, legislative ideas, research papers, or analyses of current problems. He must find time to do Committee work, hold hearings, or meet with his colleagues on legislative questions. He always has office work to catch up on, and he must find time to respond

to the thousands of letters and requests from constituents at home.

If possible, a Senator likes to use these so-called "recess" periods to meet with Federal agency people or to go home to talk directly with citizens in his state concerning federal programs or problems which can be addressed through federal assistance. For instance, during the last such period I met with Administration officials concerning the problems of West Virginia fruit growers. I also used the period to meet with the nominee for Assistant Secretary of Labor concerning the backlog of pending black lung cases in our state.

Clearly, when Congress is not actively working on the floor on legislation, Senators are not taking 'a recess.' Those days are often twelve- and fourteen-hour work days. For that reason, the Senate decided this year to give those periods a more realistic name: "Non-Legislative Days." It is our hope that this will make it easier for the public to understand the job of a Senator. Simple language can do a lot to help us to communicate with one another more successfully.

The old-fashioned "Congressional Recess" has thus become a part of history.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Space Spin-Off and Moon Magic

Even though radio carried the NASA story to the remotest corners of the earth, people in less developed countries looked at the moon—and found the story of a man's trip there impossible to believe. "Too much magic!" one man said.

Even for those of us who believe it happened, there are questions. Why did we do it? Was it worth the billions of dollars invested?

Most Americans could not answer those questions. They have heard about teflon—and use it every day. They are quite used to seeing the cloud cover over their own section of the earth each evening on the weatherman's portion of the news. But they wonder "Is that enough?"

The truth is that our lives have been changed forever by the spin-offs from our space adventure. NASA research has made drastic changes in our educational systems, our technology in industry, our medical capability, our understanding of our total environment—and it has already created amazing new materials and miraculous miniaturizations which we use daily.

Tires developed to run a "moon-cart" at 200 degrees below zero will incorporate the cords made super strong for a Viking lander—and your next set of

radial tires will give you 10,000 extra miles of wear.

Computer-assisted control centers in utility companies, military installations, hospitals, harbors, industrial plants—all of these are copied from the famous control-center at NASA, and they increase our ability to work efficiently.

Integrated circuitry developed for NASA can now be found in cars, in TVs, in telephones, in wrist-watches, in hand-held computers, in household appliances—creating a revolution in consumer goods. Freeze-dried foods and temperature-controlled clothing for firemen are other examples of that revolution.

Heat-condensing pipes will protect the delicate Alaskan tundra on the new oil pipeline. New systems for traffic control and sewage treatment will save billions for consumers. New medical equipment is already saving lives.

It takes 12 to 15 years for technology to become fully useful in society—and we have covered only half those years since the Apollo flight. The moon trip was more than an adventure—it was an investment in our own progress and in our future. It is already snowballing as space spin-offs appear daily in our own nation and the world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Mysterious Dulcimer

Hidden away in mountain homes throughout Appalachia, there are handcrafted musical instruments which are rich in tone and sweetness—and rich in their contribution to our American cultural mozaic. One of the most interesting of these is the West Virginia dulcimer—an instrument created and used by the people of our state for hundreds of years. It has a simplicity which makes it comfortably American and a sound and shape familiar to those of us in this part of the country. But it has a mysterious and puzzling past.

Incorporating the Greek word *melos*, meaning 'song,' the Romans used the phrase *dulce melos* to mean 'sweet song.' Traveling through the European languages to England and then to America, those words probably were the origin of our word for the instrument we play today. In England, in the year 1475, we find a description of a musical group which entertained the King with "fydle, recorder, and dowcemere." Later, Samuel Pepys, in his famous Diary, mentioned the sweetness of the "dulcimere" in the year 1662. In France, there was a similar instrument called the "doulcemer;" and, in old Italian, the word was "dolcimelo."

Yet, the instrument these words described is

not the one we recognize today as the Appalachian dulcimer. That European instrument was shaped like a trapezoid, was about 40 inches long, and 15 inches wide. It was played with wooden hammers hitting the strings, and is thought to have been the forerunner of the pianoforte. Our mountain dulcimer, of course, is rectangular, about 33 inches long, and 6 inches wide—and it is strummed or plucked or beaten with "hammers."

In colonial America, the English and the Scots brought folk instruments to the new world—probably including some of the hammered dulcimers. Later, German and Dutch immigrants brought the zither, an instrument which is very much like today's Appalachian dulcimer.

Perhaps these instruments and names became mixed. Perhaps, as artists created their own music and musical instruments, the shape of the original dulcimer changed in mountain communities. History's detectives seem to imply that our plucked dulcimer—which is sometimes called a 'dulcimore'—is a truly American creation, designed and used to accompany the lovely old ballads and songs of the mountain people. Our Appalachian dulcimer is a mixture of old and new—as we West Virginians are ourselves!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Haywire Values?

Sometimes our values seem to be out-of-focus. I was reminded of that fact by a West Virginia lady who wrote to me about the recent pay raise for top-level federal employees—including Senators. She said she thought something was "haywire" when ball-players made more money than her elected representatives in Washington.

We all know about movie stars who receive several million dollars for a few weeks' work. Many sports professionals report annual earnings in excess of \$1 million. Is their value to the public greater than that of Members of Congress? Or are our value systems out of kilter?

This year, a pay raise went into effect for Executive and Judicial officials, and for Members of Congress. Contrary to much that has been written, a vote in relation to the pay raise did occur in the Senate. The raise had been recommended by the non-partisan citizens' Commission appointed to review federal pay systems, and approved by President Ford and President Carter. The increases proposed directly affected 2,496 top-level federal employees—including federal judges, cabinet officers, and 100 Senators and 435 Congressmen, all of whom had been held at the same pay scales since 1969, except for one cost-of-living increase of 5% in 1975. Indirectly, 20,365 other employees were affected because their cost-of-living raises had been denied for

7 years, waiting for the salaries of their superiors to be raised.

During that same 7-year period, salaries for blue collar workers rose 70%; business executives, 59%; white collar workers, 55%; state and county government officials, 40%; and the cost-of-living had gone up 61%. The proposed raise—when combined with the 1975 5% increase—brought Congressional salaries up only 34% above the 1969 level.

The Congress of the United States may be likened to the Board of Directors of a \$2 trillion corporation—dwarfing any U.S. corporation by comparison. Yet, 800 top corporate executives receive annual salaries in excess of \$75,000—and of those, 100 are paid more than \$400,000 annually.

Good public servants should always bring dedication to their work. However, in today's highly technical world, the United States cannot afford anything less than the best trained minds and the most competent administrators in these jobs. A reasonable raise for these policy-level people was necessary and in the best interests of the nation.

Our political system does not intend that federal employees compete with ball players and television entertainers. However, we should insist on fair and equitable salaries for those who accept the responsibility at the top levels of our government.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Moving the Sun Indoors

For thousands of years man warmed himself in the sun—and suffered cold whenever the sun was not shining. That often meant that tribes—like migratory birds—moved south in the winter, hunting for warmer climates.

Perhaps because of that ancient memory, many people have assumed that solar energy, as it was developed to supplement our rapidly decreasing fuel supplies, would be most useful in the "sunny" states.

That idea has now been turned upside down by economic and energy experts at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratories and the University of New Mexico. In a study done for the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress, these researchers have demonstrated that solar energy for home heating will be economically practical in the cold north long before it becomes practical in the south.

Using a sophisticated computer to examine all the factors involved—hour by hour weather records, cost of solar collectors, cost of fuels, cost of loans and interest rates, transportation and building costs — the researchers proved that it is already cheaper to build homes with solar heating capabilities than to use conventional heating alone, in at least three states: Maine, Montana, and North Dakota! By 1980, only three years from now, solar

heating will be a money-saver in five more northern states, as the price of fuels rise.

Why is this so? The simple answer is that the north receives almost as much sun as the south, yet has greater heating needs. Energy fuels most commonly used in northern states must be transported from other parts of the nation, and are steadily rising in cost and scarcity.

In the JEC study, heating costs are figured on a "life-cycle" basis—that is, the cost of both fuel and installation of equipment over thirty years. For houses built today, that would include the costs in the year 2007, when shortages will have made some fuels prohibitively high-priced or non-existent.

The computer demonstrated that in thirty states—including West Virginia—it is already cheaper, on the "life cycle" basis, to install solar heating units in new homes if the other heat source is electricity. If natural gas prices were decontrolled, solar space heating would be cheaper than either oil or gas alone in at least twenty-eight states!

By 1990, less than fifteen years from now, solar heating will be the cheapest way to warm homes and heat water in most of the nation. We will no longer follow the sun, as man did in ancient times. We will have found a way to bring the sun indoors.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Misinformed Fault-Finding

A prominent Congressional historian once said, "There is always more interest in, and a wider market for, fault-finding than praise." The recent barrage of attacks on the Congress have proved that statement to be true. Banned in newsmagazines and blared over the airways, the flood of talk about so-called "Congressional perquisites" implies that "lavish" benefits are given to Members of Congress for their *personal* gain. Yet, most of the "perks" listed by critics relate to the work a Congressman or Senator is elected to do, and are not "perquisites" at all. Others are listed as "perquisites," but are really standard employee benefits, available to all federal employees.

For example, we frequently hear about the "Government - subsidized health insurance plan" for Members of Congress. This is actually the same voluntary health program that covers other federal employees. Deductions are made from the salaries of those who choose to participate — including Members of Congress. Costs and benefits are identical for all who are covered under any one plan.

Critics also complain about the "liberal retirement benefits" of Members of Congress. Actually, Members participate in the same retirement program as do other federal employees. Because of un-

certainty of continued employment (evident in November elections every other year), Members receive a slightly higher benefit for each year of service—but they contribute a higher percentage of salary than do other federal employees. Members, moreover, have no career status, no severance pay, no unemployment compensation, and no appeal rights, as do other employees.

A third complaint is sometimes heard about "free emergency medical care by Capitol Hill physicians." The Capitol Hill Physician's office is manned by three attending physicians. It provides medical and emergency care for Members and staff, for Congressional Pages and Capitol Policemen, and, in the event of illness or injury, for any of the 4 million annual visitors to the Capitol. Such medical facilities are both a wise and common provision in most corporate or industrial offices, wherever men and women work long hours under strain.

Criticism, when it is justified, leads to constructive reforms, but half-truths merely foster misconceptions and distrust. It is essential to rebuild public confidence in government, but if the people's perception of their Congress is influenced by misinformation and distortions of fact, the rebuilding of public confidence will be infinitely more difficult.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting 'Perks' in Perspective

Webster defines a perquisite as a "privilege, gain or profit incidental to regular salary or wages." In other words, a perquisite is something which brings one *personal* profit.

However, during the current "open season" on criticism of the Congress, many newspapers and magazines have repeatedly listed as "lavish benefits" and "taxpayer-supported perquisites" items which do not personally profit a Member of Congress at all. Instead, these "perks" are part of the normal costs of doing the people's business.

For example, some critics have complained that Senators and Congressmen have "rent-free offices with liberal furniture allowances." The furniture, equipment, and offices used by Members are all owned by the government, of course. The public's business could not be conducted on the Capitol lawn; Members of Congress — most of whom must maintain two residences, one in Washington and one in their home state — could not afford, and should not be expected to pay for, office and furniture-rental costs in order to do their jobs.

There has been talk of staff allowances "mushrooming . . . up to \$902,301." That statement is a good example of a "half-truth" which misleads the public. Only the Senators from our most populous

state—California—get the top allowance. The average Senatorial allowance for 1977 is \$482,233. As the workload for Members of Congress has grown, the need for competent staff has also grown. In the first Senate, 26 Senators represented less than 4 million people. Today, 100 Senators represent 215 million. In the last 40 years alone our population has increased by 60%. The "mushrooming" workload of Members of Congress has mandated staff growth.

Finally, Members of Congress have been said to receive "huge allowances" for travel, telephone, telegrams, and paper. None of these allowances financially benefit Members, but all are essential if Members are to stay in communication with constituents and carry on the public's business. At the end of the year, any unexpended funds revert back to the U.S. Treasury, and no Member of the Senate can pocket any of his allowance.

Despite its imperfections, Congress is a cornerstone of our Constitutional system of checks and balances, and a living monument to the freedom of our people every day. Unwarranted criticism is unfair, and seems, all too often, to be the product of a chronic cynicism on the part of some who delight in attacking Congress for any reason or, indeed, for no reason at all.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting Coal in Our Gas Tanks

The history of the United States is the history of ingenuity responding to need. Americans take a "can-do" approach to problems, which often results in our meeting impossible challenges successfully. Today, we are challenged anew as our energy supplies dwindle.

One proposal frequently heard is the use of grain or wood alcohol mixed with gasoline to increase the amount of motor fuel. These alcohols were used during World War II by many countries which had oil shortages.

The technology exists to produce a "mix of 10% alcohol and 90% gasoline. Such a mixture could work well in our cars and would save at least 10 billion gallons of gasoline a year.

Why aren't we already using this system? The answer is that the cost to produce these alcohols has been more than the cost of gasoline in the past. Also, the material needed to produce these alcohols is either itself a fuel—natural gas, for instance—or is not readily available.

It would take 40% of our current grain production, for example to produce enough ethanol—grain alcohol—to cut our gasoline consumption by 10%.

Methanol—wood alcohol—can be made from gas,

wood, waste products, or coal. Coal is the most plentiful and least expensive resource for methanol production. Ten billion gallons of methanol could be made from about 10% of our current coal production.

ERDA researchers in the federal laboratories at Bartlesville, Oklahoma, have been experimenting for several years, and have stated that "if the U.S. were immediately forced to use a synthetic liquid fuel, the only option is methanol." Methanol plant capacity would have to be increased to ten times what it is now, however, in order to supply 10% of our motor fuel. Automobile manufacturers would have to make design changes in fuel tanks, air/fuel ratios, and some minor engine changes. Most difficult would be the necessary adjustments to our supply and delivery systems—a six- to ten-year job.

ERDA believes that the first practical large-scale use of these new blends will be by "fleet vehicles," where adjustments to cars or trucks could be made uniformly by one owner.

As gasoline prices rise, the move toward a coal-derived gas extender becomes more practical. Someday soon, we may all be driving with a little coal in our gasoline tanks.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Our Future Secure

At the beginning of this century, nearly one-quarter of all elderly Americans were "paupers," and by 1935 almost one-half of our citizens over 65 were without retirement income or savings. The depression, which hurt all working people during the 1930's, made life a tragedy for these older men and women.

Partly as a response to that tragedy, Congress passed the Social Security Act in 1935. This federal program was intended to guarantee an adequate income to retired workers. Over the years, Congress has broadened coverage, so that today the elderly, survivors and dependents of insured workers, disabled workers, self-employed workers, and most farm and domestic workers are protected. In addition, Medicare now provides hospital insurance for the elderly as part of the Social Security package.

In general, this has been a remarkably successful program, providing the kind of basic security for retired workers and their families which it was intended to provide. More than 90 percent of all those over 65 receive benefits, and Social Security is the major source of income for most older Americans. That is one reason people are deeply concerned about reports that the Social Security Trust Fund is "disappearing," or that

there may not be sufficient funds to pay retirement benefits to those young people who are entering the work force now.

It is true that both Congress and the Administration are re-examining Social Security funding because during the past few years more money has been paid out in benefits than has flowed into the Fund from payroll taxes and interest on money in the Fund. This is primarily the result of several years of high unemployment and high inflation rates. Unemployment results in decreased income to the Fund, and inflation causes higher benefits to be paid out. However, the Trust Fund itself contains more than \$40 billion, which earns interest at more than 6.5 percent. It is in no danger of "disappearing" in the short-run future.

Congress has never failed to take the necessary action to keep the Social Security system fiscally sound and still protective of those who have contributed. The benefits of this program are the best insurance bargain American workers can buy, and the program will continue to provide security to those who are covered. Without this system we would be returning to the time when many of our older citizens lived their last years as "paupers." None of us is willing to see that happen.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preparing for Disaster

Since the end of World War II, the federal government has increasingly been involved in disaster relief, civil defense, and a variety of other emergency programs. In the 1940's and 1950's, the emphasis was on military preparedness and our readiness in case of enemy attack. However, today our federal programs are aimed at providing help in any kind of disaster. There is a commonsense understanding that the security of life and property is composed of more than simply a defense against enemy invasion. A flood, a tornado, an industrial accident, a sudden and damaging winter storm—all of these can present the same terrible problems for the victims.

A maze of government disaster prevention and relief programs has grown in response to public demand. More than 25 federal agencies or departments have disaster-related programs, and there are now three major federal agencies with the sole responsibility of handling emergencies or preparing for disasters.

The Congressional Joint Committee on Defense Production has recently completed a two-year study of our national emergency preparedness. The Committee has released a report which states that our federal programs have grown into a "many-headed monstrosity" with no central control and no effective coordination of the emergency functions of various

government programs.

The Report suggests that a single Federal Preparedness Administration be created to take over the responsibilities of the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, and the Federal Preparedness Agency. The new agency would report directly to the President, would coordinate all disaster programs in other agencies, and would serve as the focal point for information and coordination of federal, state, and local emergency programs. The Committee believes that this kind of reorganization would provide faster and more efficient delivery of assistance to victims of either natural or man-made disasters.

In the complex and dangerous world of the 1970's, it is essential that the United States be able to respond quickly and effectively to emergency. No place is better able to understand the problems of disaster relief than Appalachia, which has suffered 26 percent of all major declared disasters in the last ten-year period for which records are available. This year, West Virginians again suffered tragedy as a result of massive floods. The cost to individual families, businesses, and government will be in the millions.

It is time to make all of our disaster relief programs into the efficient tool for public assistance which they can and should be.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Facing Facts on Juvenile Crime

Today, more than 40 percent of all those arrested for committing a serious crime in the United States are children under the age of 18. While there has been a disturbing and rapid increase in crime everywhere in the nation, and especially in large cities and in their suburbs, the percentage of juvenile crime has been increasing out of all proportion to the 16 percent of our population between the ages of 10 and 17.

Compounding the problem is the fact that our jails are not designed with child-criminals in mind, and our court systems are overloaded. Although we have had juvenile courts since 1899, the sad truth is that those courts are unable to cope with the massive increase in juvenile arrests for violent crimes like murder, rape, assault, or robbery. Violent crimes increased 130 percent from 1960 to 1975, but arrests of juveniles for those crimes increased 293 percent!

The federal government has provided pilot programs to demonstrate methods of juvenile crime prevention, and has assisted state and local governments through block grants aimed at solving this growing problem. The Juvenile Justice Act, reorganized under the Department of Justice, and

operating through the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, provides technical assistance, training of police, and other federal resources. But the federal effort is small, and this is essentially a local and state problem. We can fight the juvenile crime menace best through a strong family structure, a good school system, and a firm commitment to work together—parents, teachers, police officials, and government—to find a more successful way to turn those statistics around.

West Virginia is the least likely place in the nation for this crime explosion by children to take place. We are 50th among all the states in the number of crimes committed and also 50th in the tax dollars we are forced to spend per capita for law enforcement. But no citizen in the United States will be untouched by the final results of the juvenile crime explosion. Young criminals are the most likely age group to repeat their criminal behavior—74 percent of those under 20 who are arrested are rearrested later, according to the FBI. This means that today's tragedy will become tomorrow's catastrophe unless we find some way to check this rapid increase in crimes committed by children.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making Our Traveling Dollars Count

As a responsible leader of the free world, the United States has done more than its share to support humanitarian and developmental needs of other nations in the past thirty years. We were prime movers in the creation of the United Nations, and many of the special agencies of that group. We developed, and make major contributions to, the international financial organizations which assist third world nations to grow.

Yet, one of the perplexing problems facing Congress is the fact that American taxpayer dollars are being used to support a growing number of international organizations and agencies over which the American government has little control. Membership in the UN has grown to 147, and new and developing nations have begun to vote as a bloc. As a result, the effectiveness of the U.S. contribution has come into question.

A recent report by the Committee on Government Operations of the Senate outlines some of the serious problems in 65 international organizations. In 1975, the United States contributed \$1.02 billion directly to the 65 groups considered in the Committee Report. We provided 25 percent of all funds provided by member governments—21 percent of the assessed funds, and 33 percent of the funds volun-

tarily contributed. Yet, with increasing frequency, those funds are being used for political purposes counter to American policy, or are used to benefit Third World countries alone, rather than providing for programs designed to benefit all member countries.

Equally disturbing, the Committee found duplication, lack of coordination, no procedure for independent evaluation of work, poor management techniques, and poor personnel practices in many of these organizations. Salaries are high — exceeding salary scales for U.S. civil servants by as much as 57 percent!

The Committee has recommended a reevaluation of our participation in these organizations by both the Administration and the Congress. They suggest ending our membership where it is found to no longer serve a useful purpose.

As the world faces major international decisions concerning energy, environment, nuclear safeguards, food production, and the development of both human and natural resources, America must continue to provide leadership. That leadership should include speedy discontinuation of support to organizations found to be wasteful, inefficient, or destructive of American policy interests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Tomorrow's Adults

Within the past few months, the World Health Organization has reported the triumph of man over an ancient enemy: smallpox. For the first time in recorded history, it is believed that there are no cases of this disease anywhere on earth. An international effort to provide immunization on a worldwide basis has been victorious, at last.

In the United States, the fight against other crippling diseases has received a strong boost this year through the President's announced plans to immunize 20 million children against polio and other childhood diseases. Only 65 percent of America's 52 million children under the age of 14 are protected against diphtheria, measles, rubella, whooping cough, mumps, or tetanus. Surprisingly, public health officials estimate that 19 million children are not yet immunized against polio, and the number of unprotected children is rising.

Most young parents today cannot remember when polio was a frightening threat to every family. In 1952, the year of our worst polio epidemic, 57,879 cases were reported and 3,145 children died. There was no immunization possible then, and no way to protect the popula-

tion. The program which provided that protection, through the Salk and Sabin vaccines in the 1950's and 1960's, was like a miracle. Polio began to disappear. There have been fewer than 10 cases per year reported for the last four years.

However, parent apathy and ignorance are now giving health officials cause to worry. Immunizations, especially of children under 4, are decreasing. There is a renewed threat of epidemics, not only of polio but also of other diseases for which ample immunization exists. Until a much higher percentage of the child population is immunized, there is a threat of a new outbreak of one of these diseases.

The Secretary of HEW has now set a goal of 90 percent protection by 1979. Congress has provided \$17 million in the 1977 appropriations legislation to fund the childhood disease immunization program.

Disease knows no barriers. The children of the wealthy as well as the children of the poor are threatened. Every family and every community should be willing to use the one weapon at our disposal—immunization—to protect American children against many crippling and killing diseases.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Troop Withdrawal from Korea

During the recent consideration of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, the Senate narrowly avoided a repudiation of the President's plan to withdraw U.S. ground troops from Korea over a period of four to five years. Such a repudiation would have resulted from the almost certain adoption of a motion by Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker to strike from the bill the committee language affirming the President's announced policy of withdrawal.

Instead, the Senate adopted my substitute amendment which stated that any implementation of the President's withdrawal policy be carried out in consultation with the governments of South Korea and Japan and that such a phased and gradual reduction of U.S. ground forces be implemented in a way that is consistent with the security interests of South Korea, Japan and the United States. My amendment also clearly provided that any implementation of the President's planned withdrawal be carried out only in close consultation with Congress, and that, until such withdrawal is completed, the President, no later than February 15 each year, submit a report to Congress assessing the implementation of the reduction of U.S. ground forces in South Korea.

Hence, my amendment

not only protected the President from a serious foreign policy defeat; it also tacitly recognized the President's plan for withdrawal, it layed down certain principles and guidelines for the implementation of such withdrawal, and assured Congressional participation in policy at every stage of the withdrawal.

U.S. troops have been in South Korea for 24 years. During this period, the South Koreans have received much U.S. equipment and training, making them quantitatively and qualitatively superior to the North Koreans. Moreover, South Korea's economy is much stronger than that of North Korea. Obviously, the United States cannot keep ground troops in Korea forever. The President's withdrawal plan would involve ground troops only and would be carried out over a period of years during which the United States would continue to build up South Korea's military equipment and firepower. Even during ground troop withdrawal, U.S. air and naval units and logistical support would remain, so as to guarantee a continuing U.S. commitment to South Korea.

Under these circumstances, I favor a gradual phase-down of American ground troops in Korea over the next few years.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Are We Ready for Tomorrow?

Abraham Lincoln once reminded his Cabinet "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today!" This year, the Committee on National Growth Processes, reporting on the ability of the United States to foresee and prepare for tomorrow's problems, states critically "We are backing into the future, stumbling as we go."

Forging America's Future, the Committee's report, is being studied by Members of Congress, by the Administration, and by problem-solvers in the business and academic communities. Legislation has already been introduced in the Senate to implement some of the recommendations of this group of business, academic, and government leaders.

Entering the last quarter of the 20th century, there is an accelerating interdependence of the nations of the world, yet an apparent inability of most governments to respond to change in time to prevent adverse economic impact. The oil embargo of 1973, with all its long-range and complex results, is only one example of such change. Increasingly we are threatened with shortages of goods or resources. Inflation, often sparked by regional or cartel decisions, is another constant worry. Between 1960 and 1974, the

United States' gross national product tripled—but the value of its imports and exports multiplied six-fold. Trade expansion increases our prosperity, but in a world with dwindling natural resources and unstable supply systems, the United States is at a disadvantage if we are not able to predict how such change will affect American citizens.

Recognizing that even minor decisions in one region of the world or one sector of the economy can have major impact on other sectors, the Committee recommends the creation of a national center for the collection and analysis of statistical data, and the creation of a modern computer model which would make it possible for Congress or the President to obtain long-range projections of possible trouble areas. This information would be available to businessmen, state and local governments, or interested citizens. The nation would be better prepared and better able to coordinate action in the rapidly changing technological world of tomorrow.

Alexander Hamilton, in *The Federalist*, said that there "ought to be a capacity to provide for future contingencies." A national data center would give the country some of that capacity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bringing Energy Into Focus

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have now passed legislation to create a new department of government: the Department of Energy. Following a conference to iron out minor differences in the two bills, and final approval by both House and Senate, the legislation will be ready for the President's signature, and the new Department will begin to function.

This may be the single most important step taken this year in the effort to keep energy flowing to American industry and homes. By shifting the many federal programs concerned with research, development, production, and use of energy into one Department, with a single Cabinet-level Secretary, we shall have taken a giant step toward making these programs work more efficiently.

Congress has worked for many years on programs to increase our energy supplies; however, no single agency, at present, has the authority to formulate and implement national energy policy. Information on fuel availability and consumption comes from 261 different energy data systems within government. There are three major energy agencies: the Energy Research and Development

Administration; the Federal Energy Administration; and the Federal Power Commission. In addition, there are energy-related programs located in the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Defense Department, the Interior Department, the Commerce Department, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. By shifting various parts of the nation's energy effort into one department, it will be possible to better coordinate energy information, eliminate duplication of effort, and bring problems and solutions closer together.

The speed with which Congress has moved to study this legislation, hold hearings, and move for passage, is indicative of the urgency of the nation's energy concerns. I have stated that energy legislation must be the first priority for Congressional action this year. The Energy Department which Congress and the President have worked together to develop will bring energy into focus, and will make the well-thought-out national energy policy we need a reality. This is the first step in meeting the major challenge which faces this nation in the remaining years of this century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Too Many Eggs in One Basket

After many hours of careful consideration, I reached the conclusion that the wisest course for the United States to follow in the matter of the B-1 bomber was to cut off funds for full production of these expensive manned bombers. On June 23, I notified the President of my position. On June 30, the President announced his own decision to request a cut-off of funds for further production of the B-1 as a follow-on to the B-52.

Going all-out for the B-1 at this time would be putting too many eggs in one basket; the high cost would force us to drastically reduce spending for other, essential weapons systems. Congress was being asked to gamble a massive amount of public funds on the B-1, in spite of the fact that the job required of this new plane could be done efficiently and less expensively by our current fleet of B-52's when coupled with the new cruise missile.

The \$3 billion which has been spent in designing, developing, and building three prototype B-1's has provided us with the technical knowledge needed to keep the door open. However, further production

and deployment must be considered in light of the enormous and rising costs involved. The latest estimates are at \$100 million for each plane. Over the life-cycle of a B-1 fleet, the cost could approach \$100 billion.

The strategic and functional value of the B-1 has become questionable because of the strong possibility that these planes would be vulnerable at low levels to Soviet technology by the 1980's. If flown at supersonic speeds, the range of the plane is shortened considerably. There are problems concerning the need to refuel in flight. The crew and plane would both be vulnerable to surface-to-air missiles. In the age of intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the Soviet Union in half an hour, the B-1 may well have become an anachronism.

In the final analysis, it is a question of the best allocation of our resources and the maximum deterrent for the dollar cost. There are less expensive and more credible military alternatives—and many unmet domestic needs—for which public funds would be better spent.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

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1977



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Controlling the Federal Budget

Congress has a growing concern about the size of the federal budget and about Congressional responsibility to set limits for spending. As Chairman of the then Senate Subcommittee on Rules, I helped to write the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, which was designed to give the Members of Congress the expertise needed to understand the economic impact of budget decisions and to better establish national priorities.

As the nation has grown in power and wealth in the last half of this century, the complexity and size of the federal budget have grown, too. Inflation and recession put added strains on government, making it necessary to provide security for the unemployed and to assist local and state governments in financial trouble. Making the right decisions on revenue and expenditure problems has become increasingly difficult.

The joint Congressional Budget Office is now staffed by economists who compile economic data, analyze administration budget requests, and project the probable result of various legislative and appropriation options.

The House and Senate each has a Congressional Budget Committee with a mandated timetable for action. Following the President's budget request in

January of each year, these two Committees begin preparation of a Concurrent Resolution, setting spending limits in each of seventeen broad areas of government. By May 15, Congress must resolve any differences between the House and Senate versions, and approve the First Budget Resolution. Thus, Members have a total picture of expected revenues and established spending limits in every area before they begin to take action on specific bills.

In the fall, a Second Concurrent Resolution must be passed, setting final and firm limits for the Congressional Budget for the next fiscal year, which begins on October 1.

This procedure has made it possible for Congress to better control the budget and set national priorities. During the first two years of operation, Congress has successfully stayed within its own limits, making changes only for emergencies such as this year's severe winter and gas shortage, or for sudden shifts in the economy.

Congress is responsible for the final decision on the collection and spending of taxpayer dollars. The Congressional Budget Act has provided modern economic tools and a strong and effective new procedure to help Members of Congress do that job well.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Spreading Sunshine Over Our Farms

There was once a time when rural America lagged far behind the cities in modern conveniences and in up-to-date mechanized production systems. That began to change in the 1930's, when the Rural Electrification Act brought energy to rural areas, upgrading communications and the production capabilities of farmers.

Before that breakthrough, each farmer worked with his own energy—the sweat of his brow. After the creation of REA, farmers had more horsepower with fewer horses, and more manpower with fewer men. A rapid increase in the use of machinery and energy-powered equipment brought impressive increases in the production of agricultural goods. If we were forced to return to a man-or-animal-energy farm system, nearly one-third of the entire U.S. work force would be required just to produce food for the American population. There would no longer be agricultural products to export. We would be unable to maintain a decent standard of living, either in rural or urban areas.

Since 1950, food and fiber production has increased more than 50 percent, while the labor re-

quirement on farms has decreased. Energy use in rural America has quadrupled, however, and will continue to grow to meet world demands. New energy sources must be found for our farms.

Congress has included within the Agricultural Act of 1977 a solar energy research component for just this purpose. It would focus on the use of sun energy to heat and cool farm buildings, pump water, dry crops, operate farm equipment, and store energy in one season for use in the next. Model solar energy farms and demonstration projects would be supported, and regional centers would coordinate efforts and inform farmers and rural businessmen of systems which work well.

Because of the high cost of delivering energy to remote and isolated areas, solar units on farms would be cost-effective and practical. Farmers have always relied on the sun to help them do their jobs. With the final passage of this legislation, the Department of Agriculture will begin helping farmers to put the sun to work in new ways, replacing expensive and exhaustible fossil fuels without decreasing food production. Every citizen will benefit in the long run.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Valuable Debate

The United States Senate has been called the most important debating society in the world. The issue of the enhanced radiation weapon—the so-called neutron bomb or warhead—and the debate on the Senate floor concerning continued production and deployment of this weapon were a clear illustration of the value of that debate, both to the public and to the Congress.

As the flurry of newspaper headlines illustrated, there was a general misconception of the problem. Gradually it became clear that the neutron warhead was a tactical weapon which had been under development for more than fifteen years. This "new" weapon would be less destructive than the tactical nuclear weapons which are currently deployed. It would inflict far less damage from blast and heat, while delivering a more intense radiation in a confined area.

Standard nuclear weapons would render an area uninhabitable for months, but radiation from the neutron warhead would clear up within hours. There would be less than one-tenth the fallout from this weapon, and it would be particularly effective against tanks—an important part of the strength of Communist armies in Europe.

It is especially important in our defense of Western Europe that we be able to pinpoint our attack upon enemy troops, enemy armored vehicles, and enemy commands, without endangering the civilian popula-

tion of a friendly country through which they may be moving. The neutron warhead will make that kind of defense possible.

A second point in the Senate debate focused on a separate but important issue: the role which Congress should play in controlling the use of any nuclear weapon. Following passage of the Arms Control and Disarmament Act of 1975, the President is required to send an arms control impact statement to the Congress whenever a new weapon is to be deployed. This requirement had not been fully met with the neutron warhead. I was the author of the Senate amendment which retained this oversight role for the Congress, allowing final passage of the bill. No funds will be appropriated until the President certifies that production of the weapon is in the national interest. Following that certification, production may proceed unless both Houses of Congress disapprove within 45 days.

No weapon used in modern warfare is humane. However, as the debate over this particular weapon made clear, a weapon which can be effectively used against the enemy without bringing massive destruction to either the surrounding countryside or the civilian population or allied troops is a better and more useful weapon. This new tactical nuclear weapon would enhance deterrence, thereby hopefully decreasing the chance that this or any nuclear weapon would have to be used.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cooperating on a Shared Responsibility

One of the most difficult problems of government in recent years has been the making of decisions on the sale of military equipment by American manufacturers to the governments of other nations. Even when these nations are allies, the sophistication and complexity of both defensive and offensive weapons systems today—and the fact that these weapons have been developed primarily for use by our own defense forces—make it essential that both the President and the Congress give careful consideration to such sales. The Arms Control Export Act requires that Congress be notified of a proposed sale, and allows 30 calendar days during which the sale may be prohibited by Congressional action if there is reason to doubt the wisdom of proceeding.

The importance of this shared responsibility was emphasized recently, when, on July 7, the President proposed selling seven Airborne Warning and Control Systems to Iran. On July 15, sixteen Senators introduced a resolution objecting to the sale, and the Committee on Foreign Relations scheduled hearings on the matter. Testimony in the Committee hearings included a discussion of a report by the General Accounting Office, which had raised serious questions about the sale, and which also drew attention to the

fact that the Central Intelligence Agency had expressed concern about possible security risks involved.

It became clear that the Congress would not have time to adequately consider this issue during the period provided by law, and I notified the President on July 22 of my own and other Senators' concerns, and urged him to temporarily withdraw the proposal.

A major concern was the security risk involved in introducing this very sophisticated new weapons system into an area where the Soviets might gain access to it, thus enabling them to cut years off the time needed to develop defense against the cruise missile. The need to maintain a stable military balance and limit arms proliferation in that part of the world were also important concerns. I also felt that inasmuch as actual delivery of the AWACS was not scheduled until 1981, there was no reason for the Senate to cut short the full debate and careful consideration which I believed were needed.

Although the President was at first reluctant, my concerns and the concerns of other Senators were finally persuasive. On July 28, he withdrew the proposal temporarily, thus giving Congress the additional time needed for a more thorough study of this proposal.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hard Work and Good Results

In the first seven months of the 95th Congress, the Senate faced the challenging job of setting national priorities and solving several emergency problems pressing for the attention of Members. At the same time, a new administration in the White House required advice and consent on a large number of appointments and several critical military and foreign policy decisions.

As the Majority Leader, I felt that the successful completion of our work would depend upon the restructuring of Senate committees and upon a more efficient scheduling of time for committee meetings and legislative action on the floor. The result has been a very productive legislative record, and one of which both the Senate and the people can be proud.

A tough Senate code of conduct was pushed through early in the session. Surface mining, clean air and clean water legislation and mine safety legislation have been enacted by the Senate. Additionally, the President's economic stimulus program—a 3-year 34 billion dollar tax cut, and jobs legislation—has been enacted into law. Congress has also granted the President authority to reorganize executive branch agencies.

Beginning with the emergency authority given to the President to deal with the natural gas shortage during the record cold winter, the problems of ener-

gy supply and energy conservation have demanded and been given highest priority. A new Department of Energy has been created—the first new Department in 11 years. The Senate has passed 21 energy-related bills, eight of which have been enacted into law. Two are waiting for the President's signature, and one is being considered in Conference; ten are awaiting action in the House.

Later this year, the President's energy package will be passed, with some modifications.

A major part of the workload of every Congress is the passage of legislation appropriating funds for the following year. In recent years these bills have too often been passed late—from 3 to 6 months into the new fiscal year. This year, the Senate has passed 12 of the 13 regular money bills well in advance of the beginning of the new fiscal year, which is October 1. In the process, we have successfully stayed within the Congressional budget targets.

After 119 days in session, and the passage of 418 public bills, the approval of 4 treaties, and confirmation of 41,156 Presidential nominations, the "shake-down cruise" of the 95th Congress is over. There are still major legislative initiatives to be studied and considered, and I believe the Senate is ready for the many tough decisions which lie ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building Factories in the Air

In corporate business rooms and offices from coast to coast, long-range planners and hard-headed economists are working out the details of plans for making money and products in the thin air of space. They are figuring costs and profits on a new kind of industry: the reduced gravity production which will be possible in factories carried into orbit by the NASA Space Shuttle in the 1990's. The seriousness of their work is indicated by the fact that their discussions already include market analysis, investment - risks, labor force problems, and transportation payloads.

Catching the Space Shuttle to work in these factories in the sky will not be quite like catching the bus at the corner station. Workers will be highly trained technicians, scientists, and engineers, and their standard work period will probably be figured in weeks or months, rather than in hours.

The list of products which these workers could produce at lower cost or with improved quality is growing. Because material in a low-gravity area or in the relative purity of space can be worked on while the material is "levitated"—suspended in mid-air without touching a container—there is less risk of impurities and a much greater opportunity for fine quality work. Material in this weightless atmosphere could be moved by electro-

magnetic, electrostatic, or acoustic fields, making it possible to manufacture pure crystals, very high quality glass for lasers, and a wide variety of optical, biological, and other products which are difficult or impossible to produce on earth.

Drug manufacturers are interested in producing medical substances like enzyme urokinase, which can dissolve blood clots, but which now costs up to \$1,500 per dose. There is a potential for saving 50,000 lives a year in the United States alone, if cheaper and better quality production can be achieved.

Development of these space-age industrial plans will depend upon an industry-government partnership in research, and Congressional Committees are already hearing testimony concerning future needs for engineering programs. Industry is investing \$1 million a year in studies and research, and NASA allocates between \$4 and \$5 million toward space processing research. Pilot plants may be constructed by 1985, and actual commercial manufacture could begin in the 1990's.

Reduced-gravity technology—learning how to make things in thin air—may lead to profitable new business ventures, life-saving new medicines, miraculous new electronic products, and a challenging new kind of career for young people who are studying hard in science classes today.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Fight for Soil and Water Conservation

"Water, water everywhere—and not a drop to drink!" That famous old sailor's lament must have come to mind frequently this year in those parts of West Virginia where flood and drought conditions have made life difficult for residents.

For more than twenty years, water engineers and agricultural specialists have been concerned about soil erosion, sedimentation of the floors of valleys, and the frequent floods which cause progressive deterioration of West Virginia and other Appalachian mountain states.

At the direction of Congress, the Agricultural Research Service completed a report in the 1960's on the long-range water and soil conservation needs of the nation. That report selected the Appalachian valleys and ridges as one of the regions in which there were research problems of "greatest urgency."

Elevations run from 247 feet to 4,863 feet, and rainfall varies from as much as 80 inches per year on the western slopes to as little as 20 inches on the eastern slopes. The soil is shallow, and more than two-thirds of the land lies on a slope of more than 25 percent. Farming is difficult, and mechanized farming is often impossible. Valuable topsoil disappears in uncontrolled runoffs, and valuable streams and rivers are polluted. Sediment fills the valleys following frequent floods.

The result of this con-

tinual attack on essential soil and water is often rural poverty, lessened opportunity for economic development, and a constant threat of destruction to homes and businesses.

Is there a way to reverse this trend? Scientists believe that what is needed is a thorough study of the hydrology of the region, research into the kinds of grasses and legumes which would provide ground cover, creation of sediment traps, desilting basins, better irrigation systems, and new kinds of mulches.

Since 1970, I have worked to see that funds were provided to build and staff a Research Laboratory in West Virginia to study these problems. Although I succeeded in getting the money appropriated in 1973, those funds were impounded, and the laboratory was never built.

This year, at last, plans are being redrawn, and construction is scheduled to begin early next year on an Agricultural Research Service Appalachian Soil and Water Laboratory at Beckley. More than \$2 million has been appropriated for this project, and we should be able to put researchers to work early in 1979. Their work may make it possible for us to control and save two essential elements for life itself—water and land—and to preserve these "free" resources for the future generations of West Virginians who will need them in years to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Learning to Think Through Language

For fourteen years the average scores of college-bound students who take the Scholastic Aptitude Test have declined steadily. This disappointing trend has once again been reported in the 1977 scores. A "blue-ribbon" panel of experts has spent two years examining this phenomenon and has released a report identifying possible causes for this steady decline.

The SAT examinations are designed to test aptitude for learning at the college level, which is not the same thing as testing for knowledge gained. Scores can range from 200 to 800 on both the verbal and mathematical tests. More than one million young people take these examinations every year—one-third of all high school graduates, and two-thirds of those entering colleges. In the period between 1963 and 1977 there has been a 49-point drop in the average score on verbal aptitude, and a 32-point drop in the average score on mathematical aptitude.

The panel which looked for causes for this apparent failure in our schools has come up with a mixed bag of explanations: the increased participation by women, minorities and economically disadvantaged students; too much TV (from 10,000 to 15,000 hours before the age of 16!); the "decade of distraction" in which Vietnam, political assassinations and Watergate took place; too many electives and too few required courses; and a diminished seriousness of

educational purpose, manifested by automatic promotions, grade creep, reduced homework, and lowered college entrance standards.

Most significant of all, the panel found that "less thoughtful and critical reading is now being demanded," and that "careful writing has apparently about gone out of style." It is interesting to note that this comment correlates with the drastic decline in scores on the English Composition Achievement tests during these same years.

Historians and anthropologists tell us that the difference between primitive man and civilized man is mainly the ability to use language. In order to think, man had to invent language. In order to work as a team, men had to learn to communicate with one another. In achieving greatness, man's most important tool has been his mind—and his mind operates best through the understanding and use of words.

By enlarging vocabularies, students increase knowledge and also stimulate thought. By learning to read and to write, they not only gain skills; they also develop the ability to learn more and understand better.

It seems evident that a rapid return to insistence on basic reading and writing skills in our grammar and high schools will help put students back on the road to better education and greater success in college work.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Future in an Old Industry

Recently, millions of young men and women have spent hours poring over college catalogues before making decisions about which career field they wish to enter, and which courses must be taken to prepare for their future life work. Often these decisions must be made on the basis of guesswork. Predicting what will be a necessary or sought-after skill ten years from today is difficult.

This year, however, there are some clues which should be helpful to students and counselors alike. It is clear that experts in energy conservation and energy development, for instance, will be desperately needed in the years ahead. When properly trained, these experts will be able to command good salaries and excellent job security for the foreseeable future.

A very large part of the President's energy program depends on a massive increase in coal production in order to provide sufficient coal for conversion from gas and oil by 1985. Successful completion of this part of our energy conservation efforts will mean almost doubling coal production in the next ten years.

That unprecedented increase in coal production will require an estimated 152,000 new miners. The Bituminous Coal Operators' Association estimates that the industry will need 3,700 more technicians, 1,100 more engineers, and 2,000 more surveyors within a ten-year period. There will be a need for 54,000 more salaried employees; and because coal mining is now a high-technology industry,

most of these new workers will have to be trained technicians and professionals.

In addition to those who actually produce coal, there will be a need for those who can help meet the developing requirements in environmental, reclamation, and safety programs. Many of these technical fields will provide opportunities to break new ground, and totally new career opportunities will be developed.

Even though graduates and undergraduates in our mining schools are increasing in number, we are not yet training people in sufficient numbers to fill the needs of the expanding industry.

West Virginia is the home of a number of universities and colleges which offer two- and four-year courses in mining technology. These include the University of West Virginia, Beckley College, Bluefield State College, Fairmont State College, Salem College, West Virginia Institute of Technology, and West Virginia Wesleyan. In addition, the National Mine Health and Safety Academy is located at Beckley. There are Vocational Technical Centers and special programs in many parts of the state which offer training to students on either a full- or part-time basis.

As the need for mining industry workers becomes more apparent, places in these schools will be rapidly filled. This is an excellent time to think about the future in terms of the real needs of the nation and the real opportunities which are opening up in one of West Virginia's great industries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Prescription for Health Fraud

One of the saddest commentaries on the problems of our society today is the fact that fraud and abuse of the Medicare and Medicaid programs have increased dramatically in the last few years. Two years of hearings in both the House and the Senate have demonstrated that some people in the medical field have used medical aid programs to unjustly enrich themselves.

Such individuals cheat the taxpayer, divert money needed for legitimate health care by the poor and the elderly, and destroy the reputation of responsible and honest institutions and doctors. The tragedy of this criminal activity is that the victims of these crimes are seldom aware that they are being cheated, and the criminals often seem to feel no sense of guilt.

Testimony in Congressional hearings has clearly outlined the worst of the fraudulent practices as being present in the "Medicaid mills" which have sprung up in poor areas of larger cities. These are the so-called shared health facilities where medical staffs are forced to split income with the owners under complicated fee arrangements. Operating out of store-fronts, most of these facilities are unlicensed and unregulated. Fraudulent actions by operators of these "mills" include unnecessary referrals from one doctor to another, billing for services never rendered, multiple billings, and kickbacks from laboratories or pharmacies to which patients are referred.

Clinical laboratories which cooperate in this attempt to defraud the government also came under attack in Congressional testimony. Nursing homes which have substandard facilities, or use kickbacks to repay referrals, or use false reports to cheat both their patients and the government, were also under fire.

As a result of these reports, Congress is considering legislation which will classify most fraudulent acts of this kind as felonies instead of misdemeanors, with maximum penalties raised to a fine of \$25,000, five years in prison, or both. In addition, the new legislation will clearly define illegal acts and illegal financial arrangements, and will allow states to suspend Medicaid recipients who have been convicted of defrauding the program. It will also require that HEW suspend from participation, in either Medicaid or Medicare, any practitioner or doctor convicted of a criminal offense related to these programs.

In a final effort to protect both taxpayers and those in need of the medical services of these programs, the new legislation will, if it is passed, strengthen the Professional Standards Review Organizations. These local groups are currently asked to review inpatient care. They would also be asked to review care provided in shared health facilities, clinics, and doctor's offices under the new law.

It is essential that criminal fraud and abuse in these systems be eliminated.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening the Confirmation Process

In recent weeks, the controversy over the qualifications of Bert Lance to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget has called attention to certain shortcomings in the process of confirmation of Presidential nominations by the Senate.

This is not a new problem. It is interesting to note that the first time the Senate ever used its powers of advice and consent to confirm a Presidential nomination was in 1789, when William Short was nominated to replace Thomas Jefferson as Minister to France. Lengthy debate finally resulted in a secret ballot, because some Senators feared to speak out against "the President's wishes," while others feared to be seen as currying "the warmth" of the President's favor.

Even today, too often the feeling among Senators is that a Cabinet-level nominee is "the President's man," and should, therefore, be routinely supported unless strong negative information surfaces before confirmation. Especially during the first months of a new Administration, when there is pressure for quick action, and in deference to the wishes of a new President, the confirmation process too often has been a rubber stamp, with Senators asked to vote up or down on a nominee about whom insufficient information is available.

Senator Ribicoff, Chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, has offered legislation to establish a non-partisan Congressional Office on Nominations to conduct a thorough review of all reports prepared by federal agencies like the FBI or IRS on each nominee, with strict rules to protect the privacy of the individuals involved. The legislation would also establish standards of professional fitness and personal and professional integrity against which each nominee could be measured. The Office on Nominations, if created, would make no recommendation, but would provide a report of its findings to all Senators before a confirmation vote occurred.

This proposal has merit. Our responsibilities in the Senate go much deeper than the pro forma approval of nominees which has sometimes taken place in the past. If it becomes necessary to reject a nominee, the Senate should be able to take that action on the basis of complete and non-partisan information, and without undue injury to the individual.

The advice and consent power of the Senate is an essential part of the checks and balances of our system. In order to avoid damaging, painful, and time-consuming reappraisals, I believe it is necessary to strengthen the mechanics of the confirmation process.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Wasted Energy in Falling Water

For more than 150 years, much of the energy for the work done in the towns and villages of North America came from falling water. Wherever streams or rivers ran, waterwheels turned. The power of water was used to cut wood, to grind meal, and to make things move. When electricity was discovered, turbines were added to create this miraculous new form of energy from the force of moving water. The first water-powered sawmill in the United States was built in 1783—and water is still used to produce about one-sixth of our electric energy.

However, many of the old, small waterpower installations have been abandoned. The nation stopped developing small hydro-power projects, as electric utilities turned more and more to huge hydroelectric installations or to more cost-efficient fossil fuel powered plants. Although the use of our national waterways for navigation increased fourfold between 1950 and 1970, more than 220 small hydroelectric plants have been abandoned in the last 30 years in New England alone. The Federal Power Commission estimates that only 1,400 of 50,000 small dams have been developed for power production, although if only 10% of these existing dams were equipped to produce electricity we could save 180 million barrels of oil every year. The Corps of Engineers estimates that providing a generating capacity to existing dam sites

could add 54,000 megawatts of power to our national energy resources.

It is true that in many places these small power plants would operate only as a complement to larger systems. When water power was low, in areas with small hydro installations, the larger and major generating systems would be asked to bring additional power into the area. When water levels were high, however, the small system could sell excess electricity to a larger installation at economically worthwhile rates.

Many small communities, particularly in Eastern states where water has traditionally been used as an energy source, are already moving to return to the limited use of water power to produce electricity. Even very small 5,000 kilowatt stations, serving only a few thousand families, have suddenly become economically practical and energy valuable, as fossil fuel prices rise and shortages occur. By utilizing these small hydroelectric capacities, we will add significantly to our national energy resources.

Water is a renewable resource which has historically been used to help run small businesses and farms, and to light rural homes. It makes good sense to stop wasting the energy in water which falls from the thousands of existing small dams, and to make full use of this old-fashioned power system wherever we can.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Above and Beyond the Call of the Union

The Constitution gives to the Congress the power to raise armies, declare war, repel invasion, and call forth the militia. It also specifically states that Congress has the power to make rules for the "government and regulation" of military forces. This is a solemn responsibility, and one which Members of Congress take seriously.

In recent months there has been persistent union activity in and around military installations. There have been numerous suggestions that military personnel be organized under the banner of one union or another. The Committee on Armed Services of the Senate determined, after extensive hearings into this matter, that such a move would be a danger and a threat to the security of the nation. After listening to testimony from experts in constitutional law, representatives of labor unions, military associations, and a cross-section of the military and civilian leadership of the United States, legislation was drafted which would prohibit union organization or membership for the armed forces. The Senate has now passed that legislation, with my support.

By its very nature, the military operation must be based on command authority, prompt obedience, and firm discipline. Without

those three elements, the life of every soldier, sailor, and airman involved in such military operations is endangered, and the success of any military effort is threatened.

Labor unions have made important contributions to the welfare of American workers, and are a valuable part of the social fabric of our country. They work through collective bargaining, concerted action, and the representation of workers' grievances to management. The goal of the union is shared decision-making, and theirs is an adversary role.

Unionization of the military forces, however, would break the chain of command which is essential for any military operation. It could divide the loyalty of fighting men and women, destroying essential "esprit de corps," and could threaten the "readiness" of our armed forces to quickly and effectively respond to any emergency.

It is interesting to note that one national union recently polled its current members to discover their feelings on unionization of the military, and it discovered an overwhelming 80 percent opposed. I believe most Americans would agree with that opposition, and would approve the legislation which has been passed by the Senate.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reusing Gray Water to Solve a Water Problem

Most Americans are aware of the energy crisis which faces the world, and have already begun to conserve energy in one way or another, pending the long-range solutions for which energy experts are searching. However, a recurring echo of that theme is the threat of a shortage of water. The water problem is not of crisis proportions, except at times and in certain places. The United States will not "run out of water" soon, as it may run out of oil or natural gas.

However, much of our current energy reserves of coal or oil shale are underground in areas of the nation which have never had an abundance of water. There is some question as to whether water supplies are sufficient to provide for the population growth which would be necessary if coal mines or oil shale recovery operations were to be put in place. This year's droughts in some states have increased our understanding of the problems which inevitably arise when people find water is not in the right place, in the right condition, or present at the right time. That kind of problem will increase in frequency in the years ahead, according to most water engineers.

One American family is spending this year living in an experimental house at

NASA's Langley Research Center in Virginia. A water re-use system is one of the innovative ideas incorporated in the three-bedroom home. Using some of the techniques developed for spacecraft systems, the water system in this unique home was designed so that the "gray water" from bathroom sinks, bathtubs, showers, and laundry machines would be filtered and chlorinated for re-use as toilet flush water. This single step reduces water consumption by 60 to 100 gallons a day for a family of four, cutting water needs in half. The cost of materials was about \$450, and the system is already developed sufficiently for commercial production.

Although a total recycling system is technically feasible, it would be prohibitively expensive except in emergency situations. However, the type of simple and inexpensive system built by NASA at the Langley house will save thousands of gallons of water annually where it is installed. For many desert regions and drought-prone states, this dividend from space technology can make economic development possible. For the nation, this re-use of "gray water" can also open up the opportunity for retrieval of energy reserves located in water-short areas.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Back to the Books

The United States led the world in the creation of locally-controlled and tax-supported free public schools, and in the building of great public universities. Our public education system has been called one of the great wonders of the contemporary world, and we have the right to be proud of the fact that, in the United States, all children have the opportunity for an education.

Historically, education has been the prerogative of the young. Going to school was what people did before they grew up and went to work. With rare exceptions, adults did not go back to school after having dropped out or graduated.

Today, a strange phenomenon is changing that concept—in schools and colleges and vocational schools all over the country. Suddenly, gray heads are appearing in classrooms, and "older" students are a common sight on campuses. Whether it is called "adult education," or "lifelong learning," or "continuing education," the number of adults who are "going back to school" has increased by 30 percent in the last five years. The Center for Education Statistics reports that more than 17 million adults are registered in part-time courses of one kind or another. The U.S. Depart-

ment of Labor estimates that the number of students who are 35 years or older has doubled in ten years, and predicts that 40 percent of the nation's college campus population by 1980 will be adult students attending part-time.

Educators have been surprised to find this flood of adults in the classroom to be highly motivated and excellent students, for the most part. Whether they have come to complete a degree, find a new career, update technical knowledge, or simply to make their leisure hours more worthwhile, these grown-up students are changing the system. The National Advisory Council on Adult Education has called this "a major turning point in the history of American education."

Many major industries are now adding education benefits to the work package. Colleges and universities are shifting gears to adjust to the needs of mature students. Congress has now added a "Lifelong Learning" section to the Higher Education Act, to assist states and local communities in coordinating responses to this new educational challenge. Continuing education will enrich the lives of individual students, and it will contribute to the progress of the nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Difficult Duty

Following six full days of debate in the Senate on the natural gas pricing bill, more than ¾ of the Senate voted for cloture, to limit debate and to provide for no more than one hour's speaking time for each Senator before a final vote was taken. Every indication was that the final vote would be close, but that those Senators favoring the deregulation of the price of natural gas would be in the majority.

However, a loophole in the Senate Cloture rule has, in recent years, allowed a cloture vote to become a mockery. By introducing hundreds of amendments to the legislation before cloture, a few Senators can delay the final vote on the measure by calling up these amendments after cloture and demanding roll call votes and quorum calls on all of them. In effect, this is a "filibuster by amendment." That is what happened on the natural gas bill. The Senate was held hostage to such tactics for 13 days and one night before the filibuster was broken.

Meanwhile, other major energy legislation, tax legislation, labor and health bills, and much serious Senate business waited.

Only by breaking the filibuster could a bill be passed and sent to Conference with the House, where a compromise could be worked out.

As Majority Leader, it became my duty to take action under very difficult circumstances. I supported the position of the filibusterers on the regulation of natural gas, and voted with them on the final vote. However, in order to allow the work of the Senate to proceed, I made a point of order that the Presiding Officer be directed to "take the initiative" in declaring amendments out of order if they were not germane, or out of order on their face. The Senate supported me in that proposal by a vote of 79 to 14.

Vice President Mondale, within five minutes, then correctly ruled 33 amendments out of order, thus breaking the spirit of the filibuster, and allowing final passage of the bill on the 14th day.

No Senator should be denied the right to speak or to attempt to convince his colleagues that his position on legislation is the correct one. However, no Senator should be able to unduly delay the work of the Senate after a successful cloture vote to limit debate. The seriousness of the energy crisis and the importance of other problems facing the nation made it imperative that the Senate move deliberately but decisively to work its will. My action in this instance was difficult, but necessary.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Meaning for Sea Power

In 1881, Jacques D'Arsonval, a French physicist, first proved that an engine could be operated on the energy extracted from "solar sea power"—the difference between the cold water of the ocean depths and the comparatively warm water at the surface. The possibility of using this natural difference in temperatures — often as much as 40 degrees — to create electricity is once again under examination as energy researchers explore every possible route to non-traditional and renewable energy sources to serve the needs of the free world.

The Energy Research and Development Administration took over ocean thermal energy conversion research in 1975, as one segment of its solar energy effort. The goal is to establish the technical and economic feasibility of a complete ocean-based power plant system, leading to the commercial use and production of energy from these ocean thermal gradients. ERDA's plans call for ocean testing of 1-megawatt equivalent components in 1979, using "OTEC 1," a 300-foot-long deep sea salvage vessel which is being converted to a highly technical testing platform for ocean thermal energy research.

If tests are successful, a 5-megawatt pilot plant will

be built in 1980, and a 100-megawatt demonstration plant in 1983 or 1984. Commercial plants could be in operation by 1990.

The technique which is currently favored for use in these tests is the closed cycle system, by which warm surface water would be pumped through heat exchangers, where a working fluid of ammonia or propane would be transformed to a high pressure vapor. The vapor would drive a turbine, creating energy, and would then be returned to the liquid state as it was cooled by water from the cold ocean depths.

The total ocean thermal system operating at sea in the future would probably be contained in a semi-submersible hull, with heat exchangers, turbines, generators, and pumps. Such a system could also be used to produce protein, plant life, fresh water, minerals from the ocean, chemical fuels, and fertilizers.

From a small initial investment in research funds, a promising new energy alternative is being developed in this ERDA project. As the new Energy Department takes over ERDA's work, this is only one of the many ways in which our past investment in energy research will begin to pay off by providing possible solutions to tomorrow's energy dilemma.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Shocking Abuse of Runaway Children

The Senate and the House of Representatives have now both passed legislation to bring under control a shocking and disgusting form of child abuse: the sexual exploitation of children by a multi-million-dollar pornography industry. The Senate bill passed on a vote of 85 to 1, and the House bill passed on a vote of 375 to 12.

There are five federal laws which prohibit the distribution of "obscene" materials in the United States. Unfortunately, as most Americans are aware, these laws have not effectively controlled the flood of pornographic material printed and distributed in the nation, and available in "adult" bookstores in many of our major cities. A comparatively new element is the rapidly increasing use of children in the pictures, films, magazines, and newspapers which are peddled by pornographers. In addition to the obscenity prevalent in most of this material, child abuse and delinquency are serious problems which the federal legislation will address.

Recent Congressional hearings uncovered the fact that an estimated one million children are sub-

ject to abuse of this kind.

Testimony by Investigator Lloyd Martin of the Los Angeles Police Department makes clear that most of the children who are being victimized in this inhuman traffic are either runaways or are the children of drug addicts or pornographers. The runaways are especially vulnerable, because they are alone, usually in large cities, and have no support or protection.

Police officials from major cities across the nation, and psychologists and psychiatrists who specialize in work with traumatized children, all testified to a rapid increase indicating a national network which is probably under the control of organized crime.

The legislation, which I cosponsored, provides up to ten years in jail and fines up to \$10,000 for the use of children to produce this material, its distribution or sale, or for the transportation of children of either sex across state lines for purposes of prostitution. The physical, psychological, and emotional abuse of children is intolerable in a civilized society. Profiting from such abuse is exploitation of a cruel and corrupt attack upon our nation's youth.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Arming the World

Since 1972, the United States has approved the sale of more than \$48 billion of military equipment to foreign governments. Last year, our foreign military sales agreements totaled almost \$10 billion. I am troubled by the increase these figures represent and by the need for better Congressional oversight in this area.

Since August 5, Congress has received 29 separate proposals for arms sales, totalling more than \$3 billion. Congress has, by law, only 30 calendar days in which to disapprove such sales.

Both the Administration and the Congress are badly served by the piecemeal method in which such arms sales agreements are considered. I recently outlined several changes which I believe are needed. I urged the President to do three things: (1) submit a detailed overall plan for projected arms sales early in each year; (2) refrain from submitting notification of sales during non-legislative sessions or during the final days of any session, except in an emergency; and (3) make certain that each notification includes the total value of military sales already sent to the

country in question and information about the support and services which would be needed in the future if the particular sale were approved.

With these changes, Congress could act with full understanding of the cumulative impact of arms sales in any one region of the world. Legislation has already been introduced to provide for 45 days of time in continuous session during which Congress could act to stop a sale. I support such legislation. It would also be valuable, I believe, if Committee Chairmen could request additional days. Most valuable, however, would be a requirement for explicit Congressional approval for a major arms sale, rather than the current opportunity only for disapproval.

Congress should consider all areas of foreign policy with full information and within the context of the broad global picture. The cumulative and long-term impact of armament sales is directly tied to our own future defense capabilities. Congress is responsible for protecting our future national strength and security interests. Tightening up on oversight of arms sales is a necessary part of that protection.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Schools Warm

As the winter months approach, most homeowners are preparing for the cold weather with better insulation, weather stripping, and other energy-saving additions to houses they occupy or own. Memories of last winter's difficulties, the rising cost of home heating fuels, and the President's call to the nation to save energy wherever possible, have all encouraged these moves.

However, it has become apparent that some public buildings will not be part of the conservation efforts taking place this year. There are not sufficient funds in local and state government treasuries to handle the installation costs involved, and there is a lack of expertise in exactly what steps to take in some areas.

Public and nonprofit educational institutions and hospitals are high on the list of buildings which consume significant amounts of energy during the winter. These buildings are also those which are most likely to place heavy burdens on local taxpayers due to rising energy costs. The implementation of energy-conserving maintenance and operating procedures and the installation of energy-conserving equipment would save substantial amounts of energy

and would also reduce costs to the public in the long run.

In an effort to assist states and local areas to solve this problem, the Senate has passed legislation which would provide grants to elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, and public or non-profit hospitals. These funds would be used to evaluate and implement energy-efficient procedures and equipment. The federal government would provide up to 50 percent of the cost of approved projects, and each state would be required to develop a plan for the evaluation and installation of energy-conservation measures. Each state plan would also contain an estimate of the energy savings and cost effectiveness of projects approved for that state.

Through this program, tax dollars would be returned to local communities to be invested in projects which would provide lower costs for the operation of necessary public facilities. In addition, the energy savings across the nation would be significant. In our fight for energy solutions, the conservation of both fuel and dollars at the community level is of great importance. I believe the Senate's legislation would assist in that goal.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Where Is Timbuktu?

In a world which seems to grow smaller every year, as television and satellite communications bring us into touch with other nations, it is more important than ever that students study geography and begin to have some appreciation for the problems of world affairs. Sadly, however, like the study of writing and grammar, geography is no longer one of the school subjects which receives solid attention in many schools.

That fact is brought clearly into focus by the results of a survey which has been done for the United States Office of Education by the Educational Testing Service. When 1,800 students in the fourth, eighth and twelfth grades were questioned about their attitudes toward, and knowledge of, international problems, and even about the locations of other nations of the world on our globe, it became clear that many of these students were unable to talk intelligently about these subjects.

Four out of ten students thought Israel was an Arab nation. Seventy percent of the 8th graders could locate Russia on the map, but less than half could find Egypt. Sixteen percent of the high school students thought Egypt was in India—more than 5,000 miles to the East!

Although 98 percent of the twelfth graders reported studying American history, only 29 percent were studying European history, and less than 20 percent reported studying Asian or African history. The result of that gap in the education of these youngsters is the startling lack of knowledge about world affairs which this survey turned up.

Students did report that outside of school, television and reading greatly influenced their attitudes about the world and world problems. However, it also became clear in this survey that those nations which were studied with some emphasis in social studies classes—nations such as England, Russia, and China—were familiar to most students. Those nations which received little attention in schools were not understood well, in spite of wide coverage by television.

We live in what has been called the space age. Man has been to the moon, and has looked back at the whole earth. For young people in today's world, it is essential that schools offer as much information as possible about our own planet and the nations which inhabit it. That kind of knowledge must begin with a thorough grounding in geography and history.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping West Virginia Students in School

When students drop out of school, parents are usually saddened by the decision their youngsters have made. Experience has taught them that opportunities for good jobs and successful careers are lessened if education is cut short. However, it is sometimes hard to convince young people of the difference a few years in school can make.

In a new report, *The Condition of Education*, issued by the Office of Education, that difference is spelled out clearly. For those who have completed 8 years of school, the expected lifetime earnings are \$221,000. For those who graduate from high school, the average lifetime earnings will be \$286,000. Even without a college degree, a few years of college or other post-secondary education can raise the expected earnings to \$341,000. The college graduate can expect \$424,000 — almost twice as much as the student who drops out before finishing high school.

Unemployment rates tell the other side of the same story. In 1976, the unemployment rate for those with 8 years of school or less was 24 percent. For those who had completed college, however, it was from 3 to 6 percent, depending on the field of

study.

Those figures are important for all parents and students—but they are especially important for West Virginians. The education report, which is a collection of information from school districts across the nation, shows that for the nation as a whole almost 99 percent of children between the ages of 6 and 13 are in school, as are 91 percent of those of high school age. Yet, the Census Bureau's report on West Virginia indicates that less than 90 percent of our state's high school age students are enrolled in school, and only 95 percent of our 7 to 13 year olds are there. Those few percentage points of difference represent future unhappiness and difficulty for the young people concerned. They also mean lessened economic security for their families and for the communities in which they will live their lives.

In the last part of this century and the first years of the next century, technical training and education will be of special importance to individuals and to our nation. Every West Virginia student who finishes the job of educating himself is improving his own life—and the future of our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Prehistoric Energy Riches in West Virginia

Hidden below the surface of the ground in West Virginia and other Appalachian states is an energy resource which has the potential of providing 1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas per year—about 5 percent of the current level of natural gas production of the nation.

At the present time, most of that natural gas is trapped in Devonian Brown shale, a geologic formation laid down 350 million years ago. At that time in the prehistoric history of the area, the high mountains to the east, rising out of what is now the Atlantic coastline, produced mud and silt and sand through erosion. This organic-rich mud flowed down into the Appalachian Basin, shifting back and forth in what geologists call the Catskill Delta. The organic material collected in long fingers; in later centuries other rocks and layers of sand covered this material, folding it within the shale layers of the Devonian period.

As early as 1820, a well was drilled down into this Brown shale to release the natural gas. Since that time, other wells have produced gas, usually for local use. The technology for drilling and retrieving this hidden natural gas in an economical manner had not

been developed until recent years.

Today's energy shortages have renewed interest in drilling for Brown shale natural gas, however. The current Energy Research and Development budget includes money for exploring and drilling, as well as money for experimental horizontal and deviation drilling to increase production capabilities.

A new report by the Office of Technology Assessment estimates that it will take twenty years to develop the pipelines and wells to make full use of this unused Appalachian energy. The decline in natural gas discoveries and production in conventional gas fields in recent years has now made the Appalachian Basin Brown shale fields economically practical. The conservative estimate of OTA is that 15 to 25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas is available in the 163,000 square miles of the Appalachian Basin.

If fully developed, these Devonian Brown shale natural gas wells would encourage energy-intensive industry to relocate within the Appalachian region. In addition, this new source for natural gas would help to fill the needs of the New England and Middle Atlantic states which are running short of natural gas.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Who Are the "Unemployed?"

How many people are unemployed today? Periodically the newspapers give a number—a percentage—which is called the "official" unemployment figure. Very few people know exactly what the figure signifies.

What kind of unemployment does it measure? Although many federal programs are based on these "official" unemployment figures, people seldom question the source or understand the effect on their own town or state.

Unemployment statistics are released by the Bureau of Labor Standards, and result from sample surveys taken monthly by the Census Bureau in 58,000 households all over the nation. The answers to questions in the sample surveys are used to project population figures, economic and social factors, and—incidentally—to tell us something about the number who are unemployed.

Seven figures are actually developed by the Bureau—each measuring a specific kind of unemployed person. The figure which is used generally—and which is most often quoted—is a measurement of those who are unemployed full-time workers, who were available for work during the survey week, who searched for work during that week, and who did not work at

all for pay. Currently that figure is 6.9 percent.

The other six "unemployment" figures use other criteria. One figure measures only those who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or longer—for example, that was only 1.9 percent for the third quarter of this year. The most comprehensive figure measures all unemployed workers, including those who have given up looking for work but who say they would like to be working. That figure was 9.7 percent for the third quarter. Clearly, it is important to know which "unemployment" group is being measured.

In addition to those national figures, the Bureau develops unemployment rates for special groups—women, veterans, and others. It develops the unemployment rates applied to states and local areas. Because federal assistance is often tied to these figures, their accuracy is constantly under question. West Virginia has had a rate slightly lower than the national average for 1976 and for the first half of 1977.

Even for those who have jobs, it is important that these economic statistics be accurate and clear. They are a good indicator of the economic well being of the country if they are understood properly and used with care.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

No Place for a Trouble-Maker

Millions of people around the world watched with hope and cautious optimism as Anwar Sadat of Egypt courageously broke through thirty years of war, prejudice, and tension between Israel and her Arab neighbors, to extend the hand of peace to Prime Minister Begin and his beleaguered nation.

Plato once said that "The beginning is the most important part of the work." That certainly is true in any attempt to bring peace and mutual understanding to warring countries. Although nothing in the exchanges between Israel and Egypt has yet settled any of the long-standing problems between these nations, the very act of speaking to one another and preparing for negotiations has increased the opportunities for real peace. The courage, wisdom, and diplomatic vision displayed by the leaders of these two Middle-Eastern nations have brought joy and hope to all civilized and peace-loving peoples and their governments.

However, the Soviet Union, perhaps fearing to lose influence in the region, has not only failed to support the move toward peace by President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin; it has also apparently encouraged intransigence on the part of radical Arab governments and extremist Arab groups.

Acting as a trouble-maker in this very volatile part of the world, the Soviet Union endangers efforts toward peace and increases the difficulties of finding real solutions to long-standing problems.

I have commended the President and the Secretary of State, as well as previous Administrations, for the patient pursuit of mutual understanding with Egypt as well as Israel. The United States can be proud of the balanced policy which has been followed by our government in recent years, allowing us to provide assistance and diplomatic resources to both sides. If the seed of genuine peace was planted in Jerusalem this past month, America can take some satisfaction in the fact that American diplomacy has long cultivated and tended the soil in preparation for that seed.

It is to be hoped that all other nations in the Arab world will come to see the wisdom of cooperating with President Sadat in his bold first steps toward negotiations. If the Soviets are sincere in their often expressed desire for peace in the troubled Middle East, the opportunity is at hand for them to encourage Syria and other reluctant Arab governments to participate in the difficult job of turning swords into plowshares.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Why West Virginia Students Score Higher

West Virginians can be proud of the fact that college-bound students in our state had higher Scholastic Aptitude Test scores this past year than those of students in the rest of the nation. The National Report of the College Entrance Examination Board and the College Board Summary for West Virginia have both recently published the average student scores in both math and verbal sections of the tests. West Virginia students average 30 points above the national average in both areas.

Parents, teachers, and students have good reason to be pleased with those higher scores. They should also be interested in the parts of the reports which compile and analyze the answers to questions which the students were asked about themselves, their schools, their grades, and their activities. These summaries turned up some very interesting differences in students in various parts of the nation. They reveal some clues to the higher academic aptitude scores of West Virginians.

High school grade records in math, English, foreign language, science, and social studies averaged higher in West Virginia than they did nationwide, in every subject. This emphasis on basics helped

produce better scores, and, therefore, better college opportunities for these young people.

Another difference was in the goals which students themselves reported. A higher percentage of those who took these tests in West Virginia reported goals of a postgraduate degree or graduate school work. In today's complex and highly technical world, that is certainly another plus for our school system and our students.

Most surprising of all is the marked difference reported in the number of students who participated in church or community activities. Nationally, only 23 percent reported having been "leaders" in these groups, and only 62 percent thought their own participation had been more than nominal. West Virginians, however, indicated that 35 percent had been "leaders," and an amazing 75 percent were more than nominally involved in their churches or in community activities.

This sharp difference in non-school activity of a community & religious nature indicates a strong and supportive home and community, and the encouragement of participation by young people. That may explain a good deal about why West Virginia's students do better than others on scholastic aptitude tests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

What to Do With Extra Years?

At the beginning of this century there were 3 million Americans who were over 65 years of age. In 1975, there were more than 22 million! That change reflects both amazing medical achievements and improvements in the American standard of living which have made it possible for people born in this century to live longer, more comfortable, and more productive lives.

However, these changes also present problems for our society. As the number of Americans over the age of 65 grows, and their percentage of the population increases, changes must be made in health care planning, housing built for older citizens, pension plans, transportation, and many other aspects of our culture. The "normal" retirement age is changing. Inflation adjustments needed for the elderly are different from those needed by young families. The nutrition requirements for the elderly are different than those for younger persons, creating new markets for the food industry.

A survey by the Public Health Service estimates that by the year 2000 there will be more than 31 million Americans over 65. More than half of those older citizens will be over 75. In 1900, at the turn of the century, only 29 percent of those in the "senior citizen" category were over 75; today, 45 percent are that old.

Although elderly Amer-

icans are healthier and better off financially today than they were fifty years ago, they still are often those with the lowest income and the highest health care costs. Inflation has caused the total spent for older citizen health care to go up from \$8 billion in 1966 to \$35 billion in 1976, cutting into the income of all older Americans, in spite of Medicare. A great part of that increased cost has been the result of advances in medical technology, research into better kinds of preventive health care, and improved treatment for heart disease, cerebrovascular diseases, and cancer—the three most common causes of death over age 65.

All Americans have been given extra years in which to live and to work. It will be up to both the young and the old to adjust to the new demands created by those extra years of life. Healthy senior citizens who wish to work should be able to do so, without age discrimination. Health care professionals must do the long-range planning necessary to care for an increasingly older population. Inflation should not be allowed to destroy the savings of those who have retired from the labor force after years of hard work.

If we recognize the rapidly changing demographic statistics concerning older citizens, we can help to make those extra years more worthwhile.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Country Doctor's Helper

Like apple pie and Fourth of July picnics, the country doctor is part of what most Americans like to think is the "real" America. Yet, in recent years, the country doctor is disappearing. Medical school graduates go on to study specialties or move to urban areas with financially rewarding careers. Only 4 percent of new doctors plan to go to work in rural areas; yet, there are 133 counties in the nation where no doctor's services are available — and there are 5,000 communities with no health care services at all.

Grants to build and help staff rural health care clinics have begun to bring better health to some rural areas. Many of these rural clinics have been able to use physician assistants or nurse practitioners who can handle routine health duties, making it possible for the overworked country doctor to take care of more serious problems and a greater patient load. These assistants, of course, must be qualified and work under the supervision of an M.D.

There were 2,500 graduates of physician assistant training in the first two years of the federal program. Almost half chose to work in rural areas after graduation. There is strong evidence that the presence of these doctor's helpers serves as a magnet, encouraging doctors to practice either full or part time in rural areas. The Appalachian Regional Commission esti-

mates that, where physician assistants have been used, the number of patients who are hospitalized has been reduced up to 25 percent through better and earlier care. As the cost of hospitalization rises, that is an important consideration.

One problem plaguing rural clinics is the fact that Medicare and Medicaid payments cannot be paid unless the physician is actually present when treatment is given. In rural clinics, where medical staffs are small and where physicians are often present only part time, the loss of these funds can mean the difference between breaking even or being forced to close.

Legislation has now been passed and signed into law to correct this inequity, allowing payment for health care provided in rural clinics where a physician acts as a supervisor of care, even though he is not actually present at the time of treatment. This legislation will prevent the closing of about 40 of the 200 rural clinics in the Appalachian states. It is especially important to rural clinics in coal-mining areas, where United Mine Worker Health Funds will be adversely affected because of the strike.

I supported this change in our Social Security laws; if good medical care is going to continue to be available to rural America, it is necessary that the country doctor receive the support and help he needs to do a proper job.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Star Adventures

Only a few hundred years ago, explorers and adventurers were venturing across the Atlantic and Pacific oceans to discover new worlds. Today, from the heart of the new world they found, the United States is continuing man's adventure—sending spacecraft out into the solar system to explore the planets.

The latest in this space odyssey is the trip being taken by the two Voyager spacecraft which were launched in 1977 by NASA. They will travel to the giant Jupiter, to Saturn, and to Uranus, carrying cameras and instruments to return first-hand information to planet Earth.

During the ten-year voyage of these spacecraft, they will send back to us reports about our neighbors in the solar system, giving scientists important clues as to the history of our own planet and our solar system. If all goes well, they will be able to examine Titan, a satellite of the planet Saturn, and the only one in the solar system which has a substantial atmosphere.

Finally, these two Voyagers will leave our solar system to journey among the stars. Each one of these carefully planned space ships carries infor-

mation and records of our own planet, in case another technological civilization exists somewhere in the vastness of the Universe.

In addition to these solar system explorers, NASA has sent the first of three High Energy Astronomy Observatories into space to study what astronomers consider the most important and mysterious questions about our universe — pulsars, black holes in space, and exploding galaxies. These observatories will be able to scan the entire sky in six months, reporting back to earth on observations made without the interference of our atmosphere.

The knowledge which man gains from these adventures in space is of great interest to scientists, of course. It will have a great value to us in practical and immediate ways, by providing a better understanding of solar-terrestrial phenomena such as solar winds, ozone depletion in the atmosphere, and weather and climate here on earth. Just as the adventures of our ancestors led to discoveries here in America which made all of our lives more worthwhile, these new explorers may provide our descendants with a better and safer life in the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fairness Required for Free Trade

The United States believes in a free market. Wherever possible, we have supported open trade on a worldwide basis. More than any other nation, America has helped to rebuild the industries of war-torn countries, and has encouraged the growth of industry in underdeveloped parts of the world.

However, free trade must mean fairness and a respect for the laws of trading partners. There is today a strong suspicion that the depressed world market for steel has tempted other nations to use predatory pricing when they export their steel products to the United States. This marketing practice is called "dumping"—the selling of goods at less than the cost of production, or at a lower price than the goods would bring in the seller's home country. It is done to capture a market and to drive competitors out of business. This practice is against American law.

Our share of the world market in steel has declined from 39 percent to 20 percent in the last 27 years. Partially, this is due to outmoded plants and equipment and to the economic burden of strong environmental laws. However, steel manufacturers believe a major part of the problem is foreign "dumping." Complaints have now

been filed against steel firms in Japan, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, West Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

Currently, when a complaint is filed, the Treasury Department has up to 10 months in which to investigate. If the final decision is that dumping has taken place, the case is turned over to the U.S. International Trade Commission, with directions to decide if U.S. interests are being harmed. If the Commission so decides, import duties can then be imposed on the offending nation.

Several months ago, I urged the President to move quickly to improve this process. The Administration has now decided to try a system wherein reference prices will be set, based on the cost of production of the most efficient foreign producer for each category and grade of steel. Sales below that reference price will automatically be seen as "dumping," causing retroactive fines and penalties.

Combined with several other initiatives proposed to help the steel industry to modernize and rebuild, this anti-dumping step will alleviate problems in a fair manner, I believe. A six-month trial period for the new administrative action will be worthwhile and beneficial.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting People to Work

One of the most disturbing elements in our unemployment statistics in the last ten years is the rise in the number of "hard-core" unemployed. These are the men and women who have no skills or little work experience. They are usually people with an inadequate education and poor work habits.

Their numbers have very little to do with the recession, or with the standard one-to-three percent of our work force who are moving to new jobs, changing careers, or looking for a first job after graduation from school. Even in times of prosperity, those we call the "hardcore" unemployed have a difficult time finding and holding a job.

The problem in the statistics about this small group of Americans is that they are increasing in number and increasing in their percentage of our population. Although we have poured millions of dollars into training courses, we have not decreased their number or their percentage.

Sociologists and educators who have attempted to research the causes for the continued long-term unemployment of certain workers have discovered

that they are usually untrained, unskilled, and functionally illiterate. They are often unable to read even simple directions or to do ordinary arithmetic problems. Some of them, for instance, are unable to read prices in the markets, or to use a bus schedule. They are educationally handicapped, which makes them poor candidates for any manpower training or skill training program.

Adult education specialists suggest that these workers will never be fully employable until they are "re-educated" in basic reading and arithmetic skills. In the past, some of these workers would have been hired in spite of their educational handicaps. However, in today's technological world, there is less often a place for unskilled labor.

No job program can help those who are not ready to be helped, and employers cannot be expected to hire workers who are of no economic value—workers who cannot do the job. However, each of these individuals can help himself if he is willing to do the hard work of returning to school for a new beginning in basic functional skills.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Soviet Pay Raise

Workers in at least part of the Soviet Union have recently been given a raise in pay—the first in several years. Our newspapers have carried that story, but it is difficult to know exactly what that pay raise will mean to those who receive it. What can a Soviet family buy for the money they earn? Is there any way to compare the Soviet cost of living or their quality of life with that of an American family?

In the Soviet Union, where government sets both prices and salaries, the real cost of producing goods is not always reflected in the price. There is no competition, no profit incentive, and little opportunity to develop new products without the approval of government. As a result, there is still a scarcity of consumer goods for Soviet citizens to buy. With artificially set prices and salaries, and limited goods to purchase, it is difficult to make comparisons.

Our own free enterprise system has provided the American people with the highest standard of living in the world. In spite of inflation, the average American worker can still purchase a greater variety of goods, and can still provide a more comfortable life for his family, than can workers anywhere in communist controlled nations.

One way in which comparisons can be made is in the number of hours or minutes which must be worked in order to earn

enough money to purchase basic items. For instance, in America 8 minutes of work will buy the amount of milk or bread which requires 25 minutes of work in Russia. Approximately 1 hour of work in the U.S. will purchase the same amount of beef as that provided by three hours of work from a Soviet citizen. Many modern items which Americans consider "normal" purchases—cars, radios, TV's, household equipment—are astoundingly expensive in the Soviet Union. While a Soviet worker must work about 1,150 hours in order to earn enough to buy a color TV, the average American worker only works 165 hours in order to buy a similar set. A Soviet worker must labor for 43 months to earn enough to purchase a car, while his American counterpart can purchase the same car with a little more than 4 months' salary.

Those differences in real cost—hours of work required to purchase an item—account for at least part of the discrepancy in the standard of living in the two nations. In the United States, there are more radios than there are human beings, and there are 627 telephones for every 1,000 people. In the Soviet Union, there are only 211 radios and only 53 telephones for every 1,000 people! In comparing the two systems, results are what really count—and the results prove that the American system works to the great advantage of the people.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Democracy Alive

Will the next generation of Americans be able to keep democracy alive in the United States? Will they be well enough informed to vote intelligently in local, state, and federal elections? Will they understand the history of America's long struggle for political freedom and the "unalienable rights" which our forefathers described in the Declaration of Independence? Without a knowledge of how our system of government works, can a citizen effectively and wisely participate in the self-government of which we are so proud?

Once again, as they did in 1973, the National Assessment of Educational Progress has released the results of a survey of the political knowledge and understanding of American teenagers. The first report was disturbing, because it demonstrated that too many young people growing up in the United States did not understand the structure and functions of our government, and did not have even a basic knowledge of Constitutional rights. Less than half of those questioned knew how a Presidential candidate was nominated and elected, and only forty-one percent could use a simple ballot to vote.

The new report shows a continuing decline in every one of the five knowledge areas studied. Overall, researchers found that knowledge about how our gov-

ernment works declined most of all among 17-year-olds, with average scores dropping from 64 percent correct in 1970 to 54 percent correct today.

Approximately one-fifth did not realize that broad areas of their civil rights are stated in the Constitution; freedom of religion, for example, was not recognized as a Constitutional right by 30 percent of the 13-year-olds.

Equally disturbing, 35 percent of the younger group and 18 percent of the 17-year-olds did not know that the Senate was a part of the Congress. More than half could not identify one of their representatives in Washington—and 22 percent said "I don't know," when asked if Congress is a part of the legislative branch! A majority did not know that the Senate must approve a treaty before it can be ratified, and that a nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court requires Senatorial confirmation.

The fact that political understanding is demonstrably weaker among young people today than it was in 1970 and 1972 should be cause for real concern among parents, teachers, and community leaders. We live in the oldest living Constitutional Republic in the world. The health of our political system depends upon our ability to educate our children in the difficult art of governing themselves.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Learning To Do It Yourself

How do you teach young people today to be self-sufficient? In a society which has come to depend more and more on federal and local governments, is it still possible for the individual to solve problems?

The New York Times recently reported a situation which gives possible answers to those questions. In an account about a New Lebanon, New York, high school, a very encouraging and heart-warming story was told. The rural and largely middle-class school district faced an austere budget and difficult administrative problems in 1971, following the defeat of a proposed school bond. The principal of the combined junior and senior high school was informed that the situation would mean no sports, no library books, and no lunch program. Because of the requirement for matching funds, it also would mean a cut-off of the federal school lunch subsidy.

Fortunately, for both the students and the school, the young principal, Gerald L. Blair, saw this unexpected cut-back as an opportunity. He decided to let the youngsters themselves solve the school lunch program. He saw this problem as an opportunity for "a unique and rewarding experience."

He and a fellow teacher each put up \$200 as seed money to begin an experi-

ment in self-reliance. The students were recruited to plan, cook, and serve lunches. Prices were set by the students: low enough to be acceptable to most, but high enough to provide a very slight profit for reinvestment in the program. Today, the experiment is a successful educational program.

Students who cannot afford to buy lunch, or who would rather use their money in some other way, can work for their meals. The young people who run the program are given academic credit for their work in a course called "Commercial Cooking." They are learning business procedures, self-discipline, and problem-solving. They are—and they should be—proud of what they have accomplished. They have more than repaid the trust and faith of their principal and teacher. In addition, they quickly repaid the dollars loaned to start the program, and have built a working inventory of equipment and foodstuffs.

Not every school district would want to use this program for school lunches. However, the basic concept of encouraging young people to provide a needed service to themselves and their fellow students through hard work and initiative is a good one, and the success of this program provides food for thought for all of us.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Fight Against Black Lung

In recent years, the nation has come to better understand the serious occupational hazards of coal mining — especially the threat of black lung disease, which results from the inhalation of coal dust. In 1969, the federal government began a program of payments to coal miners who were totally disabled by pneumoconiosis—black lung disease—and to the widows and orphans of those who had died of this disease. The President has recently signed the Black Lung Benefits Reform Act of 1977 and the Black Lung Benefits Revenue Act of 1977, making substantial revisions in the law and in our method of paying for benefits.

When the federal government first stepped in, in 1969, to provide compensation for miners who had suffered work-related health damage, the statistics showed that the risk of death for coal miners was twice that of the general public. The average working period for miners was 5 years less than that of other American labor groups. No serious research had yet been done on the problems of black lung disease or on how the presence of this disease affected other health problems of miners. In 1972, Congress, for the first time, authorized a program to construct and operate clinical facilities near the mines to examine miners, do basic clinical research, develop tests and treatments, and provide a bet-

ter picture of the health problems which are involved. Unfortunately, funding for these clinical facilities ran out in 1975, and had not been reauthorized until this year.

The new law will reestablish funds for clinical facilities to detect, diagnose and treat black lung and related diseases, and will establish field offices wherever there are sufficient claimants in need of assistance. These changes are aimed at providing faster service, better assistance, and clearer medical definitions of various black lung related health problems. Clinical facilities will be located where service is most needed. Field offices will be local and will operate under more realistic guidelines.

The establishment of a Black Lung Disability Insurance Trust Fund, to be maintained by a tax on coal — primarily on coal produced in underground mines — will provide long-term assurance that the black lung program will continue to operate as the responsibility for costs are gradually shifted to industry and away from the federal government. As the program to provide benefits to the victims and their families is thus put on a financially sound basis, the medical research into all aspects of occupationally related lung diseases will go forward, providing better weapons in our fight against an old enemy of the coal miner—black lung.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Who Should Pay the Bills?

In recent months, it has become clear that both the Guaranteed Student Loan Program and the National Defense Student Loan Program are in trouble because of "borrower defaults" — that is, because some students are failing to repay money borrowed to go to college.

In the GSL program, money is loaned directly to the student through a local bank, and its repayment is guaranteed, or insured, by the taxpayers. For 1977, the default rate on these guaranteed loans was 12.8 percent, not including loans which were cancelled due to death, disability, or bankruptcy. It is estimated by the Office of Education that the money needed to cover these defaults in 1978 would be \$154 million.

The other major Federal loan program, NDSL, works through the colleges and universities, where a student loan fund is established to provide students with low interest loans payable when the student leaves school. The default rate on these loans has been as high as 14 percent—a staggering loss to the universities and to the public.

Why are so many young people, educated and trained with the help of their fellow citizens, failing in their responsibility? Is it possible that between 10 and 15 percent of our better-educated young people are deadbeats?

The answers to those questions are not as simple as it would appear. While it is true that defaulting borrowers are legally responsible for money owed,

it is also true that some schools have encouraged students to borrow without making sure the student understands his obligation or is really capable of succeeding in a chosen field. Lending institutions have been lax in taking action when payments fall behind, preferring to have the government pay on a "default." Some students have complained that unused tuition money has not been refunded when a course is not completed, with the result that the student feels he should not have to pay for education he did not receive. Unemployment levels are high, making it difficult for students to get jobs immediately following graduation.

Congress has begun to tighten up on the federal requirements for students, lenders, and educational institutions who participate in these federal loan programs. However, the biggest and most important steps must be taken by participants themselves. Those who are in default must understand that unwarranted abuse of these programs will endanger funds for future students. Lending institutions and universities and colleges must make a greater effort to be both realistic and fair. Starting life with a poor credit rating undermines the advantages gained in higher education, and the trend toward defaults in educational loan programs is a serious threat to the nation's higher education system. Both the students involved and the general public will suffer unless this trend is reversed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Panama Canal Treaties, I

The United States and the Republic of Panama have now entered into new treaty arrangements respecting the Panama Canal. Senate approval of the new treaties continues to face an uphill fight, and a spirited national debate thereon is occurring. Contrary to the general notion, the U.S. does not "own" the Canal Zone. Title to the land and waters of the Zone — which extends a distance of five miles on each side of the center of the Canal — was never vested in the U.S. The 1903 Treaty, under which the United States built the Canal, granted to the United States "in perpetuity the use, occupation, and control" of the zone of land and waters. Also contrary to the general opinion that the U.S. is the "sovereign" over the Canal Zone, the language of the 1903 treaty stated that the Republic of Panama granted to the United States "all the rights, power, and authority" within the Zone which the U.S. would possess and exercise "if it were the sovereign of the territory." Hence, the argument by some of the opponents of the new treaty, to wit, that the U.S. has sovereignty over the Zone is not supported by careful reading of the exact language of the treaty. Moreover, a new treaty, signed on March 2, 1936, between Panama and the United States, referred to "the territory of the Republic

of Panama under the jurisdiction of the United States of America."

Under the 1903 Treaty, the United States agreed to pay Panama \$10 million in gold, and \$250,000 annually beginning nine years later. The 1936 treaty increased the annuity from \$250,000 to \$434,000 annually. The 1955 treaty increased the annual annuity to \$1,930,000 and increased the number of Panamanians to be employed in operating the canal.

Dissatisfaction in Panama over the 1903 treaty has existed from the beginning, and resulted in demonstrations in 1959 and riots in 1964, in which three U.S. soldiers and 21 Panamanians were killed, whereupon President Johnson initiated negotiations on a new treaty. These negotiations continued through the administrations of Presidents Nixon and Ford. For 13 years, therefore, the U.S. has engaged in negotiations for a new treaty that would strengthen our security interests, be fair to ourselves and the people of Panama, and insure continued neutral international use of the Canal. The U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff have been involved in the talks at every stage. Our military leaders maintain that the strategic military value of the Canal is in its use, and that its uninterrupted use is best assured by the new treaties which protect U.S. security interests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Panama Canal Treaties, II

The 1903 Panama Canal Treaty was a treaty that no Panamanian signed. Theodore Roosevelt's Administration received inside help from Philippe Bunau-Varilla, a Frenchman, who virtually blackmailed the new Republic of Panama into naming him its envoy in return for promised U.S. support of the revolution in which the Province of Panama seceded from Columbia and became a republic. Bunau-Varilla, it turned out, was less interested in the well-being of the new-born country than in the U.S. takeover of a French canal company which had gone bankrupt in attempting to construct a sea-level canal across the Isthmus. During the 1880's, Bunau-Varilla had worked for the French company, the organizer of which was Ferdinand de Lesseps, builder of the Suez Canal. When de Lesseps company went bankrupt in 1889, the French had already moved 50 million cubic metres of earth in attempting to build the canal across Panama, and 20,000 workers had died of malaria and yellow fever.

The canal company's creditors hoped that the U.S. would buy the French rights to the project, and Bunau-Varilla, former acting director of the French company, vigorously lobbied the U.S. government to do just that. To secure approval of the treaty

from the new Panamanian government, Bunau-Varilla cabled a false message from Washington to the Panamanians stating that the U.S. would withdraw its protection of the revolutionaries unless they promptly accepted the treaty which Bunau-Varilla had hurriedly drafted. Racing against time, Bunau-Varilla and U.S. Secretary of State John Hay formally signed the treaty at around 7:00 p.m., on November 18, 1903—only two hours before Panamanian officials arrived in Washington. Bunau-Varilla knew that U.S. Senate ratification of the treaty was vital to the success of his scheme. Hence, the treaty language prepared by him was so favorable to U.S. interests that Secretary of State, John Hay, wrote to a U.S. Senator: "You and I know very well how many points there are in this treaty to which a Panamanian patriot could object." Senate ratification was by a vote of 66 to 14. The Bunau-Varillo firm recovered all of its \$440,000 stake in the bankrupt French canal company, plus a profit of \$13,200.

The history of the treaty is a tale of rough-riding diplomacy that virtually insured long-smoldering resentment in Panama and throughout Central and South America against the United States.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Panama Canal Treaty, III

There is no question but that the U.S. wants and needs to retain ready access to, and passage through, the Panama Canal. By economic terms, America's dependence on the Canal has been steadily declining, due to advantages in other modes of transportation as well as to the fact that the Canal is not large enough for our new, larger cargo ships. Although 13 percent of our water-borne trade went through the Canal in 1949, only 7 percent of the foreign trade going in and out of U.S. seaports in 1976 passed through the Panama Canal. Moreover, the Canal has shown a net operating loss each year since 1973, with the result that tolls have been raised. Militarily, according to the U.S. Department of Defense, the Panama Canal is not only incapable of use by our aircraft carriers and other large warships, but the Panama Canal would also be very difficult to defend, even with the most sophisticated weaponry. Our military experts tell us that the Canal is operationally indefensible from terrorist attacks or acts of sabotage. They believe that the defense—and uninterrupted use—of the Canal would be greatly enhanced through a new treaty that would assure Panamanian cooperation. Only through such

a cooperative relationship with Panama, can the Canal be of practical use to the U.S. in wartime, our defense officials point out. Otherwise, the work of a single Panamanian saboteur could put it out of commission for months. And while the Canal's military and economic importance to us today is much less than it was 30 to 50 years ago, its importance by the year 2000—when the United States fully relinquishes control and operation—will be even less than it is today, according to U.S. military and economic experts.

Because of the limitations on the capacity of the present canal, Administration officials say we should keep open the option of replacing the present canal with a new and larger canal. Retaining this option requires a relationship of cooperation and mutual respect with Panama because extensive studies show that the best route for such a canal would be in Panama. Administrations under both political parties have stated that the prerequisite for such cooperation is the resolution of the long-held, festering resentments that currently exist in Panama and other Latin American countries concerning the present arrangements created by the 1903 Panama Canal Treaty.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bad Habits Start Early

At what age do Americans begin to drink and smoke? Although most of us would like to believe that these habits are picked up after young people grow up and leave home, the fact is that in today's world, many students in junior and senior high school have already begun to use these drugs.

The recent comprehensive federal study of the health of Americans includes startling statistics on the drinking and smoking behavior of students, as reported by the students themselves. Fifteen percent of students between the ages of 12 and 18 were found to be habitual smokers, and, for the first time, there was little difference between boys and girls. In spite of the fact that most students admit knowing that smoking could decrease the length of their lives or cause serious health problems, the percentage of teenagers who smoke has increased since 1968.

The report on drinking was even more disturbing. Although 27 percent of the junior and senior high school students who were surveyed reported not drinking at all, and 33 percent reported drinking only lightly or infrequently, 40 percent listed themselves as being moderate to heavy drinkers!

A "heavy" drinker was defined as one who drank five drinks at least once per week. Ten percent of these youngsters claimed to be in this category, and of those under 14 years of age, 5 percent claimed to drink that amount of alcohol regularly.

Although the percentages were lower for students in the South than for those in other regions of the nation, they were about the same for students in both rural and urban settings, and about the same for all economic groups.

Not surprisingly, these figures correlate almost exactly to grades received in school. Those who drank the most alcohol on a regular basis received the most D's and F's, while those who were abstainers received the most A's. Drinking and smoking habits also seem to correlate to the use of marijuana and hard drugs; 30 percent of those who use marijuana regularly are "heavy" drinkers, and 47 percent of those who use hard drugs also described themselves in the "heavy" drinker category.

The real tragedy of these figures lies in the future of these young people and their families. Both their education and their health are being threatened. The results are, unfortunately, highly predictable.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A PIPELINE TO THE SUN

Man's energy sources were once limited to things he could find on the surface of the earth: wood from trees, water in rivers and streams, and wind. As the need for energy grew, man began to dig into the earth for fossil fuels: oil, natural gas, and coal. All of these forms of energy—whether the wood from a living tree or the oil formed thousands of years ago from ancient forests—are derived from the heat and light from the sun itself. In that sense, all of our energy is solar power.

Now, scientists are suggesting that we should go into space to "mine" the greater solar power which lies outside our atmosphere. Solar satellites, capable of receiving sunlight which is not diluted by the thick layer of air covering the earth, would collect sunlight, turn it into electricity, and then beam it to earth on microwaves. Collectors of this kind could produce from 6 to 15 times as much energy as a solar collector based on earth, because approximately 65% of the energy power of sunlight is screened out by atmosphere, and because on earth, sunlight is only available in daylight hours.

The National Aeronautics and Space Agency and the Department of Energy are in the middle of a 3-year study to determine the feasibility of a solar satellite system. The tech-

nology already exists, according to space engineers. The satellite power station would be placed in geosynchronous orbit, held in position above one spot on the earth. Energy in the form of microwaves would be received in a rectenna, where it would then be reconverted to electricity.

The initial costs would be high, making it unlikely that private industry could fund the program. However, several industries are already funding research. A joint private-public effort, similar to that used for the television satellite system, is most likely.

It will be essential to evaluate environmental hazards, such as the possible effects of microwave radiation on the atmosphere. Some scientists have suggested that radio frequency interference might pose problems, and that the large amounts of silicon and aluminum needed to build the satellites would drain our reserves. All concerns of this kind would have to be thoroughly examined.

However, it is impossible that by the end of this century, man will begin to tap the original energy source—the sun—in outer space. If successful, this system will bring a new kind of power to earth, for the benefit of generations still unborn. Our "step into space" will truly have been valuable.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Flowers or Floods?

"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" This ancient Chinese proverb is often used to remind people that, in the cycle of life, a difficult period does not last forever. However, for many Americans this past winter's heavy snow and ice storms mean that spring may bring floods as well as flowers. Once again, nature threatens to add insult to injury for those people who live in the flood plains.

In past years, the nation has responded to flood disasters after the fact. Disaster relief was given to flood victims, and efforts were made to build flood control dams, seawalls, or levees. But very little was done to protect family or business investment through better construction techniques or more careful planning before disaster struck.

Finally, as flood losses mounted across the nation, Congress created the National Flood Insurance program, providing property-owners with affordable insurance protection through a coordinated local, state, and federal effort. Through careful local management of the flood plains, new construction will better withstand flooding, and as a result taxpayers will be called on less frequently to provide costly relief and repair assistance. It is estimated that by the year 2000, taxpayers and flood victims will be saved approximately \$1.7 billion a year.

More than 14,500 communities have already joined the first phase of the program, qualifying for emer-

gency coverage. This action triggers a detailed on-site survey of expected flood levels and risk zones by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Each Governor has a State Coordinating Agency to help communities adopt required flood plain management measures. Once a community has joined the emergency program, owners may purchase flood insurance for as little as \$25, with coverage for both old or new construction and for the contents of homes or businesses.

In West Virginia, 263 communities are now in the flood program, with 247 hazard areas identified. Most of these communities are still in the emergency program, but at least 15 have progressed to the regular program, where the full limits of flood insurance become available locally. This full coverage means that the local community has upgraded its local building standards, in cooperation with state and federal engineering surveys and flood maps.

No government can completely protect its citizens against floods or other natural disasters. However, the National Flood Insurance Program promises to be a worthwhile effort by government at all three levels—local, state, and federal—to prepare for possible future disaster and to protect individual families and businesses against catastrophic loss. As the worry about spring floods is eased, those who live in flood plains can then welcome spring flowers with a lighter heart.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Partnership in Progress

In 1961, the Congress established a special program aimed at providing economic help to depressed areas of the Appalachian states. That small program grew into the Economic Development Administration, which now brings development assistance in the form of roads, sewers, and other community facilities to all parts of the nation which are hard-hit by unemployment. Thousands of small towns and rural areas have been given a second chance through this partnership of local and federal efforts.

One of the most successful elements in the Economic Development Administration's package is the business-loan program. Within specific guidelines, the EDA can loan money or guarantee a loan from a private lender, in order to create a small business or keep a floundering business going. The business must be in an area where unemployment has exceeded the national rate by 100% for at least one year, or by 50% for three years. The applicant must have exhausted other forms of financial help. In addition, the loan from the government must be matched on a 50-50 basis by a loan from a commercial bank.

Once the EDA loan or loan guarantee has been approved, at interest rates which will repay the government at the same rate which the government itself pays when borrowing money, the EDA acts as a constant counselor, helping with management and other administrative prob-

lems. This kind of help is advisory only, however; the business manager and workers must make final success or failure on their own.

In spite of the fact that these loans have been made in areas which were badly hit by recession or some other economic disaster, the default rate on loans has been very low. The agency reports that more than 95,000 jobs have been created or saved through this small program, and more than 400 businesses are alive and healthy today as a result of EDA loans.

Because West Virginia was one of the first areas to receive these special job-creating business loans, some of the most successful models are located in our part of the nation. A prime example is the small veneer plant in Martinsburg, about which the New York Times recently reported. Joint local and federal loans awarded twelve years ago, when unemployment was almost 10%, have kept this business producing for both domestic and export markets, and have provided jobs for 90 people.

Once again, a program which loans but does not give away money has proved to be the most worthwhile in the long run. Government cannot do for people what they refuse to do for themselves. But sometimes government can move sensibly to help people who are willing to repay taxpayers for a hand-up rather than a hand-out.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Measuring Inflation

If you got a raise this year, how much would it really be worth? If you are retired, and living on a pension, will your benefits be adequate to cover higher prices? If you are making an investment, is your return going to be fair? The answer to all these questions lies in the rate of inflation. Although that rate decreased last year, it is still one of our major problems. It is essential to correctly measure this increase in the dollar cost of things we buy, in order to better understand and control our economy.

The most important measure of inflation is the monthly Consumer Price Index, which is compiled in the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This report compares what a "market basket" of goods and services cost this month, as compared to what the same items would have cost last month, last year, or in the base year, 1967. Thus, if the CPI is 186, as it was in December, the cost of the "market basket" was \$186 for the same items which cost \$100 in 1967.

The "market basket" items which are used in this survey reflect the purchases of the average urban worker and clerical worker—about 40 percent of the total population. Items measured run the gamut from bread and butter to television and bowling fees, from pediatric health care to funeral services, from tricycles to

college tuition. Periodically, the goods and services measured are reevaluated, so that the CPI will accurately show changes in the spending habits of families. The relative importance of each item in the "market basket" may change, reflecting changes in how people allocate their income.

For instance, 35 percent of the average worker's income was spent on food in the years 1935 to 1939. However, in 1977, food took only 24 percent of that income, and the latest revision shows that food accounts for only 19 percent of the urban worker's purchases.

Beginning with the index published in February of this year, the Bureau is publishing a new, revised workers' index, based on an updated "market basket" and a more detailed survey. In addition, the Bureau has created a new index, reflecting the purchases made by a broader segment of the population. This new "All Urban Households" index includes spending by the retired citizen, the unemployed, the self-employed, salaried professionals, and urban and clerical workers—about 80 percent of our population.

The revised CPI and the new all-urban CPI will give us a much more accurate yardstick to measure inflation, and a better set of tools to work with in planning our attack on our old enemy—inflation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Appreciation for an Ancient River

Centuries ago, long before the Appalachian mountains were formed, the river which we call the "New" River was already running through what is now North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. This ancient stream continued to dig its own channel as the mountains rose around it, so that today its banks rise as high as 1,300 feet above the valley floor in West Virginia. Anthropologists have suggested that this river was one of the pathways which early man took in traveling to the Atlantic ocean on his long trek from Siberia. Naturalists report that there are at least 23 kinds of plants and animals alive, in West Virginia's segment of the New River, which are found nowhere else on earth. As one of the most dramatic and beautiful spots in the nation, the New River Gorge is a part of our national heritage.

The Senators from West Virginia have introduced legislation to provide protection for the 60 miles of this ancient river which lie in our state. By designating this scenic area a National River, and by placing it under the management of the National Park Service, it is believed that the ecosystem and environment of the river can be protected, while still allowing for the development of the area for the use of both residents and visitors. The nine small communities which lie

within the proposed National River would be preserved, as would private ownership of property. However, land use which was "incompatible with the purposes of the National River" would be prohibited.

Under the plan, the National Park Service would be provided with \$20 million to purchase land for the protection of the river itself or for the building of visitor facilities and access roads. Estimates of the number of visitors to the New River Gorge National River are as high as 3 million per year by 1985. Those 3 million visitors would spend about \$42 million annually, creating a gradual and healthy economic development, while still preserving the integrity and historic beauty of the gorge.

This proposal has been under study for several years. As the legislation is reviewed by House and Senate Committees, hearings will be held to provide an opportunity for experts, state officials, as well as interested members of the public to comment or recommend changes. If finally passed, the new National River would make West Virginia the home of a fine new national recreation area. Visitors from other states would be welcomed to share with us the excitement and pleasures of one of America's oldest natural wonders—the New River Gorge.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Crime Against Ourselves

During most of the 200 year-old history of the United States, Americans have felt a strong sense of pride in their government. We use the word "our" when we speak of our country, our army, our Capitol, our federal highways, our Congress, our flag. We have contributed voluntarily to the defense of our nation, in most cases. We have had a remarkable record of paying our income taxes honestly and voluntarily—97%, according to IRS records. Even today, when many taxpayers complain about high taxes, that voluntary and honest record stands as a symbol of our belief in our system of self-government and in obedience to the law.

However, a recent report by the General Accounting Office, and reports from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, have brought to light a serious new problem which affects our government and which affects each one of us as taxpayers. Those reports concern the apparent outright fraud in many government programs — with GAO estimates as high as \$15 billion being stolen fraudulently every year. The men and women who are taking this money are not members of organized crime, not hoods or robbers or muggers. They are ordinary Americans who have come to

believe that our government has so much money that a little bit here and a little bit there will never be missed. One GAO official explains these thefts by explaining that people feel "they can rip off the Government and it doesn't matter, that it isn't really a crime."

A new awareness of the problem is the result of Congressional hearings which uncovered some of the worst examples, triggering audits of various programs. The Department of Justice is now moving to take stronger action, and various Departments are setting up special programs to provide investigators with the facts. It is clear that more resources will have to be allocated to tracking down both fraud and waste. The fact that HEW has reported the loss of 24 cents out of every Medicaid dollar, 10 cents out of every Medicare dollar, and 10 cents out of every student aid dollar is shocking, and is a clear mandate for action against those who are committing these crimes.

The most tragic aspect of this kind of crime is that it is crime against "our" government — which means that it is crime against ourselves. It indicates that for some Americans, greed and selfishness have overcome pride in our nation and our form of self-rule.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An American Self-Portrait

One morning in the year 1980, each household in the United States will receive a thick letter from the federal government. That letter will contain a questionnaire to be filled out and returned. After months of preparation, the Census Bureau will be ready to help the citizens of this nation paint a self-portrait—through the Constitutionally-mandated “enumeration” of the population which must take place every ten years.

The simple head-count, which was originally intended for the purpose of adjusting the number of Congressional seats and the boundaries of Congressional districts, has developed gradually into a valuable and sophisticated data-collection system. The Census Bureau today compiles information about social and economic conditions, trends in population growth and movement, and demographic changes in 39,000 local areas of the country.

The questions which are selected for use on the Census forms are the result of months and years of study and consideration by the Bureau. Various federal agencies, state governments, local governments, social scientists, urban and rural planners, schools and colleges, and members of the business community all submit ques-

tions which they would like to have included. Statistical experts sift through the questions, selecting those which will develop the most necessary or worthwhile data.

Two forms have been developed and pretested for the 1980 Census. One includes only essential questions, and will be received by 80 percent of the population. The other, longer form will go to the remaining 20 percent, and most of the detailed social and economic data concerning the nation will be extrapolated from information on this “sample” survey. The amount of money each community receives for revenue sharing, or for hundreds of other assistance, development, or training programs, is calculated on the basis of this important Census information.

Congress last year passed legislation providing for a Congressional review of questions, greater protection for the confidentiality of information, and the elimination of the penalty of imprisonment for refusal to answer questions. No citizen should feel compelled to answer questions which he feels are improper. However, every citizen should make sure that he is counted, and that his own picture is included in the national self-portrait which will be drawn.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Railroad Rebuilding and Energy Plans

In 1870, a little more than one hundred years ago, three quarters of our energy was produced by the burning of wood. Soon after that time, however, coal became the apparently endless source for energy, resulting in the production of iron and steel, and massive industrial growth.

The next step in our energy history was a shift to liquid fossil fuels—oil and natural gas—and the widespread use of electricity. As these cheaper fuels became available, coal lost its title as “king” of the energy world.

Now, coal is again becoming of vital importance. The President has asked that coal producers increase their production by 400 million tons per year by 1985. This additional coal would be used by utilities and industry both, as a replacement for higher-priced natural gas and oil.

Not enough planning, however, has been given to the problems of transporting that additional coal from the mines to the places where it will be used to keep our nation running. Railroads transport about three fourths of our coal today. In 1975, that meant that 400 million tons of coal were transported by rail. Barges

and coal slurry pipelines are other modes of transport which are being used. However, a recent assessment by the Office of Technology Assessment pinpoints many controversies surrounding pipeline proposals.

The railroad industry itself estimates that by 1985 it will probably be asked to move 800 million tons of coal—twice the amount moved last year. Shipment to electric utilities will account for about half of the increase, and shipment to industrial users will account for the remainder.

The increased rail traffic will require an investment of \$9 billion in coal-carrying cars and locomotives, and an investment of \$4 billion in plant improvements, such as additional track, heavier rail systems, and other technical improvements. Yet, the nation's railroads have not had a rate of return in recent years which promises to provide that kind of capital outlay.

As we struggle to meet our energy needs, it is going to be necessary to find ways to solve these peripheral transportation problems. Rebuilding the nation's railroad system should have a high priority in our national energy planning.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Agriculture's Roller-Coaster

When nature destroys a farmer's crop, through drought or storm, he usually determines that he must try again the next year. However, when a farmer loses the value of his crop through unexpected fluctuations of crop prices, he understandably feels betrayed by an economic factor he cannot control.

Consumers and taxpayers, as well as farmers, are at the mercy of fluctuating farm prices. In the last few years, those prices have jumped to new highs or plunged to record lows. A sudden increase in the cost of energy, boom-or-bust price changes caused by world food shortages or surpluses, sudden and sharp increases in the value of farm land, and the impact of inflation on the cost of packaging and processing farm products have all contributed to the economic risks which farmers face.

In 1977, American farm exports were valued at \$24 billion—nearly three times the value of 1970's exports. Much of our balance of trade depends upon maintaining or increasing that agricultural export market. Yet bumper crops in 1976 and 1977 translated into low unit prices to farmers—and painful business losses to many of them.

Secretary of Agriculture Bergland has stated that there are four possible solutions to the economic

plight of the family farmer. We could let giant agribusinesses absorb the family farms. We could impose government controls. We could increase the number of farmer cooperatives. Or, we could provide a system of voluntary controls and commodity reserves. The first two of these solutions, of course, are unacceptable to Americans. Farmer cooperatives are a good long-range possibility, but require a high degree of participation by farmers in order to be effective on a large scale. The final alternative is the one which was incorporated in the 1977 Agricultural Act, and the one which is being tested this year for the first time.

This legislation aims to strengthen market prices through loans and target prices, and to establish a reserve program through voluntary set-asides. Surpluses will then be removed from the market, held in reserve, and released to the market when prices reach a "release" level which will assure a fair return to the farmer. Farmers themselves will control the reserves, and the time at which they are released.

This is not a "quick-fix" solution to farm problems, but it does promise steady and sustained growth, with economic protections for family farmers. That goal is of great importance to all of us—farmers, consumers, and taxpayers.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Paying for Government

Taxpayers in each of the other 49 states have watched with interest as California voters made their decision to limit the tax on property to 1 percent of the 1975-1976 assessed value. "Proposition 13" has become an instant code word for tax restraints and tax rollbacks, throughout the country.

The citizens of California resorted to an extreme solution because they had an extreme problem. California taxes have been among the highest in the nation, and the highly inflated real estate prices in that state have compounded the problem, so that in some cases one year's tax was approaching the original cost of the property. For the average middle-income family, the tax cost was a heavy burden, and for the fixed-income homeowner, the tax cost had become prohibitive.

West Virginia has had a tax rate limitation since 1932. That early and sensible decision has kept local and state property taxes in West Virginia at a more modest level. It has been a strong factor in keeping local government aware of the need for sound fiscal policy. As a result, West Virginia property taxes for fiscal year 1974-1975 took only 2.2 percent of state residents' personal income, as compared to the 4.3 percent

U.S. average — and the 5.97 percent paid in California!

However, the decision in California is symbolic of a serious and nationwide problem. Inflation has increased incomes, but it has increased the cost of living even more. It has also increased the percentage of total income paid in taxes, because workers are in higher tax brackets, although their "real" income has gone down 2½ percent in the last 5 years.

Big government is a natural response to big demands. These demands have been made by various groups and individuals in our society for government action to solve specific problems. Making the difficult decisions about where to cut, and how much, should be done carefully. Waste must be eliminated, and firm priorities established. The Congress has recognized the need for fiscal responsibility in the federal budget, and the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was instituted to effectively control and limit government spending without cutting essential defense or social programs. Greater economy in government at every level is a goal which must always be sought. Achieving that goal is best accomplished through reasonable and deliberative decisions on spending limitations.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Aging of America

The English poet, Robert Browning, expressed the desires of most human beings when he wrote, "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be—the last of life, for which the first was made." Yet, throughout the history of mankind, the last of life has usually been far from "the best." Impairment of the senses, loss of the ability to work, or even painful disease has seemed a more likely prospect for the final years of life. That is why many people dread and fear old age.

Yet, America is gradually becoming an "older" nation. In 1940, only 7 percent of all Americans were 65 years of age or older. In 1970, that percentage had grown to 10 percent, and by the year 2000 it is expected that more than 12 percent of our citizens will be more than 65 years of age. Part of the cause for that shift in age groups is the lowering of our birthrate and the decrease in the size of the average family. A second, and even more powerful cause, is the better health care provided for all Americans today, from birth onward. Babies have a better chance of being born healthy and strong, and our medical teams have conquered many diseases which killed or crippled people in earlier times.

Some commentators have jumped to the erroneous conclusion that these

statistics will translate automatically into hardships for younger people, as they struggle to care for nearly 30 million senior citizens who are elderly and ill. However, work being done at the National Institute on Aging, and in other laboratories around the world, indicates that the most likely change will be in our definition of words like "old" and "aging." Scientists have found that healthy organs in the body do not necessarily deteriorate dramatically with age, as was previously believed.

Biologists, nutritionists, gerontologists, geneticists, and other researchers have had success in experiments which extend the lives of laboratory animals or which even reverse the aging process. New drugs, originally developed to combat specific diseases, have provided clues to possible human life-extension. In one experiment, the healthy life-span of mice was increased 10 percent after dosages of a drug used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

The work being done in these laboratories should be of great interest to every American. Age is a future we all share. As our nation grows older and healthier, it is possible for us to hope that we, too, will be stronger and healthier in our later years, the "last of life, for which the first was made."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fighting to Control International Terrorists

In the first week of 1978, a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Britain was shot by an assassin. The victim was considered to be a political moderate, and had made anti-terrorist speeches in the last few months before his death. The terrorist attack on this man was only the first of the acts of international terrorism for this year—and he became an instant statistic in the records of such attacks which are being kept by worried governments everywhere in the world.

Our own CIA has reported a tentative listing of 1,151 such terrorist incidents between 1968 and 1976. Some of those tragedies received media attention, and some did not. Some were crimes against property—bombings, arson, or incendiary attacks. Some were kidnappings, or the taking of hostages. The most tragic were outright assassinations or armed assaults. The single thread which joins all of these cases of international terrorism together is the fact that a violent crime, or the threat of a violent crime, was committed for political purposes. The victim is seen by the terrorist only as a means to an end—a tool to be used to draw attention to a political problem or to force a desired political action.

In the last decade there has been a rapid increase in the number of international terrorist attacks. There is strong evidence

that terrorist groups are shifting to transnational cooperation and are directing terrorism against the existing system of international order, rather than against an isolated political party or the government of one nation.

Although most of the terrorist attacks of the last decade have taken place outside of the United States, the number of international incidents in which American citizens or property were victimized is disproportionately high. Our own strict airport regulations and well-coordinated and sophisticated police procedures are unfortunately not duplicated in most other nations. Both the Administration and the Congress have taken steps to encourage greater international cooperation in bringing terrorism under better control. Security at American installations abroad has been tightened. American businessmen are assisted in providing security for property and employees. Congress has moved to cut off aid to governments which grant sanctuary to terrorists.

The development of firm and uniform international policies toward these criminals is a difficult but very worthwhile goal. The use of terror to achieve political power is an unacceptable development in world affairs. It is the antithesis of everything which our nation believes in and stands for in the world. We must do all we can to make this kind of behavior unsuccessful.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Name for an Old Game

Thousands of years ago, hidden in the mists of pre-historic time, men and women began the invention process which we now call technology development. Whether that first idea was for a wheel, or an oven, or a new way of measuring time, the process was essentially the same as that which takes place today. The inventor recognized a need; he found a new way of using a natural resource, or a new way of doing a job, in order to satisfy that need. His invention changed the lives of his family and friends—and, as information about his idea passed from one group to another, life changed for others, too.

The knowledge he had created about how to do something was valuable in itself—and it became more valuable as it passed from one group to another. Undoubtedly, the discovery was soon made that knowledge has the power to inspire and develop further knowledge. We recognize that fact when we say "one idea leads to another." Wheels led to carts, and carts led to roads, and roads led to commerce and trade.

Transferring "how-to-do-it" knowledge has been an essential ingredient in the history of man's progress. However, our engineering and scientific knowledge has grown so rapidly in the last 100 years, it has become very difficult to discover and organize all the technical information that exists today. Even en-

gineers and scientists are unable to keep up with the ever-increasing storehouse of information. They are too often forced to "re-invent the wheel"—that is, to spend hours and money wastefully duplicating technology which already exists in some other laboratory in some other area of the nation or the world.

When government invests tax dollars in research and development programs, searching for new technology to meet specific public needs, it is sensible to provide a technology transfer system which will make the results of that research available to the public as quickly and understandably as possible. That may mean building a demonstration plant—like the coal liquefaction facility which is proposed for West Virginia. It may mean providing a Technology Access Center, where information can be stored in computers and retrieved by engineers and scientists as it is needed. It may mean publishing reports and technical bulletins for use by industry, or by local and state governments.

The English philosopher, Herbert Spencer, defined science as "organized knowledge." Technology transfer is a new name for the very old process by which mankind has organized and communicated the know-how created by inventors and engineers. It is still one of the most valuable tools we possess.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

NATO: Not a Military Museum

Thirty years ago, the West was recovering from the devastation of World War II when a new danger arose—the threat of Communist aggression. To preserve the hard-won peace, the United States and its Western allies formed a political-military alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which was to become the cornerstone of post-war U.S. foreign policy.

After three decades of peace and prosperity in Europe, the United States is again focusing its attention on the continent's security. The reason for the concern is the steady buildup of Soviet-Warsaw Pact men and munitions in Eastern Europe. Clearly, it is vital that the North Atlantic alliance maintains adequate military strength.

During my recent trip to Europe as President Carter's special emissary, I discussed the state of NATO's defenses with alliance officials and with leaders of three NATO countries — Prime Minister James Callaghan of the United Kingdom, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, and Prime Minister Leo Tindemans of Belgium.

I reassured the European

leaders of the United States' strong support for NATO and for the long-term defense program agreed to in May by representatives attending the Washington NATO summit.

The long-term plan consists of a 10 to 15-year program to coordinate and improve NATO's forces, and a commitment by each member to increase defense spending by 3 percent per year.

All of the leaders were heartened by the United States' renewed commitment to European security and were encouraged by the progress made at the Washington meeting.

NATO's Secretary General Joseph Luns said it would be up to each member country to implement the long-term plan. He said the member countries would move at different paces because of economic and parliamentary difficulties.

It is clear that NATO's leaders have no intention of allowing the alliance's forces to become a military museum. I found, instead, a willingness to send a clear signal to Moscow that the North Atlantic allies stand united and ready to meet any challenge.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Paving the Way for Peace

Turkey, strategically located on the Soviet Union's border, has long been a close and valued ally of the United States. The friendship is based on Turkey's western-style democracy and a common membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the post-war alliance created to protect Western Europe from invasion.

Greece is also an old and trusted ally, as well as a fellow NATO member. For the past 3½ years, the two countries have been feuding over the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, which has both Greek and Turkish residents. In 1974, the Turks quelled a coup on the island mounted by Greek officers and Cypriots who favored a political union between Greece and Cyprus.

Congress imposed an arms embargo on Turkey because the Turks violated U.S. law by using American weapons in the invasion. Also, it was felt that an embargo might pressure Turkey, which still controls the northern third of Cyprus, into making concessions.

The U.S. Senate has adopted an amendment I introduced to repeal the 42-month-old embargo while making further aid to Greece, Turkey and Cyprus dependent on resolution of the conflict.

The amendment also provides for an additional \$35 million in foreign military sales credits to Greece as well as Congressional review of progress in the Cyprus negotiations.

The embargo has served its purpose in registering

our discontent and has become counterproductive. It has not brought Turkey and Greece closer to agreement, and it has jeopardized Turkey's military strength and ability to contribute to NATO's defenses.

Unable to get spare parts or modern weapons, the Turkish army has been forced to cannibalize other equipment.

The Turkish army is the second largest in NATO and its diminished military capability leaves the whole of southeastern Europe, including Greece, more vulnerable to Soviet attack. Such an attack is a possibility, given the unprecedented Soviet buildup on the southern flank and the central front.

European leaders and NATO officials I talked with on my recent trip to Europe were unanimous in urging that the United States lift the embargo. A weakened Turkey weakens NATO, I was told.

There are indications that Turkey and Greece are ready to negotiate on Cyprus, and lifting the embargo improves the atmosphere for concessions. Turkish Cypriot leaders have offered to withdraw from the Greek city of Varosha so that some 35,000 Greek Cypriot refugees can return to their homes and live under an interim, probably U.N., government.

In repealing the arms embargo we are not turning our back on Greece. Our goal is to have strong and friendly nations in the Eastern Mediterranean to maintain the strength of NATO and make possible a just Cyprus settlement.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal: The Nation's Insurance Policy

Coal, West Virginia's greatest natural resource, may also be America's insurance policy in the event of a world-wide oil shortage that could come as early as the mid-1980's.

To mute the impact of soaring oil prices, the federal government plans to use domestic coal as a synthetic substitute for imported oil.

Since World War II, scientists have experimented with processes to turn coal into a liquid fuel. The most promising technique is called solvent refining of coal or SRC, which, in its most advanced form (SRC-II), produces a liquid that meets clean air standards and can be used in existing liquid fuel boilers.

At present there are two small SRC pilot plants—one in Wilsonville, Ala., and a larger one in Tacoma, Wash., which use from six to 50 tons of coal a day to make liquid and solid fuels.

On a much larger scale, the U.S. Department of Energy and a subsidiary of Gulf Oil Corporation plan to build a \$450-\$600 million SRC-II demonstration plant on a site near Morgantown, W. Va. Each day the plant would convert 6,000 tons of high-sulfur coal into clean-burning

fuel and gas byproducts. Under the present schedule, the plant could be in operation by 1983, producing the energy equivalent of a 20,000-barrel-a-day oil refinery.

If the demonstration proves successful, the plant could be enlarged to commercial size, converting 30,000 tons of coal a day into the energy equivalent of 100,000 barrels of oil.

SRC liquid fuel, at an estimated cost of \$20-\$21 a barrel, could also become a bargain if the real price of oil continues to rise.

West Virginia was chosen as the site for the plant because of its abundant coal reserves, its extensive river and rail shipping systems, and its proximity to East Coast utilities and industries, where need for fuel is great.

The plant could become a drawing card, attracting energy-intensive industries to West Virginia, as well as being a good customer for our native coal.

The demonstration plant is contingent upon full approval by Congress, but I am certain that, given the predictions of an energy shortage and President Carter's call to use domestic coal instead of foreign oil, the SRC plant's future is bright.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Realism and Railroads

A quick glance at any map of the United States reveals the impact of railroads on the settlement of our country. As tracks were laid across America, huge areas opened up to farming and ranching; towns sprang up, and cities developed where rail lines met.

Our founding fathers realized that improved transportation was a prerequisite for the success of the American experiment in democracy. George Washington, concerned about uniting the far-flung sections of the continent, wrote that it was necessary through transportation "to supply the cement of interest to bind all parts of the Union together by indissoluble bonds."

Railroads remain the backbone of our transportation system, although they now face stiff competition from highway, barge, and air carriers.

One of the nation's largest freight lines is Consolidated Rail Corp., or ConRail, which Congress created in 1976 by consolidating several bankrupt Northeastern lines.

ConRail carries one-fourth of the nation's freight through 17 states, including West Virginia, where its cars haul thousands of tons of coal, petrochemicals, grain and farm products, lumber and crushed stone. In addition, ConRail employs some 459 West Virginians at an annual payroll of \$7.4 million.

Congress originally intended to sponsor ConRail until it was financially able to stand on its own, but that day seems to be far away. ConRail has again come before Congress—hat in hand, palm extended—asking for more federal dollars. In a time of austerity budgets and conflicting priorities, Congress needs answers to some hard questions.

The Senate has approved an amendment I proposed that would require closer government examination of ConRail's operations. I believe that Congress cannot make informed judgements on budget priorities without accurate, concise, and complete reports.

My amendment directs the U.S. Railway Association, which already monitors ConRail's financial performance, to deliver periodic reports to Congress on ConRail's operations, cost control and marketing policies. In this way, Senators can see what ConRail's problems are and what its managers are doing to correct them.

By identifying and acting on serious problems in plenty of time, we can avoid the disasterous effects on local economies of canceling money-losing routes. We also fulfill our obligations to the customers and communities served by ConRail—as well as to all taxpayers—to assure that the railroad performs according to sound management principles.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Preventable Tragedy

The April 27 tower collapse at Willow Island is all the more tragic because it was preventable. Like so many disasters, it resulted from undetected hazards that caused the scaffolding to crumble, sending 51 men to their deaths.

If only the concrete had been tested and found unsafe; if only the scaffold formwork had been properly secured; if only the beam sections supporting the concrete lifting system atop the tower had been anchored to support the maximum load—this tragedy might never had occurred. That is the judgment of Dr. Eula Bingham, head of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

It is of little consolation to the families who lost brothers, fathers, sons, uncles or nephews at Willow Island that the tragedy could have been prevented. The loss of a loved one can never be compensated. The least that can be done is to quickly and thoroughly complete the investigation and determine the question of guilt or innocence.

Although OSHA has been investigating the matter for three months, the final report is not ready. OSHA officials tell me they are waiting for the National Bureau of Standards to finish tests on the sta-

bility of the tower's concrete and to complete a computer model of the tower. The full investigation should be finished on Sept. 30.

OSHA has already found a total of 10 willful and 10 serious violations committed by the three companies involved in the tower's construction. The firms are appealing the violations, which carry combined penalties of \$108,300.

I have contacted U.S. Secretary of Labor F. Ray Marshall, urging that everything possible be done to expedite the investigation. Also, because of the number and seriousness of the violations OSHA found, I have urged that the agency's findings be turned over to the Justice Department for consideration of a possible criminal investigation.

I am pleased to report that Secretary Marshall has advised me that the Labor Department will share its Willow Island files and a summary of OSHA's findings to date with the Justice Department.

Companies and government agencies responsible for workers' safety must take to heart the lessons learned from the Willow Island tragedy. The terrible price that was paid will never be forgotten.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help for America's Families

Middle-income families with college-bound children have more reason than most to complain that they feel powerless in the ever-tightening pincers of inflation. College costs have risen more than 93 percent since 1967.

To add to their financial woes, middle-income families find they fall between the cracks of most public and private scholarship, grant, and loan programs. They are considered neither poor enough to qualify for aid, nor rich enough to pay the full cost of a college or vocational-technical education.

Federal aid programs are mostly slanted toward low-income families. Of this year's \$8.6 billion spent on college-level school aid, 69 percent will go to low-income students.

Advanced education is now out of the reach of many. The average total yearly cost of a private, four-year college education is about \$6,619 and about \$4,546 at a public institution.

Congress, aware of the financial plight of so many American families, has considered several alternatives, particularly the extension of tuition tax credits. Some proposals considered would

provide credits to parents of elementary and secondary private and parochial students, as well as to college-level students.

I am pleased to report that the Senate, with my support, has passed a bill that would provide a tax credit equal to 50 percent of tuition and fees up to a maximum of \$250 for college, junior college or advanced vocational-technical education effective Aug. 1, 1978. On Oct. 1, 1980, the credit would be increased to a maximum of \$500 per student. The tax credit is subtracted from the amount of taxes owned.

I think we ought to get some experience in dealing with the college-level tuition credit and assess its impact on tuition costs before we proceed to deal with elementary and secondary school tax credits.

As approved by the Senate, the college-level tuition tax credit will particularly benefit middle-income families whose budgets are strained by rising education costs.

Education is a social benefit from which we all profit. As Diogenes said, "The foundation of every state is the education of its youth."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Green Bank's Sky-Scanner

Nestled in the mountains of Green Bank, W.Va., are four giant, ear-like discs, poised and listening to signals emitted by celestial bodies as far away as the edges of our universe.

The discs are actually the 85-foot wide, oval-shaped antennae of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's radio interferometer—a highly sensitive radio telescope built in the 1960's to probe distant galaxies.

About 150 West Virginians, employed at the observatory in technical and administrative positions, came close to losing their jobs recently.

The National Science Foundation, which built and operated the telescope, moved its research facilities to New Mexico. Two Southern Hemisphere countries were interested in the telescope. Any change in ownership would have meant replacing the West Virginia staff.

However, the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington wanted a powerful radio telescope to gather measurements for navigation and time determination. Rather than build a new interferometer at a cost of \$3-\$5 million, the Naval Observatory decided to contract with the National Radio Astronomy Observatory to use the Green Bank equipment.

There was a problem in finding the necessary funds in the Naval Observatory's budget to run the West Virginia facility; but, at my urging, the Navy transferred money from other departments to operate the Green Bank observatory, using the present staff.

While the radio interferometer was originally used for special research problems, the Naval Observatory plans to use it for more practical matters, such as determining the precise time.

Beginning in October, the Naval Observatory hopes to take daily readings of the exact positions of stars, planets, and other celestial bodies. These measurements will be used to set the Naval Observatory's Master Clock in Washington.

The Master Clock is considered to keep the most accurate time in the world—precise to within one second per 3,000 years. Its settings are used to determine the positions of ships, submarines, and aircraft, as well as in coordinating communication of satellites.

West Virginians can take pride in the work that will continue uninterrupted at Green Bank. In its new role, the observatory will continue to make its mark on the world and enhance our national defense.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

"To Debate and Never Vote"

The filibuster, one of the most potent weapons in the arsenal of parliamentary skirmishes, usually refers to the use of continuous talk to delay or kill legislative action.

The time-consuming tactics that are now called filibusters are as old as parliamentary government. Indeed, long-winded speakers were to be found in the Roman Senate as well as America's first colonial assemblies.

The word filibuster only came into popular use in the mid-1800's. It is derived from the Dutch word, *Vrijbouter*, meaning free-booter, referring to 19th century American adventurers who waged unauthorized warfare on foreign lands for plunder or profit. By the late 1800's, the legislative practice, as well as the new meaning of the word, was firmly entrenched in the U.S. Senate.

Filibusters were common in the House of Representatives before they occurred in the Senate, but the larger membership of the House soon resulted in curbs on debate. Today, one hears only of Senate, not House, filibusters.

Filibusters are tolerated perhaps because of the Senate's cherished tradition of respect for both the rights of the individual and the minority. One historian

points out that in the early days of Congress, Senators were much like ambassadors from the sovereign states, treating each other equally and with respect for individual differences.

But, as filibusters proliferated, the Senate moved to curb flagrant abuses. In 1917, the Senate adopted a provision for cloture or limitation of debate. Later amended over the years, the rule now requires the votes of 60 Senators to invoke cloture.

Cloture, however, has not proved the end of a filibuster. It is still possible for one Senator to prevent a final vote by repeatedly requesting roll calls, quorum calls, and other delaying parliamentary maneuvers.

Because such stratagems stall the legislative process, I have proposed a resolution to change the Senate rules so that after cloture is invoked, the Senate has a maximum of 50 hours to further debate the clotured matter before a final vote is taken.

Post-cloture filibusters are an anachronism in a world where pressing problems abound. The Senate must remove roadblocks to its effective functioning.

As one Senator long ago said, "To vote without debate is perilous, but to debate and never vote is imbecile."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Case for Compromise

In the heat of Indian summer, it is hard to remember the bitter cold of the last two winters. We forget that schools and factories closed, and people shivered in frigid houses because of a natural gas shortage.

The Senate, at this writing, is considering a natural gas compromise bill that would help prevent future gas shortages, and gear our national energy policy toward reliance on domestic, rather than imported, fuels.

At the present time, gas sold in the state in which it is produced is unregulated and brings a higher price than gas sold in the interstate, federally-regulated market. The result of such a dual price system has been surpluses of gas in the producing states and shortages elsewhere.

Another serious consequence is that industrial users, afraid of disruptions in gas supplies, tend to burn foreign oil, or costly liquid natural gas imported from abroad, rather than domestic natural gas. Reliance on imported oil is a chief cause of inflation.

The natural gas compromise bill would begin to phase out the distinction between interstate and intrastate markets in order to create a national market. Federal pricing regulations would be lifted from all newly discovered gas by 1985. The bill en-

courages increased and uninterrupted gas supplies, gradual price rises and industrial use of domestic gas instead of foreign oil.

Most importantly, passage of the bill would help restore the international community's faith in America's ability to deal with long-term energy problems. Other nations are watching us to see if we have the fortitude and self-discipline to curtail our appetite for foreign oil.

European leaders, during my recent trip overseas, repeatedly told me of their concern about the United States' failure to enact a national energy policy. There are already tangible signs of international doubts about America's global influence. The U.S. dollar has lost 30 percent of its value against strong currencies. Other nations think we are simply printing more dollars to buy foreign oil, thus, flooding the world with worthless currency.

Passage of the compromise gas bill would symbolize U.S. resolve to deal with energy needs, and would do much to restore confidence in the dollar, correct our balance of trade deficit, and cut inflation.

It is my hope that Congress will accept its responsibility, rise above regional and vested interests, and vote in the nation's interest for the compromise natural gas bill.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Free Trade: A Two-Way Street

Japan may be half a world away, but business decisions made there have had a profound effect on West Virginia's coal miners.

Japan was once a major customer of U.S. coking coal used in steel production, but since 1970 its imports of our coal have declined by 20 percent. During the past few years, West Virginia's share of total U.S. coal exports has dropped from 64 percent in 1973 to 44 percent in 1977.

The West Virginia Coal Association estimates that 2,500 mining jobs have been eliminated since last March because of the world-wide decline in coking coal purchases.

The Japanese say they buy less coal because their steel mills are only running at 70 percent capacity in a depressed world market. They also say that U.S. coal, while it may be the best in the world, is not competitively priced with cheaper coals from Australia and Canada.

It is true that U.S. coal costs more, but it also has more carbon per ton so that steel mills can use coals of lesser qualities and still produce an acceptable coke strength. Thus, if compared with other coals in cost per carbon unit, U.S. coal is competitive.

In recent meetings with Japan's minister of external economic affairs and

with a high official of Japan's largest steel company, I stressed the cost-comparison benefits of our coal and urged Japan to buy more of it.

I also suggested that buying more American coal was the quickest way to improve Japan's trade imbalance with the United States, which is threatening American jobs. I reminded the Japanese officials that free-trade is a two-way street and that Japan has a responsibility to buy more American goods.

I am happy to report that a coal industry expert will be included in the special trade mission to Japan in early October to seek ways to improve the balance of trade.

In the post-war reconstruction era, we helped rebuild Japan's steel industries. Under Japanese assurances of continued purchases, U.S. coal producers invested in new mines, plants and equipment. Some of those mines have been forced to close and others are operating on shortened workweeks because of cutbacks in imports.

If the trade imbalance continues and more American jobs suffer, the protectionist sentiment will grow in Congress. In the interests of free trade, it is incumbent upon the Japanese to hold up their end of the coal bargain.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fine-Tuning the Bureaucracy

"POSITION WANTED— A gentleman who is well-qualified to be a government clerk is willing to pay a portion of his salary every month to anyone who will get him a place in the Departments."

The above classified ad appeared in a mid-1800's newspaper, where it was not uncommon to see offers of cash or monthly payments for help in securing a federal government job in Washington.

In the last century, government jobs were openly bought and sold or doled out through the infamous "spoils system." Federal jobs were used as payoffs for political support, so that every time a new administration came to town, employees appointed under the old administration were fired and replaced by new office seekers.

Apart from the graft and corruption bred by the spoils system, there was almost no continuity in government. The public was understandably outraged, but reform was slow in coming. Only after the assassination of President Garfield by a disappointed job seeker, did Congress create the Civil Service system in 1883.

The new system was expected to correct the abuses by establishing a

permanent bureaucracy of employees hired for their qualifications rather than their political connections.

Over the years, however, the pendulum has swung too far in a protective reaction to the spoils system. By trying to prevent political patronage abuses, the Civil Service has become mired in paperwork and policies that make it almost impossible to fire incompetent workers, reward excellent job performances or speedily hire new workers.

Studies show that it takes an average of seven months to hire a mid-level white-collar worker and up to three years to fire an unsatisfactory employee.

President Carter made reform of the civil service a high priority of his new administration. I am pleased to report that Congress has approved the administration's reform legislation, which simplifies and expedites hiring and firing procedures, provides a system of pay incentives, and creates an elite corps of senior executives that trade some job security for a chance at higher pay for top performances.

All of us will benefit from a revitalized civil service, because in the long run, the result will be a more efficient and better-run Service.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Blueprint for Peace

The Middle East has been convulsed by periodic outbursts of violence and open warfare for the last thirty years. Only a short time ago, a deadlock in Israeli-Egyptian talks threatened to dissolve into a fifth major war.

The Camp David Summit has profoundly altered the situation. Through the courage, flexibility and vision of the three main participants — President Carter, Prime Minister Begin, and President Sadat—the prospects of a Middle East peace have brightened.

Already, the Israeli government has voted overwhelmingly to dismantle its settlements in the Sinai and accept the Camp David accords as a blueprint for a peace treaty with Egypt to be signed in a matter of weeks. The chances of a major Mideast war will diminish because Israel's neighbors will not risk a clash without help from Egypt.

To be sure, problems remain, subsequent negotiations will be trying at times, but, so long as the "spirit of Camp David" prevails, differences of opinion need not be obstacles to peace.

A larger question remains

unanswered. Will the Camp David agreements result only in a separate Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement, or will they lead to a comprehensive Mideast peace involving all of Israel's neighbors?

The answer lies in the willingness of Jordan, at least, and, hopefully, also Saudi Arabia and Syria, to accept the agreements' detailed language dealing with the future of the West Bank, Gaza, and the Palestinian refugees.

So far, the Arab nations have been reluctant to fully endorse the Camp David accords. It is hoped that the Arab leaders will remember that peace is in the national interest of all Mideast countries.

All parties involved, including the United States, have a stake in stabilizing the oil-rich Middle East by promoting moderate governments that resist Communist influence. Another compelling argument for peace is that money now spent on weapons, could be spent on schools, roads, hospitals, and other badly needed structures.

Peace will not come easily, but as long as national interests are kept in mind, peace will come eventually.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An American Tradition Falters

Hard work has long been an American tradition. The country's earliest settlers, repelled by the leisured, indulgent life of the European aristocracy, prided themselves on long hours of toil.

Newcomers, fresh from class-bound societies, have always known that America was the "land of opportunity," where performance mattered more than wealth or family background.

This reverence for work spawned high rates of productivity or average output per hour of labor. As productivity rose, wages and living standards improved.

In view of this cultural history, it is disquieting to note that for the past ten years, America's productivity has been slipping. Throughout the 1950's and 1960's, the rate of productivity zoomed at nearly 3 percent a year. In the years after 1968, the trend dropped to half that rate. Since late 1976, it has barely risen at all.

These figures are particularly disturbing when compared with productivity rates in other industrialized countries. The United States now trails Japan, France, West Germany, and even Italy, in productivity in manufacturing. The U.S. is now on a par with Great Britain,

often cited as the world's great example of industrial decline.

No one is sure why American productivity has fallen. Many explanations have been offered, such as: declining business investments; decreased funding of research and development; increased government regulations that require industry to invest in expensive equipment, but do not contribute to worker output; and an influx of new, inexperienced workers.

There is agreement among economists that sagging productivity has added to inflationary pressures. The situation is of great concern to Congress and the Carter administration. President Carter has announced plans to appoint a task force to review all federal government programs that affect productivity, and Congress has devised legislation to encourage investment and economic growth.

But, the federal government and the private sector can only do so much. In the final analysis, productivity is the responsibility of each worker.

Perhaps it is time to reflect on the cultural values that built a strong America and remember Thomas Carlyle's words, "Work alone is noble."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The 95th Congress: A Benchmark

The 95th Congress, just ended, was the toughest and most productive session I have experienced in my 26 years on Capitol Hill. I cannot remember a Congress that dared to tackle and resolve such emotional, divisive and long-standing issues.

Congress' top priority, and its greatest achievement, was the passage of a comprehensive energy package that included natural gas deregulation, utility rate reform, and coal conversion legislation — as well as a carrot-and-stick approach of credits and taxes to encourage conservation.

For the first time, our nation has the foundation of an energy policy that rewards conservation, promotes greater domestic fuel production, and discourages reliance on imported fuels. The international community is expected to respond to our initiatives with increased faith in the dollar's stability and in America's ability to lead the world in solving a global problem.

The 95th Congress also devoted much of its work to holding down inflation by cutting out excess government spending and by passing major tax reforms. Congress shaved \$13.6 billion from the President's suggested budget figure and pared the federal deficit to

\$38.8 billion, the lowest since 1974.

Congress also passed an \$18.7 billion tax cut that concentrates more than half of its relief on those with incomes less than \$30,000. The bill is also designed to cut corporate taxes to encourage investment.

On the domestic front, Congress also: refinanced the Social Security system; raised the minimum wage; passed major civil service reforms to increase government efficiency; approved an airline deregulation bill to encourage airfare competition; passed major banking legislation to end preferential treatment of bank officers; and approved the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill that sets national goals for unemployment and inflation rates.

Both houses played active parts in vital foreign policy matters. The Senate, in accordance with its constitutional role, strengthened and ratified the Panama Canal treaties and approved the President's Mideast arms sales. Congress also voted to lift the Turkish arms embargo to shore up the defenses of a crucial NATO ally.

These are but a few of the many achievements of the 95th Congress — a session that historians, no doubt, will look back on as a benchmark of courageous and farsighted legislation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fighting the Nation's Number One Problem

Much of the work in the 95th Congress, recently adjourned, was devoted to finding innovative ways to combat inflation—the nation's number one problem.

Nowhere are Congress' anti-inflation efforts more evident than in its handling of the fiscal year 1979 budget. President Carter submitted his suggested \$501.1 billion budget to Congress last January.

Congress reduced those figures once in May by setting a spending target of \$498.8 billion or \$2.3 billion below the President's figure, and again in September, by voting a mandatory spending ceiling of \$487.5 billion, for a total decrease of \$13.6 billion.

By clamping a lid on excess spending, Congress has reduced the federal budget deficit to \$38.8 billion, which is about \$11 billion less than the fiscal 1978 deficit, \$21 billion under the President's projected budget deficit, and the lowest since 1974.

The goal, of course, in reducing the deficit is to achieve a balanced budget. The Senate Budget Committee expects that continued spending restraint over the next five years will make it possible to attain that goal.

Congress has further moved against inflation by recognizing the high cost of excessive government regulation and working to

reduce it to encourage free market competition. The airline deregulation bill is a case in point. The bill is designed to spur competition among airlines, resulting in lower airfares to consumers.

Unemployment is as serious a concern to Congress as is inflation. The Senate has acted to reduce joblessness in the least inflationary way, by targeting federal job and training programs to benefit the hard-to-employ. In this way, the unemployment rate decreases, without fueling inflation by raising the wages of those already employed.

Congress also passed an \$18.7 billion tax cut that concentrates 60 percent of its tax relief on those whose incomes range between \$5,000-\$30,000. Other aspects of the tax measure are designed to encourage corporate growth and investment, which in turn reduce unemployment.

Finally, passage of major energy legislation was the capstone on Congress' anti-inflation campaign. The energy package will help reduce our reliance on imported oil, a chief cause of inflation and instability of the dollar abroad.

More can be done — and will be done — to reduce the high cost of living. Congress has already taken the first steps on the path toward reducing inflation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Black Lung: Coal Miner's Burden

Few occupations demand as much of a person's health as does coal mining. Studies show that, in addition to the danger of serious accidents, miners run a high risk of developing stomach and lung cancers, and chronic respiratory ailments.

Black lung disease, known to doctors as pneumoconiosis, is one of the most invidious afflictions likely to attack a miner. If undetected and untreated, the disease can severely impair ability to breathe. Apart from making it impossible to work or lead a normal life, black lung can be fatal.

The federal government first began to provide compensation to miners with black lung disease in 1969. However, there were complaints that many who suffered the disease could not receive benefits because of the law's complexities.

Last March, Congress amended the law and simplified the application process, broadened the definition of the disease, changed the rules on how it is diagnosed, and cut out many restrictions on who may receive benefits.

Congress also ordered a review of all cases where

black lung benefits have been denied. However, the medical facilities available for such retesting are limited.

In 1972, Congress authorized a program of clinics set up near the mines to test, diagnose and treat miners for work-related illnesses. Funding ran out for the clinics in 1975, but was reestablished this year.

But the funds were not sufficient to comply with the Congressional order to review the thousands of cases where benefits have been denied.

I sponsored an amendment which resulted in funding of an additional \$7.5 million for the Black Lung Clinic Grant Program, to expand the number of clinics as well as operate existing clinics.

These clinics are valuable in that they provide an early warning system for diagnosing black lung, thus keeping miners from lengthy hospitalization. In one clinic, there was a 35-percent reduction in hospitalization.

The coal miner is an essential element of the nation's work force, and funds spent on his health are a wise investment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reining in Runaway Regulations

Regulatory agencies are like people, an economist once noted. They are vigorous in youth, mellow in middle age, and sometimes senile in old age.

The federal regulatory system has been a source of contention and a target for reform since Congress established the first agency, the Interstate Commerce Commission, in 1887 to correct railroad industry abuses.

Since then, regulatory agencies have proliferated and their powers have multiplied, so that today, more than 60 independent commissions and executive agencies write thousands of rules and regulations each year.

Federal regulations do provide many benefits that we take for granted, such as purer foods, safer drugs, better workplaces, cleaner air and water, and other factors that make up our high standard of living.

But, too often, the regulatory agencies produce petty rules that conflict and overlap, and do little to protect the public from unfair and unsafe business practices. The agencies are marred by too much inertia, waste, delay and harassment, while consumers are taxed with higher prices and businessmen with increased costs.

Excessive regulation is also a major factor in spiraling inflation. One study predicts that federal regulations next year will cost approximately \$103 billion, or \$5 billion in administrative costs and \$98 billion

in compliance costs for the private sector. It is estimated that in the last ten years, regulations have driven up the price of a new car by an average of \$666.

Whenever possible and without endangering the public's welfare, Congress is attempting to eliminate the federal regulatory role so as to allow free market competition to bring down prices.

The 95th Congress passed two bills designed to meet these objectives. The natural gas deregulation bill phases out federal price controls by 1985. The airline deregulation bill gradually reduces the role of the Civil Aeronautics Board in airlines' fare and route decisions and abolishes the CAB altogether in 1984.

Congress must also scrutinize the individual agencies to see that they are acting effectively, balancing the costs and benefits of regulations.

I have cosponsored legislation which requires Congress to review and reauthorize 18 major regulatory agencies once every ten years in order to guarantee regular review of agency performance. The legislation was incorporated in a bill that passed in the Senate, but not in the House, and should remain a major priority in the 96th Congress.

Only through continued and systematic review of the regulatory agencies can we hope to control runaway federal regulations.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Silent on the Sidelines

Nearly two-thirds of the nation's eligible voters did not vote in the recent congressional elections. The estimated 34-36 percent that did vote is the lowest percentage of participation in a non-presidential election since World War II.

The decline in American voting, which began about 1960, is a source of concern to legislators and scholars, who see it as an erosion of our democratic institutions. Others are concerned that low turnouts give small, but highly vocal groups, an exaggerated impact on election results.

During the last decade more than 15 million eligible Americans, many of whom were regular voters, stopped voting altogether. In addition, a smaller percentage of Americans are registering to vote each year.

Other democracies have much higher election participation. It is not uncommon for 74 percent of the voters in Canada or 91 percent in West Germany to cast ballots. By contrast, one study shows that voter turnout in the U.S. has fallen below every other democracy in the world except Botswana.

The decline in voting occurs, paradoxically, at a time when it is easier than ever to vote. In the last 15 years, literacy tests and poll taxes were abolished,

discrimination on the basis of race and language was prohibited, residency requirements were eased, and the voting age was lowered to 18. But, despite these changes, voter participation continues to fall.

Political scientists attribute the decline to many factors, including disenchantment with the political process following the Vietnam War and the Watergate scandal, weakening of party loyalties, and the lowering of the voting age to include the highly mobile young. Mobility may also affect voting patterns among older people. Newly-arrived families may have been politically active in their home town, but often do not identify with their new community, or may not know the local candidates.

One political scientist found that voters and non-voters do not differ much in terms of race, wealth or education, but do differ in their outlook on life. Non-voters tend to believe their future is largely a matter of luck, while voters are more likely to believe they can plan and control their lives.

A democracy is founded on the principle that the leadership of the nation depends on the consent of the governed. Only through voting can that consent be given.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Aftermath of the Oil Embargo

Five years after the 1973 oil embargo, there are indications that America's traditional patterns of energy consumption are changing.

In many ways, large and small, the embargo and subsequent steep rise in the price of all fuels have affected the way Americans build and heat their homes, travel and conduct their businesses.

In the area of auto use, sales of small cars are up, amounting to 48 percent of all new cars purchased last year, against 35 percent in 1972. Annual consumption of motor fuels since 1973 has risen at a yearly pace of about 2 percent, down from 5 to 6 percent in the 1960s.

Much of the decline is attributed to the fuel efficiency of U.S.-made cars, as required by Congress in 1975. New cars made this year will get about 19 miles to the gallon. By 1985, that figure must rise to 27.5 miles, compared to the average 1973 figure of 14 miles to the gallon. Congress, this year, also enacted the so-called gas guzzler tax, effective for 1980 models to further discourage fuel inefficiency.

There has been a marked reduction in the use of home-heating fuels as well, following the more than doubling of the retail price of natural gas since 1973, and a two-thirds rise in the price of electricity. With greater use of insulation in newly-constructed and older homes, plus lowering of thermostats, there has been a 13 percent reduction in

per-unit residential use of natural gas between 1973 and 1976, and a reduction from 6 to 3 percent in the average annual growth of home electricity use. The home insulation tax credit recently passed by Congress should encourage more homeowners to install insulation, weatherstripping, caulking and storm windows.

Manufacturers have also cut their fuel bills. One research group reports that total energy consumption in the U.S. industrial sector dropped by 13 percent between 1973 and 1976, while production remained steady. Manufacturers also are using more coal rather than costly natural gas or imported oil, a trend that is expected to continue. The movement toward coal is particularly apparent in the energy-production area. The National Coal Association reports that no new gas-fired utility plants are expected to be built after next year, and no new oil-fired plants after 1984.

Other changes in energy consumption include greater use of mass transit facilities, and increased funding of research into new energy sources. Designs of commercial buildings are also changing, making better use of direct sunlight to share the work of lighting and heating office buildings and hotels.

These changes are encouraging signs that Americans are ready to accept the responsibilities of conserving energy in order to adapt to present-day conditions.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Controlling Government Growth

The resurgence of inflation is, without doubt, the most serious problem facing our nation. Congress is aware that in recent years the growth of the federal government has had an impact on inflation.

For the last three years, Congress has been examining a procedure to restore congressional control over the federal budget and the spread of the bureaucracy. That procedure is known as the sunset bill.

In the most general sense, a sunset law is one which states that certain specified activities of government will end—the sun will set—unless specifically continued by the legislative branch of government. Within this broad definition, the term “sunset” can take many different forms. Sunset laws have been adopted in 28 states so far, in widely differing versions with varying effectiveness.

As applied to Congress, the sunset bill would require congressional review and re-authorization of nearly all federal programs and agencies once every ten years. The programs would expire unless Congress voted to re-authorize them. Some of the exemptions to sunset review would include Social Security, the Federal debt, civil rights programs, federal retirement and disability, Medicare, and income tax refunds.

Sometimes, Congress would decide to extend a

program without any changes. At other times, Congress would want to consider major alterations to improve programs. The sunset bill also allows the option of terminating a program that is no longer effective and responsive.

Two factors led to the development of the sunset bill: the vast number and complexity of federal programs, and the fact that only 25 percent of the federal budget is under direct control of Congress. The other 75 percent of the budget consists of programs where spending has been set by earlier congressional action and cannot be appreciably altered.

Critics of the sunset bill fear that it would increase the workload of Congress and require the hiring of more staff. There is no question that the review of government programs would be extra work, but the bill is designed to make the workload manageable. Programs with similar functions would be reviewed at the same time to facilitate evaluation and help eliminate overlapping programs.

The Senate passed the sunset bill in October, but the bill died for lack of House action. It is expected that the bill will be reintroduced in the 96th Congress, where it is likely to remain a high priority in the fight against inflation and excess government spending.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Still a Nation of Readers

"Reading maketh a full man," Sir Francis Bacon, the English philosopher once wrote. Wise men throughout the centuries have extolled the pleasures and benefits to be gained from reading widely and well.

Educators, for many years, have warned that the diversions of American life, chief among them television-viewing, were luring many people away from books.

A recent landmark survey, conducted by the book industry and the Library of Congress' Center for the Book, sheds a new light on America's reading habits.

The survey was based on interviews with a representative sample of 1,450 Americans, aged 16 or over, in 165 U.S. cities.

The survey disclosed the heartening finding that America is still a nation of readers. Nearly 94 percent of those polled had read either books, magazines or newspapers in the six months preceding May, 1978.

But, of that majority, 39 percent read only periodicals. Many of those interviewed said their time was too fragmented by activities to read books.

Television remains a major factor in assessing the nation's reading patterns, for 76 percent of those

polled listed TV-watching as their major leisure activity. There was little difference in the amount of television-viewing among book-readers, non-book readers, and non-readers.

The survey discovered a kind of inverse ratio between the reader and non-reader. Those who read more, do more; and because they do more, organize their time better to include many outside activities.

The most popular non-fiction categories chosen were biographies and autobiographies, and the most popular fiction categories were action and adventure stories, as well as historical novels.

The survey did not disclose the quality of the books and other materials that were read. The Center for the Book, a privately-funded office in the Library of Congress, is studying the survey to answer the questions of what Americans like to read and how good reading habits can be encouraged.

The best books challenge and extend us. They are our connection to the history, culture, poetry, and drama of the past. They reveal the secrets of greatness in the lives of the most famous men and women. Good books ignite the spirit and nourish the mind.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Defusing a Global Time Bomb

Only ten years ago, many experts predicted that the world's growing population was a time bomb that could explode into mass starvation, world chaos, and even world war by the year 2,000.

The latest U.S. Census Bureau figures indicate that the time bomb may have been defused by family-planning efforts in the most populous countries.

The Census Bureau reports that for the first time in the history of population statistics, world population growth has slowed. Since 1970, the global population has increased 1.9 percent annually, while in the previous 15 years, it had been rising at 2 percent each year.

While the decline of a tenth of a percentage point does not seem substantial, demographers are encouraged by the change in direction the figures represent.

World population growth has been accelerating rapidly in recent years. Global population was estimated at 1 billion in 1830, at 2 billion in 1930, at 3 billion in 1960, and at 4 billion in 1975. Predictions of the world's population by the year 2,000 range from 5.8 billion to 6.3 billion.

According to the new

statistics, some of the most populated countries that were viewed as seedbeds for population explosion—such as China, India, Indonesia, and Egypt—are showing evidence of major and continuing birth-rate declines.

The declines are attributed to the success of family planning programs. As of 1976, 63 countries had launched such programs.

Many experts believe that excessive population growth diminishes the quality of life. The problem is particularly grave in developing nations, which exist at substandard levels and already suffer for want of enough food, education, employment, and housing. Overpopulation also has the potential to stimulate political unrest and conflict within and among nations. Moreover, allocation and availability of food resources could become a critical factor in world stability.

Over the years, the United States government has affirmed its support in solving population problems, and has contributed substantially to assistance programs and research. The heartening news that world population growth may no longer be a crisis, is evidence that our efforts have been rewarded.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The High Cost of Hospital Care

Ten years ago, the average cost of a day in the hospital was \$55 and the average cost of a hospital stay of 8.4 days was \$469. Today, the average daily rate is \$200 and the average stay of 7.7 days costs \$1,543.

At the current rate of increase, in five years hospital costs will rise to an average of \$373 a day and \$2,872 for an average stay of a little more than a week.

Last year, Americans spent over \$160 billion for health care. Hospital costs amounted to 40 percent of the total health care bill and have been rising at a rate of about 15 percent a year.

Hospitals note that the prices they pay for goods and services — employees' wages, food and fuel, medical malpractice insurance, and equipment costs—have all increased. Hospital administrators say they cannot provide quality health care on shoestring budgets.

But, critics say that many hospitals have become inefficient, causing costs to rise unnecessarily, because there is no competition among them and no incentive to control costs.

A large part of the inflation is attributed to the fact that hospitals are paid for bills they submit to insurance companies or federal or state programs, such as Medicare or Medicaid. More than 90 percent of all hospital costs are

paid for by someone other than the patient. There is no incentive to cut costs when bills, no matter how large, will be reimbursed by a third party.

Other factors that fuel hospital inflation include: the labor-intensive nature of the industry, overabundance of empty beds costing about \$20,000 per bed to maintain, and duplicate equipment and services in the same city or area.

President Carter has proposed mandatory controls limiting hospital cost increases to 9 percent a year, with smaller increases in subsequent years until a new hospital payment system can be implemented. The legislation would also address the bed-surplus and bed-shortage problem and encourage sharing of expensive equipment among nearby hospitals.

The hospital industry, protesting mandatory controls, has implemented a voluntary plan to reduce costs by two percent each year. The success of the plan has yet to be determined.

Congress, this fall, considered a compromise bill that would impose mandatory controls to contain hospital costs if the hospitals' voluntary efforts failed. The Senate passed the bill, but the House failed to act.

Hospital cost containment, as an important part of the nation's battle against inflation, is likely to remain a high priority of the 96th Congress.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America on a Spending Spree

There are indications that, despite high inflation, many Americans may be sliding too deeply into debt.

At the end of October, Americans owed a total of \$265 billion on installment loans, an increase of nearly 20 percent from the year before. Savings, on the other hand, are down to 5.1 percent of disposable income, compared to 1973, when people saved an average of 7.8 percent of their income.

Auto sales climbed to a record high in 1978, and sales of such luxury items as jewelry, art, boats, and European vacations also have increased. The real estate market is booming, despite the fact that interest rates on borrowed money are high. Outstanding mortgages are close to 48 percent of Americans' combined disposable income, compared with 41 percent in 1975.

Thus far, consumers apparently have been able to service their debts with little problem. However, economists are concerned that household indebtedness could constrain future spending and contribute to a recession, causing more widespread financial difficulties.

Inflation, historically, has acted as a brake on spending. For reasons that eco-

nomics analysts cannot entirely explain, inflation is not functioning in the traditional manner today.

However, analysts have offered several explanations for the country's current spending spree: credit terms are relatively easy, people apparently expect prices to rise even further so they buy now, and an unusually high proportion of the population is in the age group that is normally debt-prone.

Since 1972, the number of people 25 to 44 years old has been increasing at seven times the rate in the 1946-71 period. People in this age group are furnishing houses and raising families. They are more apt to borrow on the expectation that their incomes will increase later on.

Changes in credit laws have made credit easier to obtain, and many people like the convenience of revolving credit in the form of credit cards and bank overdraft privileges. People are also taking larger loans at lower rates for longer periods. The standard car loan now runs for four years instead of three.

Credit, no doubt, has helped many people build better lives, but simply because it is readily available, we must guard against mortgaging ourselves beyond our ability to pay.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Killing the Golden Goose

An ancient fable tells of the farmer who had a goose that laid eggs of gold. Consumed with greed, the farmer killed the goose, thinking he'd find many golden eggs. Needless to say, the end of the goose was the end of the golden eggs.

The recent 14.5 percent incremental increase in oil prices announced by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), brings to mind the tale of the golden eggs. OPEC members, aware that their vast oil-fields may someday run dry, appear eager to get the maximum benefit from the West's gold to develop their own economies quickly.

The price increase threatens the prosperity of every oil-consuming country. In the U.S., the increase is expected to force up prices of consumer goods, adding an estimated .3 to .4 percentage point to the inflation rate. Overall, prices are expected to rise between 7 and 7.5 percent in 1979. The price of gasoline is expected to go up between 3 and 5 cents a gallon by next October.

Thus, OPEC's price boost will aggravate our battle with inflation, and will impede the world's economic recovery from the sudden 1973 oil-price explosion.

The oil producers, in the long run, may find that their decision to continue raising their prices has backfired. Excessive oil price increases could spur a recession in the West and boomerang against

OPEC, both by reducing energy demand and by jeopardizing OPEC's huge investments.

OPEC officials said the price increase was necessary to recover purchasing power lost through inflation in the cost of Western goods, and in the decline of the dollar, the currency on which the OPEC pricing system is based. OPEC was able to carry out the increase in part because Iran's political turmoil has disrupted oil production, reducing the world's oil supply, while demand for oil has increased.

Recently, at the request of President Carter, I visited Saudi Arabia and other Mideast countries. I urged Saudi leaders to convince other producers to freeze oil prices at the December OPEC meeting in Abu Dhabi. When the Saudis said some increase was unavoidable, I emphasized that an immediate 10 percent increase could have serious international results. I stressed that any increase should be held within 5 percent for the year, and that any larger increases should be graduated and reviewed in the light of future economic conditions.

While OPEC's decision to raise prices is deplorable, the cartel's action may have revived interest in improved conservation efforts, and in development of alternate fuels from coal, shale, geothermal, and solar sources. The best way to break OPEC's stranglehold is to reduce drastically our dependence upon its oil.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taking Heed of America's New Investors

In an abrupt shift during the last decade, American investments abroad have slowed, while foreign investments in U.S. real estate, farmlands, and industries have grown rapidly.

Accurate statistics on foreign purchases of real estate and farms are unavailable, but the federal government does monitor direct investment of securities from Treasury bills to common stock. Those holdings increased from \$175 billion in 1973 to \$311 billion in 1977, not far below the \$381 billion in U.S. investment abroad.

Acquisitions of American companies, and building of new plants by foreigners have increased an estimated 40 percent in the last year.

There are many reasons for the rise in foreign investment here: greater political stability, lower rates of inflation and taxation, large pools of skilled and highly productive labor, and a weakened dollar that makes most purchases bargain-priced.

Congress is concerned about possible drawbacks to direct foreign investments, which, so far, represent a small share of total U.S. investment. Disadvantages would include neglect of local community responsibilities by absentee landlord owners, loss of some American-earned profits to stockholders overseas, possible inflation of farmland prices due to heavy foreign bidding, remoteness of home offices to concerns of U.S. workers, and loss of top management and technical positions to foreigners.

Congress has already tightened restrictions on foreign banks, and has passed legislation requir-

ing disclosure of farmland ownership.

In addition, Congress has ordered the U.S. Commerce Department to prepare regular five-year nationwide studies on foreign investment. The first study, released in 1976, concluded that foreign investments in the U.S. have essentially the same economic effects as domestic investments; i.e., they bring in jobs and money. The study also showed that the jobs go overwhelmingly to local workers. Of the 1.8 million employees of foreign-owned companies in 1974, only 42,699 were foreigners.

Many states, including West Virginia, have shown an interest in foreign investment as a way to create jobs and to provide money to update manufacturing plants. According to the Commerce Department study, in 1974, West Virginia had \$528 million worth of foreign investment, which provided jobs for 9,419 employees.

The state government of West Virginia encourages joint ventures that do not leave total control in the hands of a foreign company. An example is the agreement between the U.S., Japan, and West Germany to share the cost of building the proposed Gulf Oil Corporation solvent-refined coal plant in Morgantown. In return for helping with the expense of developing a process that turns coal into a clean, liquid boiler fuel, the other countries will have access to the new technology.

While we must continue to monitor foreign investment in our country, such cooperation may be increasingly necessary as nations recognize their interdependence in the changing economic world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Modern Treatment of Crime

For more than ten years, Congress has labored at the mammoth task of consolidating and modernizing all the federal criminal laws passed since 1789. This task had never before been attempted in the history of our country.

Congress' objective was to take some 3,000 laws—some obscure, some contradictory, some anachronistic—and replace them with a consistent, rational Criminal Code.

The revised Code, which resulted from the years of research, eliminates such outmoded statutes as laws that detain a government carrier pigeon. Modern phenomena, such as white-collar crimes, are dealt with more severely than at present. Mandatory sentences are required for trafficking in opiates or using a gun in the course of a crime. Laws concerning wiretapping, public demonstrations, and press protection have been strengthened.

The Code's two major contributions are abolishment of parole in most instances so as to ensure certainty of punishment, and establishment of a unified sentencing system to reduce disparities that now exist. Currently, a judge in one state may routinely hand down a sentence of 18 years for a bank robbery conviction, while a judge in another state may hand down a sentence of six years for the same crime.

The new Code establishes nine specific classes of crime, ranging from those punishable by a maximum of life imprisonment, down to those punishable by no more than five days in jail. Every crime designated elsewhere in the Code is matched to one of those categories. A sentencing commission would be appointed to write a range of sentencing guidelines to which federal judges would adhere. A judge would have to justify any divergence from the guidelines.

Under the new Code, federal sentences for the first time could be appealed, with an appellate court reviewing the judge's adherence to the guidelines.

This system is designed to promote greater uniformity and fairness in sentencing, while retaining flexibility for judges.

The abolishment of parole, and the reduction of so-called "good behavior" credits given prisoners, reflect modern criminal justice opinion that surer sentences are a greater deterrent to crime, and would result in more equitable treatment of prisoners.

The Senate passed the revised Criminal Code last year, but the House failed to move the bill out of committee. Because the new Code represents a major advance in the principle of equal justice for all, it should be re-examined by the 96th Congress.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balanced Budget: Goal or Requirement?

Every American knows the importance of operating on a balanced budget. Those who spend more than they earn may soon find themselves without personal belongings.

Many Americans are asking themselves, "If I have to balance my budget, why shouldn't the government be forced to balance its budget?"

There is growing support in some areas for a constitutional amendment to require the federal government to balance its budget every year. While I am in favor of a balanced budget, such a constitutional amendment could endanger the nation's security and economic health by its inherent inflexibility.

What would we do if a severe economic downturn developed, as it did in the Great Depression, throwing thousands of Americans out of work? A constitutionally-required balanced budget could prevent the federal government from spending the necessary funds to create job programs to counteract high unemployment.

An international crisis could also develop that might call for extraordinary defense or security expenses — expenses that might unbalance the budget.

A constitutional amendment, once it is passed, is difficult and time-consuming to alter. In times of crisis and rapid economic fluctuation, Congress must not be straitjacketed by an inflexible constitutional requirement.

Many people point out that several state govern-

ments have requirements for balanced budgets. However, state governments do not have such responsibilities as national defense and security. Secondly, many states have two budgets; one for government operating expenses, which must balance, and one for capital outlay or construction projects, which need not balance. The federal government, of course, does not operate in the same manner.

A federal balanced budget is the right direction to move in now for many reasons. In our battle to control inflation, a balanced budget demonstrates to all segments of the economy that the federal government is willing to cut spending. By setting an example, the government helps moderate wage and price demands.

Congress is already pursuing such a course. Last year, Congress cut the President's projected \$60.5 billion budget deficit to \$38.8 billion, a savings of \$21.7 billion. The 96th Congress will, no doubt, continue to practice fiscal restraint balanced by social responsibility.

A balanced budget ought to remain a goal, not a requirement. Indeed, Congress may achieve that goal as early as 1981, if spending restraint continues and economic conditions permit. But, Congress should not be wrapped in the chains of a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget, when faced with times of economic and political uncertainties.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Approach to Trade

The U.S., last year, posted a record \$28.5 billion trade deficit—\$1.9 billion more than in the previous year. The troubled state of our balance of payments threatens American jobs and industries, as well as the stability of the dollar overseas.

Clearly, the U.S. must make a greater effort at aggressively promoting trade to better serve the interests of American business and labor. Other countries are fighting to win a share of the American market, and we must do the same in overseas markets.

I plan to introduce legislation that would establish a new Department of International Trade, similar to agencies in other major industrial nations. The department would be created by consolidating the many government agencies that now share jurisdiction over export promotion and financing—in many cases with overlapping responsibilities.

At present, various aspects of trade policy are handled in the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Treasury, Agriculture, and State, as well as the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations.

A single department of trade would allow for more efficient promotion of U.S. commercial interests, and for greater vigilance in the enforcement of our anti-

dumping law and other laws on unfair trade practices. A new trade department should also include offices in industrial analysis. One of the specific functions would be to focus on ways to regain or find replacements for markets once held exclusively or in large part by the U.S., but later lost to foreign competition.

West Virginia, in particular, would benefit from a centralized trade department. There are indications that coal production in the state has slowed in part because of alleged dumping of foreign coke on the U.S. market. The decline in Japanese imports of West Virginia metallurgical coal has also had an adverse impact on the state's economy.

A trade department could do much to help correct such situations, or to spot them before they develop into crises that cost West Virginians, and other Americans, their jobs.

A Department of International Trade could also provide greater assistance to the American business community—especially to small businesses which have limited experience in foreign markets and need guidance on the best way to enter them.

I believe that a Department of International Trade is long overdue, and would do much to help bring our accounts into balance, and so rectify our troubled trade situation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

On Recognizing China

In 1972, at the end of President Nixon's famous visit to China, the President and Premier Chou En-lai signed the Shanghai Communiqué, in which the U.S. acknowledged that there is but one China and the island of Taiwan is part of it.

The establishment of full diplomatic relations with China is the logical conclusion of the policy set forth in the Communiqué, and followed by both the Ford and Carter administrations.

During the past seven years, as the U.S. moved toward greatly increased trade with China, it became apparent that formal diplomatic relations were needed. Both countries acknowledged that full recognition would come when a formula could be found to ensure the well-being of the Taiwanese.

Under the terms of the normalization agreement, President Carter will terminate the U.S.-Taiwan defense treaty at the end of 1979. The President has the right to terminate the treaty under a provision of the document itself, which states, "Either party may terminate it one year after notice has been given to the other party." The U.S. will continue to sell needed defensive weapons to the Taiwanese after 1979.

During Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping's visit here, I stressed that the U.S. continues to have a strong interest in a peaceful resolution to the reunification of China and Taiwan. Teng said he expected reunification to be peaceful. He noted that Taiwan will remain autonomous under locally-elected Taiwan leadership, and that the Taiwanese will retain

their armed forces, their trade and commerce, and their own way of life. He said the only conditions Taiwan authorities will be asked to fulfill is that they acknowledge that Taiwan is part of China.

While Teng's assurances considerably allayed my concern for the security of Taiwan, when Congress debates legislation converting our relations with Taiwan to unofficial status, it may be wise to examine whatever reasonable and feasible means we have available to express our support and concern for the Taiwanese.

We will continue our strong economic, commercial and cultural ties to Taiwan, where many U.S. companies now do business. A non-governmental corporation, rather than an embassy staff, will administer U.S.-Taiwan relations. Such an arrangement has worked well for Japan, which has increased its trade with Taiwan by 233 percent since formally recognizing China.

The U.S. should benefit also from having the world's largest nation as a trading partner and consumer of American goods and services. China is pushing hard to modernize its economy. Normalization could provide an opportunity for American business to increase sales and employment in America, while reducing the U.S. trade deficit.

In the long run, a diplomatic relationship with China should strengthen the United States' position in dealing with the Soviet Union.

Thus, it should be in the security and commercial interests of both the U.S. and China to enter this new era of collaboration.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Crisis in Coke Imports

The United States measures its coal resources in the trillions of tons. It is ironic that, given its vast stores of coal, the U.S. increasingly imports foreign-produced coke — the hot-burning, high-grade coal product essential to steel manufacturing.

In 1977, U.S. imports of coke suitable for fuel were at a level of about 2 million tons. In 1978, such imports increased dramatically to nearly 6 million tons, the majority imported from West Germany. By 1980, coke imports are expected to reach approximately 10 million tons.

Some coal industry leaders allege that foreign-produced coal is being sold on the American market by overseas manufacturers at rates below the home-market price. Such a practice, known as "dumping," is a violation of domestic law.

Increased U.S. reliance on foreign-produced coke not only threatens the normal growth of the domestic coke industry, but also slows U.S. coal production and leads to layoffs in the mines. The consequences of rising coke imports are disturbing, particularly for such coal-rich areas as southern West Virginia, which yields the high-grade metallurgical coal needed to make coke.

It takes between 1.4 and 1.7 tons of coal to make a ton of coke. Thus, 10 million tons of foreign coke, not counting shipping

losses, would displace about 15 million tons of U.S. coking coal. This level of imports would represent about 19 percent or one-fifth of our domestic coking coal consumption.

The average underground miner produces 2,000 tons of saleable coal in one year. The importation of 10 million tons of coke, displacing 15 million tons of U.S. coal, would be the equivalent of 7,500 man-years in U.S. coal mines. In other words, elimination of 10 million tons of imported coke would create a demand for 15 million tons of domestic coking coal, which, in turn, would create 7,500 mining jobs.

The impact of increased coke imports extends even beyond the domestic coke and coal industries to related industries such as steel and railroads, which depend on domestic coke as a reliably-delivered and reasonably-priced fuel, and as a profit-maker for the transportation business.

I strongly believe that a thorough investigation of the coke-dumping charges should be undertaken by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the Special Office for Trade Negotiations. I have written to the heads of these agencies, asking that the facts be ascertained and the actions to be taken be identified. Unfair trade practices on the part of our trading partners must not further undermine our domestic industries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bridges From Times Past

Covered bridges were once a common sight in rural America. Designed and built by local carpenters, their hand-hewn timbers were stamped with the hardiness and inventiveness of the nation's early pioneers.

The covered bridge rendered a great service to the young, growing country. Stone bridges were common in Europe, but were prohibitively expensive to build in America. Timber bridges filled the gaps in the transportation system, when they were so much needed to carry the highways and railways into undeveloped country.

In America, timber bridges were built on a scale never attempted in any other country, some of them more than a mile in length. The covering was for protection from the weather, as it was considered that the added length of life more than offset the disadvantage of greater weight and cost.

The earlier bridges in America were of the type popular in Switzerland in the eighteenth century, which consisted of great timber arches braced and stiffened by the framework forming the sides of the enclosure. This type was gradually modified, reducing the arch and placing more dependence on the trussed framework until the arch was finally abandoned entirely.

The highway bridges were usually planned, and cleverly so, by the local carpenters who built them. The more important bridges, and those carrying

railways, were more carefully studied, and models were often built and tested to determine the strength.

West Virginia once had a number of covered bridges, now only 18 remain and most are still in use. The rest have rotted or burned, or were destroyed to make way for modern vehicles that were never contemplated when the bridges were first built.

Some of the bridges, besides adding to the scenic beauty of the state, have historic connections as well. For example, on June 3, 1861, the bridge at Philippi over Tygart's River was full of sleeping Southern soldiers, who were awakened by the first cannon fired on land in the War Between the States.

Jurisdiction of the bridges, as well as the funds available for their repair and maintenance, depends on whether the bridge is located on a state or county road. To provide an extra measure of protection and a limited amount of funds, the West Virginia Department of History and Culture hopes to have the bridges listed on the National Register, the official list of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. Applications are now being prepared and will be submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior for approval.

In a fast-paced, technological world, West Virginia's covered bridges are picturesque reminders of times past. We can cherish them as symbolic of the ingenuity of our forefathers who built them by hand.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Children's Advertising

In the past decade, television advertising aimed at children has come under the increasing scrutiny of parents, advertisers, and the federal government.

Although the effects of TV commercials on children are the subject of debate, one fact stands out: by 1977, the average American child aged 2 through 11 was exposed to more than 20,000 commercials annually.

Many consumer groups and child psychologists say children's advertising is inherently unfair and deceptive—and thus a violation of the Federal Trade Commission Act — because youngsters cannot yet understand the selling purpose of, or otherwise comprehend or evaluate, TV commercials.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is conducting a series of hearings into the effects on children of the \$600-million-a-year children's advertising industry.

The FTC is studying several proposals for limits or bans on certain forms of such advertising, including, (1) a ban on all TV advertising aimed at children 8 years old and younger; (2) a ban on all ads for sugar-coated products known to cause tooth decay aimed at youths under 12; and (3) a requirement for advertisers of sugared products to pay for separate health and nutrition messages to "balance" their ads aimed at under-12-year-olds.

Although the proposals have the support of the American Dental Associa-

tion, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, many segments of the advertising and broadcast industries oppose them. The opponents have protested that the FTC hearings are a blatant example of government overregulation, and that any attempt to curb TV ads is a violation of advertisers' free speech rights.

At least one major network, noting the controversy, has announced plans to cut back 20 percent of its weekend morning television ads, using the resulting free time for public service announcements on nutrition.

This is an encouraging sign that the television industry is capable of regulating itself, without government intervention.

While it is appropriate for the FTC to monitor TV commercials to assure that their content is not false or misleading, there are serious legal problems involved in any outright ban on children's advertising. Some legal experts believe that the U.S. Supreme Court eventually may resolve the issue.

Apart from the legal aspect, the proposed advertising bans raise the question of asking the federal government to perform tasks that are rightfully those of the parent. In the final analysis, it is up to parents to monitor and limit TV viewing, and to say "no" to types of food or toys that they see as unfit for their children.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ferretting Out Corruption

The General Services Administration, until recently, was a little-known agency spending about \$5 billion annually to provide office space and supplies for the federal government.

The agency's name now has earned a measure of notoriety. For more than a year, the GSA has been under investigation on charges ranging from sloppy management to outright theft by its employees—abuses that apparently have gone on for years undetected.

Some GSA employees and private contractors, according to testimony in recent trials, worked hand-in-glove to devise ingenious methods to conceal bribery and theft. Investigators say the most common form of fraud was for GSA employees to take kickbacks from contractors in return for certifying work that was never done. In some cases, work was done, but the contractors overbilled for it, and split the difference with the GSA employees. Many instances of appalling waste and poor judgment have also been uncovered.

Estimates are that roughly \$66 million a year was lost through outright corruption. Including waste and negligence, the losses are estimated at more than \$100 million a year.

Three investigations are now in process, including those conducted by a Justice Department task force, a Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee, and an internal probe under the

direction of GSA administrator Jay Solomon.

Solomon, who was appointed by President Carter in 1977, has made great strides in uncovering corruption, in tightening up procurement procedures, and in chopping away at the bureaucratic deadwood that permits both inefficiency and corruption.

By all accounts, Solomon has done an excellent job. So far, 45 individuals have been indicted in the GSA scandals, and 38 of those have pleaded guilty.

Regrettably, reports appeared in the press recently that the White House is looking for a replacement for Solomon. Some administration staff members apparently believe that Solomon is politically naive, and has been too open with the press.

To my way of thinking, such charges are not sufficient grounds for replacing a man who has done everything in his power to ferret out corruption in his agency.

If Solomon leaves before the internal investigation is finished, people will be left with the impression that fraud is being swept under the carpet. The investigation must not be allowed to bog down for lack of direction.

I have written to the President, urging that Solomon be retained in his position until the GSA investigation is closed. His leaving would only foster public distrust of government.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Jobs For Tomorrow

Labor experts predict that in the 1980's, prospects will be bright for many jobs that do not require a college education. Mechanics, carpenters, heavy-equipment operators, dental hygienists, insulation workers, sales people, nurses, and computer programmers are all expected to be in great demand.

The nation's future employment needs indicate that vocational education will continue to benefit students, as well as business and industry.

In West Virginia, vocational education programs already have proved successful in easing unemployment and keeping pace with manpower needs. In 1968, there were seven vocational education centers in the state with about 66,000 students enrolled. A decade later, there are more than 50 centers, throughout West Virginia, with nearly 153,000 enrolled.

Vocational education enrollments in West Virginia are expected to soar in the future — largely because the programs have helped students to obtain jobs. Eighty-seven percent of the graduates from high school programs find jobs, as do 93 percent of the graduates from post-secondary vocational programs.

The success of the state's vocational education system is attributed to three factors: first, people are trained in skills that will serve them a lifetime, not just the duration of a sin-

gle job; second, the curriculum is planned and updated to meet the needs of students, business and industry; and, third, the centers are located throughout the state so that almost everyone who wants training is reasonably close to classes.

Vocational education in West Virginia ranges from the modern to the time-tested, from mine safety to blacksmithing. Mine training is emphasized, reflecting the state's role as a major producer of a resource that is in increasing demand. Other programs include environmental protection, fire science and prevention, emergency medical technology, nursing, dental hygiene, computer programming, and a wide variety of crafts.

The success of vocational education in West Virginia and other states can be traced to the cooperation of federal, state, and local governments. Federal funds for vocational education across the nation amounted to \$534 million in 1977-78, while state and local governments provided \$4.4 billion for an estimated 16 million students.

Vocational education has proved to be a success as a preventative, rather than a remedial, response to the nation's employment problems. Without a doubt, vocational education will continue to provide West Virginia and other states with the skilled workers that can keep pace with tomorrow's technology.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Price of Deregulation

Last year, Congress deregulated the airlines industry, in hopes of lowering prices and curbing inflation by increasing business competition through a free market.

Airline deregulation has not fulfilled these expectations. Thus far, the experience with airline deregulation has failed to inspire confidence in lessening federal controls in other industries.

True, some airfares have been reduced. But, the airlines have substituted their own thicket of regulations, restrictions, and requirements on "super-saver" fares, limiting the number of travelers who can take advantage of the bargains.

As for the anti-inflationary impact of deregulation, the airlines raised their regular fares 3.2 percent in November 1978, and there is a pending request for another 4 percent increase.

Even more distressing is the conduct of the airlines in seeking to abandon or reduce routes. Such reductions have a severe impact, particularly on small and medium-sized cities, which need the prestige of a national carrier to encourage economic growth. While some cities have gained more routes and better service, more than 100 cities across the country face air service cut-backs.

Since January, four air service carriers have filed requests with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to reduce or eliminate service to four West Virginia cities. United Airlines, which now provides half of

the service to the Charleston area, has proposed a 50 percent reduction in its service to the state's capital; American Airlines has requested to discontinue service to Charleston, and Piedmont wants to cancel service to Parkersburg. Allegheny has been granted its proposal to allow its subsidiary commuter service, Aeromech, to take over service to Clarksburg and Morgantown.

I have been in frequent touch with officials of these airlines, the CAB, and local leaders to help assure that West Virginia retains sufficient air service. In the case of United, I, together with Senator Randolph, have petitioned the CAB to keep United's service to Charleston until it can be replaced by another carrier. United has agreed to a three-week extension of its service through June.

The negative consequences of the loss of service to these West Virginia cities far outweigh the limited benefits of reduced rates for a few travelers.

Deregulation must be accompanied by a responsible attitude on the part of the deregulated industry. Service industries, such as the airlines, have an obligation to act in the public interest. What may be efficient for the airlines, will not always be efficient for the public. A proper balance must be struck.

If those in business and industry want deregulation, they must be prepared to act responsibly toward the public. Without responsibility, deregulation will be an idea whose time has come—and gone.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In Case of Emergency

The nation's disenchantment with the Vietnam conflict, coupled with traditional American antipathy to conscription, resulted in the end of the draft in 1973 and creation of the all-volunteer Army.

Selective Service System registration and classification procedures ended in 1976. Since that time, the Selective Service Board has been virtually dismantled, with fewer than 100 employees in Washington, no state headquarters, and no local draft boards.

There are about 790,000 men and women in the active Army, compared to 1,825,000 in the Soviet Army. But, the strength of the active military service in peacetime is not as critical as the ability of the U.S. to mobilize hundreds of thousands of reinforcements to meet a crisis.

Since 1973, the number of trained reservists, who would be called on to mobilize immediately, has fallen to a low point—from 1.5 million to less than 300,000. This is far below the 820,000 reservists the Army thinks would be necessary in wartime to fill the ranks of regular units engaged in battle.

In sum, the U.S. has insufficient numbers of reservists, and no apparatus to quickly raise large numbers of reinforcements in the event of war or the threat of war.

According to the Department of Defense, it would take 120 days to rebuild the Selective Service System before the first induc-

tee could be drafted, and another 40 days before 100,000 soldiers could be conscripted.

In recent testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, four chief officers from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps supported re-establishment of Selective Service registration.

Registration should not be confused with the draft, which is the method of selecting individuals for compulsory military service.

Registration would require 18-year-olds to register personal information such as names and addresses, and to receive physical examinations and a classification. Congress would have to decide if those older than 18 would be required to register for the first year or so to ensure equitable treatment, if and when the Selective Service System is re-established. Registration would sharply reduce the time needed to activate a draft should it ever be necessary.

While I do not foresee a need, at this time, to reinstitute the draft, it would seem wise to reactivate the Selective Service System for purposes of registration and classification. Congress is likely to take up the question of registration this year.

The time for action on these measures, that can ensure adequate military strength, is now. It would be foolhardy to wait until a crisis is upon us.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Overlooking Our Best Bet

The breakdown of the nuclear power plant near Harrisburg, Pa., raises serious questions about the future of nuclear power in the U.S.

Some newspaper editorials have made the claim that nuclear power is in jeopardy when no other options look more promising.

This is simply not true. Coal is a readily available and abundant energy source that does not carry the potential for radioactive disaster. Coal can be made into a clean fuel. Nuclear energy can never be made clean; it will always carry with it the possibility of noxious, cancer-causing emissions, and the problem of disposing of poisonous wastes that remain toxic for thousands of years.

No matter how elaborate the safety systems of a nuclear plant may be, the fact remains that one accident can be catastrophic. The margin of error, both human and mechanical, is very slim.

It can no longer be said by proponents of nuclear energy that the odds of a serious accident are infinitesimal. The Three Mile Island accident is the latest in a series of incidents that cast doubt on the nation's widespread reliance on nuclear power. In January, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) repudiated the Rasmussen Report, which had been wide-

ly quoted as demonstrating the safety of nuclear plants. Last month, the NRC shut down five plants because of the possibility of a construction defect.

This is not to say that all nuclear plants should be shut down or that nuclear energy has no place in America's energy future.

Nuclear plants now provide almost 13 percent of our electric-generating capacity. Even temporary closings of a few plants raise the possibility of brownouts this summer, and further complicate policy decisions on the oil shortage.

In the short run, Congress will examine the need for a complete review of all 72 U.S. nuclear plants, as well as a tightening of safety standards. Legislation has been proposed to strengthen federal oversight at all nuclear plants, and to put the government, rather than individual utilities, in charge in the event of a serious accident.

In the long run, a major restructuring of our energy priorities appears to be in order. For more than 20 years, federal energy research has been weighted in favor of nuclear projects, at the expense of other, safer fuel sources.

Perhaps, in a highly technological era, coal seems a bit old-fashioned. In our fascination with sophisticated technology, we must not overlook the best bet we have for a safe and dependable energy supply.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Graying of America

America is on the verge of an important trend that will have profound effects in the next century. The number of persons over age 65, the age at which most people become eligible for retirement benefits, has been increasing steadily during this century.

The elderly numbered 3 million in 1900. By 1975, the aged totaled 22 million, and by 2030, demographers think the total will hit 52 million.

There are two main reasons for what is sometimes called, the "graying of America"—the average life expectancy is increasing, while the birth rate is decreasing. The dearth of young people increases the elderly's percentage of total population.

This imbalance will become even more marked when the youngsters born in the post-war baby boom become the "senior boom" early in the next century.

The effect of the growing numbers of older Americans can already be seen in the federal budget. In 1978, \$112 billion—or 24 percent of the budget—went to the elderly, mostly in the form of Social Security payments. Federal estimates are that in 50 years, the outlay will be \$635 billion.

Policy makers are concerned that, unless there are major changes in the way Americans work and

retire, the nation could be faced with a huge group of aged, former workers supported by a shrinking base of active wage-earners.

In 1940, there were nine active workers for every retired person. Today, the ratio is six to one, and by 2030, there will be only three workers for every former job holder.

Planners and analysts are already asking questions about future policy choices. In light of recent medical advances, is age 65 "old," and should that be the age of forced retirement? Is the trend toward early retirement the best thing for the individual and society? Should the government and the private sector begin thinking in terms of offering re-training in second careers to middle-aged workers to keep them in the workforce longer? What is the relationship between enforced idleness and poor health? Are there more flexible work hours, part-time work opportunities, or other incentive arrangements that would allow workers to phase into retirement?

In many ways, the graying of America is a great victory for our society, and a testimony to the quality of life in our country. But, in order to maintain that quality, planning must begin now, so that the nation is prepared for the changes that the future will bring.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Is There An Energy Crisis?

Many polls indicate that the American people do not believe that an energy crisis exists. Any shortage of oil supplies, they think, is the result of a "conspiracy" concocted by the oil companies for their own benefit.

Unfortunately, the energy crisis is real. The problem is of crisis proportions simply because half of our oil supplies come from foreign sources at a cost of \$50 billion a year. That huge sum is the equivalent of \$50 for every minute since Jesus Christ was born. The flood of dollars leaving the country is a major cause of our current inflation troubles.

In addition, the nation, held hostage to the good will of unpredictable foreign governments, is in constant danger of interrupted oil supplies and rising prices. Our dependence on other countries for fuel also has serious national security implications.

President Carter, in his recent announcement of plans to decontrol oil prices, did not exaggerate the problem—if anything, he underestimated it. In meetings with the President prior to his speech, I ad-

vised him that if there is to be decontrol of oil, it should be phased in, and it should be accompanied by an excess profits tax.

A tax on the oil companies' unearned profits would yield billions of dollars to be used for rebates to lessen the impact of the energy crisis on those who can least afford higher prices. The tax revenues could also provide funds for mass transit, and for research into coal technology and other fuel source alternatives, including such projects as the proposed SRC-II liquid coal demonstration plant in Morgantown.

Fifty percent of the profits will be available to the oil industry for plow-back into exploration and production. Oil companies are entitled to a just return on their investment in a high-risk business.

The President took a necessary step, and it is now up to Congress to act promptly to recover for the public benefit, half of the new revenues that decontrol will generate.

I favor a fair and reasonable excess profits tax on oil, and I hope that Congress will support it.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Look At Rural Schools

The one-room school and two-room school were once a common sight in rural America. But, over the years, school consolidation and other reforms reduced the number of school districts, resulting in bigger, centralized schools.

A recent book entitled, *Education in Rural America: A Reassessment of Conventional Wisdom*, edited by Jonathan P. Sher, challenges the accepted notion that bigger schools, larger school districts, and more urban-oriented education bring substantial benefits to rural communities.

The authors say that the more than 14 million children who attend rural schools receive miniscule amounts of the nation's financial resources and professional attention. They believe that rural schools and districts deserve more attention and assistance.

Small schools have many advantages; chief among them is the high degree of community control, participation, and interest—to an extent unknown in urban school systems.

Small schools are also conducive to more individual instruction, to older students helping younger ones, and to the use of community resources as part of the school curriculum. These are all ideas that urban and suburban systems are constantly rediscovering and reintroducing into classrooms.

Much of what is unique about rural schools cannot

be measured—the calmer pace, the less pressured environment, the spirit of cooperation, the opportunities for leadership development, and the less formal and more personal interaction among students, teachers, and parents. The authors believe that, because of such intangibles, professional educators may have tended to give rural schools short shrift.

However, the authors note that a small school is no guarantee of a good school, and neither is a big school necessarily bad. Rural schools must overcome unique problems of sparsity and isolation, limited funds, and difficulties in attracting qualified teachers.

The authors' main premise is, "Bigger is not necessarily better." They contend that, by and large, consolidated schools, because of bigger class sizes and higher transportation costs, have not resulted in better education at lower cost.

While the book does not suggest that the answer to the problems of rural education is a return to the one-room school, the authors offer practical suggestions to policymakers and parents in rural areas.

There is a growing rural school movement in America, and this study makes an important contribution, not only by bringing fresh information and a new viewpoint, but also by reopening debate on a vital aspect of rural life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Japan, Inc.

The words "Made in Japan" were once synonymous with cheap goods and shoddy workmanship. No more. Japan has made a stunning economic recovery from post-war industrial chaos, and its high-quality merchandise is sought by consumers the world over.

Japan is now one of our largest trading partners, but the figures are not in our favor. In 1978, the U.S. bought nearly \$13 billion more in cars, televisions, cameras, and other goods than it sold to Japan.

In meetings with Japanese trade officials and industry leaders, I have urged them repeatedly to lower trade barriers, and increase purchases of U.S. goods, particularly U.S. metallurgical coal.

Japanese officials often claim that part of the problem is that American businessmen are reluctant to get involved in the Japanese market.

If American businessmen do seek a share of the Japanese market, what do they find?

—An intricate web of protectionist devices installed after World War II when Japan wanted to make sure it would generate trade surpluses to cover the cost of imported raw materials.

—The existence of export trading companies that enjoy virtual monopolies, as well as broad-based government support.

—A complicated distribution system in which a company buys only from longtime friends and relatives,

and refuses to consider foreign competitors.

—Government procurement policies that give preference to home-produced goods.

—Strict limits on U.S. farm imports of beef and citrus fruits. Because of import quotas, U.S. oranges can cost more than \$1 each in Japanese groceries, while beef can sell for as much as \$45 a pound.

Subtle trade barriers can also include customs valuation methods that are used covertly to keep out foreign goods, and testing procedures that are supposed to protect consumers, but are manipulated to keep out foreign wares. Unlike other countries, Japan does not accept certification by foreign laboratories, such as the Underwriters Laboratories.

There has been some progress lately in reducing Japan's trade surplus with the United States, which is expected to decline from about \$13 billion last year to \$8 billion or less this year. Japan's Prime Minister Ohira, during his recent state visit, promised to work toward further reduction of the trade surplus. In addition, Congress will take up major trade legislation soon that could do much to ease trade barriers.

The Japanese may be getting the message that, unless the trade imbalance improves, protectionist sentiment will grow in Congress, with unwanted consequences for both countries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal's Added Advantage

A team of Long Island researchers may have found the solution to a waste disposal problem that could develop as the nation switches from oil to coal for its major energy needs. The solution could also prove to be a boon to commercial and amateur fishermen.

Scientists at the Marine Sciences Research Center in Stony Brook, L.I., have developed a way to use the waste by-products of coal furnaces to make building blocks for artificial sea reefs that attract fish.

Modern coal-stoked plants produce fly ash and a paste-like sludge made of slurry from wet scrubbers and limestone. A 1,000-megawatt plant can produce about 1,000 tons of fly ash and sludge per day. It is estimated that by 1990, coal wastes from power plants could total more than 50 million tons a year.

Scientists at the Stony Brook center use wastes from a coal-fired plant in Pennsylvania to make cubic-foot-sized blocks. Fly ash and scrubber wastes are mixed, then the blocks are chemically stabilized into a solid, concrete-like form. The blocks are made at a Philadelphia company specializing in coal-waste disposal technology.

Two years ago, the re-researchers built a small reef, 20 feet below the surface of Conscience Bay on Long Island Sound. Periodically, the researchers

don diving suits, and check the submerged reef. Not only are the coal waste blocks holding up, but several kinds of bait fish, as well as lobsters and crabs, are flourishing on and around the reef.

This fall, the researchers hope to build a larger reef in the deeper waters of the Atlantic Ocean, about three miles from Fire Island. The plan is to use bigger blocks, each about a cubic yard, and build a reef 10 feet high, about 60 feet under water. The researchers hope that sea bass, blackfish, porgies, and flounder will be attracted to the nooks and crannies of the blocks.

Artificial reefs have been made from many scrap items—including sunken barges, old tires, building rubble, and old autos. But such reefs last only a few years. The researchers hope the coal waste blocks will endure, benefiting the fish population and America's two million saltwater anglers.

If the coal waste reefs prove durable and environmentally acceptable, the blocks could be used to build artificial islands for industrial use, as well as fishing reefs.

If the Stony Brook solution to the coal waste problem succeeds, what was once a drawback will become an added advantage to one of the nation's major natural resources.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Three-Pronged Defense

For nearly 20 years, much of the United States' defense has depended on a three-pronged system of land-based missiles, submarine missiles, and heavy bombers.

This system, known as the triad, has provided a way to defend the U.S., and to deter a Soviet attack, whether by land, sea or air.

In recent years, Soviet missiles have increased in accuracy and in nuclear potency, posing a grave threat to the United States' intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

Currently, the U.S. has 1,054 strategic missiles, housed in underground silos. Military experts believe that in a few years the Soviets will be able to destroy many of these missiles in a first strike, leaving the U.S. with only limited means to retaliate.

Action must be taken soon to protect our land-based missiles. The Defense Department has proposed developing a new mobile intercontinental missile, known as the MX. The MX would be larger, more powerful, and more accurate than the Minuteman III, which makes up the bulk of

our present land missile force.

Three main methods have been proposed to make the MX mobile. Multiple protective shelters, better known as the "shell game," would involve 200 MX missiles moved at random in a field of 4,500 holes. A second option, known as hardened open trenches, would involve missiles placed horizontally in open trenches, moved about on railroad tracks between covered portions of the trenches. In the third option, missiles would be taken off the ground and put on airplanes at the first warning of an attack.

The President is expected to announce soon whether the MX missile will be deployed, and how it will be made mobile.

I have urged the President to go forward with the MX, because I believe it is imperative to protect our vulnerable land missiles, and to maintain our defense/deterrent capabilities on land, sea, and air.

To leave our ICBMs unprotected would indicate to our allies and enemies that we are backing away from a strong triad defense. That is a signal of weakness we do not want to send.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Oversight: A Prudent Priority

One of Congress' most important and least publicized duties is to scrutinize the programs and agencies created through the legislative process.

The term "oversight" is applied to the reviews, hearings and studies conducted by Congressional committees and subcommittees in order to examine how effectively past programs and policies function.

This year, the 96th Congress has particularly emphasized Congressional oversight. Many committees in both the House and Senate have been holding oversight hearings to ensure that federal activities under their jurisdiction are necessary, and operate in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. As a part of this effort, Senate committees file biannual oversight reports.

In addition, the appropriations subcommittees carry on many of the same oversight functions in deciding what programs should be funded. The subcommittees often hold hearings during which officials from federal agencies must justify and prove the cost-efficiency of their agency's programs, or the programs will be reduced or not be refunded.

This year, House and Senate committees have

targeted many areas for investigation, including Medicare-Medicaid reform, the anti-inflation program, gasoline pricing rules, hazardous waste disposal, the dangers of low-level radiation, the operation of the Department of Energy, and the benefits of certain federal regulations.

The growth of the federal government during and after World War II led Congress to define its powers, as distinct from the executive branch, in the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. The Act was also the first official recognition of Congress' oversight responsibilities. Since then, both the House and Senate have set up and refined the subcommittee machinery to handle oversight functions.

The oversight activities of Congress rarely make major headlines, but such work helps to control the cost of government, as well as waste and fraud in individual programs. It is an important function of Congress — one which needs more attention by Congress.

Oversight, perhaps, is just a new legislative term for prudence. And, as the great British statesman, Edmund Burke, said, prudence, is "in all things a virtue, in politics the first of virtues."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Computer-Age Politics

Without doubt, computers have transformed our way of life. Computers balance accounts and keep books, record bank deposits and withdrawals, check the designs of dams and bridges, steer spaceships, and set type for newspapers and books.

In industry, computers control the machinery to make bakery goods, chemicals, steel products, paper and many other items. It was only a matter of time before computers began to have an impact on our system of representative government.

Computerized direct-mail techniques are often used by various groups, as well as campaign strategists, to pinpoint potential supporters and contributors.

Names and addresses can be stored in a computer and cross-referenced so that people are classified according to their beliefs about specific issues. Thus, a group favoring balanced budgets may hire a direct mail consultant to send letters and telegrams to a specially chosen group of people, who are also known to favor balanced budgets.

The letters—which show no sign of being processed by a direct-mail company—attempt to raise money, drum up votes, or generate pressure on legislators by asking supporters to flood

them with pre-printed post-cards.

One of the largest direct-mail political consultants has collected the names of more than 8 million people in the course of 14 years. In 1977, the consultant sent out 75 million letters and solicited \$50 million for various causes and candidates.

Millions of dollars have been garnered from the voting public by such mailing businesses for themselves in conducting these mail operations for particular causes and candidates.

There are many, and I am one, who fear that direct-mail techniques are helping to undermine the principal political parties and the political system, and make it more difficult to govern. Traditionally, political parties have built the broad coalitions needed to find a compromise among competing factions.

Supporters of direct-mail techniques say that the computer is simply an automated version of the ward heelers of old-style politics, who kept in touch with voters' concerns and relayed them to politicians.

To my mind, a well-reasoned, personal letter has more impact than a hundred pre-printed post-cards. These latter, by and large, are often simplistic, biased, and sometimes distortive of the facts.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balancing National Priorities

One of the most important duties in the federal government today is striking a balance between potentially conflicting priorities.

The current oil shortage has spawned such a conflict; we must balance our environmental needs with our need to use domestic energy resources, such as coal, to replace imported oil.

This issue arose recently when officials of the Environmental Protection Agency were writing the air pollution standards for new coal-fired power plants and factories. The new EPA rules would govern the amount of sulfur dioxide and other chemicals released into the air by these facilities.

There were reports that the EPA was considering a more stringent sulfur dioxide emission standard than one currently in effect. There was a potential danger that the proposed standards would discriminate against Midwestern, Southern, and Eastern coal, which is higher in sulfur content. Such coal would require additional scrubbing, at great expense, if excessively stringent emission standards were to be met.

Utilities and factories, under these circumstances, would choose to burn low-sulfur Western coal. The result would be decreased demand for Midwestern, Southern, and Eastern coal, and increased unemployment among miners in those

regions. Additional thousands of coal miners would be put out of work in West Virginia alone; almost one-half of the United States' available coal reserve would be precluded from use.

This was not the result envisioned by Congress when the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 were adopted. In writing the rules to carry out the intent of these laws, the EPA officials had to be made aware of the implications of their decisions.

In a series of meetings, which I chaired, coal industry leaders, union officials and EPA representatives exchanged views on the proposed standards. Then, I arranged a meeting of coal-state Senators, most of us from the South, Midwest and East, with President Carter to convey our concerns.

We presented the President with sound arguments for a more flexible sulfur dioxide standard, and reminded him that it makes no sense to urge industries to switch to coal from oil or natural gas, and at the same time, allow regulatory agencies to issue rules and regulations that limit coal burning and mining.

Happily, our words were heeded. The EPA recently announced a reasonable, flexible coal emission standard which will continue to protect the environment, without harming the coal industry, or jeopardizing our efforts to achieve energy independence.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Words Of Courage

Few events in recent years have been so inspiring as Pope John Paul II's recent visit to his native Poland.

The euphoria of the Polish people was shared by many in all parts of the world. Poland, a country that has suffered so much at the hands of foreign powers, was mobilized by the brave words of John Paul.

As the first reigning Pope ever to visit a Communist-ruled land, John Paul criticized the Communist rulers of Poland directly and indirectly throughout his nine-day visit. Although Polish authorities barred the Pope from visiting many areas of the country, the state's power was insufficient to stop thousands of the faithful from making long journeys to see him.

John Paul's words were even more poignant because he spoke them in a country where faith is strong, but civil and religious freedoms are few. He condemned Poland's Communist leaders for treating a man "merely as a means of production, or that he be appreciated, esteemed and valued in accordance with that principle."

The Pope's outspoken challenge was a stirring reminder of personal courage. He also epitomized the lesson that the words and actions of one individual can have an impact on the events of history.

John Paul's message was noted by the faithful in other Communist countries, where people must contend with such daily indignities as discrimination at work, use of the news media for anti-religious propaganda, reluctance of state officials to sanction the building of new places of worship, and imprisonment of church leaders who distribute religious literature.

John Paul's visit to Poland underscored the fact that yearnings for freedom cannot be extinguished by tyranny, torture, propaganda, or oppression.

The lesson Communist leaders in Eastern Europe are drawing from the Pope's pilgrimage is that despite 35 years of official atheism, a majority of Poles adhere to a religious, rather than a secularized view of the world. Far from withering away, as Marx predicted, religion is stronger than ever in the Communist-ruled country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Anti-American Americans

It has been fashionable in some circles for the past few years to criticize America, its social traditions and attitudes. While the right to dissent is a valued American freedom that is rare in other parts of the world, such widespread criticism may reflect a deeper malaise.

The famed French playwright Eugene Ionesco recently toured this country and talked to college students, as well as journalists, lawyers, and literary editors. He later reported that he was astonished to find "a spirit of self-destructiveness, of masochism, an American anti-Americanism" among those he met.

Ionesco said many Americans seemed to blame the U.S. for everything that is wrong in the world, but no one wanted to hear that twice in this century, the United States saved Europe from tyranny and totalitarianism. No one wanted to be reminded that the Soviet Union had blatantly annexed whole nations and provinces in Eastern Europe after World War II, had brutally crushed the Hungarian revolution, or had clamped shackles on Czechoslovakia only a decade ago.

How different was the sense of pride and public spirit at the time our country was founded over two centuries ago! On July 2,

1776, the resolution for independence was adopted by a committee including John Adams. Adams later wrote that the date would be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. "It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance . . . to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illumination from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forevermore."

As history would have it, the nation celebrates its anniversary two days later, on the day the Declaration of Independence was agreed to, signed and sent to the state legislatures.

During this year's Independence Day celebration, perhaps we should bear in mind Adams' words, and the observations of the Rumanian-born Ionesco, who has suffered under Communism and Nazism.

"It is to the future that the Americans should look," he said. "It is the only way for them to overcome their sense of guilt, this self-punishment that they inflict on themselves. This masochism which continues to afflict them, will do still more harm, will be more dangerous for humanity, than all that humanity has done against itself for centuries and centuries."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Is There A Gas Shortage?

The uncertain state of gasoline supplies in many parts of the country has baffled and angered many Americans.

The gas shortage that affected California some weeks ago has spread to other states, as service stations reduce operating hours to conserve gas allocations.

While the lines grow longer at the gas pumps, various experts in government and the oil industry have offered conflicting explanations of the shortage, and confusing predictions for the future. One day we hear of serious shortages of gasoline, fuel oil, and diesel fuel; the next day we are told that the situation should improve by the end of the month, or the end of the summer because gasoline supplies are up.

These contradictory statements have added to the general public distrust and suspicion that an energy crisis does not exist. It is widely believed that the oil companies are hoarding gas supplies until prices rise even further.

Some of the explanations offered for the current gas shortage include: a shortage of crude oil, due mainly to the Iranian oil shutdown; rising gasoline consumption; and panic buying, stemming in part from heavy media coverage of gas shortages in California and other areas. Automobile owners are "topping off" their tanks to keep them full with frequent visits to the pump.

One of the most disturb-

ing aspects of the gas shortage is the lack of adequate, independent information available on oil and gasoline supplies. The Department of Energy, which is charged with monitoring oil supplies, receives its information from the oil companies. There are growing doubts in Congress that the nation benefits from this hand-in-glove relationship.

The General Accounting Office, the independent auditing branch of Congress, is verifying the Department of Energy's oil supply figures, and the Federal Trade Commission has begun an inquiry into the causes of the current gasoline shortage.

There is no doubt that the country is experiencing an oil shortage, one that is likely to continue. OPEC nations are committed to stretching out their reserves as long as possible, and have cut their oil production already. The Senate is working on responsible solutions to our energy problems—by developing ways to make maximum use of our domestic sources of energy, including coal, and by acting quickly on a tax to limit windfall profits.

But the ability of the administration and Congress to deal with the energy crisis has been eroded by inadequate information. Clarification and independent statistics are badly needed. The nation needs the reassurance that we are being told the truth about the energy situation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal: Our Best Energy Option

It is inevitable that the U.S. will turn to coal to answer our current oil shortage problems. There is no lack of this abundant fuel—trillions of tons lie beneath the nation's surface, enough to satisfy our energy needs for several hundred years.

At present, coal makes up 82 percent of our total energy reserves; yet, it fulfills only 18 percent of our current energy needs. This latter figure must be interchanged if we are to reduce our dependence on OPEC-produced oil, and increase our reliance on coal—a secure, plentiful and immediately available domestic fuel.

Progress has been made in many areas, particularly coal conversion and synthetic fuel development. Congress has passed legislation to order industries and utilities to burn coal rather than oil. Additional pending legislation, in particular the Omnibus Energy Supply Act, which I am cosponsoring, would stimulate the development of synthetic fuels from coal, oil shale, and grain.

More must be done. Research is needed in coal use, coal production, and in mining safety. We must find ways to get coal out of the mines in the quickest and most cost-efficient way, making maximum use of expensive mining machinery.

In addition, mine safety techniques must be perfected, so that increased mining does not lead to increased injuries or fatalities. Finally, scrubbing technology could be improved so that coal remains environmentally sound. Research in these areas will help assure that coal is an appealingly-priced, clean and safe energy source.

West Virginians have always recognized coal's advantages, but there has been an apparent prejudice toward coal on the part of the current and past Administrations. The President's FY 1980 budget proposal includes a 3-percent decrease in fossil energy research, and a \$16 million decrease in mining research and development. The Administration also intends to construct only one, instead of two, solvent-refined coal demonstration plants.

On many occasions I have advised the President to correct this shortsighted view of coal, and to eliminate any federal obstacles to greater coal use. I have also urged the President that adequate funds to construct both the SRC-I and SRC-II coal demonstration plants be sent to Congress as budget amendments.

It is folly to cut corners in coal research when coal is the obvious and best immediate alternative to OPEC oil.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reviving the Rails

This summer's gasoline shortage, coupled with bad weather last winter and a prolonged airlines strike, has sparked the biggest burst of intercity train travel in almost 30 years.

Amtrak, which was formed by the federal government in 1971 to take over all intercity passenger trains, has experienced an increase of 72.5 percent in passenger ridership figures over the same period last year.

The increased Amtrak ridership has helped convince the Department of Transportation (DOT) to alter plans to cut Amtrak service.

DOT's original plan, submitted to Congress, called for cutting 12,000 miles from Amtrak's 27,000-mile system. Passenger rail service in West Virginia would have been virtually eliminated.

DOT claimed that three West Virginia long-haul routes—the Cardinal, the Shenandoah and the Hill-topper—did not attract enough riders to justify their continuation. The fourth train, the Blue Ridge, is a commuter line that runs between Washington and Martinsburg. DOT wanted to eliminate commuter routes from the Amtrak system.

DOT has now proposed to add \$35 million to its original Amtrak operating budget to run additional trains with high ridership. The fate of West Virginia's trains remains in doubt under this proposal.

The West Virginia Con-

gressional delegation has joined together to fight to save some cross-state Amtrak service for West Virginia.

At Congressional hearings, and in letters to DOT officials and fellow Senators and Congressmen, we have stressed the plight of transportation in West Virginia.

We have pointed out that West Virginia has experienced recent cutbacks in air service, as a result of airline deregulation. The predictions of limited fuel supplies for air, bus, and automobile further complicate West Virginia's transportation situation.

I have strongly urged that both the Cardinal and the Shenandoah be retained by the joint conference committee, which will iron out differences in the House and Senate versions of the Amtrak legislation. The Cardinal runs from Washington to Chicago, with stops in Charleston, Huntington, Prince, Hinton, and White Sulphur Springs. The Shenandoah runs from Washington to Cincinnati, with stops in Harpers Ferry, Martinsburg, Keyser, Rowlesburg, Grafton, Clarksburg and Parkersburg.

The Blue Ridge commuter run would also be retained in the House-Senate bill.

Train travel can be a highly efficient and attractive form of travel for millions. But, in order for passenger rail service to remain viable, train trips must be more frequent than once-in-a-lifetime "sentimental journeys."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ahead of the Game

The President, in his recent energy address, called for the nation to unite in the energy battle, and to cut our dependence on foreign oil in half by 1990.

Congress is willing to give thorough and bipartisan cooperation to this effort in order to free us from bondage to the OPEC cartel. Indeed, many of the energy plans mentioned by the President are already moving through the legislative process in Congress.

For example, there is the omnibus energy bill that would create an Energy Mobilization Board, fund a major program of synthetic fuel development and solar heat research, and open more Federal land to gas and oil leasing.

The Energy Mobilization Board, loosely patterned on the War Mobilization Board of the 1940s, would be empowered to cut through governmental red tape that often delays for years construction of new energy projects.

The goal of the synthetic fuel program would be to develop a new fuels industry—to liquefy and gasify coal, convert organic materials to methane and tap the oil in oil-shale deposits. The omnibus energy bill would fund 15 "synfuel" demonstration projects, including the Solvent-Refined Coal-II coal conversion plant proposed for Morgantown.

The Senate Budget Committee has set up a task

force to study energy proposals in the bill, including the President's plan to set up an Energy Security Corporation to direct the development of 2.5 million barrels daily of oil substitutes by 1990.

In other energy-related developments, the Senate Finance Committee has been examining a windfall profits tax on profits the oil companies are expected to take in as the government removes controls and prices rise.

Two years ago, Congress passed coal conversion legislation to encourage utilities to switch to coal. Congress may now consider an amendment to the Fuel Use Act that would mandate utilities to switch from oil to coal, in order to cut oil consumption by 50 percent in the next decade.

It is important for the country to have a standby gas rationing plan ready, if needed, in the event of any major interruption in oil supplies. The Senate approved such a plan in May, but the House failed to act. The climate appears to be better now for full Congressional approval of the plan.

Congress has taken a strong leadership role in the past in enacting a great deal of energy legislation. Congress is already well ahead of the game in marshalling the forces that will turn the country back toward national energy self-sufficiency.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ten Years After Apollo 11

Ten years ago, on July 20, 1969, Neil A. Armstrong enthralled the world by taking the first step on the moon. Armstrong's achievement was the climax of a tremendous national effort to put a man on the moon.

A decade later, the country is setting its sights on other goals—such as controlling inflation, balancing the budget, and developing energy alternatives to foreign oil. Reduced federal spending is a must, in order to achieve these goals.

For these reasons, the space program has been scaled down. The budget of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)—when discounting for inflation—is about half what it was a decade ago. NASA's work force has also been cut back.

Because of these limitations on funding and manpower, NASA has plans to use unmanned globe-circling satellites, rather than expensive manned flights, to explore the universe. Earth-circling satellites can be used to search for mineral deposits, gather military and intelligence data, improve communications, and evaluate forests, crops, and water resources.

The centerpiece of NASA's program in the 1980's will be a reusable manned space shuttle. The shuttle's orbiter is an airplane-like vehicle that is

launched by booster rockets and lands like a jetliner. While in space, the orbiter can launch up to five satellites, later retrieving them with a robot arm.

NASA also intends to rent space aboard the orbiter to private companies that want to conduct experiments at zero gravity and absolute vacuum. Space aboard the shuttle is sold out for the first 28 flights, through early 1983. Officials hope that the shuttle program will recover as much as half the costs of each mission.

The first of four shuttles now being scheduled for launching by midsummer of 1980. Once in orbit, the shuttle will circle the globe every 90 minutes for 54 hours, carrying two astronauts. Eventually, the shuttle will carry as many as seven male and female astronauts and scientists on trips of 30 days or more. Each orbiter is expected to last about 100 flights.

Far-sighted scientists believe the space shuttle could lead to orbiting factories and scientific space stations, satellites that convert sunlight into electricity, and colonization of space to solve overpopulation on earth.

Apollo 11 was just a prologue to U.S. exploration of space. The finale has yet to be written.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America In Shirtsleeves

Not so many years ago, before central heat and air conditioning were commonplace, Americans weathered the summer heat in white cotton and seersucker, and wore sensible wools to fend off winter's chill.

The current oil shortage may bring a return to such seasonably appropriate attire. Social customs may change, as well. Judges may have to suspend wearing their robes in August, and businessmen may shed suit-jackets and loosen ties before sitting down at conference tables.

In other countries, clothing styles and customs have already been altered by the need to conserve energy. Japan, which imports 99 percent of its oil, has adopted major and minor energy conservation measures.

When American officials recently attended the Tokyo economic summit, they were invited to remove their coats and ties in order to work in the 82-degree temperatures common in government and office buildings. The Japanese parliament, noting the need of its members to remain comfortable in the summer heat, approved a short-sleeved safari suit as appropriate wear in the chambers.

Americans may soon follow the Japanese example. President Carter, under standby authority approved by Congress in May, has

ordered restrictions on thermostats to 78 degrees for cooling and 65 degrees for heating in most commercial, industrial, and nonresidential public buildings. The new thermostat limitations could save an estimated 180,000 to 360,000 barrels of oil a day. Although the thermostat controls do not apply to private residences, they could be used as guidelines to help reduce fuel bills.

Many researchers believe that with some modifications in dress, the federally mandated thermostat settings need not be uncomfortable. A U.S. Army physiologist has been studying the role of clothing in gaining public acceptance of temperatures outside the so-called comfort zone of 74-78 degrees Fahrenheit. He reports that simply by removing their jackets, men could tolerate 83 degrees. A change from long-sleeved to short-sleeved shirts would add another two degrees, while loosening shirt collars is good for one more.

Some modification in American dress will probably come about in the future. As the experts see it, men will have to wear lighter clothes in summer, than is now customary. Women will have to dress more warmly in winter. This is the sort of common sense solution our grandparents would appreciate.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Toppling Trade Barriers

For six years, negotiators from the United States and 99 other countries worked intermittently in Geneva at liberalizing international trade. The result of those hours of work is the largest single trade bill in U.S. history, which was enacted into law on July 26.

Although passage of the trade bill in Congress was swift and attracted little attention, the event could have a strong impact on our economy by increasing U.S. exports and by creating new jobs as markets open for American business.

The new pact reduces literally thousands of obstacles to free trade, including tariffs—the special fees added to the price of imported goods—and non-tariff barriers, such as customs valuation methods and testing procedures that are used to keep out foreign goods.

The negotiators also agreed to relax “buy-national” government procurement policies that give preference to home-produced goods. The new pact will help eliminate government subsidies for exports, set uniform methods for determining the value of goods in trade, and raise quotas for cheese, meat, and other agricultural products.

These trade barriers prevented American companies from supplying foreign customers, and contributed to the \$100 billion balance-of-trade deficits the U.S. has suffered in the past four years.

The trade bill puts into effect treaties and agreements with 21 countries now, and another 78 later on. One economist has estimated that American consumers will benefit by some \$10 billion, with little increase in unemployment, when the trade agreement is fully phased in seven years from now.

Of course, trade liberalization puts domestic producers and their employees under greater competitive pressures, but that is not necessarily unhealthy, and can lead to greater economic efficiency and growth.

Perhaps an even greater benefit to be derived from the trade pact is the fact that it will help prevent a return to protectionist policies that reward inefficiency, strain international alliances, and threaten jobs.

One out of eight manufacturing jobs in the United States depends on exports. Thus, a thriving world trade system should bring more prosperity to many U.S. workers, greater international cooperation and interdependence, and a healthier trade balance.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Switching to Coal

One of the fastest ways to expand American energy supplies is to begin immediately to shift oil-burning plants to coal.

In the long run, synthetic fuels made from coal may provide the best way to reduce our huge imports of foreign oil. But, "synfuels" won't be able to contribute much before the mid to late 1980s. Coal conversion and conservation are the two speediest ways to ease our energy problems.

The President's Commission on Coal, in its final report on ways to increase domestic coal use, identified 60 electrical utility plants that could be converted to coal immediately, with a savings of about 400,000 barrels of oil per day in 1985. With the conversion of other plants, an additional one million barrels of oil per day could be saved by 1990.

The movement toward coal conversion has been slowed by obstacles such as confusion over Clean Air regulations. Air-pollution regulations were scheduled to be rewritten in 1977, but the Environmental Protection Agency did not issue its final ruling until June 1. Utilities delayed coal conversion until they could determine that coal would not be too expensive to burn because of too stringent standards.

Congress has pursued coal conversion policies in the past, and will continue to do so in the future. Last year, Congress passed the Fuel Use Act, which created a legal framework for the mandatory conversion of oil-burning power plants to coal. The bill prohibited new electric-power utility or industrial plants from using oil or natural gas, unless granted an exemption by the Department of Energy.

It appears that a stronger effort must be made to enforce coal conversion. President Carter is expected to propose legislation requiring utilities to cut oil usage by 50-percent by 1990. However, the administration, to date, has not devised a plan to implement mandatory coal conversion.

Since time is valuable, coal-state Senators are examining possible ways to legislate mandatory coal conversion. Federal grants and/or loan guarantees might spur coal conversion by helping utilities buy needed equipment.

The immediate benefits of coal conversion are too great to be put off any longer. Besides alleviating our dependence on foreign oil, coal conversion would increase mining jobs and coal production in West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In Praise Of Grandparents

The role of the family in America has changed dramatically in this century. The divorce rate has doubled in the last ten years. One out of six families is headed by a single parent. Nearly half of all American families have no children under 18.

This is a far cry from life in the last century when large families were necessary for survival in rural areas, family ties were tight, and family members depended heavily on each other.

Throughout these times of rapid change, grandparents remain an important stabilizing force in the family, and in the growth and development of grandchildren. Grandparents bestow love and encouragement on grandchildren, teach the values and traditions of the past, and provide a sense of family history.

The House and Senate recently passed a joint resolution empowering the President to proclaim the first Sunday in September following Labor Day as "National Grandparents' Day." The legislation authorizes the President to issue the proclamation in each succeeding year.

West Virginians can take special pride in the role played by Mrs. Marian McQuade of Oak Hill in establishing Grandparents'

Day. For the last five years, Mrs. McQuade, a mother of 15 and a grandmother, has led the movement to create a nationwide observance honoring grandparents. Mrs. McQuade said she got the idea for such an observance from working in a nursing home, where many of the elderly are sometimes forgotten by their families.

Using her own funds on her own time, she was instrumental in winning designation of Grandparents' Day in 25 states, including West Virginia.

Mrs. McQuade's efforts continue the tradition begun by Anna Jarvis of Grafton, W.Va., who worked to win acceptance of Mother's Day. Traditionally, West Virginians have placed a special value on family ties, and cherish the contributions made by parents and grandparents.

We live in a time when older Americans too often feel insignificant and forgotten, when instead they should be honored for their uniquely influential role in nurturing subsequent generations.

Grandparents' Day falls on September 9th this year. Perhaps on that day, Americans can show their grandparents that they are loved and appreciated in this increasingly busy, urbanized society.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Shredded Millions

Most West Virginians know that inflation has taken its toll of their buying power, but few may realize that it is taking its toll of their dollar bills.

Inflation results in more money in circulation, which means that more paper currency is wearing out, and must be destroyed. In the last hundred years, the amount of cash in circulation in the U.S. has risen from just over \$816 million, or about \$16.76 per person, to more than \$100 billion—about \$450 per person.

The Federal Reserve Bank branches, which are charged with destroying unfit currency, are hard put to keep up with the chopping and shredding of millions of so-called "dirty" dollars.

A dollar bill, which costs two cents to manufacture, lasts only about 18 months, on the average. All U.S. currency is produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, and then sent to the 37 Federal Reserve banks in 12 regions nationwide for circulation among the public. Currency is returned to the regional banks for counting, sorting, and disposal of unusable bills.

The bulk of currency circulating in West Virginia is distributed by the Richmond branch of the Federal Reserve system; a

small amount is handled by banks in Pittsburgh and Baltimore.

Federal Reserve employees once sorted bills individually on a simple machine, handling at most 35,000 bills a day. A later-model machine, still in use, allows sorters to handle 90,000 bills a day in \$100 chunks. Experienced sorters can tell by the heft and appearance if there are unfit bills in the chunk. In Richmond, unfit notes are macerated in a pulverizing machine, then taken to the city dump. The manual system is closely guarded by an elaborate security system of double verifications and surprise checks.

Federal Reserve officials hope that a new high-speed machine, which counts up to 72,000 notes an hour, will help keep up with the rising volume of unfit money. The machines catch all unusable money, as well as counterfeit bills. Unfit bills are automatically sent through a pipe to a shredder. The Richmond bank has one such machine, and expects to have two more by year's end.

Unfortunately, apart from novelty items, there are no uses for the federal government's shredded and chopped currency. The city dump is the end of the line for worn and inflation-wearied paper money.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Update On Congress

More than half of the first session of the 96th Congress is over, so it is appropriate to take a close look at the Senate's accomplishments.

The first matter the Senate disposed of is often overlooked, although it is important. In February, the Senate agreed to a 100-hour limit on debating time after cloture has been invoked. This rule change ended the so-called post-cloture filibuster, which prolonged debate unnecessarily.

This Congress, following a course set in the 95th Congress, has also reflected the public's desire for limited federal spending and reduced government regulation. This year, the Congress reduced the Federal deficit by \$21 billion. In setting fiscal 1980 budget levels, the Congress cut the President's budget request by \$12.4 billion and the projected deficit by \$17.6 billion.

On energy issues, Congress approved the President's standby emergency building temperature restrictions of 78 degrees for cooling and 65 degrees for heating for most commercial, industrial and nonresidential public buildings. The Senate also gave the President emergency authority to authorize state governors to submit for approval their own plans for energy conservation in their states. The President's modified standby gasoline rationing plan was approved by the Senate, but defeated in the House. Safety precautions were

tightened at nuclear plants, in the wake of the Three Mile Island accident.

Legislation was enacted approving and implementing the largest single trade bill in U.S. history—the multilateral trade agreements negotiated in Geneva, which reduce literally thousands of tariff and non-tariff barriers to free trade.

In the health field the Senate extended and amended five health programs dealing with alcohol abuse and alcoholism prevention, drug abuse and treatment, emergency medical services, health planning and nurse training. The Senate also passed two bills to improve health care for veterans, and to make benefits more equitable.

On international matters, the Senate debated and expressed its will regarding economic sanctions against Rhodesia, aid to Turkey, the MX missile, and clarification of unofficial U.S. relations with Taiwan.

The Senate has also passed 58 of the 67 authorization bills, necessary to keep programs operating. Six of the regular 1980 appropriations bills have also been approved.

This represents but a portion of the work that has occupied the Senate so far. The Senate still faces many important issues, including enactment of a windfall profits tax, approval of a government-backed synthetic fuels program, a gas-rationing program, and debate on the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginians Speak Out

During the month of August, I took the opportunity to visit 21 West Virginia counties in order to learn more about constituents' views on a variety of subjects.

In the course of 12 trips into almost every section of the state, I talked to, and answered questions from, hundreds of people—at civic meetings; state and county fairs; breakfast, lunch, and dinner meetings; and dedication ceremonies.

In conversations with West Virginians, I shared my concerns about the world-wide problem of inflation, the severe economic consequences of our dependence on OPEC oil, excessive government regulation, and the growth of government in response to the public's demands.

I spoke, also, of what has been accomplished so far to increase coal use, expand coal markets, and reduce federal roadblocks to burning coal.

I also related my concerns about the growing military imbalance between the Soviet Union and the U.S., and our need to strengthen our conventional forces and strategic defense systems.

As for the questions asked by West Virginians, most of them dealt with inflation, energy—and particularly, coal. I, in turn, asked questions by distributing a questionnaire to about 1,000 people.

One question asked for a rating of President Carter's performance on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest. Fifty-six percent of those polled gave the President a low rating, between 1-4; 34 percent gave him a moderate rating, between 5-7; and 9.7 percent gave him a high rating between 8-10.

Another question posed was: Do you favor ratification of the SALT II treaty? Those who answered yes, numbered 507 or 52.1 percent, while 434 people or 44.5 percent answered no. Twenty-four people were undecided, and 91 did not answer.

A third question was: Whether or not the SALT II treaty is ratified, do you think U.S. defense spending should be increased? A majority, 75.1 percent said yes, while 24 percent said no.

It will be interesting to see if the results of this straw poll foretell future events on the national scene.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sensible Coal Regulation

During my month-long travels through West Virginia in August, one theme that occurred continually in conversations with constituents was a great dissatisfaction with the role of the federal government in coal development.

Inconsistency in federal regulations regarding coal has been an obstacle to use of the nation's most abundant domestic fuel source. While we must maintain a careful balance between environmental and energy concerns, we must not retard coal use with contradictory policies.

Two years ago, Congress passed the Surface Mining Act, which was intended to give the States a meaningful voice in the regulatory process. The Act specifically states that the primary responsibility for developing, authorizing, issuing, and enforcing surface regulations rests with the States. The States need this regulatory flexibility in order to deal with unique circumstances, such as difficult terrain.

Unfortunately, the Surface Mining Act has not been interpreted in this manner by the federal agencies responsible for administering the Act. Since 1977, the Office of Surface Mining

(OSM) has issued thousands of pages of regulations, demanding that States' plans comply with all of them.

The Senate recently passed a bill, which I cosponsored, clarifying the meaning of the Surface Mining Act and giving the States the opportunity to assess and regulate individual coal mining problems. Under the bill's provisions, regulations drafted by West Virginia and other States would be permitted if they met the minimum standards set by the Act. Arbitrary regulations would be reduced as States submit plans which are consistent with the 115 environmental standards set forth in the Act.

The bill also extends the amount of time States are allowed to submit their reclamation plans to the OSM. This change would ensure that the reclamation plans will be carefully crafted and closely scrutinized before they become effective.

The amendment, if agreed to by the House, will be an important step toward essential cooperation between the Federal and State governments in developing a strong, consistent national coal policy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Responsible Press

Over the last several months, the U.S. government has been trying to block publication of articles and letters describing in detail the making of a hydrogen bomb.

The government recently abandoned its efforts after a small Wisconsin newspaper printed an 18-page letter outlining the fabrication of an H-bomb. Similar articles have since been published.

Scientists are now debating the degree of danger to our nation's security posed by publication of the H-bomb articles.

The general principles of the atomic bomb have been declassified for years. But, the specific engineering solutions to the complex problems involved in the hydrogen bomb are a legitimate security secret—for good reason. The explosive force of H-bombs ranges from one megaton (equivalent to one million tons of TNT) to 60 megatons.

Many scientists emphasize that to produce a hydrogen bomb, a nation would need a large trained cadre of technologists, and a lot of money—about \$1 billion to build power plants and factories to process uranium and other elements.

Some scientists think that countries such as India, Israel, and South Africa may have the means to produce an H-bomb, and could make good use of the de-

tails in the published articles.

The H-bomb controversy raises fundamental questions on the need to balance the constitutional right of individuals to publish and read what they want, and the right of the public to be protected from danger.

Two serious problems have also surfaced. One is the fact that the security procedures governing access to highly sensitive technologies are not sufficiently stringent. It is disturbing that the key facts in the H-bomb articles were apparently culled from unclassified documents that are widely available. Americans have a right to demand that technical details of potent nuclear weapons not be divulged, whether in government reports later made available to the public, or through scientists' interviews with the press.

We also have the right to expect the press to act responsibly with regard to our national safety. The difference between freedom and license is responsibility—the responsible exercise of freedom is essential to the maintenance of a free society and a free press.

For the press to claim First Amendment rights while playing fast and loose with our national security is the equivalent of claiming a constitutional right to falsely yell "Fire!" in a crowded theater.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Hard Look at U.S. Defense

In the course of preparing for the upcoming SALT II treaty debate in the Senate, I have been reviewing the record of hearings conducted by the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations, and on Armed Services.

While I have not yet come to a final decision on ratification of the treaty, I have reached some conclusions, based on the evidence presented at the hearings, on the need for an increased commitment to build U.S. defense strength.

The testimony presented at the Committee hearings reveals a disturbing trend. Put simply, the Soviet Union for the past several years has been outspending the U.S. on defense programs, and the U.S. is in danger of facing a growing imbalance in strategic nuclear weapons and conventional forces.

Although the U.S. today has what is known as "rough" or "essential" equivalence with the Soviets in conventional and strategic military power, the picture for the future is darker. In the 1980's, we face the troubling prospect of vulnerabilities of our land-based missiles. I have supported development of the mobile MX missile as a means of countering this vulnerability, but this weapon will not be initially operable until 1986 and fully operational until 1989.

In other areas, the Soviets and their Warsaw Pact allies possess a superior conventional and theater nuclear capability in Central Europe, with one-

third more troops in the field, three times as many tanks as the NATO allies, and a distinct advantage in theater nuclear systems.

The Russians are building far more military strength than they legitimately need for defense purposes.

The U.S. maintained unquestioned superiority in strategic and theater nuclear weapons over Russia up to the 1970's and has made important strides during the past 10 years. In some cases — such as our air-breathing systems (bombers and cruise missiles) and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, as well as in the accuracy of our Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicles (MIRV's) and Minuteman ICBM's — we have maintained an advantage. But, in other areas, the Soviets are roughly equivalent to, or have an edge over the U.S. — for example, the giant SS-18 ICBM's, and the SS-20 mobile intermediate MIRV'd missile now targeted against NATO forces in Europe.

Regardless of the outcome of the Senate's consideration of the SALT treaty, the U.S. will need to increase its defense spending in a careful, selective manner. The Senate recently approved, with my support, a 5-percent increase in defense spending for 1981 and 1982. We must focus our defense dollars on those programs that strengthen our conventional forces and restore the strategic balance.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Improving Rural Health Care

Two years ago, Congress passed the Rural Health Clinics Services Act, which was intended to improve medical care for rural residents, and provide help for small, financially hard-pressed rural clinics.

Such small clinics often cannot attract or support a full-time physician, and, instead, rely on one or two primary health practitioners and a receptionist, who may also double as a laboratory technician or bookkeeper.

The rural clinics legislation authorizes payment by Medicare and Medicaid for services provided by physician assistants and nurse practitioners in rural clinics located in medically underserved areas. Forty-four of West Virginia's 55 counties have been designated as medically underserved.

It was hoped that in the first year of the law's operation, 600 clinics serving 1.8 million people around the nation would be certified, and would receive Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement.

Eighteen months later, slightly more than 300 clinics have been certified. In West Virginia, only one dozen of more than 60 health clinics have been certified. It seems clear that the law is not working as it was intended.

Testimony at recent oversight hearings held by a Senate Agriculture subcom-

mittee showed that the small rural clinics are overwhelmed by the volume of paperwork required for certification and reimbursement.

In addition, federal policies on Medicare, Medicaid, Railroad Retirement, and Black Lung programs often conflict or are handled by different offices. Small clinics are not equipped to cope with such bureaucratic intricacies. Also, there is no program to train rural clinic employees in the application of federal regulations.

Clinics have also been discouraged from getting certified because the reimbursement rates for their services have been unrealistically low. Reimbursement has been based on 1976 data that do not take into account inflation and the current minimum wage.

Simply put, the rural clinics have found that the Rural Health Clinics Services Act was costing them more in paperwork than they were receiving in reimbursement.

This problem is under review by the Senate, and is being addressed by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Next spring, HEW is expected to issue simplified regulations, more streamlined administrative procedures, and more realistic reimbursement rates so that the Rural Health Clinics Services Act will work as Congress intended.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pressing Ahead On "Synfuels"

With the ever-present threat of OPEC oil price increases and supply interruptions, it is clear that the nation has no time to waste in developing alternatives to imported oil.

The Senate already has taken important steps in speeding development of a synthetic fuels industry. The Senate recently approved an amendment, which I introduced, to provide \$20 billion for the early stages of "synfuel" plant design. Of the total sum, \$2.2 billion would be available immediately for loans for site feasibility studies of potential plants.

In further efforts to hasten "synfuel" development, the Senate has also passed a bill, which the House must approve, that would establish an Energy Mobilization Board to waive restrictions and eliminate crippling delays for selected, large projects such as synthetic fuel plants, pipelines, refineries, and coal conversion projects.

The four-member board is intended to push forward projects that would otherwise be bottled up by thousands of federal and state regulations that now govern—and often delay or prevent—the building of such projects.

The board would designate "priority" projects, and set strict deadlines for

decisions made by federal, state or local agencies, such as whether to grant a zoning variance or an air pollution permit.

Should an agency fail to meet a deadline, the board could obtain a court order forcing the agency to make a decision, or the board could make the decision itself.

In related energy action, the Senate—acting on an amendment by Senator Javits, which I co-sponsored—recently approved \$1.2 billion to help the poor and the elderly cope with home-heating oil prices. Three-quarters of the funds would be administered by the Community Services Administration, with the rest distributed by state governors.

The Senate also approved an amendment, which I co-sponsored, that would allocate an extra \$10 million to the Economic Regulatory Administration in the Energy Department to provide sufficient funds to review the prospects of utility plant conversion to coal.

There is no wiser national security program we can adopt than to move toward energy self-sufficiency. The longer the delay in developing a synthetic fuels industry, the more vulnerable the nation will become to the whims of the oil-exporting countries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Runaway Russians

In recent weeks, several members of the Soviet cultural elite have renounced their homes and privileges in the Soviet Union to defect to the West.

In one month, five leading figures—three dancers and two ice skaters—have sought refuge in the United States or Europe. They are the most recent arrivals, but others have come in years past.

They come despite rigid screening and controls, and the painful knowledge that relatives at home may be held as hostages against their return. They are not deterred by the harsh Soviet laws that carry the maximum penalty of death for illegally leaving the motherland.

Unable to stem the tide—or the political embarrassment—the Soviet authorities have cancelled the American tour of the Moscow Symphony Orchestra. Orchestra officials wanted a guarantee that any musicians defecting during the tour would be shipped back home. No country that values freedom and the principle of individual choice could accept such an arrogant demand.

The Soviet press either barely mentioned the defec-

tions, or used them for crude political propaganda. The first dancer who defected was said to have been brainwashed by Western agents who offered him “seas of free whisky and mountains of gold.”

Many Soviet citizens reportedly found it hard to understand why talented performers—who are well-paid and well-treated by Russian standards—would leave the society that pampers them more than the average person.

But, in fact, the favors and privileges enjoyed by the culturally gifted in Russia cannot compensate for the lack of creative exploration and expression they must endure. The government supervision of the lives and work of Soviet artists may be lax compared to other sectors of Russian society, but the restrictions still chafe.

America, however, is the richer for these new arrivals. The defectors gain more social and cultural freedom and a higher living standard than they have known previously. Americans gain, not only fresh artistic talent, but also the reminder of the freedoms too often taken for granted.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Benefits of SALT II

For several months, I have studied the SALT II Treaty and related issues to determine whether the treaty, as written, is in our national interests.

After reviewing the treaty text, extensive committee hearings transcripts, and the Senate Intelligence Committee's report, I have concluded that the SALT II Treaty benefits the United States' national interests.

Briefly, the reasons for my decision are:

—SALT II leaves the U.S. free to develop strategic weapons needed for our own security. The Joint Chiefs of Staff testified that no planned American strategic or theater nuclear weapons system is inhibited by SALT II;

—Without the treaty, the U.S. would face unrestrained arms competition, which would drain funds needed to strengthen our conventional forces and the theater nuclear forces in Europe;

—SALT II will leave the U.S. free to continue to collaborate with our allies in the modernization of NATO's theater nuclear forces, and to consider arms control initiatives in that area;

—The treaty provides significant arms control by limiting each side on the number of Multiple Independently-targeted Re-entry Vehicles (MIRV's) on Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM's), Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBM's), and Air-to-Surface Ballistic Missiles (ASBM's);

—The treaty is adequately verifiable, and does not rely

on trust. The treaty prohibits interference with national technical means of verification or any deliberate concealment measures which impede verification of compliance with treaty provisions;

—The treaty prohibits Soviet testing, production or deployment of the SS-16, a mobile ICBM. Soviet production of the Backfire bomber is also limited by agreement.

During the almost seven years of negotiations on SALT II—under both Republican and Democratic administrations—the Soviets made several concessions. If the treaty negotiations were to be reopened—as some people suggest—the Soviets would want to renegotiate these concessions. It is likely that the resulting treaty would be less favorable to the U.S., or, even more probably, there would be no treaty at all. The Soviets also could develop and deploy weapons that are banned under SALT II, while the treaty was being renegotiated.

Our European allies strongly support the treaty, and rejection of it could raise serious questions about U.S. stability and leadership. The cohesiveness of the Western alliance would be undermined.

Senate ratification of the SALT II treaty would not mean that we are doing the Russians a favor, nor does it imply approval of the Soviets or their system of government. Ratification is desirable because the treaty is in our own interest, and would contribute to our national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help For A Dying Nation

The horrors of civil war, famine, and disease in Cambodia during the last four years have resulted in a death toll exceeding that of any small country since the plagues of the 14th century.

As many have pointed out, the world may be helplessly watching the extinction of a nation—an event almost unparalleled in human history.

Cambodia's sad saga began in 1975, when Pol Pot's murderous regime took power. At that time, the country's population numbered about 8 million. Under Pol Pot, the population was reduced through execution, disease, and malnutrition to about 4 million.

In January of this year, the Vietnamese invaded Cambodia, ousted Pol Pot, and installed a puppet regime headed by Heng Samrin. The fighting has continued, and because of the resulting dislocation, no crops have been planted. Relief workers estimate that roughly half of the remaining Cambodians will die within six months if they do not receive food and medical aid.

More than 300,000 refugees are housed in camps throughout Thailand, and more than a half-million more Cambodians are inch-

ing their way toward the border, in an effort to escape a new Vietnamese offensive. The refugees arrive in appallingly weak and diseased condition. Many report that they were reduced to eating leaves, bark, bugs and rodents while hiding in the forests.

Because the Senate needed a first-hand report on this tragedy, I appointed a bipartisan group of three Senators to go to Thailand and Cambodia. One of the group's goals was to convince Phnom Penh officials to allow U.N. and Red Cross truck convoys of food to enter Cambodia from Thailand. This would be the quickest, most direct way of getting aid to the starving.

Unfortunately, the effort failed. The Phnom Penh officials claim they are afraid the food will go to the ragged Khmer Rouge army.

The Cambodian situation is a colossal disaster, all the more tragic because it is man-made. It can only be hoped that the continued pressure of the international community will force the Phnom Penh officials to put humanitarian concerns ahead of politics, and allow food to be distributed quickly to the starving remnants of the Cambodian people.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A U.S. Technological Gap?

For years, American industry dominated world markets for everything from passenger jets to oil-drilling equipment—largely because of U.S. preeminence in scientific research and its industrial applications.

In the last decade, European and Far Eastern nations have made great gains in technological development, and thus have increased their share of export markets.

Japan and Germany, in particular, have recovered from World War II's devastation, and have poured their energies into research and development, and advanced technology. Many European countries have joined forces and finances to complete large, expensive projects. And in countries such as Japan, there is a high degree of cooperation between public and private institutions on research and development.

A look at current patent data shows how great is the progress of other nations. Between 1971 and 1976, U.S. patents issued to American corporations dropped by about 20 percent, while patents issued to foreign corporations increased almost 25 percent.

The lack of technological innovation is often cited as an important factor in the steady decline in U.S. productivity. Poor productivity,

in turn, is acknowledged as a cause of inflation, slow economic growth, and the declining dollar.

Some critics charge that obstructive federal regulations, reduced federal spending on research and development, and tax policies that discourage business risks have contributed to the United States' slowed technological progress.

But, other experts are not convinced that the rapid growth in technology in other countries reflects shortcomings in U.S. innovation and policy. They believe that progress in other countries is the inevitable result of an increasingly integrated international economy, in which technological superiority is increasingly difficult to maintain. In other words, it could well be that the U.S. has not slipped, but that other countries have caught up. Under these conditions, more research money and different policies won't restore the United States' number one position.

The best course, in the short run, is to target research dollars in the areas that contribute the most to the national interest—such as alternative energy sources and defense. This is the approach that has been taken in Congress, and one that is likely to continue.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Troubled Glass Industry

Glassmaking was one of America's first industries. The Jamestown settlers made glass in 1608—12 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

The nation's first glassworks were located near woodlands, which provided ample fuel to feed the hot fires needed to melt the basic ingredients used in making glass—sand, soda and limestone. Early glassmakers created free-blown, crudely-shaped jars and bottles to hold cider and various household liquids.

Changes in the fuel used by America's growing glass industry necessitated changes in the industry's location. By 1880 coal had replaced wood as the most widely used fuel for glassmaking and glass plants were then located near coal deposits. Natural gas and oil soon replaced coal as the industry's fuels.

By the early 20th century, West Virginia's abundant energy resources made the state the site of hand-blown, pressed, and cut-glass manufacturing. West Virginia today has 42 glass plants—more than any other state—and produces a wide variety of products, including bottles and containers; glassware; flat glass for windows, mirrors and storefronts; fine, hand-blown crystal; and stained glass for church windows.

The state's glass indus-

try is now facing several troubling problems. Fuel costs have risen dramatically in the past decade. Competition from foreign imports, and the lack of overseas markets for domestically-produced glass have hurt the industry. High interest rates have kept many companies from taking advantage of more modern equipment. Some Environmental Protection Agency emission standards have also caused complaints.

Department of Commerce authorities project that unless something is done soon to counter these problems, there may be little or no domestic glass production in the United States within 10-to-15 years.

I and other members of the congressional delegation are deeply concerned about West Virginia's glass industry, and have offered our assistance. As a first step, we have asked the Commerce Department to approve and fund a four-part study of the state's glass industry, including a technical study, and separate studies of the cut-glass, pressed/blown glass, and purchased and re-worked glass industries.

It is hoped that the badly-needed study will point the way toward solutions to revitalize this old, and honored West Virginia industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Outrage in Iran

Few events have so outraged Americans as the recent ugly acts of terrorism, mob rule, and lunacy in Iran.

The seizure of the U.S. Embassy and its staff violates principles of diplomatic immunity, sovereignty, and asylum honored by civilized nations, even in time of war, since ancient times.

It is particularly galling that the Ayatollah Khomeini—who, himself, sought asylum in the West—condones the embassy's seizure, and encourages mass hysteria with a steady outpouring of vitriolic, anti-American rhetoric.

His campaign of hatred—ostensibly aimed at gaining the return of the Shah to Iran—also serves to distract Iranians' attention from severe economic problems, and helped assure passage of his hand-drawn constitution designed to turn Iran into a 7th-century theocratic state.

No matter how this tragic affair ends, there are several points to be made:

1) The U.S. has proved its determination not to submit to blackmail. Paying blackmail to a government that kidnaps diplomats would only invite further humiliations, and not only in Iran. Out of concern for

the hostages' safety, our response to this affront has been measured, but firm. However, the decisions to cut off Iranian oil imports, freeze Iranian assets, and deport Iranian students who are here illegally, can leave no doubt about our resolve.

2) Although embassies are not intended to be fortresses, changes may have to be made to protect our people overseas. Host governments are supposed to guarantee the security of foreign embassies. The U.S. Marine Guards at each embassy are expected to maintain the security of staff and confidential papers for a short while, until help from the host government arrives.

Apart from the storming of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, the attack on our embassy in Islamabad and the delay of the Pakistani government's response, raise serious questions about accepted security arrangements.

3) The disarray in the Persian Gulf is a vivid reminder of the West's vulnerability on oil imports. No prudent nation can afford to stake its energy future on stability in the area. There is no time to lose in conserving energy, and in finding alternatives to foreign oil.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Quick Way to Clean Coal

In the history of energy, the world had to await the development of new technologies before the power of the sun, wind, and water could be harnessed. Without the invention of the windmill, the solar reactor, or the steam turbine, the energy potential from these sources would be lost.

Faced with the need to reduce reliance on expensive, imported oil, the United States is seeking new technologies to tap the full potential of the nation's most abundant fuel source—coal.

Engineers and researchers in Europe and the U.S. are watching the performance of a small experimental power plant in Rivesville, W.Va., to see if the plant's highly efficient coal-fired boiler is another important technological step in using coal.

Indications are that the so-called fluidized-bed boiler, invented by a New York engineer, may provide a simple, clean, and cheap way to burn coal.

Conventional boilers burn pulverized coal, and require expensive gas scrubbers or the use of low-sulfur coal to meet government emissions standards.

The fluidized-bed boiler

burns crushed coal, which is cheaper than pulverized coal. The coal granules are mixed with crushed limestone in an aerated or "fluidized" bed, which cleans the coal of sulfur and other pollutants as it burns.

So far, the boiler has tested well, and shows promise as a useful energy provider for such institutions as schools, hospitals, and small factories.

Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., is using a fluidized-bed boiler to heat campus facilities. The boiler is actually exceeding government air standards, allowing the school to reduce its costs even further by cutting down on the amount of limestone used.

The Rivesville plant, which was built with funds I helped to secure, is currently working out the problems in adapting the fluidized-bed boiler to large-scale industrial and utility use.

The fluidized-bed boiler may not be the ultimate solution to the nation's energy problems, but it does offer the prospect of providing large amounts of clean energy quickly, while the technologies of the next millenium are being perfected.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Mine Academy's Growing Role

Beckley, West Virginia, is home to an institution that is making a unique contribution to the nation's energy future.

Since 1976, the National Mine Health and Safety Academy has been training federal mine inspectors, and developing programs to enhance the health and safety of miners all over the United States.

The Academy—the only institution of its kind in the nation—offers two- and three-month-long resident programs for mine inspectors, and shorter seminars on safety for industry representatives and miners.

The purpose of the Academy is to expand and upgrade the health and safety expertise of mine management and mine workers, as well as the Federal and state agencies responsible for mine health and safety.

When the Academy opened in 1976, a total of 1,517 students received instruction during the first year. Last year, approximately 12,000 students attended the seminars and resident programs.

In addition to training programs, the Academy is also engaged in publishing manuals on mine safety. The Academy currently

distributes approximately a quarter-of-a-million safety, programmed instruction, and other manuals each year to Department of Interior and Department of Labor employees, community colleges, vocational schools, mining and other industrial groups throughout the United States.

Campus storage facilities are limited and inconveniently located. A publication processing and storage area was needed that was easily accessible for the delivery and distribution of such large quantities of publications.

To this end, I was able to secure funds to construct a publications center on the Academy grounds, continuing my involvement in all stages of the Academy's development since its inception.

West Virginians may take pride in the fact that the Academy is a major source of trained health and safety workers needed by the mining industry.

The United States has needed more government and industry personnel with formal training in mine safety. That need is greater than ever, now that the nation is turning more to coal as the answer to the energy quandary.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taxing "Windfall" Profits

One of the most important components of the nation's policy to reduce foreign oil imports is the production of more domestic oil and natural gas.

This was the primary motivation behind President Carter's decision to decontrol the price of domestic crude oil, in the hope that higher prices will spur greater production and conservation.

However, as a result of decontrol, the oil companies will reap a tremendous windfall of profits that are not directly attributable to increased costs.

I supported the President's decision to decontrol domestic oil prices with the understanding that Congress would pass a meaningful "windfall" profits tax—one that was fair and equitable to the American people; one that would not discourage further oil exploration.

After several weeks of debate, the Senate recently passed and sent to a House-Senate conference a tax bill that would raise about \$178 billion in revenues over the next ten years. The final bill represented a \$40 billion increase in revenues over the Senate Finance Committee version.

I would have preferred an even tougher, permanent

tax, but given the divisiveness of conflicting views on the tax question, compromises had to be made. It is expected that House-Senate conferees will stiffen and improve the tax even further.

During debate on the tax, the Senate adopted several important amendments, including one which I cosponsored, providing a 20-cents-per-gallon tax credit to producers of clean-burning methanol from coal.

This is an appropriate incentive for a fuel source which has the potential to replace gasoline, home heating oil, jet fuel, kerosene, and diesel fuel.

The Senate also approved my amendment to provide an additional ten-percent investment tax credit for coke-oven reconstruction and replacement. The purpose of the amendment is to help reverse the decline of coke production in this country, and to increase coal usage. The nation's coke industry is in such poor condition that the steel industry has been forced to turn to imports to meet its needs.

As world oil prices persist in rising, Congress will continue to assess the "windfall" profits tax in light of future oil company profits and the country's energy needs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Rural Life Improves

After decades of population loss and economic decline, rural America has progressed significantly toward improved social and economic conditions.

That is the encouraging message contained in the latest annual U.S. Agriculture Department report on rural development. The report stems from a law passed by Congress in 1972, directing the Secretary of Agriculture to set national rural development goals and to report each year on the progress made in attaining those goals.

The Agriculture Department report shows that population and economic growth are increasing in rural areas. Substandard housing and poverty are declining, though less dramatically, and remain high compared to cities.

In 1959, median family income in rural areas was only 71 percent of urban median family incomes, while in 1977, it was 79.4 percent.

The report cites the following reasons for the population turnaround: rural modernization, greater economic vitality, and an increasing preference for rural living.

But, rural areas remain plagued by inadequate passenger transportation and shortages of doctors. And the problems of disadvantage in rural areas weigh most heavily on the poor and the elderly.

Although the Agriculture Department report does not deal with data on individual states, a recent Appalachian Regional Commission study of the 13 states in Northern, Central and Southern Appalachia shows that population and personal income are also increasing in West Virginia.

Between 1970-75, Central Appalachia had the most rapid increases in population and per capita income levels, but started from the lowest levels.

Other West Virginia counties, included in the Northern Appalachian sub-region, kept pace with the nation on personal income, with population growth increasing only slightly over previous levels.

After many years of poverty and isolation, rural America appears to be moving toward greater prosperity, economic strength, and an improved quality of life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Science and Small Business

Innovative research in science and engineering has made many contributions to the nation's economic strength and high standard of living.

Congress, in 1950, established the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support applied science and engineering research through grants to universities, non-profit organizations, industry, and State and local governments.

Recognizing that small business has an established record for innovation, the NSF has launched a three-phase, competitive program to extend financial support for high quality research conducted by all types of small businesses, including high technology, research and development, manufacturing, and service firms.

The program, entitled Small Business Innovation Research, is open to small businesses, in West Virginia and other states, with no more than 500 employees. The businesses must submit proposals for applied research on important scientific or technical problems that could have significant public benefit if the research is successful.

In the first phase of the program, the NSF will award 50 grants of approximately \$25,000 each to individual businesses submitting the most exceptional

proposals. The second phase will provide for larger awards to those companies with approaches that appear most promising as a result of the first phase.

The third phase, which will not be funded by NSF, is the development phase to pursue commercial applications.

The NSF will consider proposals in the following areas: advanced measurement, industrial processes, deep mineral resources, human nutrition, advanced marine farming, ground-water pollution, alternative biological sources of materials, appropriate technology, earthquake engineering, and science and technology to aid the handicapped.

The program does not apply to product development, technical assistance, or pilot-plant efforts. The NSF, as a rule, also does not support clinical (medical or disease-related), market, classified, or weapons-related research.

For information on the length and format of proposals, write or call: EAS/Small Business, National Science Foundation, 1800 G St. N.W., R.M. 1105, Washington, D.C. 20550 (202) 634-6205.

Proposals must be submitted no later than January 21, 1980.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Good Times Ahead?

As the new decade begins, some demographers, who study population trends, predict that the 1980's will be a period of stability, tranquility, and mature productivity in America.

Among the predictions for the coming decade are: a dramatically lower crime rate, a sharp decline in unemployment (particularly among teenagers), more children going on to college and finding better jobs, a decline in teenage suicide and violence, and a possible reduction of the welfare rolls.

These predictions are based on the fact that birth rates are declining and American society, as a whole, is aging.

In the immediate post-World War II era, the nation experienced a so-called "baby boom." In the mid-1950's, at the peak of this period, over 4 million babies were born annually, compared with 2.5 million in 1940, and about 3 million today.

Starting in the late 1950's, fewer children, on the average, were born in American families. Now, those babies are reaching maturity.

The result is that the nation is at the crest of a long population cycle. The year

1980 will be the peak year for persons aged 18-to-24, who number 29.5 million. By 1995, as a result of declining births in the last decade, the 18-to-24 age group will shrink to 23.2 million.

Many social commentators believe that the large groups of "baby-boom" children competing for limited entry-level jobs and college places produced some of the social upheavals that marked the late Sixties and early Seventies.

On the other hand, a declining youth population may mean decreasing crime rates as most major violent crimes in the U.S. are committed by people 15-to-29 years old.

Certainly, job prospects should be better. Young people in the 1980's should find themselves in a seller's market, with a scarcity of youthful laborers willing to start at the low-wage bottom of the economy. This scarcity should bid up wages, offer more choice and mobility in careers, and make an education even more valuable.

In short, the coming decade may hold more options and opportunities for the young, in particular, as well as more social benefits for all Americans.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Soviet Bear Hug

The Soviet invasion of neighboring Afghanistan is the first time since World War II that the U.S.S.R. has attempted the military conquest of a country outside the Communist bloc.

The "embrace" of the Soviet bear should leave no doubt as to who is the real threat in that troubled area of the world. Islamic countries—Iran and Pakistan, in particular—should note the arrogant, direct armed expansion of Soviet power.

Under the guise of a Soviet-Afghan "friendship" treaty, the Soviets claim to have sent in their troops in response to an Afghan government request to help quell "outside aggression."

In fact, Soviet troops launched an airborne invasion and carried out a violent coup. One Soviet-backed Afghan leader was overthrown and executed, only to be replaced by another puppet, hand-picked by Moscow. Now, Communism is being imposed on a bitter, rebellious Afghan populace.

It is thought that Soviet troops, numbering an estimated 50,000-85,000 have taken control of the major towns and highways in the country, and are moving to consolidate their position permanently. Afghan rebels, fighting for a traditional Islamic way of life and using antiquated weapons, are resisting the Russians.

The Soviets are thought to have risked this bald takeover of a non-aligned

country because the Afghan-Marxist government they sponsored was in danger of collapse. The Russians may also have feared that recent upheavals in Islamic countries would spill over into the 40 million Moslems living under Soviet rule.

Whatever their reasons, the Soviets have succeeded in stirring world opinion against them, and have put a chill on detente.

I believe the sanctions against the Soviets, recently announced by President Carter, are appropriate actions to take at this time, and I would hope that our allies would follow suit.

Those sanctions include a U.S. grain embargo, cuts in other trade, a halt to scientific and cultural exchanges, and a threat to boycott the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow.

There are lessons in this episode for all concerned. The Soviets must learn that they must pay a high economic and political price for the occupation of Afghanistan.

Third World countries should realize that it is foolish, if not fatal, to view the Soviets through rose-colored glasses.

Finally, the United States must realize that it cannot afford to delay improvement of its conventional forces, and modernization of its theater nuclear forces. The peace of the world may hang in the balance.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Long Road to the White House

The road to the White House seems to grow longer as the campaign season opens earlier with each election.

The presidential "sweepstakes" year is prolonged largely because of the recent proliferation of state primaries and caucuses, where state delegates are chosen to attend each political party's nominating convention.

The number of primaries, in particular, has grown since the 1968 Democratic Party rules changes to broaden grass-roots participation in the nominating process.

In 1968, there were only 17 primaries; there are 37 tentatively scheduled in 1980, including one in West Virginia.

In 15 states, both parties will elect delegates through the caucus process, which involves a multi-tiered system of meetings scheduled over several weeks. Caucus participants are usually a limited number of local party leaders and activists, as opposed to the large numbers of registered Democrats or Republicans who vote in state primaries.

The operation of the caucus varies from state to state, and each party has its own rules. But the process often begins with precinct caucuses or some other type of local mass meeting open to all party voters. Participants, often publicly

declaring their votes, elect delegates to the next stage in the process.

Eight states this year are "hybrids," with one party using a primary, and the other a caucus process.

Campaigning in caucus states usually focuses on grass-roots organization, one-to-one personal contact between the candidate and potential supporters, and an early start. Primary campaigns depend more on money than on time, with heavy investments in media advertising, phone banks, and mailings to reach larger numbers of voters.

Since 1968 most presidential hopefuls have concentrated on primary campaigning. Now, early caucuses are also stressed. Both processes can serve as springboards for dark-horse candidates by allowing them a share of national attention.

Primaries and caucuses can offset the edge enjoyed by the incumbent President, who can draw on the powers of his office and vast name recognition.

At the same time, the new emphasis on primary and caucus campaigning requires enormous amounts of time, money, and organization. This discourages many well-qualified people—who may not have millions of dollars or a year to devote to campaigning—from seeking the highest office in the land.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sports and Sacrifices

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has prompted the United States to seek the transfer, postponement, cancellation or boycott of the Moscow Summer Olympic Games.

Ideally, the Olympics should be above politics, but, in fact, the Games have been politicized by nationalistic displays on many occasions — most notably in 1936 when Hitler used the Berlin Games to propagandize the Nazi war machine.

American attendance at the Summer Olympics would allow the Russians to duplicate the Nazis' charade, and would lend respectability to the Soviets' armed aggression in a neighboring country.

American withdrawal from the Moscow Games would be keenly felt by the Soviets. It would be even more difficult to explain to the average Russian, who may not hear through state-controlled news of the world's outrage over Afghanistan.

The Soviets are counting on the Olympics to serve as a showcase for, and to bring prestige and legitimacy to, their Communist country.

The U.S. Senate has approved overwhelmingly a resolution calling for the United States to boycott the Olympics regardless of whether Soviet troops with-

draw from Afghanistan. The resolution goes a step further than the President's proposal of a boycott if the Russians are not out of Afghanistan by Feb. 20, an event considered unlikely.

The Senate resolution also calls for the creation of a permanent home for the Summer Games in Greece, where the Olympics began in 776 B.C., and a permanent home for the Winter Games in a neutral country, such as Switzerland or Austria.

Many U.S. athletes have trained countless hours during several years in preparation for the games, and their sacrifice will be great if an alternate site or alternate games cannot be arranged in time.

But, let us not forget the sacrifice of the American hostages in Tehran and their families — a sacrifice that the Soviet Union ignored when it vetoed United Nations economic sanctions against Iran.

The 600,000 Afghans who have been driven from their homes by the ruthless Soviet invasion are also making sacrifices, as is Nobel Peace Laureate Andre Sakharov, who was exiled by the Soviets for his criticism of his country's action.

These sacrifices should be kept in mind as the United States contemplates a fitting response to the Soviets' adventurism.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal's Potential: 1985-2010

The nation's most prestigious scientific organization—the National Academy of Sciences—has concluded that, for the next 30 years, the United States must rely on coal and nuclear power to meet its future energy needs.

These conclusions were recently issued in a massive study prepared by an Academy-appointed committee of some 350 experts, who submitted their findings to the Department of Energy. The 783-page report took four years to complete, and is perhaps the most comprehensive analysis of American energy needs yet published.

The committee agreed that the most critical supply problem the nation faces is a probable worldwide shortage of fluid fuels in the next ten years.

The nation's two highest priorities, the report said, should be conversion from oil to coal and nuclear energy for electrical power generation, and development of a domestic synthetic fuels industry for both liquids and gas.

The report concluded that coal and nuclear energy are the only economic alternatives for generating electricity in the near future.

Both energy sources could also ease future fluid fuels shortages if the electricity they produce can replace some oil or gas.

By 1990, coal may be even more in demand as an ingredient for synthetic fuel production, with nuclear power providing most of the country's electricity.

The report warned that it was unwise to count on the sun as an immediate, convenient replacement for foreign oil. The committee's members held out little hope that solar power would contribute much to the nation's energy supplies during the next three decades—unless the government provides enormous subsidies for solar research, and penalizes the use of non-renewable fuels.

Such a crash program would be very costly, and might prematurely freeze the nation into obsolescent energy systems. A better route would be to continue solar power research at modest levels, with an eye toward long-term benefits.

The Academy's message is clear: the United States, if it is to regain its energy independence, must pursue several alternatives to foreign oil, and must begin immediately to benefit from its vast reserves of coal.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Public Office/Public Trust

Members of Congress—indeed, any public officeholder—must adhere to a higher standard of conduct than the average citizen.

To hold public office is to be given a public trust, and a public trust should not be betrayed.

An individual who commits a crime commits an act against society. Criminal activity cannot be tolerated in this society wherever it occurs.

The recent allegations that eight members of Congress have been implicated in a bribery/conflict-of-interest scandal have shocked the American public, and those of us who serve in government. Public confidence in Congress has been shaken.

But, in this country, there are principles and procedures for dealing with allegations of criminal conduct, and for dealing with criminal acts. A fundamental principle of American jurisprudence that underlies these procedures is that one is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Unfortunately, news of the so-called ABSCAM investigation conducted by the FBI and the Department of Justice was leaked to the press before the judicial process had begun. Crimes may or may not have been committed. So far, there have been no charges, indictments, or convictions.

The pretrial publicity may have damaged the reputations and careers of innocent people. In addition, the leaked stories may have compromised the case against those who may have committed criminal acts and who should be punished.

Although the leaks are regrettable, they in no way excuse any criminal conduct that may have occurred.

Some have raised questions about the way the investigation was conducted by the FBI, but I believe that this is not the time for Congress to be investigating the investigators.

If and when any of the cases go to court, the courts will determine whether the FBI's methods were such that they were prejudicial to the defendants.

With respect to the inquiry, the Department of Justice and the Congress have separate and distinct duties and responsibilities. It is hoped that the established House and Senate ethics committees will discharge those responsibilities without delaying the criminal investigation.

It is imperative that the judicial process go forward as quickly as possible, so that those who may have committed crimes may be punished, and those innocent may be cleared. In this manner, faith in government may be restored.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Backbone

The entrepreneur with a small business is a risk-taker whose traditions and spirit have always been a backbone of the American economy.

Often in the past, big business and small business were lumped together and seen as one. There was no recognition that what might be good for General Motors might not be good for Joe's Machine Shop.

But, the interests of big and small businesses often diverge. For example, tax provisions can have vastly different effects on small and large firms. Government regulations and paperwork requirements affect them diversely. Anti-trust law and competition policy can put them on opposite sides of the fence.

Moreover, small business does not have access to large credit and equity markets to finance its undertakings.

During the last few years, small businessmen and women have joined together in national and regional associations to represent their special concerns, and to have an effect on national business policy.

The nation's small business owners now number approximately 14 million.

In the last five years, Congress has passed legislation that:

—reduced by \$2 billion,

corporate income taxes for companies earning less than \$100,000;

—reduced capital gains taxes from 49 percent to 28 percent;

—tripled the exemption from federal estate and gift taxes for all heirs, greatly lessening the tax burden on surviving spouses, and permitting payment of estate taxes on farms and small businesses over a 15-year period;

—cut paperwork by eliminating 400 federal forms and consolidating others, and;

—recognized the importance of small business by recommending the formation of the White House Conference on Small Business.

The majority party in the Senate intends to continue to work to insure that small business remains a vital sector in our economy. Among the upcoming objectives are: increased government procurement from small businesses; more research and development money for small business; a review of the impact of government patent policy on small business; and possible regulatory reform legislation.

Finally, if the economy demands passage of a tax cut this year, it should be a tax cut which is consistent with the needs of small business.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Weeding Out Waste

A recent report prepared by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) demonstrates why government agencies need to do their homework before spending taxpayers' money.

In response to my request, the GAO investigated the use of federal funds to recruit foreign workers to aid in the 1978 apple harvest in West Virginia as well as several other East Coast states. When domestic workers are unavailable, assistance is sought from foreign employees on a temporary basis to prevent crop loss to growers.

The GAO report noted that the U.S. Department of Labor referred 133 workers to West Virginia growers in 1978, but only six of them stayed on the job for 15 days or longer, and only three workers remained to complete the harvest.

In West Virginia, a total of \$27,745 in federal money was spent on the recruitment project, most of which was allocated under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973. This sum, according to the report, "far exceeded the wages earned by the workers."

Assistance to growers

also was minimal since the apple harvest was late, and no effort was made to delay the scheduled arrival of off-shore workers to coincide with the harvest.

Thus, the project failed to provide meaningful assistance to growers or workers, representing a waste of federal funds which cannot be tolerated.

The primary causes of this project's lack of success, according to the report, were attributed to failure to recruit qualified workers and failure to train them for the job.

The recommendations of this requested investigation suggest that the Department of Labor develop procedures to ensure an adequate recruiting period so that qualified workers can be hired. The recruitment program also should provide job orientation and training.

It is imperative that the Department of Labor—or any governmental agency—take the necessary precautions to ensure that federal money is being well-spent. It is appropriate that those responsible for oversight of governmental programs continue to be on the alert to eliminate inefficient use of taxpayers' money.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Delicate Balance

In searching for appropriate legislation to strengthen the nation's intelligence agencies, the removal of unreasonable restraints must be balanced with guarantees of accountability to Congress.

Certain restrictions were placed upon the CIA and other intelligence units in the 1970's after abuses of authority were revealed. But it has become apparent that some of these provisions may threaten the ability of our intelligence agencies to function properly and effectively.

The need for accountability, however, is not diminished, and it is in the interests of the country to maintain a proper oversight role by the legislative branch of government.

The Senate, which is considering legislation to address these concerns, must strike a compromise that provides the CIA with adequate flexibility to conduct its work, while stipulating safeguards against unwarranted activity.

Under present provisions, intelligence agencies must report many of their activities to eight Congressional committees whose total membership exceeds 200. It would be more appropriate to limit reporting to only

the Senate and House Intelligence Committees — both of which, incidentally, have proved to be reliable in protecting secret intelligence information.

Intelligence agencies should not be required to notify Congress about every detail of their undertakings, particularly for information-gathering activities. But it is essential that Congress be informed—through its Intelligence Committees—of any significant covert operation which affects national security.

In emergency situations where the CIA deems it necessary to act without delay, it would be reasonable to require prior notification to Congress via the House and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, as well as the chairmen and ranking members of the Intelligence Committees. This stipulation would not impair the CIA's ability to act speedily.

Congress must respond to the challenge of achieving a delicate balance between flexibility and accountability so that our country's intelligence system can react to the often unpredictable events of this complex world and protect our national interests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Step Against Inflation

It is time for Congress to pull in the reins on government spending and balance the federal budget.

As every citizen is keenly aware, rampant inflation has been eating away at the individual's pocketbook, at the businessman's profits, and at the country's productivity. No sector of the economy has been immune from its devastating effects.

A balanced federal budget for the 1981 fiscal year will not rid the nation of this economic malaise, but it will be a step in the right direction.

Fiscal policy which matches government expenditures with anticipated revenues would remove some pressure from the Federal Reserve Board in its efforts to curb inflation. This agency has been pursuing a tight monetary policy—primarily through allowing interest rates to rise—to stem excessive spending that fosters the inflationary spiral.

Inflation can be chiefly attributed to the escalating

cost of energy, food, housing, and medical costs.

The balancing of the federal budget will represent a firm commitment on the part of Congress to the fighting of inflation by holding down spending. It will send a signal to the American people to tighten their belts similarly, and will foster an atmosphere of economic stability needed by the business community.

The process of achieving this goal, however, is going to be painful. All areas of the federal budget must be scrutinized to determine where spending cuts will be made — and many worthy projects and services may be affected.

Although funding cuts are certain to be protested by affected interest groups, the long-run goal of beating inflation must be paramount. Chronic inflation is more damaging to everyone's economic and social well-being than are the hardships which may result from carefully considered budget cuts.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Time for a Turnaround

The development of new coke-production facilities in West Virginia would help stimulate the state's economy, while pushing the country forward in its goal of achieving energy self-sufficiency.

The state's depressed coal market, of course, would be bolstered by the construction of coke plants which use metallurgical coal. Additional jobs would be created through this increased demand for coal, as well as from operation of the plants.

The nation, in pursuit of breaking its ties to imported energy, would also benefit. Ensuring an adequate supply of domestic coke for the production of steel is an important step in meeting this objective.

It is for these reasons that I, and other members of the West Virginia Congressional delegation, have been working to smooth the way for locating coke facilities in the state. Several meetings have been held with federal, state, and local officials to aid in the development of financial packages; to offer technical assistance; and to obtain

assurances of meeting clean air standards.

Because of the nation's critical shortage of domestic coke, an estimated six million tons of the fuel will be imported this year. By 1985, our steel industry could experience a domestic coke shortfall of 10 to 12 million tons.

The country's loss of coking capacity, according to a recent study by Fordham University, can be attributed to several factors. They include the unavailability of investment capital, obsolescence of coke ovens, environmental control regulations, escalating capital costs, and continual advancements in coke-making technology.

There currently are only two coke-producing facilities in West Virginia—one in Weirton and the other in Follansbee.

For the benefit of the state and nation, it is time for a turnaround in the coking industry. We currently have a potential for locating several coke-production facilities in West Virginia; and efforts to assist in the development of these projects must be continued.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Potential Straitjacket

Congress must keep a skeptical eye on proposals which would impose additional restraints on a society that already is inundated with regulations.

Clearly there is a need for both economic and social regulations to protect citizens from potential abuse. But there is the danger of a regulation overdose.

Thousands of regulations have been applied to all segments of society at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

It has been estimated that federal regulations in 1979 cost nearly \$103 billion. The expense of complying with these restraints in paperwork alone ranges from \$25 to \$32 billion a year, according to the Commission on Federal Paperwork, with the bulk of it borne by five million small businesses.

There is no doubt, of course, that many regulations result in benefits to American citizens, most of which cannot be quantified in dollars. It is difficult to put a price tag on clean air and water, reduced noise levels, a safe work-place, and the like.

But to regulate for regulation's sake is nonsense.

An example of overzealous regulation is illustrated

in the current debate over proposed standards for automobile bumpers. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration believes bumpers should be heavy enough to withstand damage after 5 mile-per-hour head-on crashes.

The agency defends this criterion even though safety is not a factor—and in defiance of two of its own benefit-cost studies showing that consumers could save millions of dollars if a lower standard were enacted.

The Senate has passed my amendment to establish a 2.5 mile-per-hour bumper standard which would reduce the average weight of a car by 40 pounds, saving hundreds of millions of gallons of gasoline each model year. This standard also would protect 400 jobs at a Huntington plant that produces light-weight bumper systems.

Because too many standards can lead to excessive regulation, Congress this year will study regulatory reform. It is one of the areas under scrutiny by the Senate Task Force on Small Business, which I established last month.

Our society must not be bound in a straitjacket of regulations.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stand Up and Be Counted!

A national endeavor has begun that will determine our citizens' representation in Congress, the marketing strategies of corporations, and the distribution of \$50 billion in government aid.

It is called the U.S. census.

The Census Bureau last month sent out questionnaires across the country—not only to tabulate the official population of the United States, but also to gather other statistics that it considers necessary for our complex society.

An estimated 300,000 pages of data will be culled, including information on housing, education, ethnic origin, income, and employment. New questions were asked this year which will help determine national energy usage and travel-to-work patterns.

The primary purpose of the census as stipulated in the First Article of the U.S. Constitution, is to provide an accurate head-count for the apportionment of our country's 435 U.S. Representatives. These statistics also are employed by states to draw their Congressional districts for assuring balanced representation.

In addition, the distribu-

tion of about \$50 billion in federal funds is based on the most recent population count. The census figures affect the allocations of federal revenue-sharing money, as well as funds for educational programs, health care, employment opportunities, housing assistance, and highway building.

But the census is not a tool only for use by the government. Private industry relies on demographic data obtained from the census for the development of marketing strategies, the building of new plants, and the recruitment of personnel.

The nation's first census was taken in 1790 by U.S. marshals who tabulated a population count of 3.9 million. Today, the Census Bureau depends on sophisticated computer technology to compute an accurate head-count, projected to be 222 million this year.

Similarly, West Virginia has shown dramatic changes in its population. Several years after the birth of the Mountain State, its population was figured at 442,014. Today it is projected to have a count of 1.8 million people, nearly a 6 percent increase over 1970.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Loosening the OPEC Grip

A proposal that would help free our country from its bondage to foreign oil is in the hands of Congress.

The legislation, which several coal-state senators and I introduced recently, would require 107 utility power plants to convert from oil or natural gas usage to coal. It not only represents a partial answer to the nation's energy dilemma, but it also would provide thousands of Americans with needed employment.

This country—which has bountiful coal resources—can no longer tolerate increasing dependence on foreign sources of energy. It has become necessary not only to induce the use of coal instead of oil or gas, but also to require certain coal-capable plants to make this sensible switch.

The bill, which has the backing of the Carter Administration, calls for a two-phase program for converting utility generating stations to coal by 1990. This transformation is projected to reduce our daily imports of foreign oil by one million barrels in 1990.

The \$10 billion package will provide federal grants to assist in the conversion of power plants for the clean-burning of coal. All existing environmental standards will remain intact and will be closely observed.

This proposed coal policy also would provide consumers with a cheaper source of electricity. The mining, shipping, and cleaning of coal all cost far less than the escalating price of oil, which is dictated by a monopoly of foreign countries.

Coal is our nation's ace-in-the-hole if we are to achieve energy independence. It is abundant, available, and can be burned cleanly. This resource must be fully utilized if we are to attain energy self-sufficiency.

Hearings will be held soon on this proposal, and I will take every step necessary to ensure that it receives top priority. It is through the use of coal that, one day, we may be able to sever the nation's umbilical cord to foreign oil.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Good News For the Small Saver

Congress recently enacted a new law that is intended to help the small saver, the small borrower, and the small businessman.

The legislation—which is a basic overhaul of regulations governing our depository institutions—will encourage Americans to save rather than spend. Specifically, it phases out, over the next six years, ceilings imposed on interest rates that can be applied to savings accounts.

By law, banks and savings institutions have been restricted on the interest rates they can pay on savings accounts—and they have been considerably less than our current double-digit inflation rate. Consequently, these interest rate ceilings have contributed to our inflation spiral by encouraging consumers to spend their money, rather than keeping it in low-yield savings accounts.

Elimination of the interest rate limitation will allow depository institutions to compete with major money markets for consumers' dollars. Thus, they will pay interest rates that will be competitive—giving an incentive to keep money in savings, instead of spending it or investing it else-

where in hopes of a higher return.

Banks, savings and loans, and other depository institutions are the principal source of credit for home mortgages, small business loans, and small borrowers from all walks of life. An increased flow of money into these institutions by savers will translate into additional dollars available for small loans, needed for investment in our communities.

Other benefits available to small savers as a result of the new law will be the payment of interest on balances kept in checking accounts and an increase in the ceiling on federal insurance covering each account.

In addition, the legislation significantly strengthens the ability of the Federal Reserve Board to conduct monetary policy by controlling the money supply. This expansion of authority should aid the central bank in its efforts to dampen inflation.

To revitalize our economy, it is important to reward and encourage savings, which can be translated into investment by business, resulting in real economic growth for our country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Fair Shake

The windfall profits tax recently enacted by Congress deals evenhandedly with the oil industry, which is collecting extraordinary revenues, and the public, which is bearing the burden of escalating energy prices.

The need for a tax is the direct result of President Carter's decision to lift price controls from domestic crude oil. This step was taken to stimulate increased production by allowing oil companies to charge higher prices, and to encourage conservation.

The decontrol of oil prices, however, allows domestic producers to charge the prevailing world price, resulting in unwarranted profits to the oil companies. Last year, the country's 20 largest oil companies reported profits of more than \$22 billion, a staggering 64-percent increase over the previous year.

Because only a portion of these windfall profits can be applied to new exploration and development, the remainder of these revenues must be directed to the public's benefit.

The windfall profits tax, which will be levied according to a complicated formula, is expected to gen-

erate \$227.7 billion over an 11-year period. These funds will be earmarked for income tax reductions, aid to low-income families, and development of energy and transportation programs.

One of the many business tax incentives included in the new law is a 10-percent energy credit, which I co-sponsored, that can be applied to equipment purchased for the production of coke and coke gas. Another tax credit is available, under certain conditions, to producers of synthetic fuels, such as the production of liquids from coal, or oil from shale.

The legislation also offers a variety of tax incentives to encourage energy conservation by the public. Credits are available for residential solar, wind, and geothermal equipment; and for certain home improvements, such as installation of storm windows and insulation.

By helping to promote increased domestic energy production, while fostering conservation, the windfall profits tax represents an important rung in the ladder towards energy independence.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Another Dose of Courage

The attainment of a comprehensive and enduring peace between Israel and Egypt is fundamental to the security interests of every nation in the Middle East, as well as the United States.

Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egypt's President Anwar Sadat recently visited this nation's capital for another round of consultations with President Carter, and meetings with Congressional leaders, including myself.

Both heads of state have demonstrated courage in taking the steps necessary for peace by signing the Camp David Accords of September, 1978. But another dose of courage is needed to achieve the comprehensive peace that is so imperative for the region and the world.

The question of Palestinian autonomy is the Gordian knot that must be cut if a comprehensive peace is to be attained. The Camp David Accords call for the establishment of a self-governing authority for Palestinians living on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Strip.

But the Israelis and the Egyptians disagree on the powers to be granted to the self-governing authority. The presence of secu-

rity forces for Israel, the establishment of Israeli settlements on the West Bank, and the status of 100,000 Arab residents of Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem are among the stumbling blocks that must be overcome.

Resolution of these issues will contribute to the security of all Middle East countries and the United States. The current stalemate over the Palestinian question hinders our nation's ability to foster closer cooperation with Arab countries — cooperation that is becoming increasingly necessary in view of recent events in the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan.

Egypt and Israel deserve American support for the peace initiatives taken, and are to be encouraged to take the final steps necessary to complete the accords. Economic and military assistance for both countries contributes to economic stability and security, both of which are foundations of peace. This assistance is an investment in America's own security.

I hope the recent talks will accelerate the Middle East peace efforts and provide the basis for an eventual compromise. The momentum of peace must not be lost.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Power at the Ballot Box

Although this country's population growth has far exceeded the expectations of our Founding Fathers when they laid down our governing principles, the significance of the individual vote has not diminished.

The voice of the public—communicated through the ballot box—lies at the foundation of democracy. Our constitutional republic is based on the granting of authority to individuals who have won free elections in which most adult citizens are allowed to participate.

In today's nation of 222 million people, the individual vote still counts.

The outcome of at least four presidential elections hinged upon less than one vote per precinct in one or two key states. This was the case in 1884 when New York tipped the scales in favor of Democrat Grover Cleveland over Republican James G. Blaine. Similar circumstances surrounded the elections of Woodrow Wilson in 1916 and Harry Truman in 1948.

Perhaps the most celebrated instance occurred in 1960 when Democrat John Kennedy's victory over Republican Richard Nixon hinged on the 43 electoral votes of Illinois and New Jersey. They were cast on

a margin of less than one vote per precinct.

Last month's primary election in Pennsylvania again illustrates the significance of a single ballot. The margin of Sen. Edward Kennedy's slim victory over President Carter was slightly more than one vote per precinct.

The U.S. Constitution originally granted suffrage to white property-owning males. Over the history of our republic, however, this right has been extended to the bulk of Americans, with several Constitutional Amendments specifically prohibiting discrimination based on race, sex, or age over 18 years.

West Virginia today has an estimated 1,357,000 citizens who are eligible to vote. Unfortunately, thousands of them have disenfranchised themselves voluntarily by failing to register for the upcoming June 3 primary election.

As attested by history, every vote does count. This is an especially important year for citizens to go to the polls because local, state, and national seats will be decided.

It is important to our system of government that American citizens exercise their privilege to vote.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Proud Heritage

Former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance served the country well for the past three and one-half years, conducting foreign affairs with a calm voice, supplemented by steady and wise counsel.

West Virginia can be proud to claim him as one of her sons. The lawyer-diplomat is a native of Clarksburg.

In his service as Secretary of State, Mr. Vance was identified with many of the major themes of President Carter's foreign policy. But he will be best remembered for his contributions in three key areas—the Panama Canal Treaty, the arms limitations agreement, and the Middle East accords.

Secretary Vance, who has been awarded honorary degrees from West Virginia and Marshall Universities, has served his country and his native state well. He joins the ranks of other West Virginia-bred leaders who have contributed their effort to the public's welfare.

Another Clarksburg native, John W. Davis, also was schooled as a lawyer and a diplomat. He held positions as solicitor general of the United States and ambassador to Great Britain before becoming the Democratic Party's nominee for the presidency in 1924.

Former Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson, who served in the Truman Administration, began his career in Clarksburg, where

he established his law practice. Johnson is credited with the formulation of pre-World War II defense plans of the United States when he served as assistant secretary of war from 1937 to 1940.

Labor leader Walter Reuther, a native of Wheeling, engaged in a different kind of diplomacy as president of the United Automobile Workers, and later as a leader of the AFL-CIO.

Two former secretaries of the Army also had ties to West Virginia. Elvis J. Stahr, Jr., took a leave of absence as president of West Virginia University in 1961 to serve as secretary of the Army in the Kennedy Administration. Stephen Ailes, a native of Romney and a graduate of the West Virginia University Law School, assisted in the reorganization of the country's military establishment in the 1960's as undersecretary, then secretary, of the Army.

One of West Virginia's most famous persons, author Pearl S. Buck, was an unofficial ambassador of goodwill through her compassionate books on the lives and suffering of Chinese peasants. The Nobel Prize-winning author was born in Hillsboro.

West Virginia can take pride in her native sons and daughters of the past. And, as demonstrated by Secretary Vance, additional contributions will be made by West Virginia descendants in the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Our Achilles' Heel

Because our nation's dependence on foreign oil is the Achilles' heel of our economy, it is imperative that our country be prepared to deal with any significant cutoff in oil supplies from the Persian Gulf.

The United States imports almost half of its oil supplies. It imports 25 percent of its oil from Persian Gulf countries. The energy reliance of our European allies and Japan on this region is even more substantial, with Western Europe depending upon Persian Gulf imports for nearly half of its oil needs.

The uncertain relationship between the United States and Iran alludes to our nation's vulnerability to an interruption in fuel supplies. Any curtailment in oil deliveries—whether due to embargo, terrorism, invasion, accident, or political instability—could severely cripple our nation's economy.

A recent study estimates that a cutoff of three million barrels of oil per day—representing about a 16-percent decrease in Persian Gulf production—would multiply into an annual loss of \$100 billion to our national economy. A total curtailment of Persian Gulf oil production of 19 million barrels daily would translate into a staggering \$700-

billion-a-year loss to the U.S. economy.

Such a shock to our economy—to say nothing of our national security—would be devastating. We must prepare now to guard against the potential economic gyrations that would result from severe oil supply interruptions.

An essential element for any energy preparedness scheme is a standby gasoline rationing plan. Although Congress rejected the original proposal offered by the Carter Administration almost a year ago, a new plan needs to be submitted and put into working order for use in an emergency.

The possibility of resuming oil purchases to augment the country's Strategic Petroleum Reserve also needs to be considered. No fuel has been added to the reserve for nearly a year, and it currently holds only 91 million barrels of oil—a 10-to-12-day supply.

In addition, negotiations with our allies would be prudent to develop plans for the apportionment of scarce oil supplies in the event of a Persian Gulf cutoff.

Energy security is essential for the stability of our economy and preservation of our lifestyle. We cannot afford to be caught unprepared.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Spotlight Turning to Coal

There is growing evidence that the United States—endowed with bountiful pockets of coal reserves—is destined to become the energy storehouse of the world as nations are weaned from diminishing supplies of oil.

The advantages attributed to coal are no news to West Virginians, who are steeped in knowledge about the mineral's qualities. But the recently-released World Coal Study, supervised by Professor Carroll L. Wilson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the latest in a growing chorus of acclaim for the part to be played by the black fuel.

The study group, consisting of leading government and business officials in 16 countries, identified coal as the only fuel capable of sustaining the world's economic growth over the next two decades. Because increasing supplies of oil imports will not be available, "coal can bridge the transition from the fading petroleum era to next century's renewable energy," according to the report.

Coal can assume this leading role, however, only if world production is tripled and exports of steam coal are multiplied 10-to-15 times, the study said. This goal is attainable, according to the report, if there is a 5 percent annual growth in the production of coal.

The world transition from

oil to coal would be a boon to the United States. Noting the rich reserves of coal within our borders, the study suggested the United States could become the Saudi Arabia of coal exporters.

West Virginia, of course, is a fountain of energy wealth within our country. The Mountain State produced more than 112 million tons of coal in 1979, and has reserves estimated at more than 57 billion tons.

Technically and economically recoverable world coal reserves are enormous, according to the study, which pegged them at five-times world oil reserves. Even in view of projections for expanded coal use, the study concludes that only 15 percent of these reserves would be exhausted by the year 2000.

The study predicted that the major coal use two decades from now would be the same as today—consumption by electric utilities. It projected a major reversal in the past trend of industrial users to switch from coal to oil, and forecast a substantial new coal market resulting from the development of synthetic fuels.

This study, a realistic assessment of the world's energy needs, bodes well for the future of coal and of the world economic order. Government and private enterprise must work hand in hand to help fulfill this prophecy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Repaying a Debt

A renewed effort is being made to discourage former college students from defaulting on their loans guaranteed by the federal government.

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee recently approved and recommended legislation that would extend the Guaranteed Student Loan Program through 1985. It is under this program that thousands of students across the country acquire loans, subsidized and guaranteed by the federal government, to finance post-secondary education.

The need for this program, and other student assistance, is obvious. Without student aid, many of our young adults would be denied the opportunity to pursue studies that can benefit them—and society—throughout their lifetimes.

But student loan programs must not be viewed as sources of free money reservoirs. When a student accepts a loan, he or she also accepts the responsibility to repay it under the agreed-upon terms.

Unfortunately, many of our student assistance programs have had high default rates. The federal government has paid more than \$1 billion in defaulted loans under the Guaranteed Student Loan Program since its inception in 1965.

Under pressure from Congress, the Office of Student Financial Assistance

was established in 1977 to strengthen collection efforts, and significant progress has been made. Last fall, regular payments were being received on 106,000 loans, compared to only 24,000 accounts two years earlier.

The legislation extending the Guaranteed Student Loan Program contains additional incentives for the student to repay his debt. It requires the student to begin making payments within four months following completion of his studies, a shortening of the grace period that now extends up to 12 months.

It is believed that this stipulation will reduce the loan default rate because lenders should not have as much difficulty keeping track of the student's residence in that amount of time.

The bill also authorizes the use of credit bureau organizations in the exchange of information concerning the past performance of student borrowers. If the student is aware that his failure to repay his debt to the federal government will become part of his credit record, he is more likely to make timely payments on his loan.

These student loan programs advance the goal of equal education opportunities and ought to be continued. But steps must be taken to insure that the loans are repaid, and that they do not become unintended subsidies.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Foundation of Freedom

As this country prepares for its traditional observance of Independence Day, it is appropriate for us to rededicate ourselves to the principles upon which our nation was built.

Our Fourth of July celebration, of course, refers to the birth of our nation, when, in 1776, the original 13 colonies broke from the British Empire. On July 2, the colonies declared themselves "free and independent states," and two days later, this declaration was approved by the Continental Congress.

This marked the beginning of a never-ending struggle for freedom. Following the Revolutionary War, Americans stood the test in the Civil War, two world wars, and other armed conflicts.

As we observe the 204th year of our sovereignty, we must remain vigilant in guarding our freedoms and rights granted under our democratic form of government. Unfortunately, there are many people across the globe who suffer from the heavy hand of repression.

The current plight of the men, women, and children of Afghanistan, besieged by

Soviet soldiers, is an atrocity. The freedom that we cherish so deeply is not within grasp of that beleaguered country.

Afghanistan is not an isolated example; the torch of liberty is missing from many other countries throughout the world. There are dictatorships, oligarchies, military juntas, and a variety of other forms of government that suppress the human spirit and deprive their citizens of the liberties that we, too often, take for granted.

It is particularly sad and frustrating this year that the anniversary of our nation's independence is marred by the captivity of 53 Americans in Iran. Some day—and let us hope that it is not too distant in the future — these Americans will celebrate their own independence day.

Although our struggle for independence began more than two centuries ago, we must not weaken in our resolve to preserve our country's foundation. A renewal of our national spirit, imbued with the courage and determination displayed by our ancestors, should be the essence of our celebration this Independence Day.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Signal of Strength

Peacetime registration of young men for military service not only will enhance our country's general defense preparedness, but it also will send a signal of strength and determination to our allies and adversaries.

Registration is a significant step in providing for our nation's military readiness in the event of a crisis. It is distinct and separate from the draft, but it lays the groundwork for our capability to respond to an emergency.

Under the registration plan, men who are 19 and 20 years of age will be required to fill out simple forms at their local post offices. The forms will be sent to the Selective Service System, where the information will be retained on file.

Military registration does not call for reinstatement of the draft. The president does not have the authority to reactivate the draft, and that authority can be mandated only by the Congress.

A peacetime draft existed from 1948 to 1973, during which time young men could be inducted to serve up to two years in the military to augment our volunteer forces.

The authority to draft young men expired in 1973,

although 18-year-old males still were required to register. In 1975, President Ford suspended registration, and the authority to require military registration has remained dormant for five years.

Resumption of peacetime registration is especially important today in view of international stress and tension apparent in the Persian Gulf region and southwest Asia. Its activation will indicate to countries around the world that we are prepared to back up our foreign policy pronouncements with military strength.

Registration is intended to build a pool of names and addresses so that a draft—if enacted—would begin with little delay. In the event of a crisis, this readiness to provide additional manpower to strengthen our standing army could spell the difference between success and failure of our military response.

In the present atmosphere of uncertain relationships and unpredictable events, resumption of peacetime registration is needed as a step of caution. It is hoped that our defense readiness will deter threats against our national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Hidden Tax

The oil-rich countries of the Persian Gulf have imposed a new round of "taxes" on the American consumer, who soon will be paying an additional penny or two for each gallon of gas bought at the pump.

Most Americans probably think the recent rejection of the proposed oil import fee by Congress blocked an increase in the current four-cents-per-gallon gasoline tax. True, it halted the imposition of a 10-cent U.S. fee on the cost of each gallon of gasoline.

But we continue to pay a "hidden tax" to the OPEC cartel—a tax which grows every time the Persian Gulf countries convene and announce another round in their endless series of oil price increases. The latest price hike of \$4 per barrel translates into an increase of one to two cents for each gallon of gas.

This new price level of about \$32 per barrel will add about \$5 billion to our foreign oil bill which, at the current level of imports, already is projected at \$94 billion for the year—or \$400 for every man, woman, boy,

and girl in the U.S. In 1970, the United States paid just \$3.7 billion for foreign oil.

And, unlike revenues from the proposed import fee, this money will not be deposited in the U.S. Treasury. It cannot and will not be rebated to the American public through a tax cut. Instead, it will fatten the coffers of OPEC treasuries.

The proposed import fee would have boosted our federal gasoline tax to 14 cents per gallon. The Germans pay \$1.14 per gallon in federal taxes, the French pay \$1.62 per gallon, and the Italians pay \$1.83 per gallon.

A cutback in oil production by Saudi Arabia or any other major producer would cause gasoline prices to skyrocket and gas lines to form once again.

Without taking more steps to conserve, Americans will continue to be at the mercy of the OPEC cartel, which increases our gas "tax" by a few pennies every several months. We must be freed from this domination and take charge of our own national destiny.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Responsible Refuge

The United States has a tradition of granting refuge to oppressed people, but it cannot allow itself to become a dumping ground for common criminals.

The recent influx of Cubans to our country—now numbering more than 100,000 — is an indictment of the Castro regime. It is testimony to communism's heavy hand of repression.

Unfortunately, this vast immigration of Cubans to the United States has strained normal processing procedures. The government, however, is endeavoring to resettle the refugees in an orderly fashion, having established refugee centers in various parts of the country to screen and process the Cubans.

But the United States has no responsibility to give refuge to common criminals, whose activities jeopardize the entire Cuban resettlement effort. In fact, our government has a legal responsibility under our immigration laws to keep out criminal elements.

In an apparent attempt to embarrass the United States, the Castro government unlocked its jails and put hardened criminals on boats bound for Florida. This criminal element, no doubt, is responsible for the sporadic violence that has occurred at refugee processing centers.

The persons responsible for violence at these centers should be identified, arrested, and deported. Likewise, all common criminals identified in the screening process should be deported.

Order must be maintained in the processing centers. The security of communities in the vicinity of these centers must be assured, as well as the security of those refugees who are not participating in the disturbances.

For the Cuban resettlement effort to succeed, the criminal element must be thrown out. The American people must be reassured that our country is not opening its doors to common criminals.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Our Energy Warehouse

The stimulation of coal exports from the United States would give West Virginia's economy a shot in the arm, as well as dramatize our recognition of the vital role coal can play in supplying world energy needs.

The promotion of our country's abundant coal reserves would be advanced through a coal export officer in our American diplomatic missions abroad. I recently co-sponsored an amendment requiring the secretary of state to designate such an officer in most U.S. embassies.

This officer would monitor the host country's ability to import coal from the United States. Also, under the amendment, the U.S. Secretary of State would prepare and submit to the Congress semi-annual reports on coal export opportunities.

This step to facilitate the growth of a free and competitive international coal trade would increase our expertise and effectiveness in the coal export market. It also would emphasize our commitment to the finding of alternative energy sources

to reduce international dependence on oil from the Persian Gulf region.

Almost half of the nearly 65 million tons exported by the United States last year came from West Virginia. The Mountain State shipped 21 million tons of coal overseas and nine million tons to Canada.

Our country's exports, however, represent only 8.4 percent of our total production last year. The largest recipient of American coal was Canada, with more than 19 million tons. The European Economic Community received 18 million tons and nearly 16 million tons went to Japan.

The potential for America's coal industry is enormous. The United States possesses about 27 percent of the earth's coal reserves—an estimated 1.7 trillion tons.

The rediscovery of America's coal may give free world countries a new energy warehouse to supply their needs of tomorrow. We and our trading partners must work together to seek a less oil-dependent energy future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

World Censure

Today—more than six months since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan—it is imperative that the brutal act of aggression be kept at the center stage of public attention.

The Soviets believe that passage of time will insulate them from world condemnation and accountability for their aggrandizement. We cannot let that happen.

World censure of the Soviets for their barbarism and ruthlessness must not abate. The murder of thousands of Afghans—including some children as young as eight years old—must not recede from the public's consciousness.

It is for these reasons that I recently sponsored a resolution—which was approved unanimously by the U.S. Senate—condemning the invasion of Afghanistan and deploring the Soviet violations of national rights and individual freedoms in Afghanistan.

The resolution urges all other nations to join in de-

nouncing the Soviet Union for its intervention. It also puts the Senate on record in support of withdrawal of Soviet military forces from Afghanistan, and supports the imposition of penalties against the Soviet Union for its unlawful acts.

The United States will not be mollified by a token troop withdrawal designed as a propaganda ploy. Until the Soviets retreat from their invasion, we must, at every opportunity, keep this outrage before the world and in the press.

We must be reminded daily of the atrocities being committed in Afghanistan. We cannot ignore the forced flight of hundreds of thousands of Afghans from their homes to the neighboring countries of Pakistan and Iran.

The Soviets, to a degree, respect world opinion. They should be reminded every hour of every day that the condemnation of their actions in Afghanistan is universal and unrelenting.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Breaking the Habit

A major effort is being mounted to break our country's addiction to foreign oil through the development of synthetic liquid fuels.

This badly-needed impetus is being provided by the Energy Security Act which will mark one of the major accomplishments of the 96th Congress.

The legislation establishes a Synthetic Fuels Corporation to finance the development of commercial-sized plants for the conversion of coal and oil shale to synthetic oil and gas. The lion's share of \$20 billion authorized by the act will be earmarked for loan and price guarantees and other incentives.

The initial goal is the production of liquid fuels that can displace at least 500,000 barrels per day of foreign oil by 1987, and two million barrels daily by 1992.

This drive for synthetic fuels development should benefit West Virginia, because coal is the raw resource needed for many of the available technolo-

gies for producing liquid fuels. Coal can be liquefied, gasified, refined, or cleaned in dozens of different ways to produce a variety of synthetic fuels.

The Energy Security Act also provides incentives for production of alcohol fuels from agricultural crops. It is hoped that this program will stimulate energy production that would amount to 10 percent of the nation's gasoline consumption by 1990.

In addition, the bill creates an energy bank to extend grants and subsidized loans for solar and conservation activities. Homeowners could receive as much as \$5,000 for approved solar projects and up to \$1,250 for conservation measures, such as installation of storm windows and insulation.

The synthetic fuels bill provides our country with a toehold in our energy future. It is only through energy self-reliance that we can retain command of our national destiny.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Our No. 1 Priority

The current atmosphere of international tension stresses the need for our nation to maintain its position of first-rate defense capabilities.

Although our country prefers to use diplomatic channels to resolve international conflict, it is essential that we deal from a position of strength. Strength is the only language that can be understood clearly by potential aggressors.

With this in mind, the Senate recently passed a \$52 billion defense procurement bill that includes nearly \$35 billion for military hardware and nearly \$17 billion for research and development.

The Senate-passed measure calls for the development of a new manned long-range strategic bomber to replace our fleet of B-52's by the mid-1980's. It also authorizes the Pentagon to start work on the MX missile, the newest generation of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles.

In an attempt to keep our voluntary forces in uniform, the Senate called for an 11.7 percent pay raise, ef-

fective Oct. 1, for the two million men and women in the armed services. The bill also stipulates that 68 percent of our 1981 Army recruits should be high school graduates.

The legislation sustains the major thrusts of defense preparedness initiatives that have been undertaken in the last four years. These initiatives have been designed to upgrade and improve military manpower, readiness, and equipment; enhance our theater presence—especially in Europe, the Middle East, and the Indian Ocean; and strengthen our arsenal of strategic weapons.

These components represent the building blocks of our country's defense structure in the 1980's. We must continue our efforts to build a defense system that is practical and usable, and flexible enough to accommodate our foreign policy initiatives.

National security always has been—and always will be — our no. 1 priority. Without national security, our other priorities have little meaning.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Economic Lifeblood

The revitalization of our country's economic lifeblood—the small business community—is the goal of a new federal law recently enacted by Congress.

The Small Business Development Act of 1980 is aimed at nurturing and promoting the entrepreneurial spirit. It establishes a national economic policy to coordinate all federal efforts fostering the development and expansion of small and medium-sized businesses.

Under this act, the Small Business Administration (SBA) is authorized to help states finance the creation and operation of small business development centers. They will offer management and technical assistance in such areas as marketing, product development, manufacturing, technology development, finance, and dealing with government regulations.

The federal government is committed, under the law, to providing private sector incentives for ensuring that adequate capital is available, at competitive costs, for small businesses. It directs three government

banking regulators to measure small business credit needs and to determine if those needs are being met.

In addition, the SBA is directed to publish a small business economic index that will aid in diagnosing the needs of this sector. The SBA also is authorized to make loan guarantees to employee organizations seeking to purchase their businesses when they would otherwise close, relocate, or be sold to larger firms.

Under reforms in the disaster loan program, interest rates charged to companies which can obtain private credit must be commensurate with the government's current cost of money, which is now around 10 percent. Businesses unable to obtain credit from the private sector, however, would be eligible for 5 percent loans.

Our economy thrives on the well-being of the small business community. Stimulation of this sector by government policy will boost competition, resulting in increased productivity, and more jobs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building a Beneficial Friendship

A recent visit to the People's Republic of China has convinced me, more than ever, that a secure, peaceful, and modernized China is vital to stability in the Asian-Pacific region.

My nine-day trip, taken at the invitation of the National People's Congress, enabled me to explore ways to strengthen further cooperation between the United States and China. Our growing relationship with China can benefit both nations' economies through increased trade and business investment, and it can contribute to stability in international affairs.

There are several areas of potential cooperation between the United States and China, including the addition of consular offices in each country. Normalization of relations also should envision civil aviation and maritime agreements, as well as a bilateral business practices accord relating to investment.

In international affairs, Premier Hua Guofeng and other top Chinese leaders said they shared our country's outrage over the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. The Chinese Pre-

mier also expressed the fear that the Soviets were attempting to transform Vietnam into the Cuba of the Orient.

There is clearly a convergence of strategic interests between the United States and China, and a shared view of significant aspects of current world affairs. China, representing one-fourth of the world's people, has an increasingly important role to play in the international arena, and along with Japan, has a particularly significant role in the Asian-Pacific region.

There will be no turning back the clock in the growing Sino-American relationship, which has been carried forward by two Republican and Democratic Administrations. Its maturation is, and should be, a fundamental element of U.S. foreign policy.

The United States will work to help China achieve its 20-year modernization program and to increase trade between our countries. This cooperation will contribute to greater international stability, and it will add to our mutual security interests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Backbone

The significance of our annual tribute to America's working men and women on Labor Day should not be forgotten amid the flurry of typical holiday activities—picnics, ball games, and cookouts.

The work force of our country epitomizes our spirit and our vitality. It is the workers' inspiration and creativity, matched by their strength and sweat, that have helped to build our nation into what it is today, and that are shaping the dimensions of our tomorrows.

Labor Day was first observed in 1882, in New York City, at the suggestion of Peter J. McGuire, a carpenter and a leader of the Knights of Labor. In 1887, Oregon became the first state to recognize Labor Day officially. West Virginia, under Gov. George W. Atkinson, designated Labor Day as a legal holiday in 1899.

Although Labor Day originated as a symbol of labor unions, it has evolved into a national holiday honoring everyone who works. America's laborers include the

architects who envision and design skyscrapers; the construction and trade workers who build them; and the secretaries and managers who work in them.

Although West Virginia is recognized for its many coal miners, the state's labor force of 748,000 persons encompasses all walks of life. In addition to miners, our state is well represented by persons employed in the fields of manufacturing, construction, trade, services, government, finance, insurance, and real estate.

And a growing percentage of the nation's work force—as well as West Virginia's — is represented by women. Statistics indicate that about 35 percent of West Virginia's labor pool is female.

Our land's diversity of skills is essential to the growth, progress, and prosperity of our communities and our nation. On Labor Day, all workers should pause to take pride in their contributions to our society. They are the backbone of America's greatness.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Harnessing Our Resources

The signing of agreements for constructing a \$1.4 billion liquified coal plant near Morgantown represents another valuable plank in the building of a new energy foundation for America.

The United States, Germany, and Japan, along with industrial firms in each of these countries, are embarking on a joint venture to promote a synthetic substitute for oil. Each of us must forge new energy development to reduce our reliance on the unstable Persian Gulf region, and to meet the petroleum demands of an industrial society.

The project involves the building of a pilot plant to demonstrate the solvent refined coal (SRC) II process, which converts high-sulfur coal into a clean-burning liquid fuel. The plant, which will transform 6,000 tons of coal daily into the equivalent of 20,000 barrels of liquid fuel, can be a guidepost for future energy projects.

It will exhibit the feasibility of a large-scale synthetic fuels plant, providing data on equipment performance, operating costs, and

investment needs. Following completion of the demonstration project, the plant can be enlarged to a commercial-sized operation that would produce 100,000 barrels of synthetic fuels daily.

The solvent refining process permits the use of West Virginia's abundant metallurgical coal, and the commercial development of SRC plants domestically would increase our reliance on native energy supplies.

The promotion of the use of coal—and other domestic energy resources—is imperative. Just a decade ago, our country paid an average price of under \$3 per barrel for imported oil. Today, the United States pays an average price of \$32 per barrel, pushing our imported oil bill to a projected \$94 billion this year.

We possess the technology and innovative spirit needed to establish coal as the focus of a secure energy future. Our national economic and military security is at stake, and time is running out.

Coal is our energy lifeline. We must act quickly to reduce our reliance on costly foreign oil.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Our Industrial Spirit

To meet the challenges of the 1980's, our nation's industrial spirit, as well as our plant and equipment, need to be strengthened and revitalized, stimulating economic development and spurring productivity.

At the base of a strong and healthy nation is a productive economy. Although the United States can boast of being the most productive economy in the world, our growth has stagnated, imperiling the competitive edge we have long held in international markets.

The reindustrialization of America is a goal that must be achieved. I believe Congress should consider the creation of an industrial corporation which would assist in restructuring some of America's basic businesses—such as the automobile, steel, rubber, and mass transportation industries.

An industrial corporation could be patterned after the Reconstruction Finance Corporation created in 1932 to help stimulate economic recovery following the Great Depression.

Productivity, in its simplest terms, is the measure

of output in goods and services per hour of labor. Among the factors that determine productivity growth are investment in new plant and equipment, research and development, government regulations, and capital formation.

An industrial corporation could help the private sector deal with these elements. It could assist with infusions of capital through government loans and grants, promote research and development, coordinate and direct regulations, and help target tax incentives and federal financial resources to encourage capital formation.

It is time to apply America's know-how to the task of invigorating our economy. We must rebuild our industrial regions and start developing projects for the coming decades.

An industrial corporation could play a vital role in helping business, labor, and government revive the country's productive capacity to forge new strength for the next decade, and to lay the foundation for the 21st century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cutting Down Bramble Bushes

Energy production is far too important to be stifled by bureaucratic bramble bushes grown in the nation's capital.

Because this federal red tape threatens our domestic coal production, I have worked to enact legislation that would give states a voice in designing their own regulatory structures to govern surface mining within their boundaries.

My amendment, which many coal-state senators cosponsored, allows each state to develop its own reclamation requirements, while abiding by the 115 performance standards set forth in the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. The intent is to make it possible for states to apply the surface mine law in a reasonable way—a way that will deal with the environment, while simultaneously dealing with our nation's energy dilemma.

The legislation will not weaken the Surface Mining Act, and is necessary to free coal-producing states from needless and arbitrary regulations issued by the federal

Office of Surface Mining. Federal bureaucrats have handcuffed coal production with too many regulations, too much paperwork, and reams of red tape.

These same bureaucrats were the ones who struck down West Virginia's carefully-written reclamation law that had been the product of months of tedious, detailed negotiations with the Office of Surface Mining. A balanced, finely-honed reclamation statute was dismissed arbitrarily.

Over-regulation, which is a growing problem in our country, is not a sound basis for good government. The people in our states whose livelihoods depend on producing vital energy resources do not need Big Brother breathing down their necks.

The orderly development of our country's most abundant fuel stock—coal—can be achieved only through reasonable regulatory policies. We must strike a balance between protection of the environment and production of a badly-needed energy resource.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Blossoming Export Trade

The international recognition of coal as an available energy source makes it imperative that our nation improve and upgrade our ports and railroads to capitalize on the expanding coal export trade.

West Virginians have long recognized the vital role coal can play in supplying our country's future energy needs. But this great American resource is being rediscovered by other Western and free-world countries, which also are looking for a less oil-dependent energy future.

This rediscovery has led to an explosive growth in coal trade with foreign nations. Exports of steam coal, for instance, have jumped from almost nothing in 1978 to more than two million tons last year—and are estimated to range from 9 to 12 million tons this year.

Unfortunately, this flourishing of coal exports has caught the major transporters of coal—railroads and ships—unprepared. Coal colliers in Norfolk Harbor in Virginia, for instance, generally wait 15 to 30 days to be loaded—a delay that can add as much as \$3 a ton to the price of American coal, jeopardizing its

competitive edge with other coal-exporting nations.

This congestion could be eased by deepening the channels to allow larger ships to use the ports, and by improving the ship-loading process, which has been considered a major bottleneck.

The blossoming of this coal-export trade obviously would increase our coal markets, putting more West Virginia miners—and miners across the country—back to work. It also would help reverse our country's balance-of-payments deficit, which today is running at an annual rate of more than \$40 billion.

And perhaps most importantly, an increased dependency of our allies and developing countries on American coal, rather than OPEC oil, would lead to a more secure energy future.

Coal obviously has a crucial role to play in the re-industrialization of America—and any successful economic revitalization program must encompass the restructuring of our coal-hauling system. This initiative—which will help us rediscover our industrial potential—will be a priority order of business when the 97th Congress convenes in January.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Shaping of Our Republic

The United States Senate, which has played a leading role in the shaping of our government's democratic foundation, will be 200 years old in 1989.

In preparation for the commemoration of its bicentennial, I have been speaking on the Senate floor, about once a week, on the customs, traditions, and history of this great institution.

I have uncovered many fascinating tales and facts regarding the Senate during my preparations for these speeches, a few of which I will share here.

Although the Senate was scheduled to meet, for the first time, on March 4, 1789, it did not attain a quorum until April 6. It met on the second floor in Federal Hall in New York City, while the House of Representatives met on the first floor, probably giving genesis to the terms "upper house" and "lower house."

The custom of opening sessions of the Senate and the House with prayer dates back to a proposal by Samuel Adams of Massachusetts during the second meeting of the Continental Congress in 1774.

For the first five years of the Senate's existence, the chamber met behind closed doors. Most of our informa-

tion on the conduct of business during the Senate's early years comes to us from a private journal kept by Pennsylvania Senator William Maclay.

Because the House and Senate could not agree on which chamber to use for President Monroe's inauguration in 1817, the President-elect took the oath of office outside before a group of spectators, establishing the custom of the outdoor inaugural.

The desks used by Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, and Daniel Webster, a statesman and orator, are still being used today — occupied by Sen. John Stennis of Mississippi, and Sen. John Durkin of New Hampshire, respectively.

In addition to these speeches, I co-sponsored a resolution, adopted by the Senate in August, creating a study group to plan the commemoration of the Senate's bicentennial in 1989.

This observance will emphasize the role of the Senate from its historic beginnings through 200 years of growth, challenge, and changes. As Franklin Roosevelt once said, "if we were to eliminate the Congress of the United States, we would automatically cease to be a republic."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Opportunities

As long as we need armed forces to protect the national security of our country, we have a responsibility to do what we can to assist any serviceman who was permanently injured in the line of duty.

This commitment to provide vocational rehabilitation to the disabled veteran began in 1917, and Congress has acted numerous times over the decades to upgrade and improve rehabilitation programs.

This year, the Congress has taken a major step to expand the range of services and assistance available to disabled veterans, including not only training for finding and holding jobs, but also the skills needed for independent living.

Specifically, the Disabled Veterans Rehabilitation Act of 1980 would extend the period, from nine to 10 years, during which an eligible veteran can participate in Veterans Administration (VA) programs, and would increase the monthly subsistence allowance rates for participating veterans by 10 percent.

The bill would establish a four-year pilot program to assist veterans in learning to live independently even though they may not be able to achieve vocational careers. A report on the suc-

cess of this program must be made to Congress no later than September 30, 1984.

Under the legislation, the VA would be required to provide a program of continuing professional training and development for its counselors so that they will be equipped to use the most advanced and up-to-date rehabilitation techniques.

In addition, a veterans advisory committee on rehabilitation would be created, with one-half of its membership being comprised of disabled veterans. The committee would be required to submit annual reports to the VA and the Congress on its assessment and review of the rehabilitation programs.

It is imperative for our country to have a workable, effective program to assimilate the disabled veteran back into civilian life. For the 37-year period from June 1943, through January 1980, more than 830,000 disabled veterans trained under the VA vocational rehabilitation program, including nearly 110,000 Vietnam-era veterans.

Under this legislation, the disabled veteran would be afforded new opportunities to function independently, to find employment, and to contribute to society.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Shattering Myths

While the challenges to democracy can never be minimized, the recent setbacks buffeting the communist world tell the story of an ideology in decline.

The United States, admittedly, is faced with many complex issues that must be addressed—issues covering the spectrum of our energy security, economic revitalization, and the need to expand our defensive capabilities.

But the day-to-day scrutiny placed on these and other challenges can leave the mistaken impression that our country has a monopoly on frustration in achieving our goals. Let us take a look at what's happening in the communist sphere.

In Poland, the ideology that professes to be dedicated to the well-being of the worker has been undermined by the working class. This Polish revolt has shattered the myth that communism is the ideal for the laborer.

And in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union obviously underestimated the resistance that the Afghan people would muster in opposition to its invasion. With 85,000 troops mired in battle, the Soviets are trying to hide their high casualty rate

from their own citizens.

There have been other indications across the globe that communism, like a withdrawing army, is losing ground.

Not long ago, the countries of Somalia and Egypt were in the firm grasp of the Soviet hand. Today, the United States is negotiating for a base at Somalia, and President Sadat of Egypt calls America a friend.

In China, Mao's "little red book" of sayings has been discarded as the country tries to improve its economy through capitalistic avenues. Conversely, the writings of Thomas Jefferson on democracy are not so easily cast aside.

And, we must not forget the Berlin Wall, perhaps the world's greatest continuing advertisement for democracy. We build no walls in the United States to keep in our citizens.

The democratic values upon which our government was founded are timeless and continue to serve us in good stead today. And we will rely on these eternal values—including those of hard work, love of God, love of country, justice, and obedience to law—to help us solve the problems of today and of tomorrow.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Lifeline of the Future

The Iran-Iraq conflict should sound an alarm to the United States, alerting us to the danger of being captive to the Persian Gulf oil pipeline.

Despite warnings of the past, this country and our allies continue to maintain an unhealthy dependence upon a thin line of tankers stretched halfway around the world for our economic and military security.

If this fragile lifeline were severed, it would cripple our industry and our military, and it would destroy our quality of life. It would be catastrophic.

Even after the pain and the economic dislocations that have occurred during the past decade, the American people do not yet fully comprehend the vulnerable position of the United States which results from our reliance upon the OPEC nations for oil. And that is why this message must be repeated again and again.

The war between Iran and Iraq demonstrates the volatility of the Middle East region.

Because the United States has not been importing oil from Iran, and had been receiving less than 100,000

barrels of oil daily from Iraq, the conflict has had minimal impact on our oil supplies thus far.

But, what course of action would we and our allies be forced to take if tomorrow the strategic Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf were blocked? The potential consequences of such an oil cutoff are frightening.

Although most industrialized nations are equipped with about a 100-day supply of oil, these reserves could be depleted rapidly.

Without oil, our planes could not fly; our ships could not sail; our tanks could not roll; and our armies could not move. We would be paralyzed.

This explains why America must turn to coal for its energy future.

It explains the critical need for enactment of the coal conversion bill, which would switch our utilities from oil to coal, and the need to give states flexibility in meeting federal surface mining standards.

We are on the threshold of a new energy era—one that builds on coal as our primary energy stock. Coal can be—and must be—the energy lifeline of the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Nurturing Small Business

Three pieces of legislation recently enacted by Congress should nurture the growth of small businesses across the country—helping them to raise capital, to enter the export market, and to reduce the cost of adhering to federal regulations.

The raising of capital to expand business can be a costly undertaking for a small firm.

Under the Small Business Investment Incentive Act, a company can sell up to \$5 million in securities without being subjected to the complicated array of regulations issued under the Securities Act of 1933. In the past, the exemption limit was set at \$2 million.

In a similar manner, the bill raises to \$10 million (from \$1 million) the amount of debt capital that can be obtained by businesses without adhering to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

A second bill, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, instructs federal agencies to seek ways to ease the economic burden placed on small firms by government regulations.

Congress has acknowledged that unnecessary regulations can deter competition in the marketplace, discourage innovation, and restrict product improvements.

Under the bill, federal agencies are required to try to fit regulatory requirements to the scale of business, so that small businesses will not be hampered by regulations intended to govern large corporations.

The Office of International Trade—which will promote sales opportunities abroad for small business goods and services—is created under a third measure. The bill also authorizes the Small Business Administration to make loans for the development of a company's export trade.

Also contained in this measure is a provision requiring reimbursement of legal fees to small firms when they are successful in legal actions taken against the government.

The provisions of these three measures—in addition to other small business bills enacted by this Congress—should stimulate economic growth in West Virginia and across the United States.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Step Forward

Our national commitment to fight mental illness should be strengthened by legislation enacted this year which is aimed at improving and expanding services for treating the mentally ill.

The measure, which authorized spending of \$796 million over the next four years, targets funding for providing services to groups which have not been adequately served—such as the elderly, severely disturbed children and adolescents, and the chronically mentally ill.

The new law also is intended to integrate mental health and general health care programs. Although it is estimated that between 20 to 30 million Americans need some form of mental health service each year, some individuals do not seek treatment because of the lingering stigma attached to mental illness.

Under the Mental Health Systems Act, grants will be available to establish mental health services at walk-in health care centers. These funds can be used to staff the centers with mental health professionals or to establish a liaison between the centers and other

groups providing mental health services.

Provisions also were made for the training of former hospital employees to work in outpatient facilities, where most mental health care currently is provided. Although 75 percent of mental patients were treated in institutions 30 years ago, today three out of four mental patients are treated at clinics.

Included in the legislation is a recommendation that states adopt a patients' bill of rights, which includes the right to a reasonable explanation of the nature of the illness and objectives of the treatment, and the right to refuse to participate in experimentation.

The measure, which rewrote conflicting and overlapping federal statutes, also clarified the lines of responsibility for providing mental health services at all levels of government.

This landmark legislation represents a step forward in our commitment to providing community-based mental health care. It is only through adequate treatment that mental illness can be combatted.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening Our Western Alliance

The return of Greece to the NATO military structure—after a six-year absence—solidifies the defense strength of our Western alliance in the eastern Mediterranean region.

Greece had withdrawn from NATO in 1974 during conflict with neighboring Turkey over the question of self-determination for Cyprus, an island situated in the Mediterranean Sea.

Greece's re-entry into NATO indicates an improvement in its relations with Turkey — another member of the alliance—and it certainly bolsters NATO's defensive capabilities. The Greeks will add strength through the availability of their armed forces, equipment, air bases, and communications satellites.

And, the significance of this alliance will not be lost on the Soviets. The alignment of Greece, in conjunction with Turkey, bars free Soviet access to the Mediterranean Sea and the Middle East region from the Ionian Sea to Iran, a stretch of 1,400 statute miles.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, formed by 12 Western nations in 1949, is pledged to the promotion of "stability and well-being

in the North Atlantic area." Under the treaty, these countries are resolved "to unite their efforts for collective defense and for the preservation of peace and security."

Both Greece and Turkey joined NATO in 1952, adding a critical element to the defense of the southern flank of Western Europe, which now is restored. Together, they protect the eastern Mediterranean Sea, and the Aegean Sea, which lies between the two nations.

The shoring up of our Western defense posture is a welcome step in today's turbulent times.

The holding of American hostages in Iran, and the conflict between Iran and Iraq, testify to the volatility of the Middle East region. The Soviet threat is apparent by the movement of troops into Afghanistan. And, the death of Tito in Yugoslavia, which borders on Greece, has left a sense of uncertainty.

The security of the United States and the security of our Western allies go hand in hand. A strong, viable defense will encourage stability in this region of the world and will deter Soviet aggression.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping an Informed Public

Although controversies over the responsibilities of a free press are endless, the media's fundamental role of informing the public cannot be minimized.

While most democratic societies accept the free press as a guarantor of liberty, totalitarian regimes rely on a controlled or censored press to strengthen their stranglehold on the public through indoctrination.

Because of this potential misuse of the press, I found it particularly disturbing that delegates to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recently discussed the establishment of world press standards.

Apparently some representatives of Third-World countries felt that the Western press focused on their nations only in times of crises or catastrophes, portraying a biased picture of constant upheaval.

Such criticism of the press may very well be justified. But the imposition

of standards on the world press is an unrealistic notion—and certainly a dangerous one.

An open and free press is necessary to keep the world public informed.

It is ironic that, during this UNESCO debate, Afghanistan's chief delegate took the floor to tell of the bloody carnage being committed in his country at the hands of the invading Soviet troops. This story of bloodshed and slaughter has been repressed because the world press has been shut out.

If the true dimensions of this bloody invasion could be told, perhaps world outrage and indignation could put an end to it. Instead, the invasion endures behind a curtain of secrecy.

A free press is not a perfect press. Mistakes often are made, and irresponsible reporting sometimes occurs, regrettably.

But to attempt to place controls on the world press is unwise and dangerous. It must not happen.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Improving Our Air Service

Industrial expansion and economic development for a community often rest upon the availability of an adequate transportation system—especially airline service.

The quality of air service can be the key to jobs. Before a company selects a site for a new plant, for instance, it analyzes the area's transportation network to determine if it will meet the needs of its employees—both for the conduct of business and for personal travel.

Because of this potential impact of airline service on a community's economic health—as well as the need for convenient service to the public—I have been working to improve West Virginia's airline service, which deteriorated sharply following enactment of airline deregulation in 1978.

Although some governmental restraints have been removed, the Civil Aeronautics Board still possesses the authority to determine the minimum amount of airline service that a community must receive. And the evidence is overwhelming that the CAB's determination of essential air service in West Virginia is lacking and needs to be upgraded.

To give the CAB firsthand information on the plight of West Virginia cities and towns, last spring I arranged for representatives of the Board to hold hearings in 10 of our communities — Huntington, Charleston, Beckley, Bluefield, Lewisburg, Parkersburg, Morgantown, Elkins, Clarksburg/Fairmont, and Wheeling.

And this fall, CAB Chairman Marvin Cohen held hearings in Charleston and Parkersburg on the state's appeal of its level of airline service. I testified at both hearings.

The CAB now will review the testimony and data presented at these hearings, and I am hopeful that it will take steps to correct deficiencies which threaten to impede our economic progress.

It is essential that the communities in our state be provided with an adequate number of flights and seats each week to meet the public needs. Also, convenient scheduling of flights, reasonable air fares, and a guarantee of safety are needed.

Our state must remain on the road to economic prosperity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Staying On the Sidelines

It is a sad commentary on America that only 53 percent of the people eligible to vote in the 1980 presidential election bothered to cast ballots.

And what is worse is that this figure continues a trend of a steady decline in voter turnout in presidential election years over the past 20 years.

The highest turnout in recent decades was 64 percent in 1952, but the record high for the 20th century occurred in 1900 when 74 percent of the eligible voters went to the polls.

And the turnout for Congressional, state, and local elections in off years routinely is less than in presidential elections. Unfortunately, the voter turnout in the United States is below that of most other representative democracies.

Far too many Americans "sit out" election day, preferring to stay on the sidelines as if elections were a spectator sport.

One political scientist, Clinton Rossiter, believes low voter turnout is due, partially, to Americans' confidence that another election will take place in four more years, giving them

another opportunity to voice their preferences. Rossiter says, "When ballots become bullets, Americans will be found casting them as willingly as any other people."

Unfortunately, however, there is a danger in the current trend of diminishing voter turnout. Our elected officials are being elected by less and less of the electorate.

President-elect Reagan, for example, was chosen by 51 percent of the 53 percent of the eligible voters who voted—in other words, by barely more than one-fourth of the nation's eligible voters.

This trend of diminishing turnout could lead to a government that is less responsive to the whole citizenry, and more responsive to the single-issue and special-interest groups that do mobilize voters and show an interest in the political machinery.

We should take note of the message given by Abraham Lincoln in 1862—"It is not the qualified voters, but the qualified voters who choose to vote, that constitute the political power of the state."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

"Advice and Consent"

The United States Senate has a unique role to play in the shaping of any new administration—role of "advice and consent" on presidential appointments.

Although the Senate confirms literally thousands of nominations each year, this constitutional responsibility receives increased attention when a new administration assumes office and key officials are subjected to senatorial scrutiny.

Under the U.S. Constitution, written in 1787, the President is authorized to nominate officers of the United States "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate." This language gives the Senate veto power over individuals deemed unqualified or unfit for federal appointments.

Prior to the post-election session in November, the 96th Congress had received 57,243 nominations, of which 56,833 were confirmed. Four-hundred nominations were unconfirmed, and 10 were withdrawn.

It has become a well-established practice to allow the President wide latitude in the selection of members of his Cabinet, since they will be responsible for carrying out the administration's policies.

In the history of our country, only eight Cabinet nominations have been rejected on the floor of the Senate—the last of which occurred in 1959 when Lewis Strauss was rejected as Secretary of Commerce.

After a presidential nomination is sent to the Senate, it is referred to the appropriate committee for consideration, possibly including public hearings. A review of the past two Congresses shows that the Foreign Relations and Judiciary Committees received the bulk of nominations.

Although each committee has its own procedures, the confirmation process generally sheds light on the individual's background and qualifications for the post. It also frequently affords legislators an exchange with appointees on future direction of the administration's policy.

Our Founding Fathers showed foresight by inserting this kind of legislative review into the Constitution. It not only provides a safeguard against the appointment of unfit individuals, but it also serves as a communications link between the executive and legislative branches of government.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cutting Government Costs

The U.S. Senate initiated action on two measures this year that demonstrate the resolve of Congress to tighten its own purse strings—and that are expected to save American taxpayers more than \$100 million annually.

A significant step was taken to pare down government costs when Congress approved—and the President signed into law—an amendment I offered that blocked the automatic 9.1 percent cost-of-living pay raise for high-level government employees—including members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

This amendment affected federal workers who were earning more than \$50,000 a year—including Congressional members and employees, federal judges, senior civil servants, and military officers. It has been estimated that this amendment will save about \$95 million annually in government expenses.

The Senate also has approved a 10 percent reduction in its operating funds for the 1981 fiscal year—representing a cut of about \$20 million. This amendment, which I also offered, was attached to legislation concerning the Council on Wage and Price Stability.

Both of these measures demonstrate the Senate's willingness to cut government costs where it can be done prudently.

Government, like all Americans, has been feeling the economic pinch brought on by continuing inflation. And government, like all Americans, should recognize the need to economize and to curtail spending where it can.

Although the savings represented by these two measures are only a dent in the overall federal budget, these cost-cutting efforts show that federal workers and offices are not immune to the economic burdens carried by all Americans.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Canal Treaties Reap Benefits

It is apparent that the Panama Canal treaties — which have been in effect for more than a year — have reaped benefits to the United States.

Under the agreements, in which the United States gradually transfers control of the canal to Panama by the year 2000, the operation of the waterway has run smoothly. Ratification of the treaties has borne numerous diplomatic dividends as well.

A recent article published by *U.S. News & World Report* confirms the success of the treaties. Entitled, "Panama: Where U.S. Diplomacy Is Working," the article stated that fears raised by ratification of the treaties "are fading fast."

"The first year of joint operation of the canal by the U.S. and Panama has turned out to be a success, which the administration of President Carter can claim as a major foreign-policy victory," the article said.

U.S. News & World Report continued: "Panamanian animosity toward Americans, which once erupted in bloody rioting, has virtually disappeared. Moreover, the influence of Communist Cuba's Fidel Castro is on

the wane, and U.S. influence is rising."

The goodwill that has developed in Panama for the United States, as a result of the treaties, is apparent in the support Panama has shown for American foreign-policy initiatives.

For example, a year ago Panama opened its doors to the Shah of Iran when most other nations refused to do so. Also, Panama followed the lead of the United States in denouncing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and joined the American call for a boycott of the Olympic games which were held in Moscow.

Panama also acted in concert with efforts by the United States to control the influx of Cuban refugees by prohibiting vessels registered under the Panamanian flag from participating in the boat lift.

The United States has entered a new relationship with Panama — one that is beneficial to both countries, and one that is working very well. The United States and Panama can be justifiably proud of the canal treaties and of the goodwill that they have created.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fostering Coal Use

A preliminary report by an international coal board underscores the need for deepening our nation's coal ports to meet the goal of doubling coal production and use by 1990.

This report was presented recently to members of the U.S. Senate by the Coal Industry Advisory Board.

The board, comprised of 33 individuals from major coal-related industries around the world, is charged with offering recommendations on how to double production and use by 1990, and to triple it by the end of the century.

The report described the transportation infrastructure in the United States as a major bottleneck to the marketing of increased shipments of American coal. It urged action by government and industry to improve and enlarge railroad and port facilities, which would encourage long-term contracts with foreign buyers.

The chief obstacle that Western nations must overcome, according to the coal

board, is the switch by utilities and large industrial users from oil-fired boilers to coal-fired generating capacity.

In its initial recommendations, the board urged government to take steps to encourage this conversion, and recommended that industry "urgently examine the shift from oil to coal as a matter of the highest priority."

Other concerns identified by the report as potential roadblocks were environmental constraints, stability of royalty and taxation policies, reliability of international contracts, shortages of skilled manpower, transportation costs, limitations on access to reserves, and availability of capital.

The board has developed six working groups that will draft specific recommendations for government and industry. It is hoped that these future reports will assist and encourage increased use of our most abundant and readily-available energy resource—coal.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Record of Progress

The record of the 96th Congress leaves a positive imprint on the state of our nation — with accomplishments in the three major domestic areas of energy, the economy, and defense.

Passage of the most far-reaching energy bills in the history of this country has put America on the road to energy independence.

The capstone of the energy package was creation of an independent synthetic fuels corporation to finance the commercial development of alternative energy sources.

On the economic front, Congress passed myriad bills to free businesses from unnecessary governmental restraints, including deregulation of the trucking, railroad, and banking industries. The Small Business Development Act of 1980, along with several other small business measures, could help to revive the economic lifeblood of this country.

Also, Congress demon-

strated its responsiveness to the economy by drafting a balanced budget last spring, but this year's recession pushed the budget into the red.

In the area of defense, Congress put the country back on the track of building and improving its defense strength, instead of maintaining the status quo.

Congress has provided for a 3 percent real growth in the nation's defense budget, as well as for the modernization of NATO equipment, improvements to the rapid deployment force, and development of the MX and cruise missiles.

Military pay and benefits also were upgraded, and registration for the Selective Service was re-instated.

Although this brief summary has been devoted to highlights of domestic legislation, numerous achievements were made in other fields. Normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China, for example, was a necessary step for our country to take in pursuit of international stability.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Democracy At Work

The orderly transition of power that is underway in our country illustrates the strength of our democratic form of government.

Although Americans are accustomed to this periodic changing of the guard when a new President assumes office, in many nations the ascension of a new leader frequently is the result of revolution, military take-over, or death of the chief executive.

The observation made by Alexis de Tocqueville in his *Democracy in America* 145 years ago is still largely true of much of the world: "Few of the nations of Europe could escape the calamities of anarchy or of conquest every time they might have to elect a new sovereign."

In the United States, there is no need for martial law or military might to transfer the reigns of power. The voters freely choose the individual to head our government, and he takes control peacefully and with decorum.

For the most part, tradition has dictated the course of events during this transfer of authority. In the past two decades, custom has de-

manded cooperation between the outgoing and incoming administrations for a smooth shift in the control of government.

In 1964, Congress passed the Presidential Transition Act which authorizes federal funds to cover expenses for the transition.

Despite this continuity of government, some observers believe the two-and-a-half-month delay between the election of a President and his inauguration is too long. Although the outgoing administration retains full authority to govern, some decisions invariably are pushed aside until the new administration takes office.

In earlier years, however, the new President did not assume office until March 4. Ratification of the Twentieth Amendment in 1933 shifted the inaugural date to January 20.

This transition period is quiet testimony to the success of our system of government. There is no gunfire; there is no revolution; there are no executions.

As de Tocqueville observed, "the election of the President is a cause of agitation, but not of ruin."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Grain Embargo Proves Effective

The American grain embargo imposed against the Soviet Union last year for its brutal invasion of Afghanistan has been an effective policy tool for the United States, and should be maintained.

The embargo was put into effect by President Carter in January 1980 as one of several American responses to the Soviet attack, which not only threatens world peace, but also endangers U.S. foreign policy interests.

It is clear that this ban on agricultural sales has taken its toll on the Soviet Union.

President Brezhnev recently admitted that his country faces a severe agricultural crisis over the next five years. Effects of the embargo were heightened this year due to the Soviet Union's own crop losses from bad weather, resulting in large shortages of meat and bread in some major cities.

Although American farmers originally feared the loss of a major market for selling their harvests, the trade was shifted to many other countries, particularly China, Taiwan, Japan, and

Mexico. In fact, China recently signed a major grain sales agreement with the United States for the next four years.

Also, grain prices in the United States today are higher than last year, indicating a lack of surpluses on the American market.

Because world grain supplies are expected to be lower than normal this year, removal of the embargo could create excessive demand for grain, pushing its price upward, and worsening inflation.

The United States cannot conduct "business as usual" as long as the Soviet Union occupies an independent nation, murdering and brutalizing its citizens.

Continuation of the embargo not only demonstrates American condemnation of the Soviet invasion, but it also serves as a warning against further acts of aggression.

Curtailement of agricultural exports to the Soviet Union has had a significant and effective impact, and is a critical element of U.S. foreign policy. President Reagan would be well-advised to keep the embargo in force.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Congressional Watchdog

Like the housewife who is always trying to stretch the family budget, the U.S. Congress is aided by an agency that constantly searches for ways to stretch tax dollars by making federal government operations more efficient and effective.

This agency, the General Accounting Office (GAO), saved an estimated \$2.6 billion in government expenses in 1979 through recommendations and audits of various government programs and agencies.

The GAO was created in 1921 as an arm of the Congress, and over the years, it has strengthened Congressional control over the public purse. It assists the Congress in its legislative and oversight responsibilities; audits and evaluates federal programs and departments; and provides a wide range of legal services, accounting, and claims settlement work.

Most of the savings identified by the GAO follow enactment of recommendations made to governmental agencies. The former Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, for instance, recovered nearly \$18 million in overpayments to recipients of Medicaid and Aid to Families with Dependent Children following a GAO investigation.

In 1979, the GAO reported the collection of more than \$10.5 million in debts that government agencies

had been unable to collect.

In its attempt to weed out fraud, abuse, or waste in any government department or agency, the GAO created a special task force for the prevention of fraud. This task force operates a toll-free nationwide hotline (800-424-5454) for citizens to provide information.

The GAO also has recommended the simplification of our federal government tax forms, believing that it would aid both taxpayers and the Treasury Department. Following its report in 1978, Congress passed legislation which requires the Treasury Department to report this year on steps which can be taken to simplify the tax forms and our tax laws.

In response to a request of mine, the GAO last year issued a report on the use of federal funds to recruit foreign workers to aid in West Virginia's apple harvests. The report provided the U.S. Department of Labor with recommendations on how to develop procedures to ensure that qualified workers are recruited for the jobs.

The tax dollars saved through the activities of the GAO demonstrate the merit of a Congressional watchdog. It is hoped that the GAO will continue to point the way to the weeding out of waste and the fostering of efficiency in government programs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Prospects for Coal

There are encouraging signs from the new Reagan Administration that future energy policies will allow coal, our nation's most abundant fuel, to shoulder more of our country's energy load.

Although President Reagan, during the campaign, talked of dismantling the Department of Energy and abandoning the government's participation in the development of synthetic fuels, he apparently is rethinking these positions.

The Department of Energy may need some restructuring, but it has a critical role to play in pursuing a sound energy policy for our country, which includes the increased use of coal.

I am encouraged that the new Energy Secretary, former South Carolina Gov. James B. Edwards, described himself as "coal oriented" at a recent meeting with me in my office. He also stated his support for the increased production of coal and for making improvements in our transportation network that would facilitate our coal exports.

Also, it is imperative that

the new administration support the work of the newly-created Synthetic Fuels Corporation, which will help finance the development of commercial-sized plants for the conversion of coal and oil shale to synthetic oil and gas.

It was my amendment which appropriated \$20 billion for the corporation and the energy department to make loan and price guarantees, and other incentives, for the development of man-made liquid fuels.

Coal is the raw resource needed for many of the available technologies for producing these alternative fuels. This program is essential to a sound national energy policy and should be utilized to the fullest extent possible.

The increased use of coal is not only important to West Virginia — where it will spur the economy and generate jobs—but it is also vitally important to the energy security of our country.

I am hopeful that the new Administration and the new 97th Congress will pursue policies recognizing coal's potential.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Precautionary Step

In view of the perilous times in which we live, our country must be able to buttress its defense strength with a military that can be mobilized quickly to respond to aggression.

The re-institution of military registration last year advances our state of preparedness. Under the program, initiated by former President Carter, the Selective Service System held two registration periods for men aged 18, 19, and 20.

There was a 94.5 percent response to the first registration period, and eligible men continued to fill out the required forms after the official registration period ended. A system of continuous registration is now in effect, whereby every young man is required to register within 30 days after reaching his 18th birthday.

Cancellation of this program by the new Reagan Administration would be a mistake.

It would send a potentially-damaging signal to allies and adversaries alike. It would create the impression that our commitment to strengthening our military preparedness and defense capabilities is empty rhetoric.

Registration enhances our military preparedness by

providing a pool of backup manpower which could save crucial days in the event of a mobilization.

It is, of course, only a segment of our overall defense posture.

The President and the Congress must work together to insure that every dollar spent on defense is utilized to the fullest, providing our nation with qualified and well-trained troops, as well as sophisticated and effective equipment.

Last year, Congress enacted a \$160 billion defense budget, which included an 11.7 percent pay raise for military personnel and bonuses for trained specialists. The Defense Department is reviewing possibilities for developing a new manned bomber, an issue that will be closely scrutinized by Congress this session.

It is paramount that our nation take all the necessary precautions to maintain an effective and strong national defense. Military registration is one of these steps.

This nation must be in a state of readiness—at all times—to answer any aggressive activity against us or an ally. America cannot afford to be caught off guard.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Economic Decisions of 1981

The most urgent task facing the Congress this year is the development of policies which will stimulate national economic growth, while whittling away at inflation.

It is imperative, however, that the Congress proceed carefully and cautiously.

There is no quick-fix solution or simple answer that will put our economic house in order. Each step of any economic package must be carefully scrutinized to insure that it will alleviate economic hardships, instead of aggravating them.

Although there is general agreement that budget cuts must be made, it will be difficult to determine which federal programs can best afford them. The Congress made significant progress in drafting a balanced budget last year, but large increases in social costs resulting from the recession pushed it off course.

In addition, the decision to reduce taxes must be weighed carefully. This country cannot afford a consumption-oriented tax cut that will fuel inflation.

Unfortunately, the Kemp-Roth proposal promoted by

President Reagan takes this route. It would reduce individual taxes by 10 percent each of the next three years.

Although this approach may sound appealing at first glance, it would only serve to pump additional money into the economy through consumer spending, thus fostering the inflationary spiral.

The Kemp-Roth proposal also is inequitable. Because it calls for an across-the-board percentage reduction in taxes, the wealthy would receive a far greater tax break than the average wage-earner.

A wiser course to pursue would be a productivity-oriented tax cut package that will encourage the business sector to expand, putting workers back on their jobs. An increase in our country's productivity would help stem inflation, benefiting the entire population instead of only a small sector.

The economic decisions of 1981 will not come easily. But they must be made if Congress wants to meet its objectives of furthering economic growth and curbing inflation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

American Ingenuity

Innovation in the marketplace is an important contributor to national economic growth and should be rewarded.

It was this philosophy that led to our country's first patent law in 1793, authorizing a 17-year protection period to an inventor for his creation.

Unfortunately, the growth of regulatory machinery which delays the introduction of a new product or process into the marketplace has, all too often, cut the length of the patent life in half.

To restore the original intent of the patent law, I have co-sponsored legislation this session of Congress which would replace, up to seven years, the time lost on patent life during the regulatory review process.

Although a regulatory process is necessary for the testing of new products to ensure that they are safe for public use, this review period has become cumbersome and dilatory. The average delay encountered in the introduction of a new drug onto the market illustrates how much time can be lost.

In 1962, for example, it took approximately two years and \$6 million to bring a new medicine from

the laboratory to the marketplace.

It now takes, on the average, about seven to 10 years and about \$70 million to complete the required testing period.

Thus, it is not uncommon for a drug product to have lost up to one-half of its patent life without having been marketed.

Similarly, the Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that the patent life for chemical products has been reduced by five years.

This adverse impact upon innovation has resulted in fewer new and better products being introduced to the American consumer.

From 1955 through 1962, on the average, 46 new drugs were introduced annually in the United States. Today, on the average, only 17 new drugs are introduced each year, representing a decline of 63 percent.

The introduction of new products and processes into our economy stimulates business investment, contributing to economic growth.

Explaining the first patent law, Thomas Jefferson said, "ingenuity should receive a liberal encouragement." Because these words remain valid today, the effectiveness of the American patent should be restored.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Budget Cutting

Spending reductions are inevitable this year as Congress and the Administration work toward balancing the federal budget and restoring vitality to our national economy.

Federal programs that have proved effective in promoting economic development and putting people back to work, however, should not be abolished arbitrarily.

Two federal agencies that have contributed greatly to West Virginia's economic, commercial, and industrial bases, for instance, are the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Cancellation of these two programs, both of which work to improve our productivity, would be counterproductive.

The ARC, created in 1965 to promote the economic development of the entire Appalachian region, has had a hand in building highways, offering technical assistance to private enterprise, improving health care, building educational centers, and assisting in housing development.

ARC funds also have assisted many West Virginia communities in financing water and sewer systems improvement projects, such as the Williamson water system in Mingo County, and the Princeton sewer system in Mercer County.

In addition, the completion of more than 1,500

miles of the Appalachian Development Highway System has contributed to the creation of thousands of jobs in Appalachia.

Likewise, the EDA has been the margin of difference in the survival or demise of certain West Virginia companies and industrial plants.

This agency has contributed to the building of industrial parks in West Virginia, such as those in Marlinton, Charles Town, and Fairmont.

It provided a loan guarantee for Anchor Hocking to purchase and upgrade an industrial plant in Clarksburg, saving more than 1,000 jobs, and similarly assisted Sterling Faucett's purchase of a brass works plant in Morgantown, which kept the plant in productive use, instead of allowing it to close.

The EDA also assisted in the development of water systems and urban revitalization projects in the state, as well as providing a \$100 million loan guarantee to Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, that saved several thousand jobs in the northern panhandle.

Budget cutting obviously is necessary this year as Congress and the Administration attempt to put our nation's economic house in order. It would be shortsighted, however, to eliminate programs that nourish the economic foundations of our states.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Communist Threat

The United States must constantly be on guard against the communist threat, which still exists in many parts of the world.

A third of the world's population is under communist rule — approximately 1.5 billion people in 17 countries. The dominant communist country is the Soviet Union, and in our own western hemisphere, Cuba imposes the communist doctrine on nearly 10 million people.

Unfortunately, these communist regimes continue to strive for world expansionism, looking for opportunities in many trouble spots around the globe.

The most blatant takeover in recent history is the Soviet Union's ruthless invasion of Afghanistan that began more than a year ago. The Soviets continue to occupy Afghanistan with more than 85,000 troops to keep it under communist domination.

Also, thousands of Cubans have been reported in numerous African countries where political instability leaves them open to communist aggression. And in Central America, there are many efforts by Marxist and leftist forces to take control.

Probably the most troubled country in that region today is El Salvador, where the civilian/military junta

in power is being challenged by both rightist military forces and leftist guerrillas.

It is in the interests of the United States that neither El Salvador, nor other politically-troubled nations of the western hemisphere, become controlled by regimes that have their allegiances to Moscow or Havana.

But the United States needs to weigh its options carefully. It would be in everyone's best interests if a political solution rather than a military solution could be achieved.

Nevertheless, the United States must continue to take steps to build its defense strength, while keeping a watchful eye on potential trouble spots of the world. It must convey to allies and to potential adversaries that our nation has the defense capabilities to carry out our foreign policy goals.

In this vein, I support President Reagan's toughened stance against the Soviet Union, and I favor continuation of the American grain embargo imposed against the Soviets as an appropriate response to their brutality in Afghanistan.

In this dangerous decade of the 1980's, the United States must keep a wary vigilance around the globe.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Victims of Black Lung

Our nation's coal miners sacrifice their health and shorten their life spans to provide our country with the coal it needs to generate electricity, power industrial plants, and manufacture steel.

Although significant strides have been made in improving the safety and health conditions of our coal mines, thousands of our miners have contracted pneumoconiosis, the dreaded "black lung" disease caused by the inhalation of coal dust.

For many victims of black lung, something as natural as breathing becomes the most difficult chore each day.

I helped to enact the nation's first black lung law in 1969 which provided disability payments to miners, or families of miners, who have been afflicted by this disease.

West Virginia, which is second only to Pennsylvania in the number of claimants who have applied and who are receiving black lung benefits, has about 86,000 beneficiaries under the black lung program.

President Reagan, who is recommending substantial spending cuts in the federal budget, may propose changes in the black lung

program, which conceivably could have severe consequences for these beneficiaries.

Full details of the President's package, however, have not yet been presented to Congress. Any changes in this vitally-important program cannot be evaluated—or acted upon—until the specifics are known and it can be determined how these changes will affect the beneficiaries.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the average monthly benefit paid to an individual claimant under the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund during the past fiscal year was \$254. A claimant with two dependents received an average monthly benefit of \$444.

It would be difficult to ask the scores of thousands of black lung beneficiaries to accept a proposal that would reduce these benefits.

The Congress and the President must work together in forging a new economic blueprint for this country. Only through cooperation and consultation can the black lung program be improved and strengthened so that it will serve the many coal miners whose work is essential to our nation's energy production.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taking The Wrong Path

Our national energy policy, developed over the past seven years to put America on the path of energy independence, is endangered by Administration proposals that would dismantle research, conservation, and emergency preparedness programs.

The proposed budget for the Department of Energy, for instance, calls for a sharp reduction in expenditures for fossil energy research, or converting coal to synthetic fuels. The only avenue left for proposed synfuels demonstration plants, which will lay the technological groundwork for manufacturing liquid fuels, would be the Synthetic Fuels Corporation.

The entire alcohol fuels and biomass energy program—which includes the conversion of grain, wood, coal, and solid waste into energy—would be eliminated.

Funds earmarked for solar energy research would be halved.

And, almost every energy conservation project and program would be eliminated. Standby oil-allocation plans and gasoline-ra-

tioning plans—for use in the event of an emergency—would be withdrawn.

The Administration apparently expects higher energy prices to spur increased oil-drilling activity in the United States. Its decision to lift all price controls from domestically-produced oil on January 28 has pushed up the price of gasoline and home heating oil, but it will not produce additional petroleum reserves.

Under the phased decontrol of oil prices that already had been in effect, drilling activity was at a peak. Numerous studies can be cited which conclude that production of conventional oil in the United States is declining and will continue to decline.

Because our oil supplies are being depleted, it is imperative that our country search for new energy sources to replace our dependence on foreign oil.

The dismantling of our national energy policy, piece by piece, will leave the United States dangerously vulnerable to a cutoff of oil from the Persian Gulf.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Behind Locked Doors?

A blanket of fear appears to be enveloping our nation as more and more Americans become victims of violent crime.

It is a sad fact that an average of 400 Americans are murdered each week.

According to the FBI's crime clock, one violent crime—such as murder, forcible rape, robbery, or aggravated assault—occurs every 27 seconds. One property crime—burglary, larceny/theft, or motor vehicle theft—is committed every three seconds.

It is to West Virginia's credit that our state, according to the FBI, has the lowest crime index total per 100,000 inhabitants of all 50 states.

But many communities in the United States—such as Atlanta, which is plagued by the murders of more than 20 black children—have growing numbers of citizens who daily live in fear of being assaulted, robbed, knifed, or even killed.

Warren Burger, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, recently spoke of this "reign of terror in American cities," and called for measures that would deter criminals, such as "swift arrest, prompt trial, certain penalty, and—at some point—finality of judgment."

A task force has been appointed by U.S. Attor-

ney General William Smith to search for ways to curb this wave of violent crime. It is imperative to our national sense of security that criminals be taken off the streets.

It is hoped that the task force will consider abolition of parole, in certain instances, to ensure certainty of punishment; mandatory sentencing for using a gun in the course of a crime; and establishment of a unified sentencing system to reduce the disparities that now exist.

Other elements of our criminal justice system also ought to be reviewed. These include the heavy caseloads that overburden the prosecutors, the effect of plea-bargaining tactics, and standards set for allowing release of defendants on bail.

An especially tough stance should be taken against recidivists—those who repeatedly commit crimes. And preventive measures need to be developed for handling juvenile offenders, who are accounting for a larger and larger segment of all violent crimes committed.

Law-abiding Americans should not be held hostage to the criminals—afraid to venture out at night, secure only behind the locked doors and bolted windows of their homes. That is not the Land of the Free.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Role of the Government

Although an anti-government mood appears to have taken hold in our country, we should not lose sight of the legitimate functions the federal government is duty-bound to provide to the people of our nation.

I agree that government spending needs to be reduced.

I agree that bureaucratic red tape needs to be shorn.

In accomplishing these goals, however, we need to be careful not to abdicate the legitimate and constitutional functions of our government.

The Preamble of the U.S. Constitution sets forth the purpose of our government—"to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty. . . ."

In other words, the federal government is duty-bound to provide our country with certain services that individuals, by themselves, cannot do.

The government is duty-bound to "establish justice." This means there is a proper role for the government to act as arbiter when different segments of society clash. In this vein, govern-

ment regulates monopolies, and establishes unfair trade and labor practices.

The government is duty-bound to "insure domestic tranquility." The people are entitled to a stable environment, which is achieved through law enforcement, police protection, and the judicial system.

The government is duty-bound to "provide for the common defense." This not only means maintaining military manpower and equipment, but it also applies to the formulation and enactment of a national energy policy that will eliminate our Achilles' heel of dependence on foreign oil.

The government is duty-bound to "promote the general welfare." The government must help the citizens who cannot help themselves—the elderly, the disabled, the poor. The enactment of health and safety standards also pursues this goal.

Because the role of the federal government is a massive one, it often is difficult to reach a consensus on the particulars of each of its functions. But the government's constitutional and legitimate role in our society must never be cast aside.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fairness in the Budget

The federal budget blueprint recently passed by the U.S. Senate adheres to President Reagan's goal of curbing government spending, but unfortunately, leaves some holes in the Administration's safety net.

Because I support the Administration's goals of reduced government spending and a balanced federal budget, I voted for the resolution containing these budget guidelines.

In an attempt to restore equity and fairness to the proposed budget cuts, however, I co-sponsored several amendments to restore funding in certain programs, such as the following:

I supported attempts to restore funding to provide health care for veterans;

I supported attempts to restore funding to provide minimum Social Security benefits to the elderly;

I supported attempts to restore funding to provide loans to college students from middle-income families; and

I supported attempts to restore funding to synthetic fuels programs so that our country would not be vulnerable to a cut-off in supplies of foreign oil.

I supported these amendments because I believe the voters last November—who voted to cut federal spending—did not vote for less veterans' health care, less energy independence, the elimination of minimum Social Security benefits, or for

less access to institutions for higher learning.

Because these amendments included offsetting and new savings in the budget, adoption of all of them would have reduced further the spending cuts proposed by the Administration by \$1.3 billion.

There is no doubt that government spending needs to be curbed. The spending cuts enacted by Congress, however, should:

—promote economic growth and fight inflation;

—provide short-term savings that will not result in long-term costs;

—be consistent with other major national priorities, such as linking the goal of energy independence with our national defense; and

—be fair and equitable so that no single group bears a disproportionate share of the burden.

I support efforts to balance the federal budget and to reduce government spending. But some proposed cuts would constitute false economy, such as the cuts in mass transit, Farmers Home Administration, Economic Development Administration, and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

I hope that as the budget cycle unfolds, a better and fairer balance can be achieved in federal spending, so as to secure both a balanced budget and continued economic growth.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Communist Contradictions

The uprising of 10 million industrial workers in Poland poses a threat to the fundamental principle underlying communist doctrine, and creates a dilemma for the Soviet Union.

The workers — in an attempt to improve their quality of life — have banded together to form the Solidarity union to win a greater voice in controlling their own destinies.

The industrial workers — the proletariat — theoretically are the foundation upon which a truly communist state is built. Communist ideology, as set forth by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the *Communist Manifesto*, was to lead to a dictatorship of the proletariat, culminating in a classless society.

That has not been the case, however, in Poland or in any of the communist bloc nations.

Political and military loyalists to the Communist Party line in these countries have become a communist elite — enjoying a standard of living far beyond the reach of the workers in their countries.

But the workers — the backbone of any country — have found life wanting. Polish workers must spend numerous hours in food lines to obtain the barest of necessities. Few consumer goods are within their financial reach.

By contrast, the workers in the West have evolved into a major political and economic force in the system of private enterprise. Through the trade-union movement, Western laborers have increased their purchasing power and, with it, access to a higher standard of living and a wide variety of consumer goods.

The banding together of workers in Poland to challenge the communist system — where the decisions are placed in the hands of the state — puts the Soviet Union in an awkward spot.

In the past, the Soviet Union has not hesitated to resort to military force to quell any uprisings.

In 1956, the Soviets invaded Hungary to suppress a revolt of intellectuals and students.

In 1968, Soviet tanks rolled into Czechoslovakia to crush the liberalization of the "Prague spring."

But the Polish challenge is unique. It is one thing to turn guns on students and intellectuals. It is another to turn guns on the worker, the foundation of the communist state.

It is hoped that this time, no tanks will roll and no military troops will march, but that the Soviets will allow a political solution to evolve. It would be in the best interests of the Polish people and of the future of world peace, as well.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening Our Air Defenses

To keep our nation's defense capabilities at top strength, it is imperative that our country begin production of a new highly-sophisticated manned bomber that could pierce enemy air defenses undetected.

There are three basic components of our strategic defense system—land-based missiles, sea-launched missiles and manned bombers. For maximum defense, each of these systems must be capable of surviving a first-strike attack by the Soviet Union and retaliating against enemy targets.

Our country's current fleet of B-52 bombers is aging, and it is projected that these aircraft will be rendered incapable of penetrating Soviet air defenses within 10 years.

Although the Congress has voted for the development of a new bomber to upgrade our defense strength, no final decision has been made as to whether to produce the B-1 bomber or the "stealth" aircraft.

Little is publicly known about the "stealth" bomber, but it is designed to carry highly-sophisticated electronics equipment that will allow it to elude Soviet air defense systems that include radar, missiles, and interceptor aircraft.

Most military experts believe, however, that by the time the B-1 bomber could be put into operation, it would be no more capable of

penetrating Soviet air defenses than would the B-52 aircraft, which is being upgraded to carry and launch cruise missiles.

Production of a B-1 bomber fleet probably would be so costly today that it would force deferral of the production of the "stealth" aircraft, because to proceed with both projects would not be feasible economically.

This would be nearsighted. Our aim should be the production of a bomber that will be capable of penetrating air defense systems well into the next century.

Because long-range planning is essential to our country's defense posture, I believe the "stealth" aircraft should be put into production as soon as possible.

There is little disagreement that an effective manned bomber is a necessary ingredient of our defense force. The bomber has more flexibility than the land or sea-based missiles. Also, it can be launched and recalled, retargeted in flight, and is under the control of both our central commanders and highly-trained crews.

We cannot allow our defense strength to erode. Serious erosion of our strategic defense capability not only would tempt an aggressor, but it would also weaken our ability to implement an effective foreign policy.

We must take steps today to insure our national security for tomorrow.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sending Mixed Signals

The lifting of the American grain embargo against the Soviet Union gives the United States an unflattering image of softness and vacillation, and sends mixed signals to the international community.

The embargo was imposed in January, 1980, in response to the Soviet Union's brutal invasion of Afghanistan, a previously independent and unoccupied nation.

Thousands of Afghans — including children — were murdered. Hundreds of thousands of Afghans abandoned their homes and fled to the neighboring countries of Pakistan and Iran to avoid Soviet subjugation.

Today, the brutal acts of aggression have not abated, and 85,000 Soviet troops remain in Afghanistan.

The ban of American grain sales to the Soviet Union has taken a toll.

The Soviet Union is facing a severe agricultural crisis over the next few years. The embargo worsened the already-short Soviet grain supplies, forcing that country to reduce its meat rations and use its scarce gold and western currencies for the purchase of alternative grain supplies.

In other words, the embargo has been an effective foreign policy tool because it has extracted a price from the Soviets for their unwarranted invasion of

Afghanistan.

And contrary to initial fears raised when the embargo was imposed, the grain ban did not hurt American farmers. They were able to shift their trade to many other countries, including China, Taiwan, Japan, and Mexico.

The Administration's decision to lift the embargo was gratuitous — meaning that the United States has gained nothing in return. Consequently, our nation has lost a valuable foreign policy bargaining chip.

It should also be noted that removal of the ban on American grain sales in no way enhances the security of Poland.

Soviet troops had been poised on Polish borders for several weeks, but finally have been pulled back. It would be unconscionable to suggest that the United States would want to reward the Soviet Union for its "good behavior" in not invading Poland.

Thus, the lifting of the grain embargo against the Soviets leaves the United States looking weak and lacking in resolve.

The Soviet Union has not pulled out of Afghanistan and the threat to Poland still exists. This unilateral move by the United States, unfortunately, gives the impression to the world community that our nation's foreign policy is inconsistent and uncertain.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Guarding U.S. Interests

Protection of the national security interests of the United States is the principal element that must be considered in the Administration's proposed sale of sophisticated aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

The proposed arms package involves the sale of five advanced surveillance airplanes—known as airborne warning and control systems (AWACS)—to Saudi Arabia to help that country protect its oil fields.

Saudi Arabia, which is by far the largest producer of oil in the Persian Gulf region, is looking for increased defense capabilities to protect itself against threats to its national security. The country is located in an unstable region of the world, with certain nearby nations under the influence of the Soviet Union.

The aircraft involved in the proposed sale, however, contains some of the most sophisticated electronic equipment the United States has in its inventory. The sale of this equipment to a non-NATO country raises serious concerns over the security of this weaponry.

This is the key consideration I outlined recently in a letter to Secretary of State Alexander Haig. Before the proposal is presented for-

mally to Congress for its deliberations, this element—as well as other concerns—must be addressed by the Administration.

Members of Congress need to know if special security arrangements have been developed to insure adequate protection of the aircraft and the classified manuals included.

The United States must not allow this equipment to fall into Soviet hands. If it did, it would enable the Soviets to accelerate the development of their defenses against low-flying aircraft and missiles, and enhance their intelligence capabilities.

Another key element to consider is the effect the sale of these aircraft would have on the stability of the Middle East region. Because the planes could multiply the offensive power of Saudi Arabia, Israel is likely to seek new weapons in response.

All of these and other factors must be considered carefully by the Administration before the proposed package is presented formally to the Congress. In the final analysis, the Administration and Congress must act in the best security interests of the United States.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Space Technology

The recent success of the space shuttle launch may bring more to our country than merely a resurgence of national pride—it may represent a horn of plenty in technological advances for the future.

This by-product of industrial and commercial innovation could stimulate productivity in the marketplace, contributing to national economic growth.

The key to this potential of American inventiveness lies in the success of the world's first re-usable rocket ship that can fly return trips between earth and space. It is hoped that this space shuttle will lead to factories in space—where new products can be made in an environment free of gravity.

Some scientists believe, for instance, that numerous metal alloys that cannot be produced on earth will be possible in space. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) looks forward to the production of a metal alloy that will be extremely lightweight, that will yield unusual strength, and that will have self-lubricating properties.

Such a material could be used in the production of automobiles that would use less fuel because of its light weight, and perhaps have life expectancies of 500,000

miles due to the alloy's strength and self-lubricating qualities.

Scientists also believe that medical breakthroughs will be achieved through these futuristic space factories. The gravity-free atmosphere will allow new variations in biological substances, suggesting the possibility of purer vaccines and new drugs.

Since the creation of NASA in 1958, a variety of practical and productive benefits have evolved from our country's space program.

The overwhelming communications advancements made in the past three decades, for instance, are attributable to satellite communications, which enable any spot in the world to be linked, via television or radio communication, to any other location.

Other satellites have made significant contributions in the reporting and forecasting of international crop productions, and in improved weather forecasting—helping to save millions of dollars and many lives.

Predicting what mysteries of the universe will unfold as our nation continues to venture into the unknown is difficult. But, based on past experiences, vast opportunities appear to await us.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Our Older Americans

Although steps must be taken to shore up the financial stability of the Social Security system, Congress must not—and will not—allow any changes in the program that would suddenly and drastically reduce benefits for our older Americans.

Although the Administration had included Social Security in its so-called "safety net" that would not be affected by federal spending cuts, it recently proposed the abrupt reduction of benefits for persons who choose early retirement.

Under present law, persons who retire at age 62 receive 80 percent of the Social Security benefits they would otherwise receive upon retirement at age 65. Under the Administration's proposal, persons who retire early would receive only 55 percent of full Social Security benefits.

This proposal is unfair, harsh, and precipitous.

Adoption of this proposal would violate the government's solemn commitment to individuals who are nearing retirement age.

The Social Security system is based on trust, confidence, and predictability. In other words, it would constitute a breach of faith with the American people

to suddenly slash benefits for individuals who—after paying into the system for years—planned their retirement on the promise of a specific level of income.

The Administration proposal fails to recognize that many Americans do not have the option of choosing to retire at age 62—but are forced into it because of ill health, obsolescent skills, or a lack of employment.

There is no question that the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund must be addressed by the Congress. Any changes in the program, however, must be considered carefully to insure that they are humane and fair.

It should be remembered that millions of our nation's elderly depend almost exclusively on monthly Social Security checks to provide for their essential needs of food, clothing, and shelter.

Any plan to reform this national retirement system must have bi-partisan support—and must involve cooperation between the Administration and members Congress.

Congress will not allow the Social Security system to go bankrupt. Neither will it deny fair and reasonable treatment of our elderly population.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Weapons in Orbit

A significant element of our nation's future defense system is the development of the laser satellite weapon that could destroy enemy missiles launched at the United States.

The Department of Defense has been engaging in research and development of this weapon for several years, and believes that a fleet of laser satellites could be placed into orbit in about 10 years.

The Defense procurement bill recently passed by the Senate, which I supported, included \$147 million for the next fiscal year to continue the development of this laser technology.

The laser satellite would destroy an ascending missile by focusing a narrow beam of light produced by a chemical laser on the missile for a fraction of a second, destroying its warheads. These "killer" satellites also are effective against high-flying bombers.

The success of this technology obviously would enhance the defense posture of the United States, giving our nation protection against an enemy strike. The laser satellite is a defensive weapon, not offensive.

The development of this innovative weapon is not the first of our country's use of space technology to enhance our defense capabilities. In fact, the De-

fense's space program has launched more spacecraft than has the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

These launchings have put into orbit a variety of satellites to assist the Defense Department with reconnaissance, weather forecasting, navigation, and communications.

In addition to conducting earth surveillance, the Department is studying ways to increase its surveillance of activities occurring in space, including the estimated 4,000 satellites and other objects already orbiting the earth.

The Soviet Union is also researching the laser satellite technology, and there are reports that it may orbit a "killer" satellite before the United States.

The Soviets also dedicate more of their space launchings to military purposes than does the United States.

Of the estimated 100 Soviet launchings each year, about 75 of them have military applications. The United States launches between 30 and 50 space vehicles per year, a third of which are military-related.

It is a sad commentary on our world that the arms race may extend to extra-terrestrial boundaries. But the United States cannot allow the Soviet Union to gain an advantage that could threaten our national security interests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Value of Education

Having attended many high school and college commencement ceremonies throughout West Virginia over the last several weeks, I was heartened by the enthusiasm and optimism displayed by this year's graduates.

I have always believed that educational excellence should be encouraged because a sound education gives an individual the tools with which to make significant contributions throughout his life.

The value of education cannot be overstated. It opens new vistas for an individual, giving him opportunities that otherwise would be beyond his reach.

Education, of course, can take many forms. For many, it is a liberal arts background received in the classroom. For others, it is on-the-job or vocational training, learning skills for a specific job.

Statistics show that Americans today are more formally educated than in past years.

In 1910, the average 25-year-old American had completed 8.1 years of school. By 1975, the average schooling completed at the same age was 12.3 years.

At the turn of the century, 11.3 percent of the nation's population was illiterate. In 1970, only 1.2 percent of our population could not functionally read and write.

Education, of course, does not start and stop with the classroom, nor is its sole function to prepare individuals for jobs or careers.

A good education equips an individual to assume his responsibilities to become a good citizen, and to differentiate between right and wrong. It teaches him how to contribute to society—through pride of workmanship, and integrity on the job and at home.

We should take advantage of every opportunity to expand our horizons. By so doing, we would not only benefit personally, but we would profit nationally, as well.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Heinous Crime

An assault on the President of the United States is one of the most serious crimes in our country, and therefore should carry a commensurately severe punishment.

For this reason, I recently introduced legislation that would require life imprisonment for anyone convicted of attempting to kill the President, a President-elect, the Vice President, or the official next in line of Presidential succession.

Under current law, the assassination of the President is a capital offense, and, in my opinion, the death penalty should be mandatory. The attempted assassination of the Chief Executive, however, does not even carry a mandatory life sentence. Instead, the law provides only a sentence of any term of years up to life.

The wounding of the President, however, could require surgery and involve temporary incapacitation—which is a potential threat to our national security, a possible disruption of our government.

Unfortunately, the history of our country is marred by the fact that the attempted assassination of President Reagan this year does not stand alone. This deplorable incident marked

the eighth time a sitting Chief Executive was the victim of an assassination attempt.

Four of our Presidents have been killed by assassins' bullets—Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley, and John F. Kennedy. Three other Presidents escaped serious injury — Andrew Jackson, Harry Truman, and Gerald Ford.

Following the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in 1968, I introduced legislation — which was enacted into law—that made it a capital offense to kill a member or member-elect of Congress.

Incredibly, Sirhan B. Sirhan, who was convicted of assassinating Robert Kennedy, is scheduled for parole on Sept. 1, 1984. Although Sirhan originally was sentenced to death, his sentence later was commuted to a life term, making him eligible for release on parole.

The attempted murder of any individual should be severely punished. But the attempted assassination of the President of the United States is a particularly heinous crime and deserves severe punishment that is swift and certain. Therefore, under my bill, a life sentence would be mandatory.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bread, But No Butter

The United States needs a clear, consistent, and predictable foreign policy for dealing with the Soviet Union.

Unfortunately, contradictory actions taken by our government give the impression of a see-saw strategy — an impression the United States can ill afford.

About two months ago, the Administration lifted the embargo the United States had placed on the sale of grain to the Soviet Union. The embargo—which I had consistently supported—had been imposed in response to the Soviets' callous and brutal invasion of Afghanistan.

Following the lifting of the embargo, the Administration announced an agreement to allow the Soviets to buy up to nine million metric tons of wheat and corn.

At the same time that these grain negotiations were being completed, however, the Administration made known that it would not permit the sale of surplus butter to the Soviet Union.

Although the butter apparently will be sold to foreign countries, the Admin-

istration plans to impose restrictions specifically banning the resale of the butter to the Soviets, who are in short supply of this commodity. It was reported that the Administration believed the sale of butter to the Soviets would send the wrong signal.

Consequently, the United States is said to be pursuing a "bread, but no butter" policy toward the Soviet Union—one which must bewilder our allies and adversaries alike.

For the United States to retain its stature in world politics, it needs to articulate a clear and coordinated policy toward the Soviet Union. Aggressive behavior should not just draw a verbal rebuke from the United States, but should also prompt appropriate reprisals.

The United States must make clear that it does not accept the Soviets' occupation of Afghanistan, and will not condone interference into Poland's internal affairs.

Soviet leaders must be put on notice—through our foreign policy—that any future acts of aggression will be costly.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Paying Our Debt

The nine million men and women who served in the military during the Vietnam War not only deserve our nation's recognition and gratitude, but also a helping hand to assist them in readjusting to civilian life.

Veterans' legislation approved recently by the U.S. Senate provides substantial assistance to our Vietnam veterans.

Included in the bill is an amendment, which I co-sponsored, to provide basic Veterans' Administration health-care eligibility for veterans who were exposed in the line of military duty to dangerous substances, including Agent Orange and nuclear radiation.

Agent Orange — which contained the toxic chemical, dioxin—was a herbicide sprayed by U.S. forces in Vietnam to destroy food and jungle-cover for the enemy.

Although the evidence is not conclusive, most scientific and medical studies indicate a link between exposure to dioxin and radiation and the subsequent development of specific illnesses. Thus, it is fully warranted to provide an adequate level of medical attention to veterans who

were exposed to these substances.

Another amendment I co-sponsored would provide a three-year extension of eligibility for Vietnam veterans to participate in the readjustment counseling program called "Operation Outreach."

Ninety-one storefront VA counseling centers across the country comprise this program, providing mental health counseling to Vietnam veterans suffering from the residual emotional effects of the war.

In West Virginia, a counseling center is located in Huntington, where about 650 veterans have received readjustment services in the past year.

America owes a fair debt of gratitude to all veterans who have served their country well.

Passage of this legislation renews our national commitment to all veterans, but especially to those who served in the Vietnam War. Moreover, such action should confirm our nation's willingness to fulfill its obligations to the men and women who have sacrificed and endured hardships on behalf of their country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cracking Down on Crime

Violent crime—which has reached near epidemic proportions in our communities across the nation—represents a terrifying threat to our domestic security.

To help curb the daily assaults on our people and their property, I joined with a group of U.S. Senators recently in endorsing a comprehensive legislative package aimed at controlling violent crime in the United States.

Criminals must be punished swiftly, with sentences commensurate with the magnitude of their crimes, and with the assurance that they are not back on the streets repeating their violence.

The legislation — called the National Security and Violent Crime Amendments of 1981—includes bail and sentencing reforms, and the tightening of drug trafficking laws.

It is based on the conviction that international drug trafficking, organized crime, and violent crime constitute a dangerous threat to our national well-being.

Included in the package is my proposal to mandate a life sentence, with no

parole, for the attempted assassination of the President, President-elect, Vice President, or the official next in line of succession.

Other provisions would:

—create a Cabinet-level Director of Narcotics Operations and Policy, who would be responsible for the direction of all U.S. policy and resources dealing with the illegal drug problem;

—mandate prison sentences for violent offenses and second-felony convictions;

—increase mandatory prison terms for the use of a weapon in the commission of a crime; and

—mandate consecutive sentencing for a felony committed by an individual out on bail for a prior felony.

This package represents an effective and realistic federal response to the urgent problem of controlling violent crime in the United States.

It is essential that we recognize the devastating impact that crime is having on our society, and that we make a full national commitment to combat it. The time to act is now.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Safeguarding Our Energy Future

Energy conservation by Americans, and a temporary glut on the world petroleum market, have given the United States a reprieve from critical shortages in energy supplies.

High energy prices and uncertain supplies over the past several years have led to considerable conservation by individuals, businesses, and government—and that effort is finally showing up in our energy usage. The consumption of oil in the United States now is lower than in 1973—the benchmark year prior to the Arab oil embargo.

Because of this decline in energy usage, imports of crude oil and refined petroleum products are down about 20 percent from last year. Oil imports to the United States currently supply about one-third of our domestic energy needs, which now average about 16 million barrels of oil daily.

While this respite from escalating prices and uncertain supplies is welcome, it should not bring an end to our efforts toward achieving energy independence.

About 40 percent of the oil imported by the United States is supplied by the Arab members of OPEC. A sudden cut-off in oil supplies from the Persian Gulf region—an area not known for its political stability—could

throw our country into turmoil.

Our country still is in need of an energy insurance policy that would protect us in the event of an energy crisis.

Unfortunately, the Administration has failed to support the development of a synthetic fuels industry, which could fill the gap if imported oil supplies were curtailed.

At the initiative of the Administration, Germany, and Japan recently agreed to terminate the synthetic fuels demonstration project planned for Morgantown.

Cancellation of this project is shortsighted and represents another step in the Administration's unraveling of our nation's energy policy that was put into place by Congress over the past four years.

It is a serious mistake to disavow our energy goals and become slack in our efforts to attain energy self-sufficiency. Continued dependence on imported oil not only jeopardizes our national security, but also constrains the independence of our foreign policy, and curbs our economic growth.

Our country needs an energy strategy in place today—one that will lend itself to the long-term economic and military security of the United States.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hard Decisions on Defense

The United States is on the path toward rebuilding its defense strength to counter the emerging Soviet threat, but some hard decisions lay ahead for the Administration and Congress to achieve a coherent strategy.

A first step has been taken with Senate passage of legislation—recommended by the Administration—that authorizes the procurement of \$136 billion in defense hardware.

There is no doubt that immediate and substantial increases in our national defense budget are badly needed. The worldwide challenge to American and Western interests by the Soviet Union cannot be met with the inadequate defense budgets we have had over the last decade.

Some hard decisions, however, still are in the offing.

One of the most significant decisions that must be made as soon as possible is the selection between the B-1 and the "Stealth" aircraft as our nation's new manned bomber.

The defense authorization bill included more than \$2 billion for putting a new manned strategic bomber on the production line, but the Administration has not recommended which aircraft should be built.

Because the "Stealth" aircraft is designed to elude

Soviet air defense systems well into the next century, it appears to be the far better choice over the B-1 bomber, which, military experts say, would not be capable of penetrating Soviet air defense in the 1990's.

Likewise, a hard decision is needed for meeting our nation's manpower needs. The Administration has endorsed the costly all-volunteer Army concept, hoping to lure recruits with better pay and benefits.

Unfortunately, current projections show that our armed forces are going to fall about 200,000 men short of our manpower needs for the 1980's.

Also, there are indications that the Administration intends to abandon the current military system for mobilizing manpower in the event of a national emergency. This would be a mistake.

A national buildup of strategic weapons and manpower should not be exclusive of arms control efforts with the Soviet Union.

There has been a virtual lack of movement in the arms control arena under the present Administration.

These hard decisions on strategic weapons, manpower needs, and arms control must be made for the United States to achieve an effective defense policy for the 1980's.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protections Needed For U.S. Defense Programs

The development of a new manned strategic bomber that could enter Soviet airspace undetected is of the utmost importance to our national security.

A major breach of national security, however, may have occurred recently with the release of new and extensive information concerning the top-secret "stealth" aircraft, which currently is America's most advanced manned strategic bomber in the planning stage.

The development of the "stealth" bomber is one of the options the Administration is considering for replacing our country's current fleet of aging B-52 bombers.

Although the Administration has not yet decided whether to pursue the production of the "stealth" aircraft or a new B-1 bomber, the release of any sensitive information concerning our defense apparatus must be viewed with the most serious concern.

The information, published in an aviation trade magazine, detailed costs, schedules, and various technologies associated with the

"stealth" program, and even possible Soviet countermeasures to the new weapon. Much of the information was attributed to "high-level Defense Department officials."

Accordingly, I have asked President Reagan to conduct an investigation regarding the security precautions that surround this program.

I hope that the Administration's investigation will reveal the identity of the person or persons who released the information, and that it will lead to immediate steps to prevent the release of vital national security secrets in the future.

I also am concerned over recent reports detailing U.S. intelligence activities with the People's Republic of China.

National security leaks such as these could adversely affect our national security and cause friends and allies in the world to restrict their cooperation with the United States.

For these reasons, it is imperative that security precautions surrounding our defense efforts be tightened.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Benefits From Coal Conversion

The conversion of utility generating stations from oil to coal could help produce triple benefits for our nation — achieving greater energy self-reliance, retaining U.S. dollars within our boundaries for investment here at home, and enhancing national security.

Although our country currently has adequate supplies of petroleum due to the availability of foreign oil and decreased usage through conservation efforts, about \$70 billion continues to flow out of our nation each year for overseas fuel purchases, adding significantly to our inflation rate.

The conversion of generating stations from oil to coal could make a substantial impact on our nation's oil needs. Currently, electric utility generating plants consume about 1.2 million barrels of oil per day.

To encourage the voluntary conversion of oil and gas-fired power plants, I have sponsored a proposal that will provide accelerated depreciation schedules for utilities that switch to coal.

Under my proposal, which the Senate adopted by a vote of 100 to 0, utilities, will be able to depreciate the cost of converted generating facilities in 10 years.

Although this proposal will result in a modest revenue loss to the U.S. Treasury in reduced taxes paid by the utilities, these costs will be more than off-

set by the resulting fuel savings.

The displacement of even 500,000 barrels of oil per day by 1985 would reduce America's foreign-oil bill by no less than \$6.5 billion per year. This is money that would stay at home, providing jobs and investment opportunities to promote this nation's economic recovery.

I have also co-sponsored an amendment — inserted into the pending 1982 Appropriations bill for the Interior—that provides \$5 million to continue the fuels conversion program operated by the Department of Energy, a program which would otherwise be eliminated under the Administration's proposed budget.

This program would be valuable—to West Virginia and the country as a whole —because it would assist in the potential conversion of up to 83 utility generating stations from oil to coal. These potential conversions would save more than 220 million barrels of oil annually, and increase coal consumption by up to 57 million tons per year.

Coal conversion offers one of the most direct, near-term, and cost-effective opportunities for reducing U.S. reliance on imported oil. It is time for our nation to take steps to encourage these conversions to coal—for the benefit of our nation's energy future, and the economy, as well as our national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preserving Social Security

The financial integrity of the Social Security system is of paramount importance. Congress cannot and will not allow this vital program to go bankrupt.

Recently, I co-sponsored an amendment on the Senate floor that would have solved the short-term cash-flow problem facing the Social Security system. Unfortunately, this amendment was defeated on a 51-45 straight party-line vote.

This amendment would have allowed the transfer of cash among the three separate trust funds—retirement, disability, and medicare hospitalization — that comprise the Social Security system.

Of the three funds, only the retirement fund faces a potential cash-flow problem in the near future. Although steps need to be taken to meet the long-term financing needs of the system, inter-fund borrowing would have been a positive and constructive step in resolving the near-term financing difficulties of the retirement fund.

In addressing the financial needs of the Social Security system this year—as Congress surely must do—the Congress and the American public must not be hoodwinked by dire predictions from Administration spokesmen, such as Budget

Director David Stockman who predicted the system will go bankrupt in November 1982.

There is legitimate concern that the Administration has exaggerated the financial plight of the Social Security system in an attempt to make deep cuts in benefits to help reach the goal of balancing the federal budget.

Although I strongly support the goal of matching federal expenditures with revenues, we cannot allow our older Americans to bear the brunt of balancing the budget.

The Senate recently unanimously rejected the Administration's proposal that called for drastic, harsh, and precipitous cuts in Social Security benefits. A second resolution—also adopted unanimously by the Senate—rejected any notion of taxing Social Security payments in the future.

Although steps must be taken to shore up the Social Security Trust Fund, Congress should not allow any actions that are not truly necessary to restore the system's financial stability.

I believe that ways can be found to solve the problems of the Social Security system, and at the same time, be fair and equitable to present and future retirees.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

God in American History

Religious faith and reliance on God have undoubtedly played a crucial role in the development of our nation and the cultivation of our national standards and values.

Several New England colonies, as well as Pennsylvania and Maryland, were established primarily for religious reasons. Moreover, millions of settlers in other colonies and later immigrants—Baptists, Catholics, Quakers, Jews, and Lutherans, for example—came to America for freedom of worship.

The Thanksgiving observances of the Plymouth Colony, of course, are well known. But the influence of the Deity in other historical events should not be overlooked.

One of the most significant contributions of religious faith to America, for instance, may have been the American Revolution itself. The majority of the Founding Fathers were churchmen steeped in the Judaeo-Christian tradition. The God they worshipped was a Provident and Just Magistrate who was Himself indignant at British tyranny.

The Founding Fathers also had no hesitancy in looking to the Lord for daily guidance.

It was at Benjamin Franklin's request that the Constitutional Convention began each day with prayer, a practice that has never lapsed in the Congress. To this day, the first daily order of busi-

ness in the Senate and House of Representatives is a prayer led by a chaplain or some other person.

The values cultivated by our nation's early religious communities helped to set national standards. Our spiritual ancestors believed in elementary virtues such as sobriety, chastity, thrift, work, honesty—qualities that helped make America great.

Religious faith has served as a never-ending leaven in our national life. Our faith has shaped our national conscience and influenced our laws. In that process, the United States has achieved standards of living and public decency and compassion unknown before in human history.

It is not surprising, therefore, that every President from George Washington to Ronald Reagan has included some reference to the Deity in his Inaugural Address. Taken together, that body of Inaugural speeches confirms the sense of Divine purpose that runs unbroken through our history.

From our nation's birth—and continuing through today—our nation's leaders and the vast majority of Americans have looked beyond their anxieties and crises of the moment to the Eternal Light beyond. From that source they received, and will continue to receive, guidance to steer and chart their course—the course of our nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Americans Deserve A Tax Break

Although I believe the tax-cut package passed by Congress this year should have given a greater share of the benefits to middle- and lower-income taxpayers, there is little doubt that the American people and businesses deserved a tax break.

Many important incentives for increased investment and savings were contained in the tax-cut bill.

Included in the measure are a reform of depreciation rates for business, relief from the marriage tax penalty, and a new tax exclusion for savings interest that should make home financing more affordable.

Even though the distribution of benefits to individuals was tilted to favor the wealthy, the legislation provides a margin of tax relief to the hard-pressed middle class of this country.

When the tax-cut bill came before the Senate, I attempted on numerous occasions, to improve the measure through amendments that would have distributed more of the bene-

fits to taxpayers earning between \$10,000 and \$50,000 annually.

I also favored amendments that would have reduced the amount of income subject to the capital gains tax from 40 to 30 percent, reduced the corporate tax rates of small businesses, and increased the tax credit for industrial and commercial energy conservation.

Other proposals I supported would have increased the retirement income tax credit enjoyed by elderly Americans, and accelerated the effective date of removal of the marriage tax penalty.

Unfortunately, none of these amendments passed. I believe their adoption would have improved the bill significantly.

Despite these flaws remaining in the tax bill, I supported the final legislation because I believed the American people want and deserve a tax cut. I also believe that American business and industry need incentives to increase the level of productivity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Position of Strength

I support the President's decision to produce the neutron bomb as an effective counter against the Soviet Union's growing military strength in eastern Europe, which poses a security threat to the entire Free World.

In terms of troops and tanks, the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies in eastern Europe outnumber the forces and weaponry of the United States and NATO in Europe.

Deployment of the neutron bomb, however, would neutralize this strategic imbalance.

While Soviet tanks are designed to withstand the fallout effects of conventional nuclear blasts, radiation from a neutron warhead could penetrate the armored vehicles, killing the enemy.

The limited range of the neutron bomb and its short-lived radiation would allow its use against enemy troops on European territory without destroying nearby civilians, cities,

bridges and highways.

Possession of the neutron bomb in our weapons arsenal also reduces the chances of war. Because this weapon is perceived as an effective and usable one, it would deter Soviet aggression or hostile acts by other potential adversaries.

It should be emphasized that this nuclear weapon—as in the case of any nuclear weapon—will be used only under the specific order of the President of the United States. No one else is authorized to make the decision on the use of nuclear weapons.

I sincerely hope that we never have to use the neutron bomb—or any kind of nuclear weapon. And I wish it were not necessary to place the neutron warhead in our nation's weapons arsenal.

But because of the potential threats to the entire Free World, reality demands that the United States must do everything possible to safeguard our country and our allies.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia on Display

West Virginia's rich heritage is displayed almost daily through fairs and festivals that abound throughout the Mountain State during these warm months—where West Virginians have the opportunity to exhibit their wares and their talents.

About 450 fairs and festivals are held every year in West Virginia, each with its own character and identity. Many of these festivities honor our mountain heritage or pay tribute to our natural resources, such as coal, pumpkins, strawberries, and molasses.

They are all a delight to attend. The flavor of such Mountain State gatherings cannot be excelled elsewhere—from the mountain music to the tempting home cooking, including one of my favorites, home-made ice cream.

American county fairs—which are such an integral part of our national heritage—can be traced back to 1807 when Elkanah Watson, a gentleman farmer, exhibited his Merino sheep in the village square in Pittsfield, Mass. The attention attracted by this exhibit persuaded Watson to organize annual exhibits of livestock and farm produce so that farmers could exchange experiences and products.

By 1820, almost every county in New England had organized annual fairs for agricultural displays, including prizes for the best exhibits.

Fairs and festivals today serve a multitude of purposes. They serve as convenient places for trade because of the large congregation of buyers and sellers. They also provide competitive exhibitions, and give manufacturers the opportunity to introduce new products to the general public.

And with the variety of amusements and entertainment offered, they are just plain fun.

Although West Virginia has its share of shopping malls to carry on large-scale trade, our fairs and festivals continue to flourish in these modern times of the 1980's.

Perhaps it is because these gatherings emphasize the traditional and rewarding values of individual expertise and craftsmanship. Rare creative skills can be seen in the pottery, quilts, woodwork, metalwork, macramé, and a host of other arts and crafts on display.

At these festivities, one often can enjoy and purchase goods found nowhere else in the world—products made by enterprising men and women working with their hands, with keen imaginations and great discipline.

West Virginia's fairs and festivals are wholesome, entertaining, and educational—part of a flavorful tradition that gives the Mountain State its unique character and identity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Train Service

Passenger trains provide a valuable service to thousands of West Virginians—both in rural communities and in urban centers—who find rail transportation a convenient and efficient way to travel.

Over the years, I have worked continuously to retain and improve the service provided by Amtrak through the Mountain State.

Unfortunately, the Administration's budget cuts enacted this year will result in reduced passenger train service nationwide, including West Virginia.

I hope, however, that the Cardinal train — which serves our major population centers of Charleston and Huntington—will be retained. The Cardinal also has scheduled stops in White Sulphur Springs, Hinton, Prince, and Thurmond.

Because this train provides essential transportation to thousands of people in the southern and central regions of West Virginia, it would be shortsighted of Amtrak to discontinue it. In fact, ridership along this route has increased substantially—up nearly 33 percent during the year ending May, 1981.

I have pointed out these facts to Amtrak President Alan Boyd, and have urged him to do everything possible to keep the Cardinal running through West Virginia. Language in the conference report accompanying the 1981 Amtrak re-authorization legislation ad-

vises Amtrak to pursue "all available alternatives" to ensure that the Cardinal be retained.

Amtrak has deferred until Oct. 1 its decision on whether to make any cutbacks in the Cardinal service.

It is unfortunate that the Shenandoah train, which runs through northern West Virginia, will be terminated Oct. 1, but its low ridership figures did not justify its expense. It will be replaced, however, by the new Broadway Limited that will make stops in Martinsburg and Harpers Ferry.

The Blue Ridge, which also serves the eastern panhandle, has been re-authorized for the next two years, although regular weekend trips will be terminated to cut costs.

Passenger rail service provides a vital transportation link in a rural, mountainous state like West Virginia, especially in bad-weather months. Trains also are more fuel-efficient than cars, and provide a reasonable alternative when commuters are faced with high gas prices and uncertain fuel supplies.

It is important that some of our state's major population centers be served by passenger trains—and that West Virginia has at least one train providing through-state service. Although it may be an uphill fight in view of the Administration's budget cutbacks, I will continue my efforts to retain passenger rail service for West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Honoring Our Citizen-Soldiers

Our National Guard deserves the respect, confidence, and recognition of the American people for the night-and-day protection these citizen-soldiers provide our nation — always ready to assist when disaster strikes and in time of war.

In recognition of the unique nature and important mission of the National Guard, I recently introduced a joint resolution in the U.S. Senate that would designate Oct. 7 of each year as National Guard Day.

It was on that date in 1636 that the National Guard was founded—when the General Court of the Colony of Massachusetts incorporated its loosely-gathered militia into a regiment.

Although the Guard's early mission focused on protection of our new country's trails, waterways, and roads, it expanded to include a variety of duties as our nation developed and grew.

In 1878, the organized militia of the various states became the National Guard as the country's official reserve force, to be equipped by the federal government, but to remain under state control. Passage of the National Defense Act in 1916 subjected the Guard to a

federal call to duty.

The Guard's swift and ready response to a variety of emergencies over the years has given it a reputation for efficiency and bravery.

Among events triggering the mobilization of Guard units were the Johnstown flood, the Texas City explosion, Hurricanes Camille and Agnes, the Teamster's truckers strike, and flooding of the Tug Fork area in West Virginia.

In fiscal year 1980, emergencies in 47 states required the services of 30,000 National Guard troops and 203,000 man-days of service.

In West Virginia, there are more than 3,400 Army National Guard personnel at 41 units throughout the state and nearly 1,800 Air National Guard personnel at their bases in Charleston and Martinsburg.

It also should be noted that because the Guard is combat-ready, these troops represent a significant amount of total U.S. military strength in the early days of a national emergency or in time of war.

It is only fitting that the vital role played by the Army and Air National Guard in our country be publicly recognized and commemorated each year.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

High Interest Rates

No segment of our economy is immune from the high interest rates that have been plaguing our nation this year, choking off economic recovery, and spelling disaster for several key industries.

The Federal Reserve Board, with the support of the Administration, has been pursuing a tight monetary policy that is responsible to some degree for these high interest rates.

To provide some relief, I recently co-sponsored a resolution that calls on the Federal Reserve Board to discourage large banks from lending funds for unproductive and speculative purposes, such as giant business mergers, and, instead, require such banks to promote the expansion of credit to sectors of the economy that need it, such as the housing and automobile industries, farming and small business.

The recent trend toward giant corporate mergers has resulted in an enormous loan demand that has cornered the limited available credit and contributed to the high level of interest rates.

More than 30 major business mergers — each worth at least \$500 million—have been proposed or completed since the middle of 1979. While these mergers consume enormous amounts of credit, they do not create

jobs or add significantly to the economy's productivity.

Instead, this credit needs to be made available for productive purposes, and for stimulating the sectors of our economy that are most suffering.

The housing industry, of course, is one of the hardest hit components of our economy. With most mortgage loans demanding an average interest rate of 16 percent or above, few Americans can afford to purchase homes. Consequently, new home construction is down significantly this year, with some predictions that housing starts in 1981 could reach a 35-year low.

The high interest rates also have squeezed the automobile industry, farmers, and small businessmen.

Bankruptcies are 42 percent higher in the first eight months of this year than for the comparable period last year. More than 90 percent of these failures hit small business—companies with liabilities of less than \$1 million.

Measures need to be taken to expand the credit available for all segments of our economy, which would lower interest rates. The channeling of bank funds into our country's depressed industries — and away from non-productive and speculative purposes—would be a step in the right direction.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

School Lunches

The recent episode over the ingredients of an adequate school lunch for elementary children demonstrates the danger in making sweeping budget cuts without evaluating the merits of each federal program.

As part of its budget-cutting measures, the Administration sought and won a 35 percent reduction in the school lunch program. To reduce the costs of these lunches provided for more than 27 million children across the country, the Department of Agriculture issued new regulations that specify the minimum requirements for a school lunch.

The new regulations lowered the current requirement that school lunches provide one-third of the daily nutritional needs of each child to only one-fourth of the required nutritional base.

Under the new specifications, a school lunch could be comprised of a one and one-half ounce patty of meat, eight thin french fries, nine grapes, one slice of bread, and six ounces of milk.

Ketchup, relish, and tomato paste could qualify as vegetables, under the new regulations, and peanuts and sunflower seeds could replace meat.

Fortunately, the national publicity that ensued over the school lunch requirements prompted a quick reversal from the Administration on the proposed new regulations.

This school lunch illustration, however, shows that many federal programs have already been cut to the bone, and that the proposed second round of budget cuts by the Administration may be more difficult.

Budget cuts that eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse can be applauded by everyone. Budget cuts that go to the core of worthwhile and necessary human or economic programs are not so simple.

I support the goal of a balanced federal budget, but I believe this objective should not be attained at cost to the health of our school children or the elderly.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Dangerous Complacency

With today's ready availability of energy supplies and stable oil prices, our national commitment to energy independence has evaporated into a dangerous complacency.

Although Congress and previous Administrations put into place a national energy policy designed to stimulate the production of alternative energy supplies and to set forth emergency plans in the event of an energy cut-off, the current Administration has put its faith in the private sector for meeting our national energy needs.

The short-term price stability in energy supplies that the world is now experiencing, however, does not reflect a corresponding political stability in the world's richest oil region—the Middle East.

Recent events—especially the senseless and tragic killing of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat—demonstrate how volatile and unpredictable the Middle East is.

While the United States has reduced its foreign oil imports, and has cut energy consumption by nine percent from last year's levels, it still depends on OPEC oil for at least 12 percent of its total petroleum needs.

A cut-off in our foreign

oil supplies—whether due to an oil embargo or even a war—is as possible today as it was in the 1970's when the energy crisis first appeared.

Despite our experience with long gasoline lines and shortages in oil supplies, energy emergency plans and efforts to develop synthetic fuels have been allowed to languish in the last nine months.

Today, we have no emergency energy plans. In case of a national crisis, no mechanisms exist to ensure that our defense forces, police, ambulances, or farmers would have gasoline to protect our country, to guard our streets, to move the sick to hospitals, or to get food to market.

Our nation's economic strength and defense security demand a balanced energy policy that provides for America's long-term security as well as dealing with sudden crises. It is incumbent upon government and industry to cooperate in developing comprehensive energy planning and providing for energy self-sufficiency.

The United States cannot afford to leave its energy future to chance, to the current oil glut, or to the fragile destiny of Middle Eastern governments.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Providing the Best Possible Defense

Although the Administration's recent decisions for building our nation's defense strength contain many worthy programs, I am disappointed with the recommendations made for basing the MX missile system and production of the B-1 bomber.

Certainly, the Administration should be commended on its plans to upgrade our military communications capabilities, its commitment to the new D-5 submarine-launched missile, and its commitment to production of the MX missile itself.

But on the key strategic weapons systems, the Administration is following a path of buying outmoded equipment and foregoing opportunities to upgrade our arsenal with the most sophisticated weaponry available.

The decision to produce 100 B-1 bombers is, I fear, a decision to opt for used-car technology.

Many military experts have testified that the B-1 bomber will be unable to enter Soviet air space undetected by the late 1980's. At a cost of \$200 million per plane, why should we produce aircraft that so closely parallels the capabilities of our current force of B-52s?

I believe that it would be more practical, more beneficial to our nation's de-

fense, and more cost-effective to move forward with production of the top-secret "Stealth" aircraft, which is designed to elude Soviet radar well into the next century.

Concerning the MX missile system, the Administration proposes to place 36 missiles in existing, but re-fortified, silos that were built for the old Titan missiles. Although planning to produce 100 MX missiles, the Administration has deferred a decision on the basing mode for the remaining 64 missiles.

I believe a mobile basing system for our MX missiles would offer our country greater protection against potential attack from the Soviet Union, which will be able to train its missiles on our stationary silos as potential targets.

I support the Administration's commitment to the upgrading of our national defense capabilities, and to stabilizing the balance of strategic power that rests between our country and the Soviet Union.

Our defense dollars, however, can support only a limited number of programs. Consequently, our defense decisions must encompass the most advanced equipment and technology available to provide our country with the best possible national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Welcome Turnaround

Social Security legislation recently passed by the U.S. Senate would restore an unwise and unnecessary reduction in benefits and shore up the financial stability of the Social Security system for the short-term future.

This Congressional action represents a welcome turnaround by the Administration, which previously recommended the benefit cut and opposed taking steps to help the fund's short-term solvency.

Earlier this year, at the request of the Administration, the Congress voted to eliminate the minimum \$122 monthly Social Security benefit, which would have affected three million recipients beginning next March.

On five separate occasions in the Senate, the Administration led efforts to block, on party-line votes, restoration of the minimum benefit. Following the Administration's turnaround on this issue, however, the Senate voted unanimously to nullify its previous action.

The Social Security legislation also contains a provision that would provide for

inter-fund transfers among the three Social Security trust funds. Only one of these funds is showing a temporary cash-flow problem, and inter-fund transfers would remedy the situation for the short-term.

The Administration originally opposed this provision for inter-fund transfers and effectively blocked its passage, by a party-line vote, in the Senate. The Administration later reversed itself, however, and the inter-fund transfer provision won unanimous approval.

The long-term solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund, of course, still must be addressed.

But the immediate financial plight of the Social Security System has been exaggerated, and drastic and substantial cuts are not needed to restore its financial base. Our elderly citizens must not be sacrificed to achieve the goal of balancing the federal budget.

The financial integrity of the Social Security System must be preserved, and our elderly citizens must be protected.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Developing a Realistic Middle East Policy—I

My decision to oppose the Administration's proposed sale of sophisticated radar planes to Saudi Arabia, which was announced recently, was one of the most difficult foreign-policy decisions I have had to make in my Senate career.

In the final analysis, it was my judgment that the sale of these five advanced surveillance airplanes—known as Airborne Warning and Control Systems, or AWACS—would not best serve the interests of the United States.

Although there are many complex issues involved in the proposed sale, I believe America's proper course must be predicated on how to best pursue a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Although I support military assistance to our allies—which surely includes Saudi Arabia—I believe the critical issue to be resolved in the Middle East is not the threat of invasion by the Soviet Union, but the long-standing Arab-Israeli conflict.

The shipment of AWACS to Saudi Arabia will not stabilize the region or resolve this dispute. In fact, it could spark an escalating arms race between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

America's fundamental goal in the Middle East region is the promotion of peace and stability. To this end, the United States needs to breathe new life into the Camp David peace process, and broaden these peace

initiatives to include a resolution of the difficult Palestinian question.

As long as the Arab-Israeli dispute is pushed into the background, this sale does not make any sense. Rather than contributing to stability in the region, I fear that it will only raise the threshold of tension.

Arms and sweeping new military commitments will not defuse the radical elements that are spreading in many Middle Eastern countries. This radicalism feeds on the continued stalemate between Arab countries and Israel.

I also believe that the tragic assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat—rather than demonstrating a greater need for arms transfers to Saudi Arabia—sends a strong signal that it is time for caution and reflection.

It also should be noted that the United States presently has AWACS aircraft patrolling the skies in Saudi Arabia that are manned by U.S. Air Force personnel. Why not continue this arrangement?

Rather than sending sophisticated weaponry to Saudi Arabia, it is in the best interests of the United States instead to develop and implement a realistic Middle East policy that focuses on the fundamental issue separating the Arabs and Israelis—the future of the Palestinians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Developing a Realistic Middle East Policy—II

Concern over the potential compromise of top-of-the-line technology developed by the United States played a significant role in my decision to oppose the sale of sophisticated radar airplanes to Saudi Arabia.

My concern rested not only on the five aircraft themselves — known as AWACS and which contain highly advanced electronic equipment in our military's inventory — but also on the 1,177 Sidewinder missiles that are part of the military hardware package.

The U.S. technology employed in these missiles and aircraft is far superior to that of the Soviet Union. If the Soviets should somehow acquire possession of any of this military equipment, it would give them valuable clues for developing effective deterrents against some of America's most sophisticated weaponry.

The AIM-9L air-to-air Sidewinder missile is a highly-advanced weapon, involving classified technology. Its advanced maneuverability allows the missile to be fired at enemy aircraft from any angle rather than only from the rear.

With this weapon, American pilots believe they have a realistic chance of surviving when attacked by an overwhelming number of enemy aircraft.

Despite this classified technology, consideration of the sale of the missiles to

Saudi Arabia did not proceed through normal channels established to safeguard America's advanced weapons systems, protecting them from risks, compromise, and misuse.

The National Disclosure Policy Committee, composed of representatives of the Secretary of Defense and the various military branches, is charged with weighing the risks of compromise on any proposed transfer of classified weapons technology to another nation. In the case of the proposed sale of the AIM-9L Sidewinder missiles to Saudi Arabia, however, the committee was bypassed.

The AWACS sold by the United States to NATO countries have strict controls applied to their use. The United States has joint command and control of these aircraft and can veto any decision regarding their use.

On the contrary, the United States has no treaty relationship with Saudi Arabia, nor any defense arrangement. There is no system of joint command and control over the AWACS being sold to that country.

The United States has the edge on military weapons technology over that of the Soviet Union. It is in our best interests to guard this technological superiority, rather than running the risk of compromise by making it available to volatile areas of the world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Seeking Economic Relief

With our nation's economy in a recession, unemployment surging, and interest rates still too high, actions must be taken now to help the average American who is being so badly squeezed by this dismal economic picture.

Interest rates have been at unacceptably-high levels for too many months. Because of these high rates, bankruptcies among small businesses are mounting, auto sales are plunging, and the housing industry is in a severe downturn.

There is an interest rate emergency and it must be addressed immediately.

For this reason, I recently named an Emergency Task Force to Reduce Interest Rates that will recommend emergency measures for dealing with the high interest rates that are stifling key segments of our nation's economy.

Our country cannot afford to wait for the Administration's hoped-for economic recovery painted for the end of next spring or the beginning of next summer.

The high interest rates have taken a severe toll on the nation's housing industry. Because the collapse of this key segment of our economy would shake the foundations of countless other industries and businesses, ways must be found to supply adequate credit to the housing industry.

To this end, the tight money policy pursued by the Federal Reserve Board should be re-examined. In addition, it is incumbent on Congress to scrutinize closely the Administration's proposals to cut federal loan guarantee authority for housing — a step that will only aggravate the housing slump.

I also believe that the small businessman — the backbone of our economy — should have a voice in charting the economic course of our nation.

I recently introduced legislation that would direct the President to appoint a small business representative to fill the first vacancy on the Federal Reserve Board.

It is the Federal Reserve Board that determines our nation's monetary policies — which are reflected in the availability of credit in the marketplace, and the level of interest rates. It is time to give the small businessman a role in shaping our country's monetary policies.

The broad spectrum of American businesses and the American public cannot continue to tolerate the adverse economic conditions that have plagued our country for the past months. Steps need to be taken now to ease the economic hardships burdening most Americans and crippling business growth.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Clear Signal

To advance our foreign policy goals, the United States must send the strong, clear signal — to friend and foe alike — that we will not stand idly by if the Soviet Union, or its allies, invade Poland.

Unfortunately, actions of the Administration over the past several months have sent mixed signals, indicating inconsistency in U.S. policy toward Soviet aggression.

To clarify our policy, I recently offered an amendment to export legislation that called for an across-the-board embargo on all U.S. exports to the Soviet Union if the Soviets, or their allies, take direct military action against Poland.

If passed, my amendment would have been written into law, and it would have required the President to impose the trade embargo unless he certified to the Congress that such an embargo was not in the national security interests of the United States.

Although my original amendment was not adopted, the Senate did go on record stating that it was "the sense of the Senate" that a suspension of U.S. exports be imposed, in concert with our allies, if such an invasion occurred. While this action is not binding on the President, it is a step in the right direction.

This message is necessary to demonstrate, clearly and unequivocally, that the United States will not accept further Soviet aggres-

sion. I was fearful—despite the Administration's tough talk — that this message may have been lost due to zig zags in the Administration's foreign policy.

For instance, the Administration lifted the American grain embargo against the Soviet Union last April, even though the Soviets still are occupying Afghanistan with 85,000 troops. The embargo—which had taken a toll on the Soviet economy—had been imposed more than a year earlier as a direct result of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

This summer, the Administration warned our European allies against purchasing Soviet natural gas, but then gave the go-ahead to an American corporation to sell pipe-laying equipment to the Soviet Union.

The Administration's approval of this equipment sale was finalized after the U.S. had pressured the Japanese to refrain from selling pipe-laying equipment to the Soviets for the same gas project.

Later, the Administration refused to sell surplus butter to the Soviet Union, but then extended a long-term agreement for selling grain to the Soviets.

The Senate's action sends an appropriate message that the Congress will support economic reprisals—a total trade ban — against the Soviet Union if it invades Poland. The Soviets must be put on notice that further aggressive behavior will not go unpunished.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Questionnaire Results

A majority of the more than 13,000 West Virginians who responded to my latest questionnaire would be willing to give up part of their tax cut to reduce the federal deficit.

Although responses to my questionnaire — which was included in my October newsletter — are still coming in, the latest tabulation shows that 58 percent of those persons answering would favor repeal of the third year of the Administration's tax-cut package in 1984 to reduce the federal deficit.

In response to other questions, West Virginians generally opposed proposed spending cuts in federal programs that would occur due to the Administration's second round of budget reductions presented in September — totaling \$13 billion — for the 1982 fiscal year.

The results of this poll — which I believe are representative of the state as a whole — show that most West Virginians believe that substantial cuts already have been made in most federal programs, and they oppose further cuts, generally.

Sixty-eight percent of the persons responding to the questionnaire said they opposed the Administration's September proposal for an additional 12-percent across-the-board cut in non-defense discretionary programs, such as highways, health research, school lunch, Am-

trak, bridge replacement, flood prevention, and education for the handicapped and disadvantaged.

On another question, only 26 percent of the respondents said they favored the Administration's proposed cuts in entitlement programs, which could affect black lung payments, veterans' benefits, federal pensions, railroad retirement benefits, and supplemental security income (SSI) for the blind and disabled.

Sixty-three percent of the persons responding to the poll said they opposed the Administration's proposed \$13 billion in budget cuts for the Department of Defense over the next three years, with 37 percent of the respondents favoring the proposed spending reduction.

The Administration's proposed elimination of the Department of Energy and the Department of Education drew negative responses of 54 and 55 percent, respectively.

Only 41 percent said they favored — and 59 percent opposed — a cut in revenue-sharing funds for cities and counties for the 1982 fiscal year, and a gradual phase-out of the program over the next two years, as was being considered by the Administration.

Sixty-six percent of West Virginians responding to my questionnaire said they favored re-institution of the military draft, with 34 percent against it.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Initiatives for Peace

I commend President Reagan for his recent peace initiatives that called for resumption of strategic arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union and a limitation of intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

These initiatives represent a realistic and practical approach for the United States and the Soviet Union to pursue the reduction of both nuclear and conventional armaments—a goal that would not only benefit the two superpowers, but the rest of the world as well.

The President forcefully and directly called upon Soviet Leader Leonid Brezhnev to engage in Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) in January.

In addition, the President offered a proposal whereby the United States would abandon its plans to deploy 572 new cruise and Pershing II missiles in Western Europe if the Soviets would dismantle the 600 SS-20, SS-4, and SS-5 medium- and intermediate-range missiles they have aimed at Europe.

Despite the Soviet claims that they are pursuing peace, the Soviets have been deploying medium-range ballistic missiles at the rate of one SS-20 per week, primarily aimed at Europe. At the same time, the Soviet Union has been engaged in a propaganda campaign designed to divide the NATO alliance and inject the fear that Europe will become a battleground for the superpowers.

Despite the imbalance

that has resulted due to the Soviets' continuing buildup of missiles in Eastern Europe, the United States and NATO have not introduced more nuclear weaponry into the European theater. We have, however, made plans to put into place additional missiles beginning in 1983 if the Soviets do not reduce their weaponry.

The President's proposal represents an equitable solution for both the Soviets and the United States. The President has my wholehearted support on this initiative.

If, however, the Soviets cannot be persuaded to reduce their weapons in the European theater, then the President has my complete support in adhering to our plans for deploying additional missiles to counter the growing Soviet strength in Europe. If the Soviets refuse to negotiate arms reduction, then there is no other alternative but to go forward with our missile deployment schedule in Europe.

I also support the President's call for a reduction in NATO and Warsaw Pact conventional forces throughout Europe, and his renewal of the U.S. proposal for an international conference to reduce the risk of surprise attacks or of a war arising from miscalculation.

It is incumbent upon the superpowers to take steps to reduce the threat of nuclear war. I strongly support the President in this endeavor and hope that the Soviets will respond to his peace overtures.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Backbone of Our Economy

America's small business community — which has come under enormous pressure from high interest rates—should have a voice in determining our nation's economic policies.

To insure a fair representation of this broad segment of our population, I recently offered an amendment on the Senate floor directing the President to appoint a small business representative to the Federal Reserve Board — the policies of which help determine the level of interest rates and the availability of credit.

Unfortunately, the Republican majority in the Senate weakened the language in my amendment so that the Senate is merely on record as urging such an appointment, but the President is not legally bound to do so.

Passage of my original amendment, however, would have required the President to appoint an individual whose background is "in a credit-sensitive sector of the economy, and who is representative of small business, including farming and agriculture."

Indeed, the Act creating the Board in 1913 originally intended a broad representation of America's diverse interests. The law stated that a fair representation

of financial, agricultural, industrial, and commercial interests be considered when a Presidential appointment to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board is made.

To the small businessman, the fact that 15,500 small businesses have collapsed this year—an increase of nearly 50 percent over 1980—is not simply a statistic among other economic data. The small businessman knows the struggles and the heartbreaks endured by those who find their companies failing due to economic conditions. And likewise, he knows that the hopes and needs of the nine million unemployed workers across the nation are similar to those of his own employees.

Small business is not a "special interest" within our economy. Small business accounts for 53 percent of our nation's gross national product and 70 percent of all new jobs. It is the backbone of our economy.

Small business should be given a fair representation on the Federal Reserve Board—an individual who can understand and sympathize with the needs of borrowers, the small entrepreneur who is struggling to stay in business, and the worker who is trying to hold onto his job.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Rebuilding Our Navy

The U.S. Senate recently adopted my amendment calling for the systematic buildup of our American Navy—including the goal of having 600 active ships by the turn of the century—to counter the growing Soviet strength at sea.

Unfortunately, our shipbuilding capacity has diminished over the years and our fighting Naval forces have decreased steadily. Today the United States has about 450 active Naval vessels, down significantly from our inventory a decade ago of about 700 ships.

At the same time, the Soviet Union—which has an inventory of about 1,000 combatant ships—has been steadily increasing its shipbuilding capacity, and is producing twice as many submarines each year than does the United States.

That is not to say that the Soviets are superior to the United States at sea. The Soviet Union, for instance, has not built the formidable aircraft carriers that our Navy possesses, and the United States has better than a two-to-one advantage in total tonnage.

But there is an unmistakable and dangerous trend of closing the gap between the naval strength of the two superpowers, putting our former narrow margin of superiority in jeopardy.

It had earlier been generally agreed upon by the Administration and Navy officials that a 600-ship Navy would well serve the security needs of the United States.

Passage of my amendment puts the Senate on

record as supporting the achievement of this goal by the year 2000, allowing for flexibility due to new designs of ships and specific details of our Naval missions as they evolve to meet new contingencies.

My amendment also calls upon the Secretary of Defense to outline, in detail, the Administration's five-year Naval ship construction and conversion program in accordance with its proposed budget. For Congress to appropriate sufficient funds to achieve our Naval goals, members should be apprised of the details of the Administration's long-range plans.

Under the 1977 Department of Defense Authorization Act, the Administration is required to make available to Congress its Naval plan each year, but thus far, it has not complied. Without such a plan, Congress does not have any real concept of what kind of Navy this Administration is contemplating.

Unmatched Naval forces for the United States are not a luxury. We are a semi-island nation, and most of our principal allies in the NATO alliance all lie across the Atlantic Ocean. We have vital commitments in the Far East, and we are trying to establish a viable Naval presence in the Persian Gulf.

The United States cannot afford to become vulnerable at sea. For the security of America, and of the Free World, we must start now to plan and build new ships and increase our Naval strength to protect us in the year 2000.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Safety in the Mines

The recent rash of mining accidents demonstrates the need for continual efforts to monitor the safety and health conditions of our mines.

In a period of only five days, 24 coal miners died in mining accidents—three killed when a tunnel roof collapsed at Bergoo, West Virginia; eight miners killed in an explosion at Topmost, Kentucky; and 13 miners killed in another explosion near Chattanooga, Tennessee.

As of mid-December, a total of 143 miners had died this year in accidents at their mine sites.

While these tragic accidents were occurring, the Administration sought funding reductions in the inspection program that is designed to protect the safety and health of miners.

In September, the Administration proposed a 12 percent cut in this year's budget for the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). I fought the Administration's proposed cutback and other proposals to slash funds from this

program.

The Senate Appropriations Committee adopted my amendment preserving a \$155 million budget for MSHA in 1982, a modest increase over its \$153 million funding level in 1981.

Due to a second round of Administration budget cuts, however, MSHA's budget was reduced to \$147 million under a temporary funding procedure to operate government agencies through March 31, 1982.

Because this amount represented a \$6 million cut from MSHA's 1981 budget, I offered an amendment on the Senate floor to restore these funds. Unfortunately, it was defeated on a party-line roll-call vote.

It is tragic, indeed shameful, that the safety and health enforcement program for our miners be reduced at a time when our nation is relying more and more on them to provide increased energy supplies.

The safety and health of the several hundred thousands of individuals who labor in our nation's mines must not be sacrificed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Libyan Oil Imports

The possibility that the U.S. will cut off imports of Libyan oil due to that country's support of terrorist activities emphasizes the need for revitalization of our nation's comprehensive energy policy.

Libya is known worldwide as international terrorism's number one supporter—encouraging assassinations, chaos, hijackings, mayhem, and the murder of innocent civilians around the world.

Despite this record of fostering terrorism, the United States continues to receive about 8 percent of its oil imports from Libya—an amount comparable to our Iranian oil imports when the Shah fell.

Unfortunately, the United States today enjoys the flexibility of seriously considering the cut-off of Libyan oil imports *only* because of a current and temporary worldwide oil glut.

Without this unusual abundance of energy supplies, any contemplation of halting Libyan oil imports would be flirting with a possible replay of the U.S. oil shortage of 1979—complete with gasoline lines, transportation paralysis, and widespread economic consequences.

When this oil oversupply vanishes, the U.S. will lose

the option of taking independent action in the foreign policy arena because we lack any ready and abundant petroleum replacements and a sound energy fallback position.

The national energy policy that was supported by the past three Administrations and put into place with bi-partisan backing in the Congress, has been abandoned by the current Administration. Our country is left without any energy insurance—leaving our foreign-policy decisions dependent upon the current state of energy supplies.

Our world actions should not be subject to energy-market flukes and oil-supply caprice. Instead, we should resume progress toward hammering out a comprehensive national energy program.

I urge the current Administration to mount such a revitalized national energy program, to give the United States foreign-policy flexibility by design, and not just by accident.

Until we have such a program, energy will remain our national Achilles' heel, and we will seldom have the luxury of making foreign-policy decisions without considering how they will affect our foreign-oil supplies.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Response To the Polish Crisis

Because the Soviets must be held accountable for their role in the repression of the Polish people, the imposition of economic sanctions against the Soviet Union is a direct and appropriate response from the United States.

I support the sanctions enacted recently by President Reagan against the Soviet Union, which included the suspension of U.S. exports of high technology, and the postponement of U.S.-Soviet negotiations for a long-term grain sale agreement.

The Soviet Union had a hand in imposing martial law in Poland apparently because the uprising of 10 million industrial workers—through the trade-union Solidarity—posed a threat to the doctrines of communism, an ideology that is supposedly dedicated to the cause of the worker.

The repression of human rights in a nation whose people yearn so much for freedom cannot be ignored.

Unfortunately, however, the Administration last spring prematurely lifted the American grain embargo that had been enforced against the Soviets for their brutal invasion of Afghanistan. Although the embargo was removed—and without any quid pro quo from the Soviets—Afghanistan continues under Soviet military control through

the presence of 90,000 Soviet troops there.

Perhaps the Soviet Union would not have acted so hastily in Poland if it had realized that there would be a heavy price to pay—such as banning the sale of badly-needed American grain.

Because of a Soviet food shortage and a poor grain harvest, the grain embargo had an adverse impact on the Soviet economy. The Administration, however, made the mistake of lifting the embargo without getting any assurances from the Soviets that their aggressive behavior would be modified. This time, if only for credibility of the United States, we must make these sanctions stick.

We Americans, who cherish our freedom so dearly, must lend our moral and economic support to the cause of the Polish people, who seek only the right to control their own destiny.

I support and encourage the continued shipment of food and medical supplies, not to the Polish Government but to the Polish people through private organizations.

I hope that these efforts by the United States will help encourage the Soviet Union and the Polish military junta to seek a political solution to this crisis, avoiding further bloodshed and tyranny.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Sound Military Precaution

I commend President Reagan on his decision to maintain military registration for 18-year-old men as a precautionary step that will pay dividends in the event of a national or military emergency.

The mandatory registration of young men adds to our country's military preparedness by providing a pool of readily-available backup manpower.

Although President Reagan made an ill-advised campaign promise to end military registration, I urged him — upon his assuming office — to continue registration and applaud his decision to do so.

At a time when there is a potentially-explosive situation in Poland, and an estimated 90,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan, cancellation of U.S. military registration would send a signal of weakness and lack of resolve on the part of the United States.

I have consistently supported military registration as a sound military precaution to improve our country's state of readiness in a sometimes dangerous and often unpredictable world. The registration of our young men now could save

our nation up to six weeks' time in responding to a national crisis.

Under compulsory registration, all men must register within 30 days of their 18th birthdays. They can comply by filling out a short form at any Post Office or Selective Service Office.

Registration, however, does not imply reactivation of the military draft. Only Congress has the authority to mandate military conscription.

A peacetime draft existed in our nation from 1948 to 1973, during which time young men could be inducted into the military services to augment our volunteer forces. Although the draft ended in 1973, military registration remained in effect until it was suspended by President Ford on April 1, 1975.

President Carter reinstated registration in July 1980—partially in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Our nation must be equipped to mobilize quickly and efficiently in response to a national emergency. We can ill afford to wait until a crisis strikes.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Recharging the Economy

The number one priority facing our nation today is to mobilize our economy and to put people back to work.

Although the rate of inflation has moderated in the last few months, a volume of economic statistics portrays the dismal state of the economy:

—8.9 percent of our workforce now is unemployed, meaning that nine and one-half million people are out of jobs. In addition, the highest percentage of adult men are out of work since World War II;

—high interest rates of 16, 17, and 18 percent are preventing 95 percent of the American people from purchasing homes;

—during the past year, 17,000 small businesses — the most innovative sector and the richest source of jobs in our economy — were forced into bankruptcy; and

—housing starts in 1981 plunged to a 35-year low, with a backlog of more than 300,000 new single-family homes and more than five million previously-occupied homes sitting on the market.

These deplorable conditions—which are taking a severe toll on the lives of Americans across the nation — are the result of the Administration's high-interest rate and tight-money supply policies.

These Administration pol-

icies must be changed; their cost is too high.

First and foremost, the Administration should apply pressure on the Federal Reserve Board to refrain from further tightening of the money supply.

Emergency measures are needed to bring the housing industry — long considered the bellwether of our nation's general economic health — out of its devastating slump.

I oppose the Administration's proposal to slash federal Housing Administration Mortgage Assistance by \$11 billion in 1983. I also believe it would be wrong to phase out the Government National Mortgage Association — known as "Ginnie Mae" — as has been suggested.

Such anti-housing proposals are false economies that will only hurt middle-income and other wage-earning American families. In West Virginia, federal mortgage assistance has made home ownership possible for thousands of veterans, moderate-income people, and rural families.

It is time for some common-sense proposals to recharge our sluggish economy. We need to take steps now so that business can invest in plant modernization, automobile dealers can sell cars, able-bodied people can earn decent wages, and average Americans can buy homes.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sending the Wrong Signal

At a time when millions of Americans are struggling to make ends meet, it is regrettable that Congress approved special tax breaks for living expenses for members of Congress.

I have co-sponsored legislation to repeal the tax deduction because I do not believe Congress should be in the business of voting itself special favors from the Internal Revenue Service.

The legislation, which I opposed, was introduced by Senator Robert Dole and it removes the \$3,000 ceiling on business deductions that members of Congress have been able to take for the past 30 years, and leaves in its stead provisions that greatly increase the amount of allowable tax deductions for members of Congress.

A provision in the legislation directs the Internal Revenue Service to prescribe an appropriate amount of business deductions that can be claimed by members of Congress each day they are in legislative session. These tax breaks are retroactive to tax year 1981.

Rising unemployment and

a high rate of inflation have combined to cause severe economic hardships for many Americans. Rather than seeking special tax breaks, Congress should be in the forefront of the battle to cut wasteful federal spending.

In fiscal year 1981, passage of two of my amendments saved American taxpayers \$115 million in reduced government operating costs. One of my amendments blocked the automatic cost-of-living pay raise for high-level government employees, including members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. My second amendment cut Senate operating funds by 10 percent.

In today's hard economic times, government must recognize the need to curtail costs where it can. The special tax break Congress enacted sends the wrong signal to Americans, and it should be repealed.

Those who write tax legislation should not be exempted from the laws they enact.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

World Coal Trade

The absence of a meaningful coal export policy by the current Administration jeopardizes our nation's trade position and could seriously impair the future of American coal as an international energy resource.

Unfortunately, after more than one year in office, the Administration has failed to endorse policies that would encourage the development of our nation's coal, which is a convenient alternative to foreign oil.

Past initiatives to increase domestic coal production, improve the necessary transportation infrastructure, and establish a political climate that would be reassuring to coal-importing nations have been abandoned. Consequently, all the momentum that had been building toward an articulated and meaningful coal export policy has been lost.

For example, the deepening of America's harbors to allow entry of new colliers of 150,000 tons or more is considered essential for the American coal industry to develop its export market to its full potential. The larger ships are expected to offer a 30-to-50 percent transportation-cost advantage over older, smaller ships, thus making American coal a more economically-attractive source of energy.

The Administration, however, has endorsed legislation that would require port authorities to privately finance 100 percent of the costs of dredging harbors to greater depths, without any

federal government support. Such an approach reflects a complete reversal of policies that have guided waterway development for the last 150 years.

Because port improvements would generate benefits to broad regions of the country, and to the nation's economy as a whole, the federal government has a responsibility to help initiate and complete the deepening of our harbors.

West Virginia is a case in point. Although our state has no deep-water ports, improvements to harbors elsewhere in the country would assist in the transportation of West Virginia coal to export markets. In 1980, West Virginia produced 44.1 million tons of coal for exports—almost 50 percent of all coal exported.

Any increase in West Virginia's coal exports, of course, would translate into additional jobs and added revenue paid in state and local taxes.

Coal now supplies more than 25 percent of the world's energy needs. During the next 20 years, coal will supply one-half to two-thirds of the additional energy required worldwide.

Such expansion of the world coal trade holds great potential for the health of our economy and for our balance of trade. But to take advantage of this potential, the U.S. needs a well-focused and defined government role in coal export policy—one that includes the deepening of our harbors.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

International Terrorism

Despite the recent increase in attacks by terrorist groups against targets in the United States, our nation cannot be held hostage to international terrorism and must be steadfast in its resistance to such illegal acts.

Although it has been more than a year since America's 52 hostages were released from captivity following seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Iran, terrorist attacks against U.S. targets have not abated.

Most recently, Army Lt. Col. Charles Ray, an American military attache stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, was assassinated outside his home. The Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction took credit for the dastardly act.

In December of last year, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James Dozier, deputy commander of the NATO military base at Verona, Italy, was kidnaped by four men from his apartment. The Red Brigades, an ultra-left Italian terrorist group, have claimed responsibility.

According to the most recent CIA study, there were 6,714 terrorist incidents around the world between 1968 and 1980, with 112 terrorist attacks directed against U.S. diplomats in 1980.

The CIA report said international terrorists have tended to strike at targets in industrialized democracies, attacking symbols of Western power. Bombings have been the preferred form of terrorist attack, and assassinations have increased steadily since 1975, with their number having doubled in 1980 over 1979.

Although it is difficult to determine which nations

have lent support to terrorism, the U.S. State Department, some scholars, and journalists claim evidence that the Soviet Union has trained, funded, and equipped terrorist organizations for the purpose of destabilizing the West and the Third World.

Libya, according to the CIA, has lent aid to almost every major international terrorist group, and recently trained five terrorists to assassinate high-ranking American government officials. South Yemen, Iraq, and Syria also have been said to assist terrorist factions.

I support efforts taken by the Administration to quell terrorism, including the State Department's creation of an interdepartmental group on terrorism that focuses on embassy security, contingency planning for dealing with terrorist incidents, and training on hostage survival, bomb recognition, and residential security.

In addition, the U.S. must increase its intelligence efforts to uncover terrorist activities, and foster active cooperation with foreign government law enforcement authorities.

The United States cannot concede to terrorist blackmail. To do so would be weak, and it would only encourage these unfortunate incidents.

The United States clearly must increase its efforts to protect its personnel and citizens from terrorist attacks, and encourage international cooperation to thwart terrorism across the globe. A strong stance against international outlaws is essential for our own national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MAR 3 1982

Support American Steel

During a recent trip to the Northern Panhandle, I heard firsthand of the injury being suffered by our American steel industry as a result of the increasing tonnage of subsidized foreign steel coming into our country.

In Weirton, nearly 3,000 employees of Weirton Steel—almost a quarter of its workforce—have lost their jobs. Nationwide, nearly 76,000 American steelworkers are unemployed.

Recently, I testified before the International Trade Commission in support of limiting foreign steel imports in order to give our domestic steel industry a chance to compete fairly and equally with its subsidized foreign rivals.

The subsidies that foreign governments pay their steel companies—ranging from \$120 per ton in Germany, to an astonishing \$533 per ton in the United Kingdom—give foreign producers an unfair price advantage that distorts our domestic free market.

As foreign steel imports have surged—they now represent 20 percent of our domestic steel market, up from 15 percent just since the spring of 1981—American steel operations have fallen to 55 percent of capacity.

The decline of our steel industry also has had an adverse impact on our metallurgical-coal producing mines. Because metallurgical coal is essential to steel production, the downturn in the industry has resulted in the closing of mines and a loss of jobs.

Excessive foreign steel imports not only hurt American steelworkers, coal miners and their families, but they also threaten our national security efforts.

Already, the United States is the only major country in the world that cannot produce enough steel to meet its maximum annual demands. If we give up increasingly larger portions of our domestic steel market to foreign suppliers, we face the possibility of being unable to make up the lost tonnage in the event of a national emergency.

The time is long overdue to stop helping foreign steel companies and foreign steelworkers by allowing their subsidized steel to flood into our country in ever-increasing amounts.

Once and for all, let us give American steel a fair break, and let us give our steelworkers and coal miners a chance to show the kind of job they can do in a fair market.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Repaying Our Veterans

Our nation is indebted to the millions of American veterans who have risked their lives in the defense of our country.

We have sought to repay that debt by providing benefits to those veterans who have so ably served. Though some of the benefits are small in monetary value, they are an important way of reminding veterans that our country has not forgotten them.

One modest benefit that traditionally has been available to all honorably discharged, war-time veterans is the burial allowance. Though the \$300 benefit often does not cover all funeral expenses, for indigent veterans it can be the difference between a dignified burial and a pauper's grave.

Last year, nearly 361,500 veterans received the burial allowance, including more than 3,200 in the State of West Virginia. A change in eligibility requirements enacted as a cost-saving measure, however, has greatly decreased the number of veterans who can qualify for the benefit. Under the new rules, which went into effect on October 1, 1981, only veterans who are receiving, or are eligible to receive, VA pensions can

qualify for the allowance.

The reduction of the burial benefit was a misguided effort to achieve small cost-savings, and I have co-sponsored legislation to restore it for all honorably discharged veterans who have served our country during war-time, including the Korean and Viet Nam conflicts.

The small savings realized by changing the eligibility requirements is not ample justification for renegeing on a promise and stripping away a decent burial for many of our veterans.

It is a national disgrace that the bodies of dozens of indigent veterans have accumulated in the nation's morgues for lack of adequate burial funds. These veterans should not be denied the dignity of a proper burial simply because they were not collecting a VA pension, and state and local governments should not be forced to foot the financial burden of burial.

The denial of burial benefits to an estimated two-thirds of our veterans is an injustice to the men and women who have served our country. The burial allowance should be fully restored at once.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Key to Recovery

A healthy, prosperous national housing industry is crucial if we are to achieve any sustained economic recovery program.

Between 25 and 35 percent of our gross national product can be attributed to the housing-related industry, and millions of Americans work in housing-related jobs.

Unfortunately, our housing industry is suffering from a severe state of depression — the worst we have seen in more than 35 years. Last year, the poor showing of the industry cost our country 2.1 million jobs and \$108 billion in lost output.

The Administration has responded to this housing depression by proposing a 112 percent cut in fiscal 1983 federal housing assistance.

We cannot afford to abandon our housing industry and our homeowners at this crucial hour, and I have urged my Senate colleagues to join with me in opposing any further cuts in our federal housing programs.

Money spent on housing is productive to our economy. It builds capital investment, and it puts Americans back to work.

The Administration has proposed drastic cuts for and eventual elimination of Ginnie Mae — the Government National Mortgage Association — which buys nearly three-quarters of the

mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the Veterans Administration (VA).

To put this into perspective, during the 1980 recession FHA and VA loans financed 22 percent of all new homes built or sold. Since 1934, more than 27 million Americans have used these programs. Without Ginnie Mae, the FHA and VA housing programs would be crippled and destroyed.

Nearly 95 percent of American families cannot afford to purchase an average-priced home, and last year, housing starts hit their lowest level since World War II, with only 4.7 starts for every 1,000 people. In West Virginia, the number of housing units constructed during 1981 fell to 3,000, from a high in 1978 of 9,500. This is a drop of nearly 69 percent.

If these trends continue, the American dream of home ownership will never be realized by most of the 41 million Americans who will turn 30 during the next decade and who do not own a home.

If our nation's housing effort is abandoned now, it will cost our country dearly. Not only will we leave our housing industry, our homeowners, and our potential homeowners without a future, but we will also be running the risk of breaking the back of our entire economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Watchdog for Defense

It is my strong belief that we must increase our country's defense capabilities.

I have an equally strong belief, however, that our current economic difficulties dictate that every federal dollar spent—including our defense dollars—must be spent wisely.

There is no room for waste in our federal budget—especially when we consider that additional cuts must be made in the non-defense portions of the budget and record deficits must be pared—and the Pentagon must not be considered sacrosanct.

One method of ferreting out possible waste and mismanagement in the Pentagon is to create an independent inspector general for that department, and I have recently co-sponsored legislation to create such a position.

Most federal agencies and departments have an independent inspector general to monitor spending and to insure that funds are being properly used.

With the large portion of the federal budget that is allocated to our defense effort, it does not make sense that the Pentagon does not have this essential watchdog.

A truly independent inspector general, with sufficient power to monitor, audit, evaluate, and review our massive defense appropriations, would be a valuable contribution to our defense effort.

A strong national defense posture is our country's best guarantee of maintaining peace.

Congressional approval last year of the largest defense budget in our history, and the Administration's proposal this year that we again increase defense spending—to approximately a quarter of a trillion dollars—is a clear indication that the challenge posed by the Soviet defense build-up will not go unmet.

Our current defense budget addresses certain important aspects of our strategic posture that have been neglected too long, such as conventional weapons systems and maritime supremacy.

But cost overruns have become a fact of life for the Pentagon, and an inspector general for that agency would give us the tool we need to make certain our defense dollars are being spent in the most cost-effective manner.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Developing Economic Alternatives

The deplorable state of our nation's economy makes it imperative that Congress search for economic alternatives and develop a comprehensive proposal for national recovery.

To achieve these objectives, I recently formed a task force of 18 U.S. Senators—which I chair—and we have been developing budget alternatives to improve our current economic difficulties.

We have made some preliminary recommendations to the Administration—recommendations that could save \$100 billion—and we have pledged our cooperation in working with the Administration to break our current budget deadlock and develop a viable economic alternative.

We have asked the Administration to carefully scrutinize the federal budget—including the Pentagon budget—for possible waste, fraud, and abuse. We have also asked the Administration to consider deferring the third year of the Kemp-Roth personal tax cut and tax indexing, and modifying the leasing provisions of the 1981 tax cut.

I believe our current budget

difficulties can be attributed to the clash of large budget deficits and tight-money policies, which have driven up interest rates and prevented businesses from expanding and adding new jobs.

The goal of my task force will be to develop economic alternatives that would bring down interest rates, assist the slumping housing market, and cut back unacceptable budget deficits in order to achieve our first priority—putting Americans back to work.

Our national unemployment rate now stands at 8.8 percent, which means that more than 9.5 million American workers are without jobs. In West Virginia, our unemployment rate is 13 percent—the fourth highest in the nation, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This is an unacceptable situation. If we are going to make any headway with our current economic problems, we are going to have to invest in our human capital and make certain that American workers are on their jobs once again and that American businesses are again thriving.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Discussion With the President

President Reagan came to my office recently to discuss our country's critical economic problems, and I expressed to him my deep concern that West Virginians were being particularly hard-hit.

I told the President that I had been travelling extensively throughout West Virginia, and that I had seen the serious impact of our economic downturn.

I said I was especially concerned about the severe unemployment in West Virginia, which has reached 13 percent according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The President listened as I described my recent visits to West Virginia steel companies, and I told him of the critical situation at Weirton Steel, where nearly a quarter of that company's workforce has been laid off.

The President agreed with my request that he meet with a group from Weirton Steel to discuss that company's financial difficulties, and a preliminary meeting was held recently at the White House with Weirton Steel representatives and one of the President's assistants.

I also expressed my very deep concern to the President that our nation is facing a political deadlock on the economy. I told him we have only one economy in our country—not Republican or Democratic, but an American economy.

The President received my assurance that Congress stands

ready to give his proposals responsible consideration—and to develop alternative proposals—in an effort to forge a program that can help put this nation back on the road to economic recovery.

Following my visit with the President, I wrote him a letter, unanimously agreed to by the Senate Democratic Conference, about our disturbing budget outlook.

I pointed out that unless swift and effective action is taken to reduce our budget deficits, we will face continued recession, high unemployment, record business failures, and the possible collapse of our housing industry.

I asked the President to consider the following four proposals in searching for a viable economic alternative:

- Scrutinize all parts of the federal budget, including the Pentagon budget, to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse, to improve management, and to explore all areas of potential savings;
- Consider deferring the third year of the 1981 Kemp-Roth personal tax cut;
- Consider deferring indexing of the tax code;
- Consider significantly modifying the leasing provision of the 1981 tax cut and closing other tax loopholes.

In short, I told the President we want to work together to make an immediate mid-course correction in our economic plan in order to restore a healthy national economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Conversation With Volcker

Recently, I spent an hour in my office with Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker discussing the devastating effect our high interest rates are having on West Virginia and the nation.

The Federal Reserve Board has been pursuing a tight-money policy, which means it has been restricting the supply of money available to businesses and consumers. When the money supply is restricted, lending institutions can charge higher interest rates to those individuals and businesses who want to borrow money.

I told Mr. Volcker that these high interest rates—and the havoc they wreak on our economy—have contributed to West Virginia's deplorable unemployment rate. At 13 percent, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, we have the fourth highest unemployment rate in the nation.

I pointed out to Mr. Volcker that mortgage interest rates of 17 percent or more have made homeownership an impossibility for many young West Virginians, who cannot afford the large monthly payments that accompany high interest rates.

I told Mr. Volcker about the serious impact that high interest rates were having on West Virginia's businesses. In my recent trips across West Virginia, I have seen job losses and operation cutbacks in many communities such as Fairmont, Ravenswood, Clarksburg, and Weirton.

The impact of high interest rates on businesses has been felt across America. Nationwide, 50 percent more businesses have gone bankrupt so far this year than during a comparable period in 1981, and 134 percent higher than during the same period in 1980.

High interest rates have also sent the automobile industry into a tailspin. Many potential buyers have been discouraged from purchasing new automobiles, and as a result sales nationwide plunged nearly 32 percent—even with rebates offered by the five U.S. automakers—during the first ten days in March from what they had been during the same period in 1981.

In my discussion with Mr. Volcker, I was encouraged that he is of the opinion that Congress is on the right track in attempting to work with the Administration to find solutions to our current economic difficulties.

It was my hope that Mr. Volcker would indicate that the Federal Reserve intended to ease its tight-money policies, but instead he said that these policies will continue under current circumstances.

However, I believe that given the right fiscal policies, coupled with pressure from the Administration, the Federal Reserve Board might be persuaded to ease its tight-money policies and interest rates might then fall to acceptable levels.

That is what we in Congress will be working toward.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fair Trade: A Two-Way Street

The time has come when Americans will no longer tolerate unfair foreign trade practices and foreign subsidies that put our workers out of jobs and our industries at a competitive disadvantage.

That is why I have introduced trade legislation in the United States Senate designed to protect American jobs and help American industry.

West Virginians are particularly aware of the injury caused by unfair foreign trade practices.

In Weirton alone, more than 2,600 steelworkers have been laid off their jobs because of the decline in the American steel industry—a decline that can be traced to the steadily increasing flow of subsidized foreign steel imports coming into our country.

As foreign imports are growing, our own exports are shrinking because of unfair foreign practices and trade barriers that have restricted American access to foreign markets.

This rising tide of export imbalance must be stemmed. I believe the way to do that is to open up foreign markets to U.S. products on a fair and equal basis, and to end unfair foreign competition here at home.

That is the thrust of my trade legislation.

Right now, we have no mandatory mechanism in place to deal with unfair foreign trading practices.

My legislation would provide this mandatory mechanism by requiring the U.S. Trade Representative to submit to the President—within six months of enactment of the legislation—a study of the trading practices of each major U.S. trading partner. This would be a study repeated annually.

Within 60 days after receiving the study, the President would be required to submit it to Congress, along with a proposal for actions that could be taken to counter any unfair trade practices discovered.

The President would also be required to inform any offending trading partner of action that might be taken against it.

After Congress received the study and the President's proposed actions, it would have 60 days in which to report a joint resolution stipulating action the President would take to counter the offending government's unfair trading practices.

Trade is a two-way street, and if other nations expect to sell their products here, they must let us compete fairly in their markets. Our trading partners must know that we demand, and are willing to enforce, equal access to foreign markets.

I believe my legislation is an approach that would promote a healthy world trading system, and one that would protect American industry and the jobs of American workers.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Protection of Social Security

For many older Americans, our nation's Social Security system has meant the difference between a dignified retirement and one of destitution.

Millions of Americans depend on their Social Security checks as the sole means of providing for food, shelter, and clothing.

Since Social Security's beginnings in the 1930's, our government has had a commitment to retired Americans and to those who contribute to the system to protect its integrity.

That commitment is as important today as it has been over the past five decades.

But a great number of older Americans have been frightened recently by the assertions of some public officials that budget savings can be realized by cutting Social Security benefits, or by eliminating certain Social Security programs altogether.

We must move toward decreasing our budget deficits and achieving a balanced federal budget, and there are certain areas of the budget that justifiably can be cut to help achieve these goals.

Social Security, however, is not one of those areas. We must not balance the budget by pulling the rug out from under our senior citizens.

One such attempt last year—to eliminate the Social Security minimum benefit—would have affected 3 million Americans who depended in part or in full on the small monthly allotment. For many of those people, the minimum Social Security benefit is the only thing keeping them off the welfare rolls.

I fought against ending those minimum payments, and we were successful in restoring them.

I was also successful, at the end of the first session of the 97th Congress, in securing unanimous approval of a resolution in opposition to the federal taxation of Social Security benefits, another cost-cutting option that had been discussed by the Administration.

This year, I will continue to oppose any efforts to achieve budget savings by cutting Social Security benefits, including any cuts in the cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security retirees.

Congress must not allow the federal budget to be balanced at the expense of those who have contributed to the Social Security system in the expectation that benefits would be there for them when they retired.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Housing Industry Safety Net

The American housing industry and our homeowners are in desperate need of a "safety net" to rescue them from economic disaster.

I have appointed a working group of Senate colleagues to craft such a "safety net" for our housing industry.

By any yardstick, we are in a housing industry emergency.

In 1981, new private home starts and new single-family home sales dropped to the lowest yearly totals on record. More than 5 million previously occupied houses are standing on the market unsold.

Millions of people in the housing industry and in industries tied to housing—such as carpeting, appliances, lumber, furniture, textiles, and so forth—are out of work or threatened with unemployment.

The lives of millions of other Americans are being disrupted because they cannot sell their current homes, cannot move their families to new job locations, and could not afford to buy another house in a new location in any case.

For these Americans who depend—in one way or another—on the housing industry, we must offer hope that the industry can and will be rescued from its abysmal decline.

The plan that my Senate Housing Task Force and I have developed could create an estimated 867,000 jobs, could provide for the construction of an estimated 600,000 new homes, and could help 100,000 Americans stave off

foreclosure on their home or farm mortgages.

It has several basic provisions.

First, it would provide federal mortgage assistance to moderate income homebuyers by offering mortgages at four percentage points below the going Federal Housing Administration (FHA) rate.

This could save the average homebuyer several hundred dollars a month, enough to allow many people to qualify for loans who could not now do so. The government would recover its investment when the homeowners sold their homes or refinanced them.

Our plan would also offer downpayment *loans* of up to \$5,000 for first-time homebuyers, provided the prospective purchaser could match the loan with equal funds.

Our proposal would help prevent loan defaults by homeowners who have been thrown out of work. *Repayable loans* equal to 21 monthly mortgage payments would be available to those facing foreclosure because of involuntary unemployment.

Finally, our proposal would help people facing default on mortgages of family-owned farms by deferring monthly payments and placing a moratorium on foreclosure.

A plan of this nature would offer a much-needed "safety net" to the millions of Americans whose lives are affected by the current decline of our housing industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Employee Ownership: Hope For American Industry

At a time when many of our nation's companies are being forced to lay-off employees or shut down altogether, the growing number of successful employee-owned companies is offering hope that American industries can survive our hard economic times.

Nationwide, nearly 5,000 businesses are operating under some type of employee ownership, which has proved to be an attractive alternative to company closings and massive job losses.

Take the situation at Weirton Steel, for example.

Faced with the possibility that the Weirton Steel facility would have to close entirely, the employees and management of the company have elected to try to buy the plant, using an employee stock ownership plan (ESOP).

Over the past decade, Congress has enacted more than a dozen different pieces of legislation to encourage the use of ESOP's. Such a plan allows a corporation's employees to receive shares of the company's stock without requiring them to put up their own money for it.

A number of studies have shown that companies with employee ownership tend to be more productive and profitable—the result, no doubt, of giving the employees a bigger stake in the company's success and a larger share of the profits.

In New Jersey, for instance, a General Motors ball-bearing plant was purchased by its employees last year using an ESOP, and the company reports its productivity has increased by 80 percent. The employee takeover saved the

jobs of more than 900 workers.

Similar employee ownership successes have been achieved by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, the Denver Yellow Cab Company, and E Systems, a large Dallas company, to name a few.

If Weirton Steel's ESOP is successful—and I am hopeful that it will be—it will be the nation's largest worker takeover.

In several meetings I have had with the Weirton Steel labor and management group—both in Weirton and in Washington—I have been impressed by its resolve to set up a successful ESOP.

The Senate Finance Committee's employee stock ownership expert, who at my request recently travelled to Weirton to meet with and advise the group, has told me that he believes the Weirton plan has a reasonable chance of success.

I have introduced legislation to stretch out the time period in which the company must comply with the Clean Air Act, which has been one of Weirton Steel's stumbling blocks, and I have advised the Weirton group that I stand ready to assist in any other way that might help them achieve their goal.

A successful employee takeover of Weirton Steel would be tremendously beneficial to the Weirton employees, the community in which they live, and the entire surrounding area.

In a larger sense, it would offer further encouragement to workers and industries nationwide that employee ownership is a viable method of preventing business failures and job losses.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Voluntary School Prayer

President Reagan—in recently proposing a constitutional amendment to permit voluntary prayer in our public schools—has joined the fight to provide our school children with a few minutes each day for quiet meditation.

I believe our children deserve the opportunity to take a moment for spiritual reflection in their school day if they so desire.

Unfortunately, a series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions in the 1960's have prompted considerable controversy surrounding this issue.

Our nation's founding fathers, who readily acknowledged the role of religion in the birth of our country, wrote in our Constitution's First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. . . ."

Their purpose was to encourage the unfettered growth of religious faith without allowing one particular religious group to use the power of the state to gain special advantages.

With that understanding in mind, I have consistently supported legislation to permit voluntary school prayer, and I have several times co-sponsored or supported constitutional amendments for that purpose.

As recently as last year, for instance, I voted to include language in the 1982 Justice Department Appropriation bill that would have prohibited the use of federal funds to prevent voluntary prayer in public schools. Though the legislation was approved by the Senate, it did not receive final Congressional approval.

Prior to that, in 1979, the Senate approved my amendment which, in essence, reflected support of voluntary prayer in public schools. The legislation failed to receive House approval.

President Reagan's statements on school prayer demonstrate his understanding of the importance of allowing our public school children the option of taking time for private prayer or for personal reflection.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help For Small Business

"I want to build homes for West Virginians and to continue to help replace our state's severely substandard housing stock. But I can't afford to build them, and our people cannot afford to buy them.

"...small business men and women throughout this country are being hammered into the ground by a national policy of high interest rates, tight money, and curing inflation through unemployment...."

That was the message a West Virginia businessman carried to Washington recently when he testified, at my request, before the Senate Democratic Task Force on Small Business Recovery.

The West Virginian, a Barbour County home-builder, was one of several small business people who testified before the Task Force, which I set up recently to explore the problems of our nation's small businesses and to develop policies to help them.

He is correct in his observations about small business, and I have heard similar sentiments from many West Virginia business owners.

To give our state's business community more formal input into the development of federal policies, I have asked the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce to set up a group of state business people to provide me with information on West Virginia's economic climate on a regular basis.

Small business has

long been considered the backbone of our economy. An estimated 77 percent of all American businesses are owned by single individuals or by families.

According to the Small Business Administration, nearly one of every two American non-government workers is employed by small business, and these small businesses account for nearly 38 percent of our gross national product.

But our small businesses have been crippled by chronic high interest rates, sagging consumer demand, and a deepening recession, all factors over which they have little or no control.

In past recessions -- when small businesses suffered from decreased sales and lower profits -- at least lower interest rates provided some relief.

But that is not happening in our current recession.

Instead, high interest rates have persisted, causing record numbers of business failures. During the first week of May alone, 530 businesses failed in the U.S., the highest weekly total in 40 years. Almost half of these were small businesses.

Clearly, relief from high interest rates for our nation's foundering small businesses must be forthcoming, and my Senate Task Force will continue working to restore small business to its historic place as America's most productive, most vibrant, and most innovative economic sector.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Looking Toward The Energy Future

The development and use of our domestic coal, oil, and gas means jobs for West Virginians and energy security for America.

That is why I recently co-sponsored a Senate resolution supporting the continued adequate funding of our government's research and development of new fossil fuels technology.

The Administration has proposed an unwise and ill-advised reduction in the fiscal 1983 fossil energy program, a reduction that would represent a precipitous 91 percent cut from the fiscal 1981 funding levels.

My resolution -- which is based on my strong belief that fossil fuels development is essential to our energy future and therefore must be adequately funded -- calls for 1983 spending levels of no less than 1982 levels.

As we West Virginians know, coal is one of our country's most abundant and important natural resources, representing more than 80 percent of our domestic energy reserves. While coal presently supplies about 20 percent of our total energy consumption, in 40 years that is expected to increase to more than 50 percent.

The aggressive development of our domestic coal reserves and other domestic energy and of methods of using this energy cleanly and efficiently is one of our best hopes of escaping the stranglehold of the unstable and unreliable Oil Pro-

ducing Exporting Countries (OPEC) and achieving energy independence.

With this in mind, I have consistently worked to further the government's fossil energy research effort and to expand West Virginia's role in coal, oil, and gas development.

More than two decades ago, for instance, I co-sponsored legislation that created an Office of Coal Research in the Department of the Interior.

The functions of this office were assumed by the Department of Energy in 1979, when I was successful in my effort to create an Assistant Secretary of Energy for Fossil Fuels. The first person to serve in that capacity was a West Virginian I recommended, George Fumich, who now serves as Dean of the College of Mineral and Energy Resources at West Virginia University.

But the steady progress that has been made in our fossil energy program over the years has been threatened by the Administration's proposed cuts.

We should be expanding these programs, not cutting them, especially in light of the private sector's inability to actively pursue costly fossil energy research -- the result, I believe, of our high interest rates and the present plentiful supply of oil.

To abandon our federal fossil fuels effort now would not be good for West Virginia, and it would not be in the best interests of America.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Saving Social Security

West Virginia's older citizens should not be made to bear the burden of cutting our record budget deficits.

That is what could have happened, though, had the Senate approved the Senate Budget Committee's recent recommendation to cut \$40 billion from the social security program over the next three years.

I fought against that ill-conceived "cost-saving" measure by introducing an amendment in the U.S. Senate to block the imposition of the arbitrary and unspecified cuts.

Though my amendment was narrowly defeated, 53 to 45, eventually the majority of the Senate adopted my way of thinking, and the social security cuts were deleted from the fiscal 1983 budget resolution.

During the Senate debate on the proposed cuts, the argument was made that the cuts were necessary to protect the solvency of the social security system.

In fact, there has been considerable discussion in recent years on the health of social security, and a Presidential Commission is

working now to develop recommendations to protect the system's future integrity.

Certainly, we should not be talking about taking \$40 billion out of the pockets of many of the people who can least afford it.

The proposed social security cuts would have been grossly unfair to our older citizens, many of whom depend on the system as their sole means of support.

I agree that our burgeoning budget deficits must be brought under control.

But this must not be done at the expense of the social security program, the medicare program, and other important programs that are necessary to the well-being of West Virginia's retired and elderly population.

I am committed to preserving the social security system, which is so important to older West Virginians, but I do not believe we should be considering any changes to the system until the President's commission presents its recommendations later on this year.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

"No" To New Taxes

Recently, I voted against the Senate Budget Committee's fiscal 1983 budget resolution because it contains \$108 billion in new taxes.

These are taxes that could hurt West Virginians.

The budget proposal could mean that West Virginians would have to pay taxes on their social security benefits, veterans benefits, railroad retirement benefits, workmen's compensation benefits, and black lung payments.

It could mean that our state's coal, oil, and gas industries would have to pay taxes that could hurt their businesses and that could threaten West Virginia jobs and raise the cost of consumer's utility bills.

This proposal could increase the burden of families struck by catastrophic illnesses by denying them tax relief for their overwhelming medical expenses.

And this same budget proposal would make \$18 billion in cuts in the medicare programs for our senior citizens.

In short, these taxes would come out of the pockets of middle and lower income taxpayers,

from our working people, our small business people, our farmers, our retirees -- the very people who are already shouldering an unfair portion of the tax burden.

West Virginians are taxed too much already.

Not only does the Senate budget resolution call for new taxes, but it also would leave us with unacceptably large budget deficits.

The contemplated deficit for fiscal 1983 is \$116 billion -- a figure I believe is an underestimate. The Senate budget resolution projects a \$92 billion deficit in fiscal 1984, and a \$65 billion deficit in fiscal 1985.

The proposal also calls for tremendous public debt levels -- \$1.3 trillion in fiscal 1983, \$1.4 trillion in fiscal 1984, and \$1.5 trillion in fiscal 1985.

Congress should not be voting for record budget deficits, nor should it be seeking to raise taxes in the middle of a recession.

Moreover, it should not be seeking to place those taxes on millions of hard-working Americans who are already suffering because of that recession.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Sound Ruling

Foreign governments are unfairly subsidizing their steel industries.

For months now, I have been telling federal officials that fact, and I have been telling them that these subsidies are costing the jobs of West Virginians and damaging our state's steel producers.

Recently, the Commerce Department issued a preliminary ruling that nine foreign countries are, indeed, unfairly subsidizing their steel industries.

Included in this ruling -- reached after nearly six months of investigating the claims of some of our major steelmakers that unfair subsidization was taking place -- were West Germany, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and South Africa.

I applaud the Commerce Department's action, which confirms what I have been saying all along.

Back in February, I went before the International Trade Commission and described the effect of these unfair foreign subsidies on West Virginia.

I told the Commission about the hundreds of Weirton Steel employees who have been laid off their jobs. I described the rippling effect that these unfair foreign imports have had on West Virginia's steel-sensitive metallurgical coal producing mines, and

how some of our miners were being idled.

Later, I introduced trade legislation in the U.S. Senate that is designed to prevent the type of unfair subsidization that is wreaking havoc on our domestic steel and coal industries.

Though the Commerce Department ruling is only preliminary, with a final determination expected by October 8, it will require importers of covered products to immediately post a cash deposit or bond equal to the estimated subsidy.

If the final determination upholds the preliminary findings, duties on foreign subsidized steel would then be imposed, thereby partially offsetting the advantage that foreign steel producers enjoy over our domestic producers.

I commend the Commerce Department for its ruling, although I believe the subsidies that foreign producers are enjoying are higher than those determined by the Commerce Department.

The ruling is a step in the right direction for West Virginia's steelworkers and producers.

It is well past time that these unfair trading practices by foreign governments -- which have hurt West Virginians -- were stopped, and I will continue to do all I can to protect West Virginia industries and West Virginia jobs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Jobs For Our Graduates

In 1968, an Academy-award-winning movie called The Graduate appeared.

In a memorable scene, the movie's young hero is drawn aside and given a word of advice: "plastics" -- meaning that plastics was the field in which the graduate should look for work in 1968.

Just as plastics may have been where jobs were in the 1960's, graduates today might get words of advice like "computers", "energy", or "telecommunications."

Labor economists and Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics officials, who have been studying the future of the American job market, predict that technical training in these areas -- and particularly in computers -- might offer the most promising futures for the graduates of 1980's.

With national unemployment at 9.5 percent, West Virginia's high school and college graduates are facing an uncertain -- but not hopeless -- employment picture.

That is why it is so important for young West Virginians to take a close look at where the jobs will be in the future.

This spring, I was honored to address two West Virginia high school graduations -- Mullins High School in Wyoming County and Union High School in Grant County.

I talked with the students about their plans for the future, and I related to them the wisdom of Ralph Waldo Emerson, who said, "Make yourself necessary to somebody."

What does "necessary" mean for the graduates of the 1980's?

With our rapid technological advances, workers with technical skills -- in electronics, computers, engineering, mathematics, chemistry, and so forth -- will be needed in ever-increasing numbers.

Take computers, for example. In 1978, there were an estimated 600,000 computers in the United States. That is expected to increase to nearly 1.6 million by 1983, as computers become more affordable and as smaller companies turn to computerization.

This increase will open up hundreds of thousands of jobs for technicians to install and maintain the equipment and for operators to run it.

Energy is another dynamic and promising field that will demand more and more people with technical skills as we continue developing our domestic coal, oil, and gas.

And highly technical skills will be needed for our telecommunications and aerospace industries, both of which are rapidly expanding.

In fact, technological developments, in this decade and beyond, could mean that in most fields of employment -- medical services and health care, education, business, industry, law, government, and so on -- some measure of technical or computer training will be helpful to the graduates of the 80's.

I hope that West Virginia's leaders of tomorrow will take a close look at future job trends before making their all-important career decisions.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Welcome Repeal

The Senate and House of Representatives have both acted recently to repeal the special congressional tax break.

That is fair and appropriate.

The special tax deduction -- attached to the black lung bill that was passed by Congress last December -- was an ill-conceived notion in the first place.

I voted against it originally.

In fact, I forced two roll-call votes in the Senate on the congressional tax deduction to make certain that senators were clearly on record on the issue.

I also became a co-sponsor of legislation -- back in January -- to eliminate the special tax break.

And I have voted several times since December to repeal it.

In addition, I voted recently for a provision -- which unfortunately was not approved -- that would have required members of Congress to publicly dis-

close their income tax returns.

Members of Congress should not expect special consideration from the Internal Revenue Service.

According to IRS regulations written on the congressional tax deduction, the old \$3,000 ceiling on deductions member of Congress could take on living expenses was replaced with provisions that substantially increased the amount of allowable deductions.

A repeal of these special tax provisions will mean that members of Congress will return to the \$3,000 ceiling.

Americans have made it very clear that Congress should not be voting itself special favors from the IRS.

I agree with them.

The repeal of the special congressional tax break was a welcome action for many of us who have fought for months to eliminate that unfair provision.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Jobs For Senior Citizens

Hundreds of West Virginians have written to me about the importance of continuing the community service jobs program for older Americans.

Many of them have told me that these part-time jobs provide a much-needed income supplement. Others have said that their community service jobs give them an added measure of self-sufficiency and dignity.

I wholeheartedly support their contentions.

The community service jobs program must continue.

Several weeks ago, I introduced a resolution in the United States Senate -- which was recently approved by an overwhelming 89 to 6 vote -- to oppose the weakening or termination of this jobs program for our senior citizens.

My resolution was in response to the Administration's proposal -- made earlier this year -- to eliminate the senior jobs program, an action taken despite the fact that Congress voted in December to continue the program for another three years.

The community service jobs program provides more than 54,000 part-time jobs to low-income senior citizens across the country, including hundreds of West Virginians.

A majority of these

minimum-wage jobs go to elderly women, and most of the participants provide vital community services in public hospitals, day care centers, libraries, and senior citizen centers.

If we were to allow the senior jobs program to be eliminated -- as some have suggested -- thousands of our working older Americans would be forced from their jobs and many would have to turn to welfare or food stamps to survive.

The expense of that would more than offset any budget savings realized by cancelling the senior jobs program.

But I think the outpouring of letters and concern from senior citizens in all parts of West Virginia best expresses the compelling reasons for continuing the program.

I heard from a senior citizen in southern West Virginia, for example, who told me that if it were not for his part-time, community service job, he and his wife would not be able to make ends meet.

And a woman in central West Virginia told me her job gave her the chance to provide for herself, instead of turning to welfare.

For people such as these, the community service jobs program means independence and survival, and I will work to see that it continues.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Bus Must Stop Here

Significant deregulation of our bus industry -- as called for in legislation that was recently approved by the Senate -- could have a severe impact on small towns and communities in West Virginia.

I voted against that legislation, and I have urged President Reagan to veto it when it reaches his desk.

The bus deregulation bill would make it easier for bus companies to cut back or drop routes in small towns.

In many of West Virginia's mining and farming communities, bus service is the only mode of public transportation.

If that service were eliminated, communities would be isolated, and residents -- especially the elderly and those with no access to private transportation -- could find it difficult to get around.

The House has passed a somewhat similar deregulation bill, and differences in the bill will be ironed out before it is sent to the White House for approval.

Some supporters of the bill have tried to give assurances that bus deregulation would not hurt people in small or rural communities.

But because other attempts at transportation deregulation -- notably in

the areas of trucking and airlines -- have not worked well for West Virginia and other small states, this is not a persuasive argument.

Trucking deregulation, for example, has forced many large and small trucklines trying to operate on some of West Virginia's routes to declare bankruptcy. In fact, only two of the major trucklines that serve West Virginia or nearby states have sustained healthy operating ratios.

Prior to the Senate vote on the measure, I received a letter from the chairman of West Virginia's Public Service Commission, who described to me the probable impact of bus deregulation on West Virginia.

He named 39 communities in West Virginia that could be left without point-to-point bus service should the legislation be enacted into law.

And he observed that "this is but a fraction of those communities which would be subject to a loss of bus service if this legislation is passed."

I relayed these observations to President Reagan when I asked that he veto the measure.

The bus deregulation bill is not in the best interests of West Virginians, and I hope the President will see the wisdom in vetoing it.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Ill-Advised Tax Increase

When the Senate recently approved a bill to raise taxes by \$98.5 billion over the next three years, I voted against it.

This proposed tax increase is wrong any way you look at it.

It is wrong to raise taxes in the middle of a recession.

It is wrong to tax the very people who are already suffering because of high taxes and the poor performance of our economy.

I voted against raising taxes on West Virginians.

Our small businessmen, our farmers, our senior citizens, our working middle - and lower-income taxpayers have already paid an unfair share of the country's tax burden.

This ill-advised tax increase -- if it is enacted into law -- would be the largest tax hike in our peacetime history.

It will now be considered by the House of Representatives.

Among other things, the Senate bill would:

-- provide for withholding tax on interest and dividends;

-- triple the federal tax on telephone service;

-- double the federal tax on cigarettes;

-- increase the tax on airline tickets;

-- increase the unemployment insurance tax, which would increase the cost of hiring workers at a time when unemployment stands at post-war record highs, and which would place an added burden on businesses and consumers;

-- and increase the cost of health care for our senior citizens.

During Senate consideration of the tax bill, I co-sponsored an amendment that we called the "fairness amendment." Unfortunately, it was narrowly defeated.

The "fairness amendment" would have eliminated some of the most unfair provisions of the tax bill for our lower - and middle - income taxpayers -- such as the provisions I have listed above -- and would have offset them by deferring the third year of the Kemp/Roth tax cut for all taxpayers who earn more than \$78,000 a year until the budget is balanced.

Taxpayers earning \$46,500 or less would have received the full ten percent tax cut, while those taxpayers with incomes between \$46,500 and \$78,000 would have received a graduated portion of the tax cut.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Time For Caution

The United States must act with extreme caution with respect to the current situation in Lebanon.

I made this point to President Reagan recently during a White House meeting in which other congressional leaders and I were briefed on the fighting in that country.

The President called us to the White House to discuss the conditions under which U.S. troops might be sent to Lebanon.

He said he would consider sending troops only under the following conditions:

--if Lebanon made a formal request to our government that U.S. Marines be sent to that country as part of a multinational force to evacuate the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) from Lebanon;

--and if all parties involved -- including Lebanon, Israel, Syria, and the PLO -- guaranteed that U.S. forces would have no hostilities directed at them.

I told the President that my support for sending troops to Lebanon could come only under certain limited conditions, including:

--the two provisions set forth by the President stated above;

--that only a very limited number of Americans could be sent for only a very brief time -- if at all -- and only for

the very limited purpose of facilitating the exodus of the PLO from Lebanon;

--that other nations -- such as France -- would have to agree to participate with the U.S. troops;

--and that such use of U.S. troops be authorized under the provision of the War Powers Act that limits the use of troops to no more than 60 days, unless specifically authorized by law to extend such period no more than an additional 30 days, and which specifically authorizes Congress to withdraw such troops at any time within the 60-day time period.

Since the Lebanese Civil War of 1975-76, Lebanon has not existed as a free and sovereign nation. In fact, instability has reigned in the region since then, complicated by the presence of the PLO, Christian and Moslem enclaves, and a Syrian military occupation of some 40,000 troops.

I believe if the PLO were gotten out of Lebanon, and the Syrians would withdraw, then the Israelis would withdraw, and Lebanon could once again be for the Lebanese to enjoy peace.

It is in our interests that there be peace in the Middle East. But it is also essential that we proceed with great caution relative to the current strife in Lebanon.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Interest Rate Relief

Chronically high interest rates are eating away at our economy.

They have taken jobs away from West Virginians.

They have prevented our young people from being able to purchase their own homes.

They have sent record numbers of our small businessmen into bankruptcy.

They have put our domestic automobile industry -- and many other industries -- on the ropes.

In short, high interest rates have caused economic misery, and they have prevented the economy from making any kind of meaningful recovery.

Recently, I introduced legislation -- along with 33 of my Senate colleagues -- that would require the Federal Reserve Board to bring down high interest rates.

House Majority Leader Jim Wright has also introduced my bill in the House of Representatives, along with 65 of his colleagues.

My legislation would direct the Federal Reserve Board to target interest rates -- along with the growth of the money supply -- in determining monetary policy.

Under my bill, Congress would not be involved

in the day-to-day details of developing monetary policy. That is something that should be left to the Federal Reserve Board.

It would, however, re-establish reasonable interest rates as a national goal, and it would charge the Federal Reserve Board with making sure that positive, real interest rates stayed within the historic range of one to four points above inflation.

Historically, interest rates have run between one and four percentage points above the rate of inflation. That is a reasonable level -- one that will permit economic growth and that will keep Americans working -- and it is the goal of my bill.

We must have relief from sky-high interest rates, and I have launched an all-out effort to secure broad-based and bi-partisan support for my legislation.

Passage of my legislation would bring interest rates down to tolerable and appropriate levels.

In the process, it would put West Virginians back on their jobs, help our struggling housing and automobile industries, offer relief to our small businessmen, our farmers, and our senior citizens, and get our economy moving again.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help For Our Jobless

Since the middle of June, nearly 3,000 West Virginians have exhausted their unemployment compensation benefits.

For many of them, there will be no check to pay the mortgage, no check to buy the groceries, no check to pay the utility bills.

And with the continuing recession -- which has resulted in a jobless rate in West Virginia of 12.3 percent in June, according to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics -- the number of West Virginians exhausting their benefits is bound to grow.

Jobless West Virginians need some assurance that they will be able to continue to make ends meet.

The long-term solution is to get our economy moving so West Virginians can get back to work -- a goal that we in Congress are working toward.

In the short-term, however, unemployed West Virginians and other Americans need temporary assistance to get them through this recession.

I have introduced legislation that would temporarily extend unemployment benefits an additional 13 weeks in states with high unemployment, such as West Virginia.

Under my legislation, unemployed persons would be eligible for 52 weeks of unemployment compensation -- instead of only 39 weeks -- as long as they lost their jobs involuntarily and were continuing to

search for another job.

These temporary benefits would be offered until the national unemployment rate dropped below 8 percent.

Recently, I presented testimony on my legislation -- which has 21 Senate co-sponsors -- before the Senate Finance Committee. The chairman of the Committee, who held the hearings at my request, indicated support for a temporary extension of unemployment benefits, as I have suggested.

I told the committee that West Virginians are suffering through an unparalleled economic slump, and that our steelworkers and coal miners had been particularly hard-hit.

Manufacturing jobs in West Virginia have declined to the lowest level since the Great Depression, and employment in the coal industry is down for the seventh month in a row.

What this means for unemployed West Virginians is that the probability of finding other employment is not great.

A temporary extension of unemployment benefits was enacted in our last two serious economic recessions -- in 1971 and again in 1974.

The current recession is far worse than either of the previous two, and it is time we offered our unemployed at least a few more weeks of benefits to help them stave off economic disaster.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Securing Our Coal Future

West Virginia would benefit tremendously from an expansion of America's coal exports.

Not only would our state's coal industry prosper, but increased American coal sales overseas would put West Virginians to work.

Unfortunately, however, the condition of our nation's coal-shipping ports jeopardizes that expansion, and for that reason I have introduced legislation in the United States Senate to upgrade America's coal ports.

Our nation's coal-shipping facilities are obsolete.

They cannot accommodate the larger and more economical coal-carrying vessels -- or super colliers, as they are called -- which have capacities of 150,000 dead-weight tons.

In the years ahead, the inadequacy of our ports will greatly inhibit our coal sales overseas.

By 1985, super colliers are expected to handle a quarter of the world's coal export tonnage. By 1990, that figure is expected to increase to 44 percent.

This inability to handle the larger coal-carrying vessels makes our coal more expensive to our Japanese and European customers. Eighteen ports

overseas -- in countries that compete with America for the world's coal trade -- can handle the large vessels.

As a result, it has been estimated that our coal costs as much as 20 to 30 percent more than coal from South Africa or Australia.

If our ports were equipped to handle the large vessels -- which is the goal of my legislation -- U.S. coal transportation costs might be cut as much as 40 percent.

My bill would authorize the use of customs revenues to pay for deep-draft channel operation, maintenance, and navigation improvements.

It would also set up a 50-50 cost-sharing between the federal government and the local port authority for any port improvement projects below 45 feet.

Approval of my legislation -- which I am actively pursuing -- would make certain that our coal markets overseas do not disappear because of antiquated and inadequate facilities.

Paving the way for increased American coal exports would be good for our country's economy, and it would help secure the future for thousands of West Virginians who work in the coal industry.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Toll-Free Assistance For West Virginians

In one of my recent newsletters, I included some toll-free numbers for federal agencies that I thought would be helpful to West Virginians.

Because of the response I received, I am reprinting some of those numbers, and adding a few

new numbers.

Some of them will help you with state-related problems, and others with federally related matters.

As always, my office stands ready to be of assistance to any West Virginian who needs help with a federal problem.

Consumer Product Safety:	1-800-638-8326
State Income Tax Help:	1-800-642-9016
Consumer Sales Tax Help:	1-800-642-8698
Federal Income Tax Help:	1-800-543-7200
Insurance Department:	1-800-642-9004
State Labor Department:	1-800-642-9100
State Fuel and Energy Office:	1-800-642-9012
Motor Vehicles Department:	1-800-642-9066
State Park Reservations, Travel Information:	1-800-642-9058
Public Service Commission:	1-800-642-8544
Social Security Administration:	1-800-848-0106
Teachers Retirement:	1-800-642-8509
Veterans Benefit Counseling:	1-800-642-3520
Workman's Compensation:	1-800-642-9091
Child Abuse:	1-800-352-6513
Toll Free Operator:	1-800-555-1212



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Acid Precipitation: We Must Look Before We Leap

Many West Virginians have expressed concern to me about regulations that were recently proposed to control acid precipitation.

West Virginia consumers are concerned that these regulations could increase their utility bills.

Our coal miners have expressed fear that they could lose their jobs.

And it has been estimated that our state economy could lose hundreds of millions of dollars each year if these regulations are implemented.

The regulations that have caused so much concern -- and which I oppose -- were recently proposed by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

The Committee voted for massive federal regulations that would require a 31-state area, including West Virginia, to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by 8 million tons below 1980 levels. This reduction would be accomplished over a 12-year period, the committee advised.

These ill-advised proposals -- if they were ever enacted into law -- could cause utility bills in West Virginia to increase, could throw some 15,000 West Virginia coal miners out of work, and could cost our state's economy an estimated \$380 million each year.

I have been seeking balance in the acid precipitation debate. Before we allow any new

federal regulations to be enacted, we must know more about the phenomenon known as acid precipitation.

Where does it come from -- is it caused by automobile emissions, the burning of coal, decaying vegetation -- and what are its short and long-term effects?

These are questions that have not been satisfactorily answered, and until they are we cannot afford to put costly -- and perhaps ineffective -- regulations into effect.

Recently, I testified before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in support of legislation I introduced last January on acid precipitation.

My bill would speed up the federal acid precipitation study that is already underway and would put a hold on any new federal regulations until the study is completed.

Under my bill, that study -- which should be able to tell us the origins, causes, and effects of acid precipitation -- would be due in June 1985 instead of 1990.

Before we risk thousands of jobs, millions of dollars, and higher utility bills for consumers, we must have accurate scientific data, about acid precipitation. That is the approach I have taken, and the one for which I am fighting.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balancing the Budget

The Senate recently passed a constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget, and because I believe we must work to cut deficits and balance the budget I voted in favor of that amendment.

I feel very strongly, however, that we cannot wait until the House of Representatives acts and three-fourths of the states ratify that amendment -- which could take years -- before we control federal spending and balance the budget.

We must act now. Simply voting for a balanced budget amendment will not magically bring the budget into balance.

I have developed and am pursuing a three-pronged strategy that I believe is a fair and equitable way to achieve the goal of a balanced federal budget.

I think "fair and equitable" are key words here. As we strive to bring spending under control, we must not do that by placing the burden on the backs of the lower- and middle-income taxpayers, the elderly, or the disadvantaged.

The first part of my plan is to secure adoption of my interest rate legislation, which I have introduced in the Senate along with 33 of my colleagues and which has been introduced in the House of Representatives with 65 co-sponsors.

My legislation would require the Federal Reserve Board to keep interest rates

within the historic range of 1 to 4 percentage points above the inflation rate.

It would prevent the persistently high interest rates we have seen over the past months, which have added billions of dollars to our budget deficits in interest payments on the federal debt, and which have taken their toll in job losses, a housing slump, and record business failures.

The second part of my plan would be to temporarily delay the third year of the 1981 Kemp/Roth tax cut for those who make more than \$78,600 annually, and to scale back that cut for people who earn between \$46,500 and \$78,600. Taxpayers making less than \$46,500 would receive the full, third-year cut.

Finally, I favor limiting the increase in defense spending to five percent real growth each year.

I have always been -- and I continue to be -- an advocate of a strong national defense. I very firmly believe, though, that a five percent growth each year in defense spending will give us a healthy and much-needed boost to our national defense efforts without providing so much money that the Pentagon cannot efficiently and effectively spend it.

Taken as a package, my plan would significantly reduce the federal deficit, and I believe it is a fair way to achieve the goal we have set for ourselves in adopting a balanced budget amendment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Vote For West Virginians

Recently, I voted to lower federal spending by nearly \$2 billion and to continue a number of programs that are important to West Virginians.

That vote came when a bi-partisan coalition in the House and Senate joined forces to override the President's veto of the supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal 1982.

When the President vetoed the \$14.2 billion funding measure in late August, he characterized it as a "budget busting" bill that provided too much money for domestic programs and not enough for foreign aid.

In reality, the bill was \$1.9 billion below what the Administration had previously requested and approved.

Where Congress and the Administration obviously disagreed, then, was not on whether the money should be spent, but on our spending priorities. I think that Congress was correct in calling for less foreign aid spending -- in this case, \$110 million less -- and more for programs for our people here at home.

My vote to override the Administration's veto was a vote for West Virginians.

It was a vote to continue a number of important programs that the Administration singled out as being objectionable, including:

-- the community service jobs program for senior citizens, which employs nearly 700 West

Virginians in part-time community service work, and which provides a needed income supplement for senior citizens who participate in the program;

-- educational assistance for West Virginia college and vocational education students;

-- compensatory education programs for the handicapped;

-- my amendment to protect the important energy research programs at the Morgantown Energy Technology Center by ensuring that adequate employee levels are maintained to carry out the programs;

-- a provision to make certain that progress on the vital Tug Fork flood control project in southern West Virginia moves forward;

-- and funding to reclaim abandoned mine lands in West Virginia.

These are all programs that help West Virginians, and programs that I voted to continue.

I believe we must be prudent in our federal spending, and, as I have noted, the bill that Congress approved will cut the deficits by nearly \$2 billion.

I also believe, however, that we should spend what federal money is available on programs that help our people here at home -- in West Virginia -- and less on foreign aid for the people who live beyond our borders.

Those are my priorities, and the priorities I will continue to pursue for West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Spending Our Defense Dollars Wisely

We must make certain that every federal dollar earmarked for the Pentagon is channeled into programs and policies that strengthen our national defense effort.

One way to do that is to establish an independent inspector general to watch over Pentagon spending, which was the purpose of legislation I co-sponsored earlier this year and which recently was enacted by Congress.

As a long-time advocate of a strong and viable national defense effort, I think it is vital that a department as large and as important as the Pentagon -- which has a 1983 budget of roughly a quarter of a trillion dollars -- have an inspector general, who has the responsibility of finding and eliminating any waste or mismanagement that may exist.

Inspectors general in 18 other government departments and agencies have enjoyed a wide degree of success in saving the taxpayers money.

A report issued earlier this year by the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency took a look at the effectiveness of inspectors general during the last

six months of 1981, and found that they saved the taxpayers over \$406 million and avoided another \$1.7 billion in federal expenditures in those six months alone.

My concern about our defense spending goes beyond eliminating waste and mismanagement in Pentagon programs, however. I also want to make sure that we are spending our money on programs that will contribute to a stronger, more effective defense for our country.

To achieve a more viable national defense, I believe we should:

- develop the MX missile;
- develop the stealth strategic bomber, which would be able to penetrate Soviet air defenses;
- build up our Navy;
- and build up our tactical Air Force.

Those are some of the ways I think we should be using our defense dollars.

And with an independent inspector general at the Pentagon, we can make certain that those dollars are being used in the most effective and efficient manner in order to achieve our goal of a strong national defense.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Plan To Help Our Industries

We need only look at the staggering number of Americans who are out of work to know that help is needed for those who are suffering as a result of our sagging economy.

More than 11 million Americans are unemployed, the highest number since the Great Depression.

An average of 455 businesses are failing each week, a figure that rivals Depression-era business failures.

The nation's steel industry capacity dropped below 40 percent in September, the lowest rate of use since 1938.

Behind each of these statistics are Americans that are suffering, and Americans that need help.

On my trips back home to West Virginia, I have talked with workers who have lost their jobs and cannot find other work. I have talked with financial leaders and industry executives who have been forced to deal with production cutbacks and employee lay-offs.

It becomes increasingly obvious with every passing day that the Administration's program has had its chance to work, and we can no longer stand by and hope for an economic recovery that is not even on the horizon.

I am working on a legislative program to help private industry and small business owners expand and become productive once again, and to put West Virginians back to work.

What I am proposing is the formation of a National Investment Corpora-

tion, which would provide our basic industries, such as the auto and steel industries, and small businesses with affordable credit so that they could restructure their plants and equipment to make them more productive.

My program would not add to our federal deficits.

Instead, it would be fully financed by delaying the third year of the unfair Kemp/Roth tax cut for those making over \$78,600 a year, and partially delaying it for those who earn between \$46,500 and \$78,600.

Under my plan, persons with incomes of \$46,500 and below would receive the full third-year cut.

Additionally, federal deficits would be decreased by an astounding \$25 to \$30 billion for each percentage point that our unemployment rate drops as a result of the upsurge in productivity that my National Investment Corporation would promote.

That would be a fair way to finance a program that would put our basic industries back onto a productive path and our workers back on their jobs.

The idea for a National Investment Corporation is not without precedent. It has been used very successfully for many years in Germany, Japan, and Sweden.

Those countries learned long ago what we must learn: That some government help is necessary if our basic industries are to survive and if our workers are to have jobs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Veterans: A Lasting Commitment

Many of West Virginia's veterans could benefit from provisions in two bills that I supported and that were recently approved by the United States Senate.

The first bill -- the Veterans Compensation, Education, and Employment Act -- would provide a much-needed, 7.4 percent cost-of-living increase to veterans with service-connected disabilities and to dependents of severely disabled veterans.

The bill would also make increased educational opportunities available to veterans by allowing for increased flexibility in determining eligibility for both educational assistance and rehabilitation programs.

Finally, the bill would make it easier for veterans to find work by changing the administration and coordination of the government's veterans employment programs.

That particular provision would be of special significance to our Vietnam veterans, who are suffering from intolerably high unemployment rates. Veterans between the ages of 25 and 29 have an unemployment rate of nearly 17 percent, well above the national average, and nationwide an estimated 685,000 Vietnam veterans are out of work.

The second important measure approved by the

Senate recently -- the fiscal 1983 appropriations bill for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and independent agencies -- contains two provisions that would be meaningful to many Vietnam veterans: Funding for Agent Orange research, and funding for readjustment counselling centers.

This is not the first time the Senate has addressed these important concerns.

Last year, for instance, the Senate approved two amendments to the Veterans Health Care Act -- amendments that I cosponsored -- that provided basic health care eligibility for veterans exposed to dangerous substances such as Agent Orange, and extended for three years the Vietnam veterans readjustment counselling programs.

We in Congress place a high priority on strengthening our veterans programs, especially those involving education, training, rehabilitation, medical care, housing assistance, and income security.

This nation's debt and obligation to all of the men and women who have served our country throughout the years must remain steady and strong.

To our nation's veterans, we have a lasting commitment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Vote!

November 2 is Election Day, and a day for all eligible West Virginia voters to take a few moments to go to the polls and cast their ballots.

Our right -- indeed our duty -- to vote in America is one of our most cherished and important privileges and duties.

It is a privilege we must take care to exercise.

Unfortunately, however, over the past several decades fewer and fewer Americans have been going to the polls on Election Day.

At the beginning of this century, in the election of 1900, 74 percent of all eligible voters cast their ballots. Eighty years later, in our 1980 Presidential election, voter participation had declined to only 53 percent.

For increasing number of voters, apparently, it has become easy to sit on the sidelines on Election Day and say, "My one vote really doesn't count that much, anyway."

But history refutes that notion.

In at least four Presidential elections -- those of Grover Cleveland, Woodrow Wilson, Harry Truman, and John F. Kennedy -- the margin of victory was less than one vote

per precinct in only one or two key states.

By not exercising our voting privilege and performing our duty to vote, we risk having a government that is not elected by and responsive to the whole citizenry, but that is elected by and responsive to single-issue and special interest groups.

The issues that face all of us today -- the condition of the economy, the importance of national defense, and our position in world affairs -- are too important for us to allow a bare majority of Americans to choose the men and women who will deal with those issues.

West Virginians can take pride in the fact that our voter turn-out in 1980 was significantly higher than the national average. That year, 737,715 of West Virginia's 1,034,546 registered voters -- or 71 percent -- cast their ballots on Election Day.

We showed America in 1980 that West Virginians take their voting privileges seriously.

On Election Day 1982, let West Virginians again show America that we know the importance and the power of exercising our privilege of voting.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Worthy Task

Two serious West Virginia problems -- unemployment and the environmental hazards of abandoned minesites -- are addressed in legislation I recently introduced in the U.S. Senate.

My bill would make abandoned mine reclamation a higher priority by directing the Secretary of the Interior to actively pursue such a program, and to hire -- to the greatest extent possible -- unemployed coal miners and construction workers to perform the work.

There are a number of attractive features to this bill.

First, it would provide at least temporary employment for two of our hardest-hit groups -- our miners and our construction workers.

In the coal industry, 8,000 of West Virginia's 55,000 miners are without jobs, and thousands of others are on shortened work weeks or reduced hours. Construction work has fallen off nearly 30 percent in recent months, throwing thousands of workers off their jobs.

Since many construction workers and coal miners have had experience with reclamation projects, my legislation would put them to work not only on a familiar job, but also on a worthy and productive task.

West Virginia has

many abandoned and unreclaimed minesites -- the result of mining activities many years ago before modern mining and reclamation methods were in use -- and greater emphasis by the Department of the Interior to clean up these minesites would certainly have a positive impact on our state.

Finally, the funding for a program such as I have suggested is already in place -- in the form of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Trust Fund -- so no new federal expenditures would be needed.

That trust fund, which is made up of fees that coal producers pay on every ton of coal mined, was created in 1977 as a means of financing the reclamation of abandoned minesites.

The current fund now stands at \$630 million, with \$269 million earmarked for reclamation projects to be designated by the Secretary of the Interior.

I have long contended that the Interior Department has been slow in allocating monies to the states from this fund for reclamation projects.

The goal of my legislation is to shake loose a good portion of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Trust Fund for these important reclamation projects, and to create jobs for some of our unemployed workers in the process.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Good News For The Steel Industry

The nation's carbon and specialty steel industries have been severely hurt by the unfair trade practices of foreign steel producers.

The evidence of the harm that has been done can be seen here in West Virginia, where thousands of our steelworkers have been thrown off their jobs.

And we can see it in our metallurgical coal industry, the health of which depends in great measure on how well the steel industry is performing. Because of steel's decline, mines have been shut down, and our miners idled.

Just recently, however, there was some good news for our domestic carbon steel industry when an agreement was reached between the U.S. and ten European countries to limit the amount of foreign carbon steel products coming into our country.

That agreement -- between the U.S. and Great Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Ireland, Denmark, and Greece -- will restrain exports to the U.S. in 10 steel product categories through the close of 1985.

The Commerce Department, which helped formulate the agreement with the Europeans, estimates that 99 percent of all steel imports to the U.S. will be affected.

For our steel industry and our workers, this is an encouraging step toward restoring fair trade and halting the precipitous de-

cline in steel capacity in this country, which is now hovering near 40 percent.

The agreement also reaffirms what I have been saying for months: That unfair foreign trade is costing our industry and our workers a high price in lost jobs and lost production, and that it must be stopped.

That is the message I gave to the ITC last January, when I testified on the harm of unfairly subsidized foreign steel imports, and the message I relayed to officials from West Germany and Great Britain in meetings this year.

Now that we have reached an agreement with the Europeans on carbon steel products, I believe we must turn our efforts toward providing similar relief to our specialty steel industry, which provides an important part of our country's defense industrial base.

Recently, I contacted President Reagan on behalf of the Senate Steel caucus, and requested that he dedicate his efforts to developing a similar export limitation agreement for the specialty steel industry.

I believe we must continue to work to see that our domestic industry can compete on a fair and equal basis with its foreign rivals, and that our steelworkers and those who work in steel-sensitive industries do not continue to lose their jobs to foreign workers because of the unfair trading practices of those countries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Plan For Recovery

With over 11.5 million Americans out of work in our country, the most serious and pressing problem facing us is how to put people back on their jobs.

It is a problem that demands an immediate and lasting solution.

Over the course of this year, I have developed and introduced several pieces of legislation to get our economy moving and put our people back to work, including:

-- Legislation to keep interest rates down to affordable levels.

Unacceptably high interest rates have threatened economic recovery in our country by thwarting business expansion, causing record numbers of business bankruptcies, and making home ownership an impossibility for many.

My legislation would direct the Federal Reserve Board to take interest rates into account when setting monetary policy, and would compel the Board to keep those rates down to reasonable and affordable levels.

-- Legislation to end the unfair practices of many of our foreign trading partners.

Too many American jobs have been lost to foreign workers because of the unfair trading practices of our foreign competitors, including thousands of steel jobs here in West Virginia.

My legislation would make certain that we can trade with foreign countries on a fair and equal basis, and end the unfair subsidization of foreign products that is costing the jobs of our workers.

-- Legislation to encourage the sale of more of our coal overseas.

We West Virginians understand the importance

of exporting greater quantities of coal overseas would not only provide more jobs in West Virginia, but would also have a favorable impact on our balance of trade.

Under my legislation, which I introduced earlier this year, our country's coal ports would be deepened and modernized, thereby making it possible for foreign countries to use their larger and more economical coal-carrying vessels that cannot now be accommodated in our antiquated ports.

In past years, I have worked hard to modernize and upgrade our inland waterway system, which is an integral part of our coal-shipping network. That was an important and necessary first step in increasing our coal exports, and we must now turn our efforts to improving our coal ports to complete that network.

-- Legislation to put our miners and construction workers on the task of reclaiming abandoned mine sites.

This legislation would serve a dual purpose. Not only would it put unemployed construction workers and coal miners to work, but it would also remove the environmental hazards created by abandoned mine sites.

Finally, I am developing legislation that would create a National Investment Corporation, which would provide affordable credit to our nation's businesses and industries so they could expand and become productive once again.

These are the kinds of forward-looking ideas we must pursue -- and pursue quickly -- if we are to put our economy back on sound footing and our



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Relief For Our Footwear Industry

Recently, when I was in West Virginia, I went to the Parsons Shoe Company in Tucker County, which now employs some 150 West Virginians.

When the plant was operating at peak capacity, there were twice that many employees, but a downturn in our domestic footwear industry -- brought about largely by the unfair trade practices of foreign shoe manufacturers -- has caused massive unemployment at Parsons and at other shoe companies in our state.

Relief from these unfair foreign trading practices and from the flood of cheap shoes coming into the United States must be forthcoming for our shoe manufacturing industry, which comprises a vital portion of the economies of six West Virginia counties.

That is why I have urged U.S. Trade Representative William Brock to begin an investigation into unfair trading practices in the foreign footwear industry.

Over a year ago, import relief for a portion of our domestic shoe industry -- relief that offered some protection from cheap imports -- was terminated.

Since then, over 20,000 footwear workers have been thrown off their jobs, and today, over 60

percent of our domestic market has been taken over by foreign imports.

In a letter to Brock, I told him about my visit to Tucker County, where the shoe industry accounts for 36 percent of all manufacturing jobs.

I also described for Brock the plight of 325 West Virginians who worked at the Bata Shoe Company in Elkins, which was recently forced to close its doors because of the troubles in the domestic shoe industry.

Along with investigating foreign footwear practices, I asked Brock to work to remove or reduce trade barriers in other countries.

Because of the barriers overseas, foreign footwear cannot enter most countries of the world, and consequently much of it is diverted to our country, which affords little or no import protection.

Our domestic shoe industry -- which is an important part of the manufacturing base in West Virginia and in 37 other states -- and our footwear workers must not continue to suffer because of the massive numbers of foreign shoes coming into our country.

Our footwear industry and its workers deserve relief, and I am fighting to see that they get it.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Groundwork For Prosperity

In a recent *Wall Street Journal* article, a West Virginia school bus driver recounted her morning ritual in driving her charges to school.

Along her route is a bridge that is unsafe for heavy loads.

So each morning, she stops at the far side of the bridge, unloads the children so they can walk across the aging structure, and drives the empty bus to the other side to collect them.

An estimated 1,500 West Virginia school children go through the same routine every school day, walking across 20 West Virginia bridges that cannot safely bear the weight of large vehicles.

Nationwide, thousands of students may be walking across unsafe bridges each day.

This is a dramatic illustration of the shabby and often dangerous condition of our nation's infrastructure -- the basic public works upon which we all depend.

And unless we act quickly to shore up the underpinnings of our society -- our roads, bridges, locks and dams, ports, water and sewer systems, public transportation, and other public works -- we risk jeopardizing our country's future economic and industrial health.

Well-maintained, smooth-functioning, and effective public works are critical to our country's growth and prosperity. To attract business and industry, communities must be able to offer the types of

public services and facilities -- such as a reliable transportation network, for instance -- that foster business expansion and the creation of new jobs.

Here in West Virginia, we can see the importance of developing our infrastructure.

In Grafton, for example, a water filtration system that I helped the community to obtain is an important element in the planned expansion of a glass company there, which could mean many new jobs for our state.

And in Princeton, a nursing home for our senior citizens was made possible after a sewer project for the town was completed.

Putting the nation's infrastructure back in good running order -- which would cost us several trillion dollars, according to a recent study -- is perhaps the greatest challenge facing us in the next two decades.

We have a choice.

We can continue to allow our public works to deteriorate, threatening not only our future economic growth and prosperity, but also endangering the people who depend on our infrastructure -- such as the West Virginia pupils who walk our aging bridges each morning and afternoon.

Or, we can dedicate our efforts to revitalizing our crumbling public works and laying the groundwork for a better future for all of us. And that is the course I believe we must follow.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help For Social Security

West Virginians of all ages have shared their concerns with me about the health and future of the social security system.

Young West Virginians have told me that they are not confident the system will be there for them when they retire.

West Virginians approaching retirement age have said they are afraid that the benefits they have been counting on will not be available.

Social security recipients are worried that the benefits upon which so many of them depend will be cut back.

We in Congress are aware of all of those concerns, we understand the importance of the social security system, and we are committed to restoring the system to sound financial condition.

I am disappointed that our current economic problems have spawned attempts to bring budget deficits under control by pulling the rug out from under our social security recipients.

These have been ill-advised and ill-conceived actions, and I have fought against cutting social security. The difficulties fac-

ing the system and our current economic slump are two different problems that must have separate solutions.

Earlier this year, a bipartisan, 15-member task force was appointed to look at social security's problems and make recommendations for solving them.

Some preliminary findings were announced by the group in November, including the projection that if no action is taken to help the social security system, we could face a \$150 to \$200 billion shortfall in funds by the year 1990.

The task force is scheduled to meet again in early December to craft its final recommendations.

Once the final recommendations are made, Congress will have to look carefully at the various options available for shoring up the social security system.

In the remaining days of the 97th Congress, I doubt that the social security question will be resolved.

That important task will probably fall to the 98th Congress, which will convene in January.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Unjustified Plan

"Black lung" disease -- a dreaded affliction caused by the inhalation of coal dust -- has struck thousands of our miners over the years.

For those miners and their families, and for tens of thousands of other miners, the black lung benefits program, which was begun in 1969 as a result of legislation I helped to enact, is essential and important.

So are West Virginia's six black lung field offices, which handle a swamping load of inquiries on the program each month.

That is why I was concerned to hear persistent rumors that the Department of Labor was considering closing some of its black lung field offices, and why I have stressed to Labor Secretary Raymond Donovan and the chairman of the Senate Labor Appropriations Subcommittee the importance of keeping those offices in operation.

I have also developed language, which I was successful in including in the 1983 Labor appropriation bill, that would keep West Virginia's field offices open, as well as the country's 19 other black lung field offices.

We are already facing a crushing backlog of black lung claims -- an estimated

26,500 -- and it can take from three to five years for a claim to be adjudicated through the appeals process.

If the Department of Labor were to close its field offices, I am afraid that an even greater backlog of claims could result.

In West Virginia alone, our six black lung field offices -- located in Beckley, Bluefield, Elkins, Logan, Madison, and Morgantown -- handle hundreds of inquiries each month.

In testimony earlier this year, Labor Secretary Donovan gave me his personal assurance that he had no plans to close any field offices through the end of fiscal 1983, and he promised to advise me of any change in that plan.

Secretary Donovan also testified that the savings realized by closing a field office would be small -- an estimated \$6,000 for each office -- and that, if a closing made it necessary for the district offices to hire additional staff, little or no savings would be achieved.

Any move to close black lung field offices, under the foregoing circumstances, would be unjustified, and I will do all I can to see that these offices remain in operation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Strong Signal

Keeping interest rates at reasonable, affordable levels is a key to our nation's economic recovery.

That is why I have recently introduced a resolution in the United States Senate -- which has been co-sponsored by 40 of my colleagues -- that makes it clear to the Federal Reserve Board that Congress stands squarely behind efforts to keep interest rates low.

Affordable interest rates would mean:

-- our young people could better afford to buy their own homes, which would also help our ailing construction and housing industries;

-- our automobile industry could get back on its feet because automobile loans would be more reasonable;

-- our small businesses and larger industries would be better able to obtain credit to upgrade and expand their operations and to provide more jobs.

That last point is particularly important to the nearly 12 million Americans who are without jobs, the highest number since the Great Depression, and to the more than 8 million other Americans who are either too discouraged to look for

work, or who are working at jobs that are beneath their capabilities, the so-called underemployed.

Earlier this year, I introduced legislation in the Senate that was designed to make the Federal Reserve Board look at real interest rates as well as money supply when setting policy.

The intent of this legislation was to keep interest rates at reasonable levels that would permit economic growth and increased employment.

Shortly after I introduced my legislation this summer, the Federal Reserve Board eased its tight money policies and interest rates came down.

I believe the Federal Reserve Board responded to my legislation because it recognized that Congress was serious about promoting economic recovery through lower interest rates.

My recent resolution has sent another strong signal to the Federal Reserve Board that Congress continues to be committed to keeping interest rates down, and that we believe the Federal Reserve Board must maintain its course of lower interest rates in order to produce a strong and sustained economic recovery.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Backbone of Our Economy

America's small business community — which has come under enormous pressure from high interest rates—should have a voice in determining our nation's economic policies.

To insure a fair representation of this broad segment of our population, I recently offered an amendment on the Senate floor directing the President to appoint a small business representative to the Federal Reserve Board — the policies of which help determine the level of interest rates and the availability of credit.

Unfortunately, the Republican majority in the Senate weakened the language in my amendment so that the Senate is merely on record as urging such an appointment, but the President is not legally bound to do so.

Passage of my original amendment, however, would have required the President to appoint an individual whose background is "in a credit-sensitive sector of the economy, and who is representative of small business, including farming and agriculture."

Indeed, the Act creating the Board in 1913 originally intended a broad representation of America's diverse interests. The law stated that a fair representation

of financial, agricultural, industrial, and commercial interests be considered when a Presidential appointment to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board is made.

To the small businessman, the fact that 15,500 small businesses have collapsed this year—an increase of nearly 50 percent over 1980—is not simply a statistic among other economic data. The small businessman knows the struggles and the heartbreaks endured by those who find their companies failing due to economic conditions. And likewise, he knows that the hopes and needs of the nine million unemployed workers across the nation are similar to those of his own employees.

Small business is not a "special interest" within our economy. Small business accounts for 53 percent of our nation's gross national product and 70 percent of all new jobs. It is the backbone of our economy.

Small business should be given a fair representation on the Federal Reserve Board—an individual who can understand and sympathize with the needs of borrowers, the small entrepreneur who is struggling to stay in business, and the worker who is trying to hold onto his job.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Unjust Hardship

The hardship created by the accelerated reviewing procedures in the Social Security disability program has been brought into sharp focus for me by the many letters I have received from affected West Virginians.

These accelerated procedures -- put into effect by the Social Security Administration about a year ago -- have resulted in hundreds of thousands of disabled individuals seeing their benefits abruptly stopped with little advance warning.

Nearly two-thirds of those terminated are truly disabled and deserving of benefits, and following review they have had their benefits reinstated.

This procedure, however, can take as long as a year, and in that time many of those people -- especially those without other income -- have been forced to sell their homes or take other desperate actions.

I was particularly disturbed by a recent newspaper article about a West Virginian who attempted to go back to work after her disability benefits were

terminated.

After less than three days back on the job, according to the article, she aggravated her disability and collapsed. She subsequently underwent surgery.

We must not allow this type of situation to continue.

The Senate recently passed legislation that I supported to slow down the reviewing process and provide that benefit payments would continue until a termination decision was appealed.

Enactment of this legislation into law would give Congress a chance to take a good look at the disability review process and to determine if additional legislation is needed to make certain that qualified recipients are not being made the victim of overzealous and unjust benefit terminations.

Social Security participants pay into the disability trust fund with the expectation that the fund will be there for them when they need it.

We must make certain that this expectation is fulfilled.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Synthetic Fuels: Good For West Virginia

I met recently with our Energy Secretary, Donald Hodel, to discuss the key role that West Virginia could play in our country's energy future.

In that meeting, I told Secretary Hodel that one of my top priorities is to launch a renewed effort to develop a national synthetic fuels program.

Such a program would be good for our country, and good for West Virginia.

In 1980, we made an excellent start toward developing a realistic synthetic fuels program when we passed the Energy Security Act.

That legislation, which I vigorously backed, set up the Synthetic Fuels Corporation to finance the development of facilities to convert coal and oil shale to synthetic fuels.

Regrettably, however, this Administration has moved our nation away from synthetic fuels development, at great risk to the economy and national security.

Synthetic fuels are our most promising and sensible alternative to dependence on the Oil Producing Exporting Countries (OPEC), some of which are unstable at best, and other foreign countries for much of our energy supply.

I shared my concern with Secretary Hodel that one day we may look around and find that our

energy supplies have been cut off.

If we fail to provide for such a possibility, we jeopardize both our national security, which is dependent on a reliable energy supply, and our independence as a nation.

Coal is crucial to a successful synthetic fuels program, since it can be converted into a number of different synthetic fuels by using a variety of processes.

Because of the abundance of coal in our state, a renewed effort to develop synthetic fuels could lead to increased coal production and jobs for our miners.

I told Secretary Hodel that thousands of West Virginia coal miners are now out of work, and I urged him to meet with coal interests from our state early in 1983 so he could learn of their concerns firsthand. He agreed to such a meeting.

From my meeting with Secretary Hodel, I believe he is sympathetic to coal's position in the national energy picture. Further, I have received his assurances that he will work to direct the Energy Department's focus toward coal research in an effort to promote the coal industry.

Finally, I believe Secretary Hodel is now keenly aware of my commitment to development of a national synthetic fuels program.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reclaiming Abandoned Mines

Congress has approved legislation that contains my amendment to provide an additional \$54 million for abandoned mine reclamation projects.

This additional money for fiscal 1983 -- the original recommendation was approximately \$100 million -- would help provide jobs for unemployed West Virginians on some very worthwhile projects.

That was the goal of S-2977, legislation I introduced in the U.S. Senate on September 29, 1982, which directs the Interior Secretary to place a greater emphasis on abandoned mine reclamation projects.

S-2977 also provides that unemployed coal miners and construction workers should be hired to undertake the tasks.

My legislation and my recent amendment are both necessary and constructive.

We have thousands of people out of work in the coal and construction industries who have knowledge of or experience with reclamation projects. Thus, we would be putting people to work on projects with which they are familiar and in which they are skilled.

West Virginians are keenly aware of the importance of reclamation projects. The damage created by the mining activities of

decades ago, such as mine acid drainage, erosion from old refuse dumps, and open mine entrances and tunnels, is dangerous and environmentally unsound.

The \$161 million obligated by Congress for abandoned mine reclamation activities in fiscal 1983, including the \$54 million I was able to obtain, would not come out of the taxpayers' pocket.

Instead, it would be taken from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Trust Fund, which was created in 1977 to finance such projects.

The fund is comprised of fees or royalties collected from coal operators on every ton of coal mined, and its current balance now exceeds \$600 million.

Unfortunately, the Interior Department has been slow in allocating this money -- which does not collect interest as it sits in the U.S. Treasury -- which is why my amendment and my legislation are so important.

My proposals would put thousands of people to work on some essential projects at no cost to the taxpayer, which would be a worthy feat in these times of skyrocketing unemployment and budget constraints.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Fair Approach

Recently I voted against putting an additional five-cent federal tax on every gallon of gasoline.

Nevertheless, the legislation that included that tax -- the Surface Transportation Assistance Act -- was adopted by Congress, and the President has signed it into law.

The purpose of this legislation is to repair and rebuild the nation's roads and bridges, and that is a goal that I support.

I believe it is wrong, however, to finance such a program by imposing more taxes on our people who least afford such taxes, especially when so many of them are out of work or threatened with unemployment.

Earlier this year, I appointed, and served as chairman of, a Senate Task Force on Jobs. Out of this task force evolved my proposal -- similar to that adopted by Congress -- to put Americans to work on some much-needed public projects.

However, my plan would have been broader in scope than the Congress-approved measure, and would have been financed in what I consider to be a more fair way -- by placing a three-year delay on the third year of the

Kemp/Roth tax cut for people earning very high incomes.

I was disappointed when my proposal was narrowly defeated on a nearly straight party-lined vote.

Under my plan, persons earning more than \$65,000 a year would have foregone the third year of the Kemp/Roth tax cut for the next three years.

A portion of that tax cut would have been held back for those who make between \$50,000 and \$65,000 annually, and anyone making less than \$50,000 would have received the full, third-year cut.

Not only would my plan have created more than twice as many jobs as the plan approved by Congress -- an estimated 731,000 -- but it also would have provided for a more wide-ranging variety of projects, such as repairing and rebuilding bridges, roads, mass transit systems, public buildings, water and sewer systems, and local public projects.

My approach was a more fair way to create nearly a quarter of a million jobs and strengthen our country without imposing yet another tax that will hit middle- and lower-income Americans the hardest.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Underemployed

The most discouraging aspect of our economic troubles is the vast number of people who have been thrown out of work.

West Virginia is suffering from the highest jobless rate in the nation, according to the most recent data from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, with 16.4 percent or 128,400 West Virginians unemployed.

Nationwide, more than 12 million Americans are jobless, the largest number since the Great Depression.

Other casualties of our faltering economy -- and ones that tend to be overlooked -- are the so-called "underemployed" -- those people working only part-time or at jobs where their best skills and capabilities are not used.

Though there are no firm figures on the number of underemployed Americans, the Bureau of Labor Statistics believes that more than 6.5 million Americans are working part-time but looking for full-time jobs, up from 4.3 million in July, 1981.

For the underemployed, there is consolation in having at least part-time employment, especially when so many have no jobs at all.

But those workers also bear the frustration of knowing that their special training and skills are not being used.

In a larger sense, the steady increase in the number of underemployed Americans threatens any

real or lasting economic recovery because many workers increasingly are not using their talents and capabilities to their fullest.

The increase in underemployment can be traced to several factors.

Technological advances in recent years have made some jobs out-dated or unnecessary. These same advances have caught us without the needed number of workers trained for certain other jobs.

President Reagan often points to the large number of "help wanted" advertisements in our newspapers as evidence that jobs are available and going begging. In fact, however, the overwhelming majority of those advertisements are for highly skilled workers -- computer specialists, medical personnel, engineers.

Part of the solution to underemployment is to take a careful look at where jobs will be in the next decades and to encourage our young people to train for those jobs.

When possible, we should retrain our workers to meet the demands of a changing world.

Above all, we must try to match training and education with the jobs that will be available in the future.

If we fail to take these actions, we risk wasting the talents of our youth, jeopardizing our country's future, and taking a chance that underemployment will become a growing and permanent phenomenon.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

SKILLS AND JOBS FOR TOMORROW

Today's grade-school kids may hold winning tickets in the world's technology sweepstakes.

If we act quickly and wisely, that is.

Much of tomorrow's international economy will depend on high technology -- computers, robots, electronics. Some experts believe that our civilization is today undergoing changes more far-reaching than any since the Industrial Revolution. The workplace, the assembly line, even many jobs themselves -- all will look different in coming decades.

In recent years, the United States has been in the vanguard of the technological revolution. The "Sputnik scare" of the 1950's and our forward surge in space exploration gave us a windfall in scientific and technical progress. Today, the United States is the world's "hi-tech" champion.

But America's technological supremacy may be fading.

Reportedly, Japan and Germany are pouring vast sums of money into science and mathematics education -- training their children for mastery in the new scientific and technical age dawning.

Estimates also indicate that twenty times more Soviet pupils are enrolled in calculus alone than are their American counterparts in that subject -- a basic discipline for technological progress.

Unfortunately, while many foreign countries begin advanced science and mathematics courses earlier and require their students to take more of those courses, too many Amer-

ican school children escape with a bare minimum of arithmetic, algebra, or scientific subjects.

To make matters worse, the United States suffers a chronic shortage of math and science teachers -- 40 states reported such shortages in 1981, for instance.

Apparently, a teaching hemorrhage is draining our classrooms of the teaching talent needed to ensure future generations of adequately trained scientists and mathematicians -- the avant garde of our technological future. That hemorrhage largely results from the higher salaries and the great demand for scientific and mathematical expertise in private industry and business.

America cannot afford to become the world's science and mathematics laggard -- a second-rate technical power. In the years ahead, more and more jobs will require skills that only scientific and mathematics education can supply.

We should give increased scientific and mathematics instruction an emergency priority in our educational system.

Parents, teachers, and business people should encourage boys and girls to tackle more science and mathematics courses.

Nationwide efforts should underline the need of greater computer training and technical knowledge.

Technology and scientific competence are keys to America's future prosperity and security. And grade school is not too early to start laying the groundwork for that future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Burdensome Requirement

My office has been hit by a blizzard of nearly 20,000 cards and letters from West Virginians who are concerned about the new legislative provision that requires banks and savings and loan associations to begin withholding federal taxes on interest and dividend income.

That kind of outpouring has swamped nearly every office on Capitol Hill, and I think it reflects a growing sentiment that this new requirement is burdensome and unfair.

I agree, and I have introduced legislation in the Senate, S. 240, to repeal it.

In fact, I co-sponsored an amendment to delete the withholding requirement when it was first offered last summer as part of the so-called Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982.

Unfortunately that amendment failed, and the tax measure -- which I voted against -- was subsequently approved by Congress and signed into law.

A large portion of the correspondence I have received on the withholding requirement is from elderly and middle-income West

Virginians.

The majority of these people are law-abiding citizens who are not out to cheat the federal government, but who faithfully pay taxes each year on the interest and dividend income they earn.

Many of these people are looking forward to the income that accrues from their savings come retirement time, and a reduction in that income would be unwelcome and could be burdensome.

The withholding provision is also an administrative problem for financial institutions -- especially smaller ones -- which will be hit with yet another layer of federal regulations and paperwork in order to comply with the requirement.

Without enactment of the kind of legislation I have suggested, the withholding requirement will go into effect this July 1.

Along with thousands of West Virginians, I hope we will be successful in gaining approval of my legislation to repeal this unjust requirement before it takes effect.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting The Cranberry Wilderness

President Reagan called me recently to tell me that he had signed into law legislation designating the Cranberry backcountry in Pocahontas and Webster Counties as federally protected wilderness.

That call was the culmination of more than a decade of efforts by federal and state legislators, conservationists, and scores of West Virginians interested in protecting the Cranberry wilderness.

The President's telephone call to me came one day after I had met with him at the White House and urged him to sign the Cranberry legislation, which gives wilderness designation to 35,600 acres of Webster and Pocahontas Counties that lie in the Monongahela National Forest.

The law also designates as wilderness 12,200 acres in the Laurel Ridge watershed in Randolph County.

The Cranberry backcountry -- which is known for its thick forests and unique wildlife -- becomes one of the largest wilderness areas east of the Mississippi River.

The legislation ensures that the area will retain its wilderness characteristics by reserving it for activities that will not change the

features of the land, such as backpacking, hiking, and primitive camping.

I have long favored the concept of the Cranberry wilderness, but I felt that reasonable compensation was necessary for Pocahontas and Webster Counties, which will lose considerable revenues as a result of the wilderness designation.

The rights to the minerals beneath the Cranberry area were owned by the CSX Corporation, which made yearly tax payments to Webster and Pocahontas Counties.

Under the wilderness designation, however, CSX will no longer hold those rights, nor will it pay taxes to the counties.

For that reason, I offered an amendment to the Cranberry legislation on behalf of myself and Sen. Jennings Randolph that will set aside up to \$2.2 million to compensate Pocahontas and Webster Counties for those lost revenues.

The Senate and House agreed to our amendment, and it was made a part of the bill that the President signed into law.

The Cranberry legislation was a fair proposal, and with it we have preserved a beautiful piece of West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Solid Proposals

President Reagan and I met at the White House recently to discuss what I believe are solid proposals to get our economy moving again.

In that meeting, which was also attended by Vice President George Bush and Presidential advisor James Baker, I outlined a few of my initiatives for the 98th Congress and asked the President to support those ideas.

President Reagan promised to study my proposals.

In our half-hour conversation in the Oval Office, the President and I talked about my legislation to deepen the nation's coal-shipping ports, which is designed to stimulate the sale of our coal and other products overseas.

I introduced this legislation during the last Congress, and I plan to re-introduce it this year.

With deeper U.S. ports, we would be able to handle the large, economical vessels -- known as super colliers -- that many countries are now using to transport products, especially coal.

West Virginia would benefit if our ports could accommodate the super colliers because of our abundant coal reserves, and by significantly increasing our coal exports we could also improve our balance of trade.

I was pleased when

President Reagan, at my urging, pledged his support for port revitalization legislation during his State of the Union message.

The President and I also discussed my plan for a National Investment Corporation, which would make long-term, low-interest loans to our basic industries, such as the steel and automobile industries. Small businesses would be helped under my proposal as well.

I also spoke to the President about the importance of renewing our efforts to develop a national synthetic fuels program.

We need such a program to make better use of our domestic energy reserves and to help ensure for our country a more secure future by lessening our dependence on foreign countries for our energy supplies.

Another initiative that will be of interest to me during the 98th Congress is my trade measure, which is designed to end the unfair foreign trade practices that have taken a heavy toll in West Virginia and other areas our country in lost jobs and declining industrial production.

Those are a few of my proposals for the new Congress. I hope that the White House will give me its support and work with me to rejuvenate our economy and put our people back to work again.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

DOLLARS FOR WEST VIRGINIA'S FUTURE

Across West Virginia, thousands of men and women have lost their jobs in the last several months -- coal miners, steelworkers, and aluminum industry employees, among others. Today, West Virginia is suffering the highest unemployment rate in the country.

Recently, however, I introduced a bill in Congress that could help turn West Virginia's unemployment crisis around, bringing new life to our coal mines and factories, and new industries to our state.

One of the worst blows befalling American industry in recent years -- including West Virginia industry -- has been rising foreign competition.

Many foreign factories are new and have the latest technology.

Goods from those factories cost less than their competitors' products and can thus outsell many American goods, even in our own markets.

In some countries -- notably Japan, West Germany, and Sweden, for example -- that lower-cost advantage is gained through direct government aid to build those new factories and to buy up-to-date technology.

Too often, those foreign advantages have hit hardest at the industries most closely tied to West Virginia's economy -- automobiles, steel manufacturing, chemicals, and coal, for instance.

One key to winning in today's world market is keeping ahead in research, new plant construction, and innovation -- commercial activities that need large sums of money and

for which some industries have limited funds and little available credit, especially in these times of continuing high interest rates and tight money.

My bill -- the National Investment Corporation Act of 1983 -- would help solve some of those problems. Under that legislation, a National Investment Corporation (NIC) would offer direct loans, investments, and loan guarantees to private business and industry for reasonable, promising, and profitable projects, such as plant construction and remodeling, technological modernization, and new business and industry start-ups.

The NIC would also encourage new plant location in areas plagued by long-term joblessness.

In addition, interest rates for funds borrowed from the NIC would be at or below market levels. Regional NIC offices would work with state and local officials to ensure practical programs and to limit bureaucratic tangles.

Moreover, NIC loans would be repaid on long-, medium-, and short-term bases, providing cash-flow for new ventures and new job-creation.

America needs the National Investment Corporation to help our industries and businesses compete more fairly and efficiently in the heated international arena.

And West Virginia needs the National Investment Corporation to keep our plants and mines running ahead of their foreign rivals, and to make and keep jobs for the people of the Mountain State.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making Social Security "Secure"

For more than four decades, Social Security has been a program that millions of Americans have regarded as an extra cushion in their retirement years.

"Security" has been one of the program's strengths: Social Security has been a system on which people have been able to rely.

That aura of reliability has been diminished in recent times, however, as short- and long-term financing problems have threatened the system's future solvency.

The sluggish performance of our economy has added to the system's problems. Rising unemployment has eaten away at the number of workers paying into Social Security, steadily diminishing the monies that would otherwise be flowing into the trust funds.

Many West Virginians have expressed concern to me that the Social Security program will not be there for them when they retire.

One letter from a Mineral County resident that sticks in my mind said, in part: "At the ripe old age of 26, I am often afraid I may not receive my 'fair Social Security share.'"

Ensuring that this West Virginian -- and millions of other people -- do receive their "fair Social Security share" is a top goal of Congress.

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have begun work on recommendations designed to bolster Social Security's financial foundations.

Those recommendations were made recently by the President's National Commission on Social Security Reform, which was

appointed last year to look into the system's financial problems.

The Commission's proposals are wide-ranging, and would pump an estimated \$169 billion into the system by 1989.

But not all of the recommendations made by the President's Commission have been greeted with a chorus of praise. As with any proposal the magnitude and importance of that recommended by the President's Commission, some elements of the plan have met with resistance. What may be acceptable to one person or group may be a bitter pill to another.

I think there is widespread recognition, nevertheless, that unless some action is taken soon, Social Security could face even greater financial problems in the future. In fact, some experts estimate that we could have a \$150-200 billion shortfall in funds by 1990 unless significant changes are made in Social Security's present course.

Congress's objective will be to take the recommendations of the President's Commission and use them as a starting point for developing an equitable solution to Social Security's problems.

In every regard, however, Congress's emphasis should be on developing a plan that is equitable and fair, and that puts "security" back in the Social Security system.

As another West Virginian, from Berkeley County, recently wrote me: "Please... make Social Security secure. I am sick of this insecurity."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MAR 9, 1983

Modern Superstition Versus Environmental Science

An old story tells of a long-ago English duke who caught a simple cold. His medieval doctors tried every trick in their book -- incantations, potions, bleeding, purges, herbs -- but nothing worked. In the end, the duke died -- not from the cold, but from the misguided and ignorant "cures" to which the duke was subjected.

Fortunately, modern medicine no longer depends on superstition. But well-meaning people in other fields sometimes let hasty judgments stampede them into costly mistakes and blunders.

Such a folly could be brewing with regard to "acid rain."

Panicked by reports of an increase in the acid quality of some of the lakes and ponds in the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada, which new evidence from New York State tends to show is not true, some have jumped to unscientific conclusions and demanded quick and stringent curbs on coal use in the Midwestern and Appalachian states, automatically assuming that coal is the acid-precipitation culprit.

But many expert scientists are unconvinced of that theory.

Some authorities at Virginia Tech, and the University of Rhode Island, for example, point to automobile exhausts as more likely acid-precipitation producers than coal.

A University of Pittsburgh engineer says that increasing acidity is a natural characteristic of aging lakes and ponds, unrelated to human activity.

One of the world's leading atmospheric scientists at the State University of New York has testified

before Congress that not enough is known about the subject to place expensive new controls on coal-burning power plants and factories.

Of course, we must be concerned with possible threats of acid precipitation to our air and water. But the scientific community is widely divided on the origins and effects of the acid phenomenon.

As a result, we should prudently avoid being locked into lopsided and costly solutions to this problem, particularly until thorough and objective scientific studies on acid precipitation or deposition are completed. The effects of proposed acid deposition controls would be to wipe out jobs in West Virginia and increase consumers' electric utility costs.

With that caution in mind, I recently introduced legislation in the U.S. Senate to tackle the acid precipitation issue in a fair and reasonable manner. My bill would require that, before new acid precipitation regulations were enacted, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would have to make a full study and report to Congress on acid precipitation, setting a deadline of September 30, 1987, for submitting that report.

Certainly, we must get to the bottom of the acid precipitation mystery. But we must also guard against a prejudiced vendetta against coal -- a vendetta that could needlessly cause skyrocketing utility bills for consumers, would cripple industries and destroy jobs in West Virginia and other states, and, like the superstitious remedies that killed the duke, could wind up doing more harm than good.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bus Deregulation Will Backfire

Bus deregulation is about to hit West Virginia like a snowstorm in July -- unwelcome, posing many problems, and making it difficult to get around.

Last year, when the U.S. Senate passed the Bus Regulatory Reform Act, I voted against it, and I warned that the bill would not be good for West Virginia.

That warning, unhappily, is beginning to come true.

Since bus deregulation has gone into effect, Trailways and Greyhound bus lines -- which provide nearly all of West Virginia's bus service -- have filed to abandon most of their West Virginia routes.

In a series of public hearings in January and February before the West Virginia Public Service Commission, which also vigorously fought bus deregulation, the impact of the loss of bus service was demonstrated in human terms.

A teacher of hearing-impaired students from a southern West Virginia county, for instance, testified that he had taken the job and moved into his home county because of the availability of bus service.

Sight-impaired himself, the teacher -- the only teacher of the hearing-impaired in the county -- said he depends on bus service as his only means of transportation. If bus service in his community is eliminated or cut back, he said, he may be forced to leave his job and move out of the county.

In hearing after hearing across the state, West Virginians told how the proposed abandonment of bus routes would hamper

Virginians said the loss of bus service could mean isolation. Unemployed West Virginians without other means of transportation foresaw difficulty in travelling to other towns to look for work. Store owners and doctors who depend on buses to deliver consumer goods and medical products expressed concern that they will find themselves without the products they need.

Efforts are being made on several fronts to stop the wholesale abandonment of bus service in our state. The West Virginia Public Service Commission is fighting to stop the cutbacks. A recent West Virginia federal court ruling temporarily prohibited one bus company from discontinuing its southern West Virginia route.

The last stop for bus companies that want to put the brakes on their small-town service is the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) in Washington, which will make the final decision on whether a bus company can abandon a particular route.

During a recent Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing, I urged ICC Chairman Reese H. Taylor to hold public hearings in West Virginia so his agency could learn firsthand of the hardship created by bus deregulation.

I also urged Chairman Taylor to take the harmful effects of bus service cutbacks into consideration when any requests for service abandonment reach his desk.

My goal is to impress upon the ICC that, just as I predicted, bus deregulation is beginning to backfire in West Virginia



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Toward Fair And Equitable Trade

The price of a steak in Japan is about \$35 -- several times the cost in Charleston, Martinsburg, or Wheeling.

That inflated price is largely the result of Japan's strict limits on the amount of foreign beef that can be brought into the country.

That means that America's attempts to sell beef products to Japan have come up against a nearly impenetrable wall of quotas, which has not helped our balance of trade with that country.

At the same time, we face the possibility that the Japanese will step up their steel exports to the United States. Unfortunately, a recent trip to Japan by U.S. Trade Rep. William Brock failed to produce an agreement with the Japanese to limit the amount of steel they send to the U.S. this year.

West Virginia has been devastated by the flood of subsidized foreign steel and other products coming into our country. American steel production is at all-time lows, and thousands of our steelworkers and coal miners have paid for cheap foreign steel imports with their jobs.

West Virginia and America cannot afford to remain the victim of these kinds of unfair foreign trading practices and barriers that are eroding our industrial production and taking away jobs. We need to develop and nurture a world-wide system of fair and equitable trade.

That is why I introduced fair trade legislation in the U.S. Senate last year. My bill -- which sets up a mandatory mechanism to deal with unfair

unfairly subsidized goods into our markets and to make sure our products are treated fairly in foreign markets.

My legislation serves notice that unless action is taken to end unfair foreign trade, some of us in Congress are willing to seek legislative solutions.

Since that time, some encouraging steps have been taken to end unfair trade. The International Trade Commission, for instance, ruled that a number of foreign countries were sending unfairly subsidized steel into our country, to the detriment of our steel industry.

But despite that ruling, we have not been aggressive enough in stopping unfair trade practices, and Ambassador Brock's failure to obtain an agreement with the Japanese on their steel exports is the most recent example of that lack of aggression.

Consequently, I have reintroduced my fair trade bill.

My legislation -- which calls for an annual study of foreign trading practices and requires sanctions against those found in violation of fair trade -- is not an attempt to punish offending trading partners.

Rather, the goal of my fair trade bill is to put our foreign partners on notice that we are serious about fair trade, and to give our negotiators a valuable bargaining tool in dealing with our trading partners.

I want to see world trade carried out on a fair and equitable basis.

And I want to see an end to the type of practices that have taken so many jobs from West Virginians, all the way from McDowell



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fostering West Virginia Coal Exports

More than thirty world ports are now -- or soon will be -- deep enough to handle coal "supercolliers."

Those jumbo-sized ships of 100,000 dead-weight tons or more allow the transport of coal and other products more cheaply than in smaller vessels.

Incredibly, no U.S. port can handle the supercolliers, which require port depths of at least 50 feet.

If America keeps lagging in improving ports, we stand to lose out in the world coal export market.

For West Virginia, which supplies half of all U.S. coal exports, the development of adequate U.S. coal ports is a necessity in keeping West Virginia's economy growing and West Virginians on their jobs.

That is the main reason I have worked for the past few months with several of my Senate colleagues to develop bi-partisan, ports improvement legislation.

That legislation -- which I recently introduced in the Senate with Sen. Mark Hatfield, Republican, Oregon, and Sen. John Warner, Republican, Virginia -- would put port improvement projects on the front burner.

For nearly three years, a stalemate over the best way to go about improving and modernizing our ports has prevented the adoption of legislation for that purpose.

My bi-partisan bill,

however, is a reasonable and carefully crafted compromise that offers a balanced approach to port improvement and maintenance.

Under the bill, ports projects -- such as deepening the coal ports at Hampton, Virginia, or Baltimore, Maryland -- would be funded by a combination of federal appropriations and customs revenues.

A National Port System Trust Fund would be established by my bill to pay for port operation and maintenance. Sixty percent of the fund would come from the general revenues, and 40 percent from a small tax on the value of ships' cargoes.

On a \$55 ton of coal, for instance, that tax would amount to slightly more than a penny.

The bill also puts port improvement projects on a fast track, cutting in half the time it would otherwise take to complete a project.

My primary concern in seeking port improvement legislation is to foster West Virginia's ability to sell coal and other products to the rest of the world on a competitive basis.

If we could ship our coal in 120,000-ton ships, for example, our coal transportation costs could be reduced as much as 40 percent.

That kind of reduction would make our coal attractive to overseas customers, which in the long-run would mean more jobs for West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping A Promise

Recently, Congress approved a plan to bolster the Social Security system.

That plan -- based on recommendations made by President Reagan's National Commission on Social Security Reform -- was approved only after long, often emotional, debate in both the House and Senate.

I had some serious reservations about some of the individual elements of the Social Security plan, and, in fact, I wish it had not been necessary to enact that plan at all.

But the alternative to approving the proposal was the possible bankruptcy of the Social Security system -- a prospect that would have been far more painful than the plan adopted by Congress.

In letters, telephone calls, and personal conversations with many West Virginians, one theme was sounded time and again, namely, that though many people opposed one part of

the plan or another, almost everybody voiced the sentiment that something had to be done -- and quickly -- to ensure the future integrity of Social Security and to restore confidence in that system.

Under the Social Security plan adopted, an estimated \$169 billion will be brought into the system over the next several years, which will help offset the estimated \$150-200 billion shortfall in funds expected by 1990.

The solutions to Social Security's problems will not be painless, and, without question, the proposal that Congress approved has its share of bitter pills.

Above all, by approving the Social Security proposal, Congress has demonstrated its resolve in keeping a promise to the American people that the Social Security system will be there for them when they retire.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

We Need A Heavy Industry

At a recent meeting in Pittsburgh, some 120 unemployed steelworkers talked about the computer training program in which they were participating.

Outside the meeting, an estimated 4,000 other unemployed steelworkers demonstrated, protesting the economic conditions that had robbed them of their jobs.

The situation in Pittsburgh shows the choices facing some of our jobless industrial workers today -- should they seek retraining in other, possibly more promising fields? Or should they wait for better economic conditions and a revival of our basic industries?

The answer could be a little bit of both.

Retraining some of our workers and channeling our young people into fields where future job possibilities will be plentiful -- computers, electronics, and other technical disciplines -- is an idea I support.

But the Pittsburgh example clearly demonstrates that we cannot retrain every worker who is currently unemployed, nor would it be wise to do so.

We need a heavy industry in this country, and we need the workers who have made these industries strong. A prospering heavy industry -- steel, mining, glass, automobile, and others -- has traditionally been the foundation of our strength as a nation, both militarily and economically.

But now, some of those industries are suffering. The recession has eaten into our industrial base, throwing thousands

of workers into the unemployment lines and sending production levels to all-time lows.

West Virginia has suffered more than its share from the slump of heavy industry. Our unemployment rate continues to be the highest in the nation -- an intolerable and tragic 21 percent.

I am firmly committed to pursuing a course that will help our basic industries and our workers through this difficult time.

That is why I have introduced several pieces of legislation in the U.S. Senate geared toward reviving and strengthening our basic industries, including:

- a measure to form a National Investment Corporation, which has as its goal the rejuvenation of our basic industries by providing long-term, low-interest loans;

- legislation to improve and deepen the nation's ports so we can sell more of our coal and other products overseas;

- fair trade legislation to make certain that our products are treated equitably in foreign markets and to end the unfair foreign trade practices that are hurting our industries here at home;

- and legislation to speed up the federal study on the causes and effects of acid precipitation before any new regulations to control it -- which could cost jobs and raise utility bills -- are considered.

In the months and years ahead, we should devote our efforts to a plan to revive our basic industries and the jobs that those industries supply.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Only A Small Step

Congress recently approved a \$4.6 billion measure -- the so-called emergency "jobs" bill -- designed to help some of the nearly 12 million Americans who are currently without a job.

That bill is only a small first step in addressing the needs of thousands of West Virginians and millions of Americans whose lives have been turned upside down by unemployment and the continuing recession.

I wanted a larger bill -- one that would have helped put more West Virginians back to work. But President Reagan made it clear that he would veto any jobs bill that carried a higher price tag.

When the jobs measure came before the Senate, I stated that it would not be a true "jobs" bill unless we targeted the majority of the funding to areas like West Virginia, with high and long-term unemployment.

I fought for that targeting in the Senate Appropriations Committee -- with the support of Committee Chairman Mark Hatfield, R-Ore. -- and my amendment prevailed, 20-6. With this amendment, approximately \$3.2 billion of the jobs money would have been targeted to states like West Virginia.

However, when the jobs bill came before the full Senate, we were forced to compromise on our targeting amendment or risk ending up with a bill that provided no targeting at all.

The bill that was eventually approved targeted some of the jobs funding to West Virginia and other hard-hit states -- not as

than no targeting at all.

That targeting ensures that West Virginia will fare better than many states -- and will get its fair share -- under an extremely limited bill.

For example, under only one program in the jobs bill -- the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program -- West Virginia will receive an additional \$10.7 million in fiscal 1983 funds under the bill. Without my targeting efforts, West Virginia would have received only \$6.2 million in additional CDBG monies -- or 42 percent less.

All together, funds under the jobs bill will be channeled through about 40 different federal programs, such as the Community Development Block Grant program I have already mentioned.

Though final figures have not yet been compiled for all those programs, preliminary estimates show that about \$33 million has already been earmarked for West Virginia under some of the programs covered by the jobs bill. That figure could reach \$50 million.

Humanitarian assistance for needy Americans -- such as food and shelter -- was also provided in the jobs measure, as was an injection of funds into the unemployment compensation program, to ensure that benefits were not cut off for those qualified to receive them.

Again, I was disappointed that the jobs bill will provide jobs for only a fraction of those who are unemployed.

The legislation is at least a start, nonetheless, in putting some West Virginians and other Americans



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making Defense Dollars Count

Congress has been grappling recently with what I believe is one of the most important parts of the federal budget -- that portion dealing with national defense.

Providing and maintaining a strong defense capability for our country -- one that ensures both security and peace -- is among the federal government's foremost responsibilities.

When the federal budget is stretched to the limit -- as it is now -- that job is especially hard, and Congress must do its best to make certain that defense dollars, like other federal dollars, are spent prudently and wisely.

To do otherwise -- to throw huge sums of money at the Pentagon in the hope of achieving a strong national defense -- invites cost-overruns and waste that can erode public support for a stronger defense effort.

I believe that is what many members of Congress had in mind recently when President Reagan proposed his fiscal 1984 defense budget.

The President asked for \$280.5 billion for defense in 1984, which amounts to about a 10 percent real increase, taking inflation into account.

Almost immediately, Republican and Democratic members of Congress expressed reservations about the size of the President's request, as did other people across the nation.

As a result, when the House of Representatives considered the President's

budget request, it included an estimated three percent increase, after inflation, for defense spending.

The Republican-controlled Senate Budget Committee took a similar course, voting 17-4 in favor of a five percent real increase in defense spending for fiscal 1984 -- or \$267 billion.

When Congress takes final action on the fiscal 1984 budget, I believe it will approve a defense spending increase somewhat below the 10 percent increase requested by the President, but still large enough to allow us to continue strengthening and modernizing our defense.

The need for a strong national defense is unquestionable. For years, the Soviets have been outspending us on military programs. The threat they pose is real.

That is one reason I have supported increases in our defense spending over the years -- both on strategic and conventional programs -- and why I have advocated such things as building up our tactical Air Force, developing the "Stealth" strategic bomber, and strengthening our Navy.

But while I support increases in our defense spending, I think those increases should be at levels that will allow for the most effective use of our defense dollars, with a minimum amount of waste, and at levels that our country can afford.

We must make every defense dollar count.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Withholding Requirement Delay?

By a thumping margin of 91-5, the Senate voted recently to delay the imposition of the so-called "withholding requirement."

That is the requirement that directs banks and savings and loan associations to withhold ten percent of the income that savers earn on their interest and dividends, scheduled to go into effect July 1, 1983.

The Senate approved an amendment -- that I cosponsored -- that would delay the imposition of the withholding requirement until July, 1987.

The Senate amendment further stipulated that the requirement could be imposed only if, by that time, fewer than 95 percent of American taxpayers were reporting dividend and interest income, and if a majority of both Houses of Congress voted again to impose the withholding requirement.

The action on the withholding requirement now shifts to the House of Representatives, which also must approve the Senate's amendment before the provision can be delayed.

The withholding requirement has proved to be a very unpopular idea. Since the beginning of this year, nearly 50,000 West Virginians have sent me letters and postcards protesting the requirement, and my congressional colleagues report similar outpourings from their own states.

The people who are protesting have well-

founded concerns. The greatest majority of American taxpayers report their interest and dividend income. They are law-abiding citizens, and are not out to cheat the government.

These people want the use of the income that accrues from their savings, and they do not want to be penalized simply because a small minority of U.S. taxpayers are breaking the law.

I opposed the withholding requirement from the beginning, when it was offered last summer as part of the \$99 billion tax bill.

When that bill -- known as the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 -- was debated on the Senate floor, I cosponsored an amendment to delete the withholding requirement. Unfortunately, the amendment was defeated by a single vote.

Congress went on to approve the tax bill -- the withholding requirement intact -- but I voted against it.

The Senate's recent vote to delay imposition of the withholding requirement may effectively kill the requirement altogether.

But before that can happen, the House of Representatives must go along with the Senate's action on the withholding requirement.

House action on this matter may be taken soon, and I hope that members of the House will agree with the Senate that the withholding requirement should not be put into effect this July 1.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Our Interests

In 1982, according to a recent Library of Congress study, the United States sold Third World countries over \$15 billion in military equipment.

That put us at the top of the list in world arms sales, followed by the Soviet Union with \$10.2 billion in 1982 weapons sales.

The growing volume of U.S. arms sales to developing nations -- and the emphasis the present Administration is placing on increasing those sales -- is of great concern to me.

I am concerned that by stepping up our sales of sophisticated military equipment to Third World countries, we may be weakening our own national defense and military security interests.

Already, we have increased our foreign arms sales to the point that we have had to dip into our own military equipment inventory to provide foreign countries with certain arms -- an action that certainly jeopardizes U.S. military preparedness.

Further, we have no guarantee that sometime down the road, that equipment will not be used against us.

The British, for example, found themselves in that position during the Falklands War with Argentina. Some of the arms they

had provided Argentina long before the war began -- certain aircraft, and key components of the Exocet missile -- were used against the British after the war broke out.

A number of my Senate colleagues and I are urging caution on the matter of U.S. arms sales abroad.

First, we have asked the General Accounting Office to take a look at the effects that our foreign military sales have on our own armed forces. Congress needs to have a complete understanding of the consequences of those sales and the impact they have on our defense capabilities -- things that the GAO report will be able to tell us.

Also, I have introduced legislation in the Senate on behalf of myself and several of my colleagues to require congressional approval of all foreign arms sales in excess of \$200 million.

That bill also calls on the President to work with the NATO countries to limit the level of sophisticated weapons sold to developing countries.

Our goal is to have a U.S. arms sale policy that is prudent and wise -- a policy geared toward protecting America's own national security and defense interests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bidding For Defense Dollars

In fiscal 1982, West Virginia companies won approximately \$139 million in defense contracts.

As any of the West Virginia companies that got those contracts might tell you, the procedure for selling to the Defense Department can be mysterious and confusing.

To give West Virginia business people sound advice on the best way to bid for defense contracts, I have organized two defense industry seminars in West Virginia on June 1 and 2.

I will hold the first of those meetings in Charleston at the University of Charleston's Geary Ballroom on June 1. Scheduled to begin at 1 pm, the meeting should be over between 4 and 5 pm.

The next day, June 2, a second defense industry seminar is planned for Morgantown, at the West Virginia University College of Law, Room 154. That meeting will also begin at 1 pm and last until approximately 4-5 pm.

I will bring with me, to the defense industry meetings, key officials from the Defense Department's procurement office and from the General Services Administration, which is the buying arm of

the federal government. They will be on hand to describe the process of bidding for defense contracts, and to answer any questions West Virginians might have.

I have also arranged for representatives of some large U.S. aerospace and military equipment manufacturers to attend to advise West Virginians on procedures to follow to be considered for defense sub-contracts.

On March 29 of this year, I held a similar defense industry meeting in Washington in which approximately 40 West Virginians took part.

The positive comments I received from many of the participants encouraged me to set up the West Virginia seminars so that more West Virginians could have the benefit of talking with expert federal officials on the procedures for bidding for defense contracts.

I urge all West Virginia business people who are interested in learning more about selling to the Defense Department to join me at one of my West Virginia defense industry seminars, either in Charleston or Morgantown.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Priming The Synfuels Pump

The development of synthetic fuels is in the long-term economic interests of coal-rich states like West Virginia and also in the national security interests.

That is why I have so strongly backed development of a national synthetic fuels industry.

Three years ago, Congress approved legislation that I supported known as the Energy Security Act, which established the Synthetic Fuels Corporation (SFC).

The purpose of the SFC is to financially assist private companies that are pursuing synthetic fuels projects. Federal assistance is necessary if we are to have a workable synthetic fuels effort, given the tremendous costs of undertaking such projects.

Unfortunately, the current Administration has dragged its feet on developing synthetic fuels, despite my strong and consistent urgings and those of other members of Congress who share my interest in "synfuels" development.

The Administration's reluctance has taken its toll: In the time the SFC has been operational, only one synfuels project has received financial assistance.

During those years, private companies interested in pursuing synfuels projects -- in anticipation of receiving federal help -- were forced to give up those projects when federal funding was not forthcoming.

In West Virginia, for example, two companies received feasibility study funding from the Energy

Department for synfuels projects. As the months wore on without further federal aid from the SFC, however, our companies became discouraged and abandoned their synfuels efforts.

In January of this year, I met with President Reagan at the White House and urged him to move forward with a federal synfuels effort. I repeated my strong support for synthetic fuels at that meeting, saying synfuels offered considerable economic benefits for West Virginia, and a large measure of energy security for the nation.

Overall, I am dissatisfied with the lack of progress on a national synthetic fuels effort, as I explained to SFC President Victor Schroeder during a recent meeting in my Capitol office.

I urged during the meeting that the SFC more actively and aggressively encourage synfuels projects in our Eastern coalfields, where we have the coal, water, and population needed to sustain a synthetic fuels industry.

In addition, SFC officials have agreed to my request, and will meet with West Virginia industry representatives on June 13 in Charleston to discuss how the industries can seek financial help from the SFC for synfuels projects.

My aim is to get the SFC headed in the right direction and on the course Congress charted for it in the Energy Security Act: Toward developing a synthetic fuels program that will help fulfill our country's future energy needs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Improving An Aging Network

Nearly one-third of all West Virginia coal is at some point transported by barge, a factor that makes our inland waterway system a crucial part of our coal transportation network.

But coal is not the only commodity in West Virginia dependent on the inland waterways. Most of our state's industries -- steel, glass, chemicals, and others -- also rely to some extent on the inland waterway system.

Unfortunately, however, that system in some U.S. areas is aging and decrepit, with facilities that have outlived their usefulness, and locks that have become so small and outmoded that river traffic cannot move smoothly through them.

Even more serious, our aging inland water network -- those outmoded facilities on the Kanawha, the Ohio, the Monongahela, and other rivers throughout the country -- was designed to handle only a fraction of the traffic that it now serves.

As a result, bottlenecks along the river system grow worse as our volume of shipping increases, threatening the future growth of West Virginia's coal and other industries.

We cannot afford to let our inland waterways slip further into disrepair. We must act quickly,

which is why I have joined with Sen. John Heinz, Republican of Pennsylvania in an effort to improve the nation's inland waterways.

Our legislation -- known as the National Inland Waterways Urgent Improvement Act -- calls for the rebuilding of the waterway facilities in our country that are in the worst shape, including Gallipolis, on the Ohio River outside Point Pleasant; Winfield, on the Kanawha River in Putnam County; and Lock and Dam 7 and 8 on the Monongahela River outside of Morgantown.

This effort to improve our inland waterways goes hand-in-hand with another of my legislative priorities -- that of improving the nation's ports.

That legislation, which I introduced earlier this year with considerable bi-partisan support, seeks to deepen and modernize our ports so that American goods -- coal in particular -- can be shipped in large and more economical vessels known as "super-colliers," which can carry more than 100,000 tons of coal.

Positive action on both of these bills would give us the start we need in improving a transportation network that is vital to West Virginia's industries and our future economic growth.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Vocal Opposition

West Virginians have been extremely vocal in their opposition to the deregulation of the bus industry, and deservedly so.

Bus deregulation -- just as I predicted -- has not been good for our state.

Officials from the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) -- the final decision-maker in cases where bus companies want to abandon or cut back service -- got a taste of West Virginia's opposition to bus deregulation at a seminar they held June 1 in Charleston.

I think that meeting was useful, and, in fact, I had encouraged the ICC -- during a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing earlier this year -- to come to the Mountain State to listen to the concerns that many West Virginians were voicing about the impact of bus deregulation on our smaller towns and communities.

The forum also gave interested West Virginians a chance to talk with ICC officials about ways to minimize the burden of cutbacks in, or outright loss of, bus service -- whether that be by fighting the service cuts, or by working to get other types of public transportation into an affected community.

My opposition to bus deregulation is well-known in West Virginia.

I voted against bus deregulation last year, but unfortunately a majority of both houses of Congress voted to approve it.

During the debate on

the issue, I said that many of West Virginia's smaller communities would be hurt if bus service were cut back or curtailed.

For some West Virginians, especially the elderly and low-income people, bus service is the only means of transportation -- the difference between mobility and isolation.

Also, delivery of medical supplies and certain consumer goods to some West Virginia communities is made by bus, and cutbacks in service would disrupt these important deliveries.

After bus deregulation was signed into law, the two bus companies that provide almost all of West Virginia's service filed to abandon many of their routes.

Abandonment applications are first considered by the State Public Service Commission. If the Public Service Commission rules against the bus companies -- as it has when it determines that adequate alternative service is not available -- the companies can then appeal to the ICC.

That is why I want the ICC to be fully aware of the importance of bus service to many West Virginians, and why I urged the ICC to come and talk with West Virginians about bus deregulation.

Judging from the opposition I have heard from West Virginians across our state, I believe the Charleston meeting impressed upon the ICC the importance we place on reliable bus service.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Successful Seminars

Mention the idea of a small company doing business with the Pentagon, and in all likelihood many will dismiss the thought.

"Too complicated and confusing," they might say; or, "My company doesn't produce a product the Pentagon can use."

I think the two Defense Industry seminars I held in West Virginia recently -- in Charleston and Morgantown -- helped dispell those myths for more than 150 interested West Virginia business people.

My seminars -- featuring key representatives from the Defense Department, the Defense Logistics Agency, the General Services Administration, and from eight large U.S. defense contracting companies -- outlined for our business people the procedures in bidding for defense and other government contracts.

The seminars also stressed the idea that the Pentagon and the federal government buy not just technical defense gadgetry, but also -- as one seminar participant put it -- "everything from soup to nuts."

That list of goods is almost endless -- paper products, building materials, food, clothing, paint, light bulbs, and thousands of other products, as well as defense-related materials such as military hardware, rocket and aircraft components, and sophisticated electronics equipment.

In fiscal 1982, the Pentagon bought approximately \$102 billion worth

of goods. Small businesses provided about \$20 billion of those products.

West Virginia's share of the Pentagon's fiscal 1982 spending was about \$131 million -- a share I hope can be improved by giving West Virginia business people a first-hand look at the best way to compete for defense contracts.

Subcontracts also offer potential for West Virginia's business community, which is why I invited representatives from such large companies as United Technologies, General Electric, Martin Marietta, Northrop Corporation, Hughes Aircraft, Lockheed Corporation, Garrett Corporation, and The Bendix Corporation, to come to our state and explain the process for selling to their companies.

My two West Virginia seminars were a follow-up to a Defense Industry Day I held in Washington on March 29, 1983, attended by about 40 West Virginians.

I was encouraged by the enthusiastic response I received from the West Virginians who participated in those meetings, and I hope the guidance they were given will result in more defense and other government contracts for the Mountain State.

For West Virginia business people unable to attend one of the seminars, I can provide a packet of information on bidding for defense and other government contracts.

To obtain the information, West Virginians should contact my office at 311 Senate Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Breaking The Ports Deadlock

For more than ten years, no important seaport improvement projects have been undertaken in the United States.

Inaction on port improvements grows mainly from a lack of agreement on the best course to follow in upgrading our shipping ports.

Recent action in the Senate, however, may break the harmful deadlock on port improvements -- a deadlock that has allowed our ports to become outdated.

At my request, the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Water Resources -- the Senate committee most responsible for port improvements -- has set up a series of hearings on the port improvement bill I introduced on March 21 of this year.

In the first of those hearings, I testified in support of my bill -- which enjoys bi-partisan support -- along with several of my Senate colleagues.

West Virginia exports more coal than any other state in the union. In fact, nearly 50 percent of all U.S. coal exports come from the Mountain State.

Our coal reserves are abundant: Beneath West Virginia's hills lie at least 57 billion tons of high-quality bituminous coal.

That coal will be turned into jobs and increased revenues for West

Virginia if we can maintain, and enlarge, our share of the world coal export market.

To do that, we must be able to provide foreign customers not only with high quality coal, but also with competitively priced coal.

The condition of our coal ports, however, stands in the way of our country's shipping its coal competitively and economically.

Our ports are too shallow for the large, coal-carrying vessels -- the so-called "supercolliers" -- that substantially lessen shipping costs.

While other countries are beginning to ship coal in 100,000-ton or larger supercolliers, that cut transportation costs by an estimated 40 percent, our coal is steaming out of our ports in smaller vessels that make our coal less economically attractive to our foreign customers.

My bill to deepen and modernize our ports has created a growing consensus on how we should carry out port improvement tasks.

Holding hearings on that bill is an important step toward making the kind of port improvements that will put our country in a good position to capture a larger share of the world's coal trade -- and that would be good for West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Accounting For Our MIA's

America's military involvement in the Vietnam conflict ended over eight years ago.

But in those years, one unanswered question remains: What happened to the 2,494 American soldiers -- 26 of them West Virginians -- who are still unaccounted for, our missing-in-action?

We are well past time when we should have received a full accounting for our American MIA's.

To receive that accounting, I believe that we, as a nation, must show a commitment and resolve to end the uncertainty about our MIA's.

That was my purpose in introducing a bill in the U.S. Senate recently to strike a special commemorative medal for Americans missing-in-action from Vietnam.

My bill calls for a special bronze medal to be designed -- by a Vietnam veteran -- struck, and presented by Congress to the families of our MIA's in recognition of the sacrifice and untold hardships endured by our missing soldiers.

Nothing can ever adequately repay the families of our MIA's, who have suffered the continual pain, doubt, and uncertainty of not knowing what has become of their loved ones.

But I hope that through striking such a medal, we can generate a national awareness and a renewed commitment to pursue a full accounting of our missing soldiers.

Such a commitment has already been demonstrated by the families of our MIA's.

They have organized vigils, met with officials, written countless letters and articles with the hope that Americans would not forget the plight of the MIA's.

Groups like the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the National League of Families of POW/MIA's, the Vietnam Veterans Institute, and others, have worked hard to keep attention on our MIA's.

I commend those groups, and particularly the families of our missing-in-action, who are not willing to let America forget that 2,494 soldiers who went to Southeast Asia to serve our country have not yet come home or been accounted for.

We must all join together in a national effort to find out what happened to our American soldiers who are still missing-in-action.

We owe that to our MIA's, to their families, and to our country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Commonsense Approach

The public is being pelted with a variety of explanations for the phenomenon called "acid rain" or acid precipitation.

Recent reports by several groups -- including the National Academy of Sciences -- point to a number of factors that might contribute to acid precipitation, which some claim is causing acidity levels to increase in some bodies of fresh water.

Coal-fired plants in our country's industrial heartland have been targeted in some of the reports as one possible culprit in the acid precipitation phenomenon.

But one common and important thread runs through all of the reports: namely, that no sufficient scientific data base exists on the causes and effects of acid precipitation, nor is there scientific agreement on the best way to reduce its impact on our lakes and other bodies of water.

That is exactly the point I have been making in the acid precipitation debate. We need more research into acid precipitation before we leap into a costly, and perhaps useless, program to control it.

I have found support for my approach from a number of quarters.

In a meeting I had with President Reagan at the White House at the beginning of this year, he agreed that we need to know more about acid precipitation's causes and effects.

And just recently, William Ruckelshaus, the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency, met with me in my office and said that there

were many important considerations about acid precipitation to be resolved -- especially the economic impact of an expensive control program.

I urged Administrator Ruckelshaus to back my bill that calls for early completion -- in 1987 instead of 1992 -- of a federal acid precipitation study now underway.

By doing that, we should have a clearer understanding of what is really occurring with respect to acidity levels in lakes.

To take care of the effects of acid precipitation until then, my bill also calls for a grant program for such projects as applying acid-neutralizing lime to lakes that show high acidic levels.

The stakes are too high in the acid precipitation debate to risk enactment of a costly control program that might not work.

Those costs -- including job losses, economic damage to coal and related industries, and higher electric utility bills -- could deal a back-breaking blow to our industrialized areas, and to coal-rich states like West Virginia.

The United Mine Workers predicts, for example, that 80,000 coal miners could lose their jobs if strict acid precipitation controls were enacted.

We must take a careful, commonsense approach in dealing with acid precipitation -- such as the one I have suggested -- and resist the temptation of hastily imposing more federal rules and regulations that could do more harm than good.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Wrong Solution

In 1971, health care cost every man, woman, and child in our country an average of \$394.

By 1981, however, medical care expenses had jumped to an average of \$1225 a person -- more than three times what those expenses had been only a decade earlier.

On the heels of this phenomenal increase in health care costs comes an Administration plan to cut \$37.9 billion from the Medicare program over the next five years.

The Administration made that proposal in its fiscal 1984 budget request, pointing to the long-term financing problems of the Medicare system as one justification for the cuts.

I oppose those cuts, not only because the vast majority of the cuts would come from the elderly and disabled -- two groups that have been socked by skyrocketing health care expenses -- but also because I do not believe that cutting benefits is the way to prevent Medicare's future problems.

Just as I oppose the Administration's suggested Medicare cuts, I have opposed and fought similar cuts in Social Security benefits for the elderly and disabled in the past.

In 1981, for example, the Senate approved a resolution -- that I originally offered along with Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York -- rejecting the Administration's planned cuts in Social Security benefits for

the disabled and the elderly.

Out of that resolution grew the President's National Commission on Social Security Reform, which made recommendations that became the basis of the bi-partisan plan approved by Congress this year to shore up the Social Security system.

Once again this year, I am behind an effort in the Senate to stop the Administration from taking a meat ax to programs that help the elderly and disabled -- programs upon which many of them depend.

Along with Sen. Max Baucus of Montana, I recently offered a resolution in the Senate opposing the proposed Medicare cuts, and focusing instead on the need to find solutions for the Medicare program's future financial troubles.

Without question, adjustments in the Medicare program will be needed to keep it financially healthy, but cutting benefits to the elderly and disabled is not the way to go about helping the Medicare program.

Rather, we must take a careful, well-thought-out look at solving Medicare's problems, and one of the key elements of that solution must be to control runaway medical costs.

Until such a solution is fashioned, I will continue to work to protect Medicare recipients in West Virginia and across the country from bearing the brunt of ill-advised cuts in medicare benefits.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Striving For The Honor Roll

On its national report card, our country's educational system is making passing grades, but it is not achieving honor roll status.

This is the conclusion of a number of studies on the nation's schools -- the most notable, perhaps, being the study issued recently by the National Commission on Excellence in Education after 18 months of study.

That report points to some disturbing trends in education, including:

--a drastic shortage of mathematics and science teachers in the nation's public schools;

--minimal math and science requirements in most schools. In an estimated 70 percent of states, only one year of each is required to graduate;

--the abandonment of educational basics -- such as English, math, and science -- for general, non-academic courses;

--and, the failure of American students to keep pace with their counterparts in other industrialized nations in educational skills and knowledge.

"For the first time in the history of our country, the educational skills of one generation will not surpass, will not equal, will not even approach, those of their parents," the report notes.

The sobering tone of the National Commission on Excellence in Education report emphasizes the importance of making a high-

quality educational system one of our country's key priorities.

Today's students will face a world in which the United States will be locked in increasingly keen competition with Japan, Germany, and other industrialized nations for a share of the world's market and the world's jobs.

That competition will demand that our young people be well-equipped with education skills -- particularly math and science, which are crucial to understanding and operating high-technology equipment -- and with a good, basic knowledge of the world market and the techniques of our trading partners.

If our students do not acquire the skills needed to meet the challenges of the future -- and if we do not take steps to make sure our educational system can provide them with those skills -- we risk not only our students' futures, but also our country's future, as well.

We already have the capability, the resources, and the teacher talent to put our country's educational system on the honor roll.

And I believe the recent attention that has been fixed on our educational system -- and the concern expressed nationwide -- should spur us to take the right steps to make sure our students receive the best possible skills and training.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Dallas Pike Dedication

Giant strides have been made in coal mine safety in recent years.

In many ways, advances in mining technology and health and safety requirements have meant safer working conditions and fewer accidents for the men and women who work in our mines.

The fight to maintain and improve safe mine conditions is not over, however, as long as we keep suffering mine injuries and deaths.

Last year, 122 miners lost their lives on the job.

While that is far fewer deaths than in past years -- in part because last year fewer miners were actually on the job -- those 122 lost lives mean that our efforts to promote greater mine safety must continue.

That is why facilities like the Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) testing laboratories at Dallas Pike in West Virginia's Northern Panhandle are so important.

Recently, I participated in a dedication ceremony for an expansion of those facilities, which will provide additional space to test the safety of

mining equipment.

I was impressed by the operation at Dallas Pike, which is the country's major center for comprehensive testing of mine equipment.

MSHA tests thousands of mine products at Dallas Pike each year, including methane detectors, miner's cap lamps, light equipment, coal scoops, hydraulic fluid, and other equipment, to make sure they will operate safely in our mines.

The expanded MSHA operation at Dallas Pike -- for which I obtained nearly \$5 million in federal funding -- should be completed by the end of this year.

Upon completion, the Dallas Pike facility will offer improved machinery, better technology, and new mining expertise that should mean increased safety for our miners in the years ahead.

While we can be proud of the steps we have already taken toward greater mining safety, we must continue our efforts to give our miners the best possible equipment and working conditions.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Promising Investment

West Virginia may soon become the home for a research effort on a revolutionary steel-making procedure that could give our American steel industry a significant technological edge over its foreign competitors.

The procedure is known as direct strip casting, or "melt drag," and the Senate Appropriations Committee recently approved my amendment to fund a three-year research, development, and pilot project effort on this process.

My amendment now awaits the approval of the full Congress.

Current plans call for a pilot demonstration plant to be in Weirton to test the strip casting procedure, with part of the work to be undertaken at National Steel Corporation's Weirton research facility.

Experts tell me that direct strip casting is a fairly simple process.

Molten steel is poured in a continuous ribbon onto a rapidly spinning wheel.

Centrifugal force pushes that steel off the wheel in a strip of uniform thickness and width, and as it flies through the air it is instantly cooled, at a rate of about 3,000 feet per minute.

These steel strips would then be used in the manufacture of appliances, automobiles, and other

products.

The direct casting process would save time and money in the production of steel strips, and it would be energy efficient. We could save the equivalent of 11 million barrels of oil a year by using the procedure, based on present shipments of continuously casted steel sheet.

My amendment provides a \$7 million federal investment in fiscal 1984, followed by \$15 million in 1985, and a final \$8 million in fiscal 1986.

The project would be undertaken by National Steel Corporation in conjunction with Battelle Memorial Institute of Columbus, Ohio, which has pioneered the development of direct strip casting.

A unique feature of my amendment is the pay-back provision, by which the federal government would be repaid up to twice its original \$30 million investment if the procedure is successfully developed and marketed.

Successful application of direct strip casting in our steel mills would put us ahead of our foreign competitors, who have not developed the technique.

That could mean more steel jobs and more steel production for West Virginia and the nation -- a good return on a federal investment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Message From The Mountain State

More than half of the 17,000 West Virginians who have answered the questionnaire included in my July newsletter see unemployment as the greatest problem facing our country.

West Virginia's widespread worry about continuing joblessness reflects my own deep concern about the 136,000 West Virginians and the millions of other Americans who are still without work.

Though West Virginians are still returning the questionnaire to my office, a preliminary tabulation shows that unemployment tops the list of what West Virginians consider our most serious national problem.

After joblessness, West Virginians listed the following as their greatest concerns, in descending priority: Federal budget deficits; national defense; economic recession; inflation; unfair foreign trade competition; quality of education; high interest rates; and U.S. involvement in Latin America.

West Virginians were asked if the Administration's proposed cuts in federal education funding were consistent with the goal of improving the nation's education system. Sixty-seven percent said

those cuts would not lead to a better national education system, and 33 percent said they would.

When asked if they would support the imposition of quotas or other penalties to end unfair trading practices by our foreign trading partners, West Virginians were overwhelmingly in favor, with 86 percent saying yes, and only 14 percent opposed.

Two final questions focused on the current unrest in Central America. By a margin of 56 to 44 percent, West Virginians said they were opposed to the idea of increasing the number of military advisors to Central American countries.

The second question -- on whether the United States should increase its military role in the Central American region -- drew a more lopsided response. Sixty-three percent of the West Virginians who responded said they were opposed to increasing our military role in Central America, with 37 percent favoring the idea.

This questionnaire supplements the thoughts and viewpoints West Virginians share with me as I travel throughout the Mountain State, and as I read your mail.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Travel West Virginia

West Virginia offers a spectacular array of mountains, lakes, forests, and rivers that each year draw more and more visitors into the Mountain State.

Sightseers, hikers, swimmers, boaters, skiers, and white water rafters have come in increasing numbers to enjoy our state's resources and scenery, and they have made tourism West Virginia's third largest industry, behind coal and manufacturing.

That means jobs for West Virginians and dollars for our state's economy.

Tourism is West Virginia's second largest employer, with over 45,000 West Virginians working in jobs directly or indirectly associated with that industry, according to the state's Office of Economic Development's latest figures.

In 1981, tourism brought \$1.6 billion into our state's economy in direct and indirect sales, accounted for \$74.8 million of our state's tax base, and paid out more than \$255 million in wages for West Virginians working in the tourist industry.

A conscientious effort to bolster tourism in West Virginia -- on the federal, state, and local levels -- has led to the development, improvement, and expansion of national and state parks and recreation areas across the state, from Pipestem in the south to Oglebay Park in the Northern Panhandle.

The growth in our tourist industry -- and its positive impact on West Virginia's economy -- is

proof that these efforts have not gone unrewarded.

And those efforts are still going strong.

Just recently, for instance, I took part in dedication ceremonies for the New River Gorge National River Visitors Center in Fayetteville, Fayette County.

That facility, for which I was able to help obtain \$145,000 in federal funds, will help us to better showcase the scenic New River for the tens of thousands of people who visit it each year.

Further north, in Jefferson County, renovation and expansion continues on the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, which draws an estimated 1 million visitors annually. That work will move forward with funding I was able to have included in the 1984 Interior Appropriations bill.

And, action by Congress this summer will mean that construction will go forward on the Stonewall Jackson Dam and Lake in Lewis County, which will give central West Virginians not only better water supply and quality, but will also provide a major new recreation area for our state.

With a continuation of this kind of commitment, we will be able to share more of West Virginia's natural beauty with visitors from across the country and around the world -- and that will mean a boost for our state's economy and employment for West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting Our Economic House In Order

While there may be signs that the nation's economy is headed out of its deep recession, little evidence of that upturn can be found in West Virginia or in many other areas of the country.

Almost one in five West Virginians is still without work -- the highest jobless rate in the country.

In fact, employment in our state's basic industries is down 39 percent from what it had been just two years ago.

So though there may be encouraging indications that our economy is on the mend -- such as lower interest rates (which are still too high), less inflation, and slowly declining unemployment nationwide -- no recovery will be complete until it reaches industrialized states like West Virginia and until the structural problems are solved that are at the root of our economic troubles.

Unfortunately, the slight improvement in economic indicators has apparently convinced some in the Administration and in Congress that policies to strengthen our economic underpinnings can be abandoned for efforts in other areas.

I disagree with that thinking.

I believe that now is the best time -- while some of the country is experiencing a slight recovery -- to solve the problems that are at the foundation of our economic difficulties.

There is a need to:

- reduce federal deficits;
- coordinate monetary and fiscal policies to keep interest rates at reasonable and stable levels;
- stabilize the American dollar, and develop policies that encourage American industries to manufacture new and innovative products, both of which could help make our exports more competitive overseas;
- and foster a relationship among government, management, and labor dedicated to keeping our economy on sound footing.

If we do not take steps to put our economic house in order now, and to strengthen the basic industries that contribute significantly to our economic well-being, we risk throwing the country into another deep recession.

And that is a risk we cannot afford to take.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Buffer Against Joblessness

For thousands of West Virginians and millions of other Americans, unemployment insurance has helped buffer the impact of losing their jobs.

Unemployment insurance has meant that jobless families can pay the mortgage or rent, meet energy bills, or simply put food on the table.

Unfortunately, however, the program is so complicated and the recession so severe that jobless families are not getting the cushioning Congress intended when it devised the program.

In West Virginia, for example, 11,000 jobless workers have exhausted their unemployment insurance since April, which has left many of those workers in serious financial difficulty.

The best solution is to get the economy moving again and to get our workers back on their jobs.

But until that happens, the unemployment insurance program should be revamped to give the maximum amount of help to those who need it.

That is what legislation I recently introduced in the U.S. Senate would do.

The current unemployment insurance program provides three tiers of benefits -- basic benefits, extended benefits, and federal supplemental benefits.

Jobless workers generally receive between 26 and 55 weeks of unemployment insurance, depending on where they live, that state's requirements, and the un-

employment rate there.

In West Virginia, for instance, unemployed workers can get 28 weeks of basic benefits, 13 weeks of extended benefits, and 14 weeks of supplemental benefits.

But while unemployment is above ten percent in 20 states and jurisdictions, red tape in the program makes it possible for only five states -- fortunately, West Virginia among them -- to qualify for extended benefits.

That means that thousands of workers in areas hard-hit by the recession are not receiving the help that they need.

Further, the supplemental benefits program must be reauthorized by Congress, risking an interruption or discontinuation of benefits that could be devastating to families that depend on them.

My bill -- a bi-partisan effort co-sponsored by Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa. -- would simplify and consolidate the extended and supplemental benefits into one program to provide the greatest help to the jobless in areas suffering most from the recession.

Basic benefits -- the first tier of the program -- would not be affected.

We need that major overhaul in the unemployment insurance program, so that people who have to have unemployment insurance know what help is available and how to get it, and so that those who manage the program can do so in an efficient and effective manner.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting The Stealth

The Pentagon has a new strategic aircraft on its drawing board that, in years to come, could give our national defense effort a significant boost.

That aircraft is commonly called the "Stealth" bomber, and it is a technologically advanced plane that will have the capability, over a long period, of slipping into Soviet airspace undetected.

Because of its sophisticated technology, the Stealth will be able to render billions of dollars worth of Soviet air defenses virtually obsolete until the end of this century and into the next. This capability would give America an edge in the vital air defense arena.

That makes the Stealth aircraft important to our future national defense efforts -- so important, in fact, that I recently offered an amendment to the 1984 defense authorization bill to protect the Stealth's future development.

My amendment, which was approved by the Senate, would prevent the Pentagon from rechanneling funds meant for the Stealth into other defense programs.

I see the possibility of

such a siphoning of funds from the Stealth development effort because it is carried out in top secret. This necessary secrecy has prevented the Stealth program from gaining widespread national following.

That lack of a national voice -- pressing for the continued development of the Stealth -- could make the aircraft vulnerable if the Pentagon sees cost overruns in other areas and is tempted to "borrow" from the Stealth account to make up for those overruns.

Despite the fact that it is a highly classified program, several things are known about the Stealth.

As a versatile aircraft, the Stealth can perform a full range of missions, and it represents the best that our advanced technology has to offer.

All reports indicate that the Stealth's development is on target and progressing satisfactorily.

That progress on the Stealth will be protected because of my amendment, and I am encouraged that the Senate adopted my amendment and agrees that development of the Stealth strategic aircraft is a key part of a strong national defense.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Business For West Virginia

Northrop Corporation's small business director, Jay Cooper, wrote me a letter recently to tell me that his company has placed more than a half-million dollar's worth of new orders with West Virginia companies since June of this year.

The significance of his news is that Northrop -- a large, California-based aircraft company -- was one of eight defense contractors represented at the two defense industry seminars I held in West Virginia on June 1 and 2.

I organized the meetings so that interested West Virginians could get first-hand and detailed information on bidding for defense contracts and sub-contracts.

I also invited to the seminars officials from the Defense Department, the Defense Logistics Agency, and the General Services Administration, who offered their expertise and advice on doing business with the Pentagon and other government agencies.

The West Virginia meetings followed a successful defense seminar I held in Washington at the end of March, which drew nearly 50 West Virginia business people. A total of almost 250 West Virginians took part in the three seminars.

Apparently, those seminars are beginning to bear fruit.

A second defense industry day participant, Bendix Corporation, reports that since the seminars, inquiries from West Virginians interested in doing business with the company have surged.

Martin Marietta Corporation, a third participant, has sent almost four dozen detailed information packets on selling to the company to interested West Virginians.

These early results are encouraging, and I believe they show that West Virginia companies can play a larger role in supplying some of the billions of dollars worth of items purchased each year by the Defense Department, defense contractors, and other areas of the federal government.

The key to increasing West Virginia's role is for our business people to become familiar with procurement procedures, learn the bidding system, find out what the government and other companies need, and get on the bid lists that best suit their products.

That was the purpose of my three defense industry seminars, and I hope that Mr. Cooper's letter on his company's new business with West Virginians is the first of more defense contracts and sub-contracts for Mountain State businessmen.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Brutal Act

The Soviet Union's act in shooting down an unarmed Korean passenger airliner, killing 269 innocent people, was brutal and inexcusable.

In committing such a deed, the Soviets have brought down on their country the condemnation of the United States and most of the rest of the free world -- condemnation that is justified and appropriate.

The Soviets owe the world a full and truthful explanation for this deed, as well as an apology, compensation for the families of the victims, and firm assurances that such an act will not be repeated.

In the days following the tragedy, I made those points to President Reagan. I met with him about the incident at the White House, along with other congressional leaders, and spoke with him again, on the telephone, immediately following his national television address on the situation.

I thought the President's speech was tough in tone, but that he was restrained in his actions. While I fully support the measures outlined by the President, I would have preferred that his Administration take stronger, more forceful actions against the Soviets.

My suggestion to the President was that his Administration try to work

with other nations to impose stiff trade sanctions against the Soviets. A coordinated effort by many countries to impose sanctions against the Soviet Union could prove effective, and would let the Soviets know -- beyond question -- that their actions are not condoned by, nor are they acceptable to, the civilized world.

I also believe that we should cancel our recently negotiated grain agreement with the Soviets, at least until they explain the incident, apologize for it, compensate the victims' families, and give assurances against a similar occurrence.

The last grain embargo -- imposed by the United States after the Soviets invaded Afghanistan -- hurt the Soviet Union, costing it a billion dollars and making it eager to sign the latest grain agreement with our country.

No explanation offered by the Soviet Union can justify its immoral act in ambushing an unarmed, civilian plane full of unsuspecting travellers of many nationalities.

But the Soviet Union must be made to understand -- by the strongest possible actions -- that its reprehensible act will not be tolerated, nor will it be forgotten, by the rest of the world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Congratulations, Weirton Steel!

Eighteen months of hard work and determined effort by thousands of West Virginians brought triumph to the city of Weirton recently when the employees of Weirton Steel voted overwhelmingly to purchase and run their company, one of the state's largest employers.

Close to 90 percent of the estimated 8,000 workers voting said they favored the employee-takeover -- an impressive display of unity that bodes well for the future of Weirton Steel.

The vote by Weirton Steel employees to buy their company was a success for many West Virginians.

It was foremost a success for Weirton Steel's management, unions, and employees, who pulled together and showed a determination -- from the day that National Steel announced its plans to sell their Weirton plant -- that they would do whatever was necessary and reasonable to buy and operate Weirton Steel.

It was a success for the people of Weirton and the surrounding area, who rose to the challenge, holding fundraisers and backing the effort to take control of the town's largest and most

important employer.

It was a success for countless local, state, and federal officials, who joined in the effort by cutting through redtape and regulations and by finding ways to provide financial help for the Weirton Steel venture.

Weirton can be justifiably proud, and all West Virginians can take satisfaction in the achievements of Weirton Steel and its ambitious goal to become one of the country's largest employee-owned companies.

But the struggle to make Weirton Steel a workable, employee-owned company will continue.

While a major hurdle was cleared in the recent vote by Weirton Steel employees to purchase their company, much work remains to be done to keep the company profitable and competitive.

But Weirton Steel's employees have shown everybody -- their community, West Virginia, the country, and the people who buy their steel -- that they have the determination to successfully run their company and to continue doing what they have done best over the years -- making steel products and making them well.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Toll-Free Assistance For West Virginians

In one of my recent newsletters, I included some toll-free numbers for federal agencies that I thought would be helpful to West Virginians.

Because of the response I received, I am reprinting some of those numbers, and adding a few

new numbers.

Some of them will help you with state-related problems, and others with federally related matters.

As always, my office stands ready to be of assistance to any West Virginian who needs help with a federal problem.

Consumer Product Safety:	1-800-638-8326
State Income Tax Help:	1-800-642-9016
Consumer Sales Tax Help:	1-800-642-8698
Federal Income Tax Help:	1-800-543-7200
Insurance Department:	1-800-642-9004
State Labor Department:	1-800-642-9100
State Fuel and Energy Office:	1-800-642-9012
Motor Vehicles Department:	1-800-642-9066
State Park Reservations, Travel Information:	1-800-642-9058
Public Service Commission:	1-800-642-8544
Social Security Administration:	1-800-848-0106
Teachers Retirement:	1-800-642-8509
Veterans Benefit Counseling:	1-800-642-3520
Workman's Compensation:	1-800-642-9091
Child Abuse:	1-800-352-6513
Toll Free Operator:	1-800-555-1212

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Acid Rain: Calling For Caution

The voices calling for caution on the course to follow on acid precipitation control plans have been persistent, but lately they seem to have been drowned out by those shouting for drastic measures to deal with "acid rain."

Mine has been one of the voices urging caution -- and saying loudly and clearly that we do not know enough about the causes and effects of acid precipitation to enact strict controls that would be costly, especially to West Virginia and other coal states, and could be ineffective.

A strong and welcome voice has joined those of us calling for restraint -- that of Energy Secretary Donald Hodel.

In a recent meeting in my office, Secretary Hodel assured me that he shares my concern over the prohibitive costs of strict acid rain control plans now under consideration by the Administration.

Secretary Hodel agreed with me that strict controls would mean that the price of energy for the whole country would be higher.

Even more encouraging was Secretary Hodel's comment that others in the President's Cabinet Council -- which is advising President Reagan on a course to pursue on acid rain -- have raised questions about the effectiveness of any acid precipitation control plan that calls for multi-million-ton re-

ductions in sulphur dioxide.

That kind of control plan would devastate West Virginia and other coal states, costing West Virginia alone millions of dollars, thousands of jobs, and hefty increases in electric utility bills.

The Energy Secretary is one of a number of Administration officials I have met and talked with recently to seek support for my position on acid precipitation.

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William Ruckelshaus has been in my office several times to discuss acid rain.

And earlier this year, I met at the White House with President Reagan, who agreed with me that we need to have more scientific data on acid rain before we embark upon a costly -- and perhaps destructive -- course.

I recently contacted the President again, this time by letter, and urged him to reiterate his earlier position and reject any acid rain control plans that single out Appalachian and Midwestern coal and electric utility industries as the culprits wholly responsible for acid rain.

In the next several weeks, as the Administration looks carefully at a number of acid precipitation control plans before it, I will continue to raise my voice in opposition to any plan that unfairly penalizes West Virginia and other states.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Selling Coal To Japan

Japan is an important buyer of American coal, particularly our metallurgical coal.

In 1981, for instance, Japan bought approximately 20 million tons of our metallurgical coal. Much of that coal was from West Virginia, the country's leading coal exporting state.

That is why a drop in that trade -- as we experienced last year when Japan bought only 12 million tons of American metallurgical coal -- is a matter of great concern to me.

I discussed this recently with Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry, Sosuke Uno, in a meeting in my Capitol office. Mr. Uno is the head of one of Japan's most powerful ministries, and he plays a major role in the formulation of Japan's economic and trade policy.

My purpose in meeting with Trade Minister Uno and a delegation of Japanese trade officials -- including the co-chairman of the U.S.-Japan Energy Working Group, which has been meeting to improve the energy relationship between our two countries -- was to explore ways to step up our coal sales to Japan.

The United States, and West Virginia in particular, is one of Japan's most reliable and stable coal suppliers, a fact the Japanese Trade Minister readily acknowledged.

And without question, our metallurgical coal and our steam coal are of high quality -- another important factor to the Japanese.

In response to my statement

that I hoped we could sell more of our coal to Japan, Mr. Uno indicated the desire on the part of his country to increase its coal imports from America as soon as the Japanese economy -- which has been sluggish -- improves.

I also discussed with the Japanese delegation the possibility of increasing Japan's imports of West Virginia steam coal. While most of the coal that we ship to Japan is metallurgical, I believe the prospect is good for the development of a growing steam coal market in Japan.

The Trade Minister pointed out during our meeting that Japan can purchase coal more cheaply from countries that can ship their products in supercolliers -- giant vessels that can carry 100,000 dead-weight tons or more.

I told Mr. Uno of the role I was playing in improving the nation's coal transportation network, including my legislation to modernize and deepen our coal ports so they can handle the economical supercolliers.

The Japanese Trade Minister agreed that improvements to our coal transport network -- especially port improvements -- would make our coal more economically attractive to Japan and other countries.

I believe my meeting, with Trade Minister Uno and the rest of the Japanese delegation, was an important first step in developing a continuing dialogue between West Virginia and Japan that could benefit West Virginia and our coal industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Expanding Our Use Of Coal

Ten years ago, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) cut off its oil exports to the United States.

The resulting misery for millions of Americans -- long lines at the gasoline pumps, talk of rationing, and fuel prices that doubled almost overnight -- spurred a reawakening of national interest in one of our most abundant and versatile natural resources: Coal.

West Virginians did not need to be "reawakened" to coal's advantages. With our vast reserves of high quality steam and metallurgical coal, West Virginians have long been in the forefront of promoting coal's greater use.

In 1961, for example, I led a successful effort to establish a federal Office of Coal Research, and since then I have spearheaded or supported many programs and policies to encourage the production and use of our coal and the development of coal-based technologies.

But, unfortunately, the zeal with which West Virginians promote coal is not shared by all Americans.

In the years since the 1973 OPEC oil embargo, for example, our relatively stable oil supplies have allowed the memories of long gasoline lines to fade, and some people apparently have forgotten about the promise that coal holds for our energy future.

Recently, though, increasingly strident calls for strict controls on sulphur dioxide emissions -- in what I believe is a misguided effort to cut back on "acid rain" --

have refocused the need for research and development of technologies to use our coal cleanly and efficiently.

I recently introduced a bill in the Senate calling for such a research and development effort, with the goal of increasing our use of coal by allowing it to be burned in an environmentally sound manner.

My bill is aimed at producing -- within a five-year period -- technology and equipment that industries can use immediately to burn coal with a minimum amount of pollution.

Some of those technologies would include new ways to prepare coal; research into pre- and post-combustion clean-up of flue gases; and development of advanced coal utilization processes such as fluidized-bed combustion, fuel cells, and diesel and gas turbine engines that could use coal.

Successful development of such coal technologies will need a broad base of support, and to achieve that, my bill provides for a cooperative effort among the federal Department of Energy and its Energy Technology Centers, private industry, and national laboratories and universities across the country.

The realities of the acid rain debate make it essential for us to quickly develop new technologies -- such as I have prescribed in my bill -- that will allow us to expand and maximize coal use while meeting our country's environmental goals.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Tragic Loss

The barbaric attack on our Marine compound in Beirut -- resulting in the loss of more than 220 American soldiers -- was an atrocity that has caused pain for all Americans.

That act calls into question the presence of our troops in Lebanon, and demands a full explanation by the Administration of not only the purpose, but also of the scope of our mission in Beirut as part of a multi-national peacekeeping force.

In the days since the Beirut attack, many West Virginians have contacted me to ask why American soldiers are still in Lebanon. They want to know why we are risking the lives of our young men, and how long the Administration plans to keep American soldiers in Lebanon.

Those are some of the questions that I have been asking of the Administration. I asked those questions when Congress debated a resolution several weeks ago giving the President 18 more months to keep our military forces in Lebanon -- a resolution that I voted against.

I asked those questions again recently, in the wake of the brutal terrorist attack on our soldiers, and I have yet to receive satisfactory answers.

Further, the President had assured Congress and the American people that our forces in Lebanon were being "adequately" protected. I do not believe that that was the case.

Early reports from Beirut following the at-

tack -- though unconfirmed by the Pentagon -- indicate that our Marines on guard duty were not permitted to carry loaded weapons. If those reports are accurate, we are subjecting our troops to extremely dangerous and unacceptable conditions -- conditions that place them in the position of "sitting ducks" for such attacks.

I believe we need to do everything possible to hasten the departure of our American troops from Lebanon, in concert with Great Britain, France, and Italy, which are also part of the multi-national peacekeeping force.

One way to accomplish that would be to send a peacekeeping force -- such as a force from the United Nations -- to Beirut that is truly "neutral," and, therefore, could be more effective in its mission.

A United Nations contingent could take over for the present peacekeeping forces -- which are no longer perceived as being "neutral" -- and attempt to provide an atmosphere in which warring factions in Lebanon could be brought together in an effort to restore the country to stability.

Until we can bring our American fighting men home, however, we must take every step to ensure them the greatest measure of protection and safety so that they will not again suffer the kind of tragic loss experienced in the Beirut bombing.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Unnecessary Gamble

The Federal Aviation Administration has come up with a plan to close 52 air traffic control towers nationwide over the next three years, with Clarksburg, Lewisburg, Morgantown, and Wheeling on its hit list.

That plan is unwise and unsafe, and I am working against its enactment.

Already, I have met with Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole in my office to tell her why I believe West Virginia's towers should remain in operation.

I described to Secretary Dole West Virginia's rough terrain and our changeable weather, which often causes heavy fog and other conditions that make air travel in and out of our state tricky.

I shared these same concerns with FAA Administrator Helms, and with members of his staff who came to Capitol Hill to testify on the plan before the Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee.

Those hearings by the subcommittee -- of which I am a member -- were held at my request so the FAA could be questioned on how it developed the plan and so we could relay our opposition to the idea.

The answers we received from the FAA officials were disturbing, especially when they admitted that a certain measure of safety for air travellers would be compromised by closing the towers.

That response prompted me to tell FAA officials that I would never agree to trade lives for taxpayers' dollars.

I also questioned FAA's usage statistics for the four West Virginia towers -- statistics that are lower than figures I have received from West Virginia airport officials. I believe my figures are a more accurate reflection of the number of flights in and out of the four airports.

But aside from the amount of activity at the targeted West Virginia airports, each has a special importance that I described to the FAA.

Clarksburg is an important hub for many flights in and out of the Mountain State.

Lewisburg, location of the Greenbrier Resort, draws thousands of people to West Virginia each year, many of whom fly into the airport in corporate or passenger planes.

Morgantown is the home of Northern West Virginia's only designated trauma center and intensive care neonatal unit, and the airport receives many emergency flights.

And Wheeling Airport, which had approximately 71,000 operations last year, also handles daily exercises of the Air National Guard and National Guard Helicopter Unit.

The FAA officials admitted during the hearing that they had not made a final decision on the tower closings, and I believe they now have a clear understanding that I, and other members of the subcommittee, will do our best to prevent the FAA from gambling with the safety of air travellers by shutting down needed air traffic control towers.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Second Look

Every four years, American voters have the chance to elect a President for our country -- by re-electing the sitting President or selecting a new one.

And whether voters re-elect a President or choose a new one, their votes are cast for a variety of reasons -- they agree with his policies in one area or another, they feel comfortable with his style or what he stands for, they like his position on a particular issue.

The point is that we have a *choice* every four years on who leads our country, and that choice is central to our democratic process.

When a President wins a second four-year term, however, the Senate does not have a chance to reconfirm or reject his top cabinet and cabinet-level officials who have such an important role in running our government.

I think the Senate should have a say in whether a re-elected President's top people remain in their jobs for the President's second term, and to accomplish that I will soon introduce a bill in the Senate requiring the reconfirmation of the highest-level appointed officials in the government.

Those officials would include all cabinet Secretaries; the directors of the

Central Intelligence Agency, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Arms Control Disarmament Agency; the U.S. Trade Representative; and the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

By requiring the reconfirmation of cabinet-level appointees, the Senate would have a chance to look over such appointive official's public record, to rate his or her job performance, and to determine if that official has been effective or ineffective in carrying out public policy.

In recent years, instances have arisen in which a cabinet officer has received Senate confirmation -- many times in the belief that a new President should be given wide latitude in choosing his own top people -- and later has been less than effective in carrying out public policy.

Top officials of our government who hold the important jobs of formulating and executing public policy should be as accountable as our President, and if these individuals are in a position to remain in office for another four years, I think the people's elected Senators should have the opportunity to review the record and to once again provide their advice and consent to a particular nominee's conduct and performance in office.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Social Security Disability: We Must Make Improvements

Since the Social Security Administration began its aggressive reviews of social security disability recipients in March of 1981, more than 1.1 million Americans have been subjected to the review procedures.

Nearly 40 percent of those Americans -- or more than 420,000 recipients -- have seen their benefits terminated under these new procedures.

Behind these statistics are tens of thousands of truly disabled Americans -- people who have little or no hope of finding or keeping a job -- that eventually and rightfully have had their disability benefits restored.

I have heard the same story again and again from many West Virginians who have had their disability benefits cut off -- people who are entitled to benefits and who eventually have them reinstated after months of appeal efforts.

Those months of uncertainty have caused anguish and anxiety for thousands of disabled individuals, a situation that moved Congress to ensure that those who had been ruled ineligible for disability benefits would continue to receive benefits until an administrative law judge had time to make a final determination.

The original intention of the disability reviews was to weed out those who were unjustly receiving benefits. In carrying out the reviews, however, the Administration has been overzealous and careless,

and many qualified and truly disabled people have suffered as a result.

That is why we must act to correct major problems with the social security disability program -- a point I made recently on the Senate floor.

I co-sponsored an amendment that would have provided a starting point for making the badly needed changes in the social security disability program. Unfortunately, that amendment was defeated by a 49-46 margin.

However, I have also co-sponsored a bill to accomplish that same goal. Among other things, that bill would require the Social Security administrator to:

- conduct reviews in a reasonable manner, using complete and recent medical histories and information;

- provide proof of medical improvement before declaring a person ineligible for benefits;

- use face-to-face hearings for applicants and current beneficiaries who are denied eligibility;

- and continue the emergency practice of paying benefits to those declared ineligible in disability reviews until an administrative law judge rules in the case.

We owe our disabled Americans a disability program that works as it is supposed to work, and that offers the kind of help that disabled Americans justifiably deserve.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pinpointing Wasteful Spending

Imagine spending \$435 for a hammer. Or \$437 for a 12-foot tape measure.

As incredible as that seems, there are reports that these are the prices the U.S. Navy paid one of its suppliers for those items.

Tales of the Pentagon spending stunning sums of money for such small items have been surfacing recently, and such reports demand a full investigation into the procedures used in buying spare parts.

I have persuaded the Senate to call for an investigation to find out if there is, indeed, waste and sloppiness in the Pentagon's spare parts buying practices.

My amendment, to the 1984 defense spending bill, requires the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) to take a close look at how the Pentagon buys spare parts, for which it spends an estimated \$13 billion a year.

The OFPP was created in 1973 as the Executive Branch's central office on federal procurement practices. Part of its responsibility is to give Congress recommendations on how the government's buying habits can be improved, and I believe the OFPP could be effective in pinpointing ways for the Pentagon to purchase spare parts more economically.

In response to reports of wasteful defense spending, Defense Secretary Weinberger instituted a reform program to improve the way the Pentagon orders and buys spare parts.

Under my amendment, the OFPP would take a look at those reforms, decide if they are working, and report to Congress no later than June 1, 1984, on whether the Pentagon is using practices and procedures to get the best prices for the tax dollars it is spending.

The OFPP, in close cooperation with the Defense Department's inspector general, would also be required to give Congress guidance on legislation it might enact to ensure that the Pentagon is buying its spare parts in the most cost-effective way.

Providing funds for our national defense is important, and we must make every effort to see that such funds are channeled wisely and are being used to their maximum effectiveness.

Spending hundreds of dollars on an item that might cost \$10 at the local hardware store is not only an abuse, but it also jeopardizes our national defense efforts by wasting precious dollars that could be used, instead, on equipment and programs that make real contributions to our national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Progress On Acid Rain

Scientists recently appeared before the Senate Environment Committee to talk about acid rain -- its possible origins, causes, and effects.

What came out of that hearing underlined my position that scientists still disagree on whether strict acid rain controls are needed or would work.

I also testified at that hearing, saying that West Virginia's economy would be severely damaged if new controls were clamped on coal-burning facilities.

In my testimony, I cited a recent report by the National Academy of Sciences that made clear that scientists do not know if steep reductions in sulphur dioxide emissions from Midwestern and Appalachian coal-fired powerplants would really protect sensitive areas of the Northeast.

I have repeatedly criticized that suggested approach, which would cost thousands of jobs, boost electric bills, and devastate the economies of West Virginia and other states, with no guarantee that such

limits on sulphur dioxide emissions would help in the battle against acid precipitation.

My approach, which I outlined for the committee, is to speed up the federal study now underway on acid rain, so that scientific information on its causes and effects would be available in 1987 instead of 1992.

I have a bill in the Senate that would accomplish that, and that would, in the meantime, make grants available to ease any adverse effects of acidity on lakes and streams.

I believe the scientific confusion about acid rain, and the calls by some of us for a cautious approach in dealing with it, have slowed the drive to impose hasty and perhaps unwise and ineffective restrictions on sulphur dioxide emissions.

In that respect, we have made progress in fending off potentially damaging, and possibly useless, requirements that could hurt West Virginia and other coal states.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hotline Help For West Virginians

For many West Virginians with federally related problems or questions, help can be just a telephone call away.

The federal government maintains many toll-free hotlines for those with questions or difficulties of a federal nature.

Listed below are some hotlines that may be useful to West Virginians.

-
- Consumer Product Safety Commission-----1-800-638-2772
(product recall, complaints)
 - Retired Army Pay Problems-----1-800-428-2290
 - Army Employment Information-----1-800-872-2769
 - Marine Corps Employment Information-----1-800-423-2600
 - Navy Employment Information-----1-800-327-6289
 - Internal Revenue Service Taxpayer Help-----1-800-424-1040
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency-----1-800-638-6620
(flood insurance information)
 - National Health Information Clearinghouse-----1-800-336-4797
 - Small Business Administration-----1-800-368-5855
(answer desk)
 - Transportation Department-----1-800-424-9393
(automobile safety complaints)
 - Federal Home Loan Bank Board-----1-800-424-5405
(mortgage rate information)
 - White House News-----1-800-424-9090
 - Social Security Administration-----1-800-848-0106
(medicare questions)
 - Veterans Benefits Counseling-----1-800-642-3520



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tackling Runaway Deficits

Between 1946 and 1974 -- 29 years -- the United States government accumulated budget deficits totalling nearly \$150 billion.

Contrast that with the anticipated deficit for 1984 -- nearly \$200 billion *for just one year.*

Unfortunately, the gigantic budget shortage projected for fiscal 1984 is not an aberration: In each of the next three fiscal years, deficits in excess of \$150 billion are predicted.

Any hope of achieving a long-term economic recovery will be jeopardized if the U.S. government continues to run large budget deficits, which drive up interest rates and strangle investment in new businesses, homes, and plant and equipment -- in short, the type of investment that strengthens the chances for a lasting economic recovery.

Our budget shortfalls must be brought under control, and accomplishing that will require a unified effort by the Administration and Congress.

Unfortunately, the Administration -- which must bear a large share of the responsibility for our

deficits because of its disproportionate tax cuts for the wealthy and skyrocketing Pentagon spending (some of which is wasted) -- has remained on the sidelines, refusing to cooperate in efforts to erase some of our red ink.

I believe one way to bring the Administration and Congress together on a course to reduce budget deficits would be to establish a bi-partisan commission on deficit reduction.

That commission -- made up of qualified and responsible individuals -- would be given the task of developing a plan to lower budget deficits.

We have had success with such commissions in the past, the most recent being the national commission on social security reform, which last year suggested a plan to put the ailing system back on a sound financial course.

I think that a national commission on deficit reduction could lay the groundwork for a bi-partisan effort to tackle runaway deficits which, if left unchecked, will further weaken our already fragile economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Jobless Need More Help

I think we need a complete revamping of our unemployment insurance program to make it permanent and to ensure that it is responsive and effective, especially in these times when many millions of Americans are still out of work.

That is one of the goals of a bill I have introduced in the Senate, which would not only make Federal Supplemental Compensation (FSC) benefits available whenever we have large numbers of jobless Americans, but that also would cut "red tape" and consolidate the unemployment insurance program so that it would be easier to understand and administer.

When Congress was considering the FSC extension earlier this year, I urged that it undertake the kind of sweeping overhaul of the program envisioned in my bill.

The difficulty Congress experienced in hammering out the last minute compromise between the House and the Senate on extending FSC underlines the critical need for a permanent program that automatically provides benefits when joblessness is high.

Additionally, many jobless West Virginians and Americans were needlessly panicked by the delay in extending the program, and feared that inaction by Congress would mean a cut-off of funds that many would need to feed their families and pay the rent.

While the comprehensive reorganization my bill would have provided was not part of the final FSC

extension, some elements of my proposal were included in the measure.

States can now use a more realistic yardstick in qualifying for Federal Supplemental Compensation benefits. This new "yardstick" will provide extra help for the unemployed in West Virginia and a number of other states.

The bill extending FSC also made some other important changes in the program that I suggested to simplify its administration and to make it easier for those receiving benefits to understand.

I attempted to add up to eight extra weeks of benefits for those who had exhausted all other unemployment insurance, but my idea was not adopted by the Senate. The defeat of my proposal was largely on a party-line vote.

The final compromise contained at least a part of what I fought for in the Senate by providing up to five extra weeks of coverage for those who began receiving FSC on or after April 1, 1983.

While I am pleased that the FSC bill approved by Congress incorporates many of my suggestions, I do not believe that it provided enough help for those who are jobless because of the effects of the worst recession since before World War II.

I believe that we must streamline and improve the bureaucratic morass that is now our unemployment insurance program, and I will continue to work toward this end.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Boosting America's Economy

Economic policies in recent years have left us with back-breaking joblessness, staggering budget deficits, soaring interest rates, anemic industrial production, and a record imbalance in our trade with foreign countries.

One of the most damaging aspects of those economic policies has been the steady and alarming erosion of America's ability to compete head-to-head with many of our foreign trading partners.

That erosion threatens our economic well-being and could mean the loss of many more American jobs.

We need to take actions to rejuvenate our American industries -- such as steel, mining, oil and gas, glass, chemicals, and lumber -- and to provide more jobs for our workers.

Earlier this year, I appointed a Senate task force to develop such a plan, and work was recently completed by the task force on a proposal that I believe could help our industries regain an edge over foreign rivals.

At the center of that plan is an advisory committee -- composed of representatives from business, labor, government, and the public -- to develop a national cooperative strategy to boost our

economy.

The task force proposal also concentrates on five other major areas, including:

- improved education programs to increase the skills and productivity of American workers;
- programs to speed up research, development, and commercialization of new products and processes for our industries;
- programs to help workers and industries to adapt to technological changes, including retraining programs;
- stepped up investment in new plant and equipment; and
- trade programs to spur the sale of U.S. products and services overseas.

The challenge of increasingly stiff competition from our world trading partners and the corresponding decline in our own competitiveness make it essential for Americans to take bold and innovative steps.

The proposals of the task force I appointed -- to buttress our economic foundations, increase our industrial might, rival our foreign competitors, and provide more good jobs for American workers -- would give us the launching pad we need to propel us into a better economic future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Investments In West Virginia's Future

Recently, I took part in dedications or ground-breakings for several new water treatment projects in West Virginia, including facilities in Fairmont, Wheeling, Shady Spring, and Romney.

At each of the ceremonies, I was impressed by the improved quality of life that West Virginians in those communities will enjoy, and by the opportunities that the upgraded systems will offer.

Many of my efforts over the years have been aimed at improving West Virginia's basic services -- not just its water and sewerage systems, but also its transportation network, public facilities, and other community services.

Investments in such projects can mean more business and industry for West Virginia, a boost in our state's economy, and a better living environment in our Mountain State.

Improved transportation -- better roads and bridges, safer airports, an expanded rail system, and an updated water transit network -- can open a community to new ventures by enabling products to be sent to market quickly and efficiently.

Public facilities -- such as improved schools, community buildings, and hospitals -- enhance the

quality of community life and provide the kind of atmosphere in which businesses seek to locate.

And the presence of good community services -- like the modern water and sewerage systems I recently helped to dedicate in West Virginia -- help provide more economic opportunities for West Virginians.

Since my first year in the U.S. Senate -- 1958 -- the federal government has funneled almost \$900 million into West Virginia for sewer and water projects alone -- projects that have meant better health conditions and a broader economic base in dozens of towns across our state.

But despite these improvements in basic water and sewerage facilities, too many West Virginians still do not have access to the modern systems that most Americans take for granted.

That is why continuing to bring modern facilities into West Virginia is so important, and why my efforts toward that end will continue.

West Virginia's future can be made brighter if we continue to invest in the public facilities and projects that will attract jobs, industries, and new possibilities for West Virginians, both for today and in the years to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Terrorism: A Looming Threat

Acts of terrorism used to be confined, for the most part, to places far from home, committed by groups with cryptic names and passionate causes.

Italy's Red Brigades, the Baader-Meinhof Gang of West Germany, the IRA, and extremist factions in the Middle East and elsewhere are familiar instigators of brutal bombings, assassinations, kidnappings, and other violent activities in Europe and the Mideast.

Increasingly, however, terrorism is striking closer to home.

Just recently, we have seen:

-- two explosions at a Navy Recruiting Center on Long Island, New York;

-- an attempted bombing at a defense contracting company in New York City;

-- the arrest of a man, his body wired with explosives, in the Visitors Gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives;

-- and a powerful explosion in the U.S. Capitol building, which caused an estimated \$250,000 in damage.

Though the Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that terrorist acts in our country were down

from 51 in 1982 to 31 in 1983, mounting concern over an outbreak of terrorism in America has prompted increased security precautions in both the private and public sectors.

American businesses and industries, for instance, have stepped up security measures at operations here and abroad.

And in Washington, large concrete barriers guard entrances to the White House and the Pentagon, and extra security measures have been taken at the U.S. Capitol to protect both the people who work there and its millions of yearly visitors.

I do not advocate turning the free society that we all cherish into one of fences, barriers, security checkpoints, and armed guards at every turn.

I do believe, however, that a heightened awareness of the dangers posed by terrorists, a redoubling of our intelligence and security efforts, and stiff penalties for convicted terrorists will send a clear signal to those who are bent on committing mindless and irrational acts of terrorism that we, as a country, will not tolerate such assaults on our freedom and our way of life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Promoting West Virginia Exports

Exports are important to West Virginia's economy, and could become an even greater part of the state's economy in the years to come, especially if we take forward-looking steps to promote our products in foreign countries.

Nearly one in every five products manufactured in the Mountain State found its way to a foreign market last year -- a statistic that puts West Virginia third in the nation in the percentage of manufactured goods sold overseas.

Of those exported products, a recent Commerce Department survey showed that chemical products and primary metals were at the top of the list, with 27.2 percent of all West Virginia chemical shipments going to export, followed by 21.1 percent of all primary metals shipments.

Coal is another important West Virginia export -- even though it was not included in the Commerce Department's list -- with West Virginia being America's leading coal exporting state.

While our success in the exporting arena is encouraging, we cannot take for granted that West Virginia's exports will continue to soar.

For that reason, I am working -- along with West Virginia Gov. Jay Rockefeller -- to set up an Export Promotion office in West Virginia.

That idea arose after I was successful last year in gaining Senate approval for a \$45,000 program to encourage the sale of more West Virginia lumber to overseas customers.

An office to promote all kinds of West Virginia exports could serve as a central clearinghouse for our businessmen interested in learning what foreign markets are available, how best to tap into those markets, and how to boost sales of their products overseas.

In a companion effort, Gov. Rockefeller and I are also working on an Export Opportunities Day for West Virginia businessmen, to be held in the state within the next several months.

That event would provide a good chance for our businessmen to talk with federal export officials about the potential that the exporting business offers.

West Virginia's businesses and our state's economy will gain from every effort we can make to line up more foreign customers for our Mountain State products.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Good Program For West Virginia

West Virginia recently received the largest federal grant ever awarded to a state to reclaim abandoned mine lands -- more than \$27 million.

That funding -- known as a federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) construction grant -- will mean good things for West Virginia.

It will mean money for work on 43 reclamation projects in 20 West Virginia counties; work that will be translated into jobs, and into safer and healthier living conditions in the Mountain State.

In fact, OSM estimates that every \$1 million spent on reclamation construction projects creates some 20 to 50 jobs -- jobs that should help ease the hardship faced by some of our unemployed West Virginians.

The construction grant will also help West Virginia continue to restore mine lands that were abandoned decades ago -- projects such as sealing abandoned mine shafts; correcting subsidence and mine drainage problems; controlling mine fires; and cleaning up refuse piles.

That will include seven projects in Logan County; six in Kanawha; five in Monongalia; three each in Marion, Harrison, and Fayette; and two each in

Mingo, McDowell, and Preston.

Eleven West Virginia counties -- Boone, Brooke, Grant, Lewis, Ohio, Raleigh, Randolph, Upshur, Wyoming, and Clay-Nicholas -- will see work on one project with the latest grant money.

The Abandoned Mine Land fund -- which is controlled by the federal OSM and administered by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources -- is made up of fees collected from coal operators on each ton of coal mined.

The most recent grant -- West Virginia's third construction grant -- brings to more than \$55 million the reclamation funds earmarked for our state.

Of that \$27 million set aside for West Virginia, \$18.4 million will be available immediately to the state, with the remaining \$8.7 million provided when additional funds are available.

The Abandoned Mine Reclamation program has accomplished good things in West Virginia, and, in my position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue to do whatever I can to see that West Virginia receives the funding it needs to carry out an effective reclamation program.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Computers and Education

Turning on the television, listening to the radio, or opening a magazine or newspaper is currently difficult to do without being bombarded by advertisements for home computers.

Many of those advertisements are aimed at parents of school-age children, appealing to a child's educational development and raising fears that a child will be left behind unless he or she has a home computer.

Likewise, pressure for school systems to computerize -- as a way of improving the nation's education system -- has been growing.

Properly used, computers can and will be an excellent educational tool, both in our schools and at home.

Before launching into an all-out buying spree on computer hardware and software, parents and schools should examine what computers offer and what they will be used for.

A recent report by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching looked at the computer phenomenon in education and offered several common-sense suggestions for making full and effective use of our computer technology.

Among other things, the report suggests:

-- a careful review of the needs of a school and its student body, as well as a particular computer's capabilities to meet those needs;

-- an in-depth study of not only the quality of computer hardware equipment, but also the level and caliber of the instructional material offered with each system;

-- a thorough training program -- and frequently updated training -- to make certain that teachers can instruct students on the most effective ways of using computers;

-- and establishment of a central clearinghouse on computer technology, which could be valuable in evaluating the different technologies available to schools and educators.

Computers can enrich our educational system -- and other areas of our lives -- if we make it a priority to master the full range of possibilities that computers offer and tailor those possibilities to our own needs.

Computer ability in our educational system should not be a substitute for our students' learning basic skills -- in areas such as mathematics, grammar, language, and the sciences -- but should enhance those skills.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Ally on Acid Rain

During his State of the Union message, President Reagan stated a sensible approach to the acid rain issue.

In his address, the President called for more intensive scientific research into acid rain; a program, in the meantime, to help states reduce the effects of high acidity on lakes; and, finally, speeded-up efforts to find ways to burn coal cleanly.

I applaud the President for his stand, which endorses the three-pronged effort I have undertaken on acid rain.

At the heart of my position on acid rain is one simple premise: We cannot make any rational decisions on acid rain until we have scientific agreement on what it is, what causes it, what its effects are, and what, if anything, can be done about it.

Scientific opinion on acid rain is, and has been, greatly divided.

Just last year, for instance, a U.S. Geological Survey study showed that acidity levels in the Northeast are stabilizing, and that concentrations of sulphur-based chemicals in streams and lakes are actually declining.

Scientists have also found that, of the hundreds of lakes in the Northeast, only a small percentage show signs of high acidity. And other studies detect the presence of acidity far into the Arctic Circle, dating from centuries ago.

These findings suggest not only that coal may not be the major culprit in the acid rain phenomenon, but they also point to the need for more scientific data

before a final decision on acid rain is made.

Any decision to enact strict regulations to "control" acid rain could be particularly destructive to West Virginia, both in the loss of thousands of coal and related jobs, and in the blow to the state's economic base.

Moreover, there would be higher costs for coal, and increased utility bills -- both industrial and residential.

That is why I have called for the faster completion of a federal task force study on acid rain. That report is due in 1992; my bill calls for its completion five years earlier -- in 1987.

Recognizing that high acidity levels have turned up in a minority of lakes in the Northeast, my bill would also provide grants to states to allow them to take steps -- such as lime applications -- to reduce or eliminate the effects of that acidity.

A final, and crucial, element of my acid rain approach is my bill to speed up development of technologies that would allow us to burn all West Virginia coal -- both high and low sulphur -- in a more environmentally sound way.

The acid rain issue is complex, multi-faceted, and fraught with uncertainty.

Before we consider imprudent, costly, and possibly ineffective measures to try to deal with acid rain, we must be certain that we have a good understanding of its causes and effects.

I am glad that President Reagan and I are in agreement on this crucial acid rain issue.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Shot In The Arm For Small Businessmen

The West Virginia small businessman comprises a significant part of the state's economy.

From shopkeepers in Bluefield to restaurateurs in the Northern Panhandle, our small businessmen play an integral role in making West Virginia's economy work.

Efforts to help our small businessmen thrive deserve priority attention, which is why I recently co-sponsored a Senate bill that would aid small businesses in competing for federal contracts.

That bill -- which is known as the Small Business Competition in Contracting Act -- contains a number of provisions that would be beneficial to West Virginians and to the nation's economy in general.

The goal of the bill is to increase small business participation in the federal procurement process by tightening up federal regulations that have been used to deny contracts to small businesses.

That tightening of federal procurement regulations should open the way for more small businesses to sell products and services to the federal government.

The bill also contains a section that requires a prime contractor to make an effort to find subcontractors in areas hardest hit by

unemployment -- so-called "labor surplus" areas. Most of West Virginia qualifies under that category.

Finally, the bill would have the important side effect of improving competition for Pentagon contracts, which would save the taxpayers' money by promoting greater efficiency in the purchasing of spare parts.

The Pentagon's spare parts buying procedures have been controversial, and have come under fire for the large sums of money that have been spent for relatively inexpensive items. Recent reports, for instance, suggest that the Pentagon has spent hundreds of dollars for a simple tool -- a wrench or a hammer -- that should cost less than \$10.

The Small Business Competition in Contracting Act is the kind of bill that could curb that type of wasteful spending, and that could be a big step toward directing more contracts to many small, excellent companies.

West Virginia's small businessmen would certainly benefit from that kind of effort, and from similar attempts to utilize the talents and potential of our small businessmen to their fullest.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Insurance For West Virginia's Future

West Virginia has a network of river locks and dams crucial to much of the state's commerce.

The deteriorating condition of that navigational system, however, threatens West Virginia's economic growth, and makes it essential that repairs get underway quickly to ensure that the system is efficient and effective in the years to come.

I have been urging the Senate Environment Committee to move forward on legislation that would make needed improvements to outmoded lock and dam facilities -- Gallipolis, on the Ohio River near Pt. Pleasant, and Locks and Dams 7 and 8 on the Monongahela River near Morgantown.

In testimony submitted to that Committee recently, I re-emphasized my interest and concern in seeing meaningful repair work begin soon on these crucial facilities.

Without question, Gallipolis is vital to West Virginia's economic well-being. Currently, 27 percent of the commerce that moves through the outdated Gallipolis locks originates in West Virginia, including coal, glass, steel, chemicals, lumber, and other products.

Of the tonnage that Gallipolis handles each year, 14 percent moves from West Virginia to other states, while 27 percent is received by West Virginia.

The Gallipolis facilities are especially important to West Virginia's coal industry. By 1990,

according to the Army Corps of Engineers, 65 percent of all traffic handled at Gallipolis will be carrying coal.

For every year's delay in making improvements at Gallipolis, West Virginia loses more than \$100 million in benefits. The long-term loss to West Virginia -- absent the necessary repairs -- would be staggering.

Locks and Dams 7 and 8 present the same kind of problems for West Virginia. Army Corps officials say that without renovation of the two facilities, a complete shutdown of commerce along the Monongahela River could occur -- a fact that could disable West Virginia's ability to transport products by river to Pittsburgh and points beyond.

In addition to urging the Senate Environment Committee to act on legislation that would allow construction work to begin on these critical inland waterway facilities, I have also requested the head of the Army Corps of Engineers -- the federal agency responsible for the condition of our locks and dams -- to assign these repair projects his top priority.

Unless we move quickly to update and improve our inland waterway system, we risk expensive delays and additional consumer costs that will damage West Virginia's economy in the years to come.

That is a risk that must not be taken.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Expanding West Virginia's Export Horizons

The timber-rich areas of eastern West Virginia should get a boost from a lumber export promotion program that recently received the go-ahead from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

That program -- which is designed to spur the sale of West Virginia's fine lumber products to overseas buyers -- got its start in an amendment for which I was able to gain Senate approval last year.

My amendment earmarked \$45,000 in an appropriations bill to set up the West Virginia timber export program, which will be administered by the West Virginia Office of Economic and Community Development.

West Virginia's businessmen are not strangers to the exporting arena. Already, West Virginia has achieved an impressive ranking in the percentage of manufactured goods exported each year -- third in the nation.

The large number of West Virginia goods that find their way to foreign markets is good for our state's economy, which is why attempts to maintain or improve that ranking are so important.

Those efforts are particularly meaningful in light of the runaway trade deficits this country is suffering -- deficits that could top \$100 billion this year.

Trade deficits -- which are a sign of the erosion of the competitiveness of American products in overseas markets -- can only hurt an exporting state like West Virginia.

Under that scenario, then, programs to keep up our exports -- not only lumber, but also all West Virginia products -- take on special importance.

For that reason, my attempts to expand West Virginia's export horizons will continue, with my efforts focused on gaining new foreign markets for West Virginia products.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preparing Coal For The Future

West Virginia is rich in coal reserves -- both in their quality and their quantity.

Our high- and low-sulphur coals are known to be among the finest in the world, and, without question, West Virginia has enough coal to supply our energy needs for many years into the future.

To do that, however, a priority emphasis is needed on developing new ways to use our coal more efficiently and effectively -- to burn our coal in a more environmentally sound way.

That is the goal of my coal research and development bill, which I introduced in the Senate last fall.

To be successful, that bill -- which sets up a five-year, accelerated research program to develop advanced coal-burning technologies -- must gain widespread support.

Events of recent weeks offer encouragement that my coal research bill is capturing the kind of backing it will need in order to become a successful effort.

In a recent meeting in my office, for instance, Energy Secretary Donald Hodel lent his support for

my proposal, agreeing with me that we must find ways -- as quickly as possible -- to burn all kinds of coal in a clean, efficient manner.

Secretary Hodel's support is welcome, especially since this Administration has achieved only a mixed record as far as coal programs are concerned.

My bill got another boost when the federal government's top coal official, Mr. William Vaughan, lent his support to my call for more intensified coal research.

Mr. Vaughan, the new Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, indicated during a meeting in my office that he supports enactment of my coal research bill.

Also, hearings have been scheduled on my bill for April 9 by the Senate Energy Subcommittee on Energy, Research, and Development.

We cannot wait to begin an all-out, concentrated effort to find new technologies that will lead to a greater reliance on one of our most abundant natural resources -- coal.

That effort will be crucial to West Virginia and to the entire country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Meeting The World Steel Competition

The American steel industry is suffering, and that hardship calls for actions to help the industry survive and meet the challenge of an increasingly competitive world steel market.

Foreign steelmakers -- with the unfair competitive advantage of subsidies by their own governments -- have eaten into the American steel market, taking over 21 percent of the domestic supply.

Nearly half of the U.S. steelworkers who had jobs five years ago have been left unemployed by the decline of the American steel industry.

And in our own state of West Virginia, thousands of steelworkers have lost their jobs. In fact, one of five workers in West Virginia's metals industry is jobless, with total industrial employment near its lowest level since record-keeping began in 1939.

Recently, I joined in introducing a bill in the U.S. Senate that offers a solid, legislative remedy for some of our steel industry

troubles.

That bill -- authored by Sen. John Heinz, Republican of Pennsylvania -- would establish import quotas, for each steel product, of approximately 15 percent of the domestic supply. Those quotas would be in effect for a five-year period.

The bill also contains a requirement that steel companies must invest substantial capital in modernization of their plants and equipment -- a move to boost the competitiveness and productivity of our steel industry.

Our aim is to bring the U.S. steel industry into a new era of competition -- to help our steel industry modernize its approach to steel-making so it can compete on a fair and equal footing with foreign steelmakers.

West Virginia and the nation need a healthy steel industry -- for the jobs it provides, for the boost it gives to our economy, and for its contributions to our national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Widening The Fight Against Cancer

The comprehensive cancer center is on the drawing board for West Virginia, and if that effort is successful, West Virginians will have a much-needed, state-of-the-art facility geared toward the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and research of various forms of cancer.

The West Virginia Cancer Center -- proposed by officials from West Virginia University -- would be headquartered in Morgantown, with satellite or outreach that is sensitive to the needs of cancer patients in our state, and for the study, research, and treatment of the kinds of cancer problems most often found in West Virginia.

The National Cancer Institute estimated that in 1983, nearly one-third of those West Virginians with terminal cancer might have been saved had they had earlier cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Backers of the West Virginia Cancer Center have expressed a strong commitment to reaching those in isolated, rural areas of West Virginia to ensure that they receive proper and prompt cancer care -- a crucial part of any comprehensive cancer pro-

gram for our state.

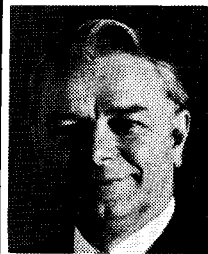
WVU officials are seeking \$31 million for the new center, including \$16 million from the federal government and another \$15 million from private sources.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have already contacted the chairman of the Health Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Weicker, to seek his support for the necessary federal funding.

That funding would be spread over a four-year period: \$4.5 million in fiscal 1985; \$4.5 million in fiscal 1986; \$3.45 million in fiscal 1987; and \$3.64 million in fiscal 1988.

With federal budget deficits of historic magnitude, obtaining the federal money for a West Virginia cancer center will not be a simple or easy task.

West Virginia would gain from a cancer center treatment facility aimed specifically at solving West Virginia's cancer problems, however, and as a supporter of such a center I have pledged my efforts to working to help secure the federal funding needed to make the West Virginia Cancer Center a reality.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Getting The Full Picture

One of the U.S. Senate's important constitutional responsibilities is to look carefully at a President's choices for top executive branch jobs and to determine if those people nominated are qualified to hold the positions for which they were named.

In order to do an effective job in its confirmation duties, the Senate must have up-to-date, accurate, and complete information on a nominee. Without that information, the Senate runs the risk of confirming a person for a job for which he or she is not truly suited or qualified.

The Senate has been recently going through a confirmation proceeding -- that of Presidential Counsellor Edwin Meese to be the country's next Attorney General -- which has been unduly complicated because a complete picture of Mr. Meese's financial affairs was not immediately available to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

This is not the first time that the Senate has run into confirmation problems, and difficulties have arisen in both Democratic and Republican Administrations.

Ray Donovan, who was confirmed as Labor Secretary in 1981, was later the subject of an extensive investigation by a special prosecutor after it was learned that serious charges about his background had neither been investigated nor communicated to the Senate.

The Bert Lance case -- during

the Carter Administration -- is another example.

The recent difficulties with Mr. Meese's confirmation bring into clear focus, once again, the need for the Senate's confirmation process to be tightened and improved.

For that reason, I have introduced a bill in the Senate that would change some key elements of the confirmation process. That bill would:

- ensure that senators conducting confirmation hearings would have access to the same information that the White House has on a particular nominee;

- remove from White House jurisdiction the supervision of a nominee's confirmation background investigation, placing it, instead, in the independent Office of Government Ethics; and

- make reconfirmation necessary for cabinet and other key officials whom a re-elected President wishes to keep in place for a second term.

Simply, my bill would ensure that the Senate has all the facts needed to fairly and faithfully discharge its Constitutional responsibility of confirming top government officials.

Our government can only be as good as the people who run it, and those people should be chosen for important and responsible jobs only after their qualifications have been fully disclosed and carefully studied.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preserving A Vital Industry

Our country's ability to make and supply the vital raw and finished materials needed for military equipment is a key element in maintaining a strong national defense.

Too often in recent years, however, our basic industries have teetered on the edge of survival, jeopardizing our country's capacity to maintain its strength and independence.

For example, the nation's steel industry -- which has fallen on difficult times as production levels have slumped in recent years and foreign imports have soared -- is key to our defense efforts. If the U.S. were forced to rely on another country for its steel needs, our entire defense effort could be endangered.

The same is true of a smaller, but equally vital industry: ferroalloys.

Ferroalloys are tough metals used in a variety of military equipment, such as tanks, ships, weapons, and other defense materiel.

Unfortunately, unfairly priced foreign ferroalloys are chewing into the domestic industry's ability to survive and compete, prompting America's ferroalloy industry to seek relief from the federal government.

West Virginia has three ferroalloy companies that have all felt the effects of foreign ferroalloys -- Elkem Metals at Alloy; Chemetals at Kingwood; and Foote Minerals Company at Graham Station.

Representatives from those companies and I recently met together with Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige in my Capitol office to discuss the difficulties they have been experiencing in keeping their companies alive.

Not only are our producers concerned about the job losses -- nearly 1,150 in West Virginia in the last few years -- and production drops that have resulted from the invasion of foreign ferroalloys, but we also told Secretary Baldrige about the national security problems that would arise from the lack of a healthy, domestic ferroalloy industry.

Secretary Baldrige promised us that he would urge President Reagan to make a swift decision on a petition that has been before him since August, 1982, that could help domestic ferroalloy producers fight underpriced imports.

Further, a number of my Congressional colleagues and I have been urging the Administration for many months to grant relief to the ferroalloy industry -- as a matter of national security, and to help an important U.S. industry that is suffering at the hands of unfair trade practices by foreign countries.

The West Virginians representing the ferroalloy industry made a compelling case to Secretary Baldrige, and I hope the Administration will reward those efforts with action designed to support our ferroalloy industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preparing Our Students For Tomorrow

West Virginia, in the past year, has undertaken an ambitious and well-planned effort to develop a co-ordinated computer education network for our state's schools.

By the end of the year, high school seniors in all of our state's 71 vocational schools and in a dozen West Virginia high schools will have access to computer education.

Despite this encouraging progress, however, West Virginia will need additional financial resources before its outstanding computer education program can reach all West Virginia schools and students in all grades.

West Virginia has made the initial investment in computer education -- as difficult as that has been at a time when financial resources are stretched thin -- because our state educators understand the importance of giving our students the educational opportunities and skills necessary to meet the challenges that will face them in this decade and beyond.

West Virginia's commitment to computer education and its need for future financial help were two reasons why I recently joined in introducing a bill in the U.S. Senate that would provide students with computer educational opportunities.

That bill -- the Computer Education Assistance Act of 1984 -- is aimed at giving all students access to basic computer skills, and, as such, is heavily weighted toward channeling

federal assistance to schools and students with fewer financial resources.

The computer bill has four basic and important elements:

-- it places a heavy emphasis on planning by schools to make certain they obtain the most appropriate and useful computer equipment. West Virginia's planning efforts were used as a model in the bill in the belief that all states should approach computer education planning as thoroughly and thoughtfully as has West Virginia;

-- it addresses the problem of the shortage of adequate computer training for teachers by setting up a grant program to develop and operate teacher training institutes;

-- it calls for the development of solid computer software for students in elementary and secondary schools in recognition of the shortage of worthwhile computer instructional programs; and

-- as already noted, it targets federal assistance to schools and students who most need it.

Basic computer knowledge -- to enhance and expand the traditional reading, writing, grammar, mathematics, science, and other skills that are so important to our students' educations -- will be a key for our young people to compete in the years ahead.

The computer education bill introduced recently is designed to make sure that not only do our students have access to computer education programs, but also that those programs are beneficial, effective, and worthwhile.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Our High Technology

The United States enjoys a significant and important edge over the Soviet Union in the production and manufacture of high-technology equipment.

That edge is so important, in fact, that the Soviets have developed some underhanded techniques to try to get their hands on our advanced technology.

During a recent congressional hearing, for instance, witnesses told senators that U.S. Customs agents had successfully thwarted an attempt to illegally sell a sophisticated computer to the Soviets by shipping it through a third country.

Unfortunately, the flow of technologically sensitive equipment from the United States to the Soviet Union has become so severe that a recent report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies stated that the U.S. risks losing its technological advantage unless this situation is brought under control.

While I am not inclined to agree that we have totally given up our technological edge, I do think the United States and its allies must take swift action to safeguard and preserve the advanced knowledge that makes our products so valuable to the Soviet Union and other would-be aggressors.

Nowhere is that more important than in our defense technology, an area in which the competitive edge we enjoy is a key element to our national security efforts.

That was what I had in mind recently when I offered an amendment in the Senate -- which was adopted -- that would help stem the flow of defense-sensitive technology to the Soviet Union and other foreign rivals.

Specifically, this amendment -- to the Export Administration Act -- calls for review and comment by the Defense Department and other national security agencies on export regulations dealing with military technology.

That close scrutiny is aimed at preventing the inadvertent or unlawful transfer of militarily sensitive, "high-tech" equipment to unfriendly countries.

Our world today demands that we maintain a strong national defense, and one of the vital elements of that defense effort is the advantage we currently hold in the high-technology field.

We must make every effort to protect our technical superiority, and in so doing maintain the military strength that means peace and freedom for our children and our grandchildren.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Competing For Research Dollars

"Scientific research" sometimes brings to mind white-coated scientists bending over microscopes peering at tiny organisms, or working out long, cryptic formulae that nobody else can understand.

In fact, though, the scientific research that seems so mysterious to many of us -- and so foreign to our daily lives -- is very basic to the everyday things we do. Each day, scientists battle diseases to make our lives healthier, and create new products and technologies that help lay the groundwork for whole new industries.

Many established companies involved in research and high-technology, for instance, locate new plants near important research centers, or where there is an ample supply of trained research people.

No wonder, then, that West Virginians -- especially at our universities and colleges -- are showing stronger interest in getting more involved in scientific research.

Such research takes money, and one of the main sources for our limited scientific research dollars is the federal government.

Recently, representatives from three federal agencies involved in scientific funding -- the National Science Foundation, and the Departments of Energy and Defense -- accompanied me to Morgantown to take part in a sem-

inar that I arranged for research personnel from West Virginia's colleges and universities.

My purpose in setting up that seminar -- which was co-hosted by West Virginia University, with the excellent cooperation of WVU's president, Dr. Gordon Gee -- was twofold: to help bring more federal research dollars into West Virginia, and to acquaint federal officials with the research potential of West Virginia's universities and colleges.

Competition for federal research dollars is keen, and in gearing up our efforts to obtain more federal grant funding in West Virginia, we will be going head-to-head with scientists and institutions of higher learning in other states.

Traditionally, West Virginia has not fared as well as it could in attracting research dollars, in great measure because science and scientific research have not been given the priority they deserve in our schools and colleges.

I hope the seminar will help give our research officials a leg-up on applying and competing for federal research funds.

By increasing West Virginia's share of federal research funding, we will be opening new opportunities for West Virginians to take advantage of the worldwide technological and scientific revolution that is making a positive difference in all of our lives.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal's Promise For The Future

The acid rain debate has brought a sense of urgency to the need for coal research and development.

That was the message that I took to the Senate Energy Research and Development Subcommittee recently when I testified in support of a bill that I have introduced in the Senate to put our country on a fast-track coal research and development program.

The Committee's decision to hold a day of hearings on my bill -- which I introduced last October -- gave my legislation an important boost that I hope will bring serious Senate consideration of my idea in the near future.

The debate over acid rain, and the suggestion by some that strict controls on sulphur dioxide emissions will result in a lessening of acid precipitation, have made finding new ways to burn and use our coal more cleanly and efficiently a top priority.

The terms of the acid rain debate represent a challenge to the use of all coal -- regardless of whether that coal has a high- or low-sulphur content or whether it is mined in Wyoming or in West Virginia.

In short, no coal is totally free of nitrogen or sulphur -- the substances suspected of contributing to

acid precipitation -- and the eventual goal of some of those seeking strict acid rain controls is to stop all coal-burning.

Obviously, for a state like West Virginia that goal would be devastating. And, looking at the broader picture, the loss of the use of our country's coal reserves would be a crippling blow to our economy and to our long-term energy independence.

The acid rain debate comes at a time when the Administration has made deep cuts in coal research and development programs. The unwise undercutting of our coal programs must be stopped, which was one of the driving forces in my introduction of coal research and development legislation.

My bill calls for the federal government to reassess its coal policy and to join together with private companies and our colleges and universities in a five-year, concentrated effort to find new ways for our industries and power plants to use coal in an environmentally sound way.

That kind of federal commitment is needed if we are to realize coal's full potential and take advantage of its promise for our country's future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Trade Crisis

Recent figures released by the Commerce Department show that America is facing the largest trade deficit in the nation's history -- a record \$29.9 billion for the first three months of 1984 and a record \$10.26 billion in March alone.

In business terms, a trade deficit means that the United States is importing more merchandise than it is exporting. But in human terms, a trade deficit means lost jobs and lost opportunities.

The Commerce Department reports that every \$1 billion decline in exports costs this country 25,000 jobs lost or not created. The March trade deficit, for example, translates into more than 250,000 Americans who have lost jobs or opportunities for work. That is more than a quarter of a million men and women who do not know if they can make the house payment, feed their families, or otherwise make ends meet.

The trade deficit is particularly troubling to strong exporting states like West Virginia. Our state ranks third in the nation in the percent of its manufactured goods going to export, and our work force depends heavily on a strong export policy.

For this reason, I have been working with my colleagues in the Senate to find solutions to the economic problems -- including high interest rates, a dangerously overvalued dollar, and the related fed-

eral deficit -- that have contributed to the trade deficit. I am convinced that we cannot solve our trade problems until we bring economic policies in line with reality.

Beyond overall improvements in economic policy, targeted remedies -- such as the Fair Trade in Steel bill -- are needed to improve our foreign trade posture.

The steel industry provides a sobering illustration of what can happen when imports flood the market. In the first three months of this year, more than six million tons of foreign steel entered the U.S. market, giving foreign companies control of almost a quarter of this country's steel market. Nearly half the American steelworkers who were on the job five years ago have lost their jobs, including 9,000 West Virginians.

The Fair Trade in Steel bill, which I joined in introducing, would help reverse this trend by limiting steel imports and by returning fair competition to the domestic and international steel markets.

American workers and American businesses deserve more from the government than well-wishing in the struggle to compete in the international market. They deserve strong trade initiatives that are responsive to their problems and that will strengthen the American economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Re-energizing A Vital Program

America's synthetic fuels program, as envisioned by its creators in 1980, was a far-sighted effort to meet our domestic energy needs, enhance our national security, and bolster the economy of coal-rich states like West Virginia.

While the mission of the Synthetic Fuels Corporation (SFC) remains as valid today as when it was created, the leadership of the agency has been beset by so much ineptitude and questionable ethics that the very existence of the Synthetic Fuels Corporation is in jeopardy.

As it stands now, the SFC board of directors cannot act because it does not have enough members left to constitute a quorum. At the same time, the Administration is moving to cripple the agency by slashing its budget.

It is unfortunate that such a heavy-handed approach is being taken when a far wiser solution would be to clean house, appoint a new chairman of the board of directors and new board members, and get the nation's synthetic fuels program back on track.

Despite the short-term world oil situation, establishing a domestic

synthetic fuels industry is still a key to our long-term security. The increasing instability in the Persian Gulf, and its implications for world wide oil prices and supplies, should serve as a strong incentive to step up our domestic synthetic fuels industry.

The SFC -- with the energy resources of states like West Virginia -- could play a leading role in achieving our energy independence. Instead, we are losing valuable time while the Administration allows the SFC to flounder without leadership and without a quorum.

One thing is certain: we should not allow an agency so important to our nation, and to our state, to be shuffled into obscurity. I have called for the President to nominate a new chairman to return the SFC to its original course, and I will continue to speak out on fulfilling the mission of the agency.

What we do today with the Synthetic Fuels Corporation may well determine how we will meet our nation's energy needs in the future -- or even if we will be able to meet those needs.

May 23, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Let The Soviets Stay Home

The Soviet Union announced recently that it would not send its athletes to compete in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, a decision it claimed was based on the United States' failure to take adequate security precautions to protect the Soviet competitors.

In the aftermath of that announcement, some suggested that the United States should go to any length to guarantee the Soviets that their athletes would be safe in Los Angeles, and that we should "negotiate" with the Soviets to persuade them to change their minds.

I disagree.

Contrary to what the official line might be from the Kremlin, I believe the Soviets had no intention of showing up at the Olympics, but decided months ago to "pay back" the United States for its boycott of Moscow's 1980 Summer Games.

I also believe the Soviets feared that sending their athletes to Los Angeles would result in defections, with some of their young people opting to live in a country that values freedom and personal liberties.

I supported the 1980 Moscow Olympic boycott, called by President Carter in response to the Soviet Union's brutal and un-

provoked attack on Afghanistan, as an appropriate and justifiable response to an intolerable act.

The reasons for that boycott still exist -- the Soviets, even to this day, occupy Afghanistan, subjecting innocent people to acts of terror and brutality.

We should not forget the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, or its ruthless destruction of an unarmed, Korean passenger airliner last summer.

I regret that the Olympic athletes will be penalized for the Soviets' decision to boycott the Summer Games. Years of training and hard work go into an Olympic career, and I am sorry that many of the world's athletes will either not be able to participate, or will be competing against a diminished field of competitors.

That does not mean, however, that our country should beg the Soviets -- or the Soviet allies who also have walked out of the Games -- to join the rest of the world's athletes in Los Angeles this summer.

The Soviets, using a flimsy excuse, have elected to skip the 1984 Summer Olympics. I think the Soviets interpret it as a sign of weakness for us to beg them to come. Let them stay away.

May 30, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Fitting Memorial

The Grafton National Veterans Cemetery in Taylor County has been closed to burials for more than twenty years for lack of space, a situation that has moved West Virginia's veterans to join together in an effort to provide another national veterans cemetery in our state.

The years of hard work on that project by West Virginia's veterans and by officials in the federal and state governments were rewarded recently when the head of the Veterans Administration promised that his agency would "move as quickly as possible" to provide new national veterans burial space in West Virginia.

West Virginia veterans received that promise from VA Chief Harry Walters during a meeting in my Capitol office, which was also attended by U.S. Sen. Jennings Randolph and Rep. Alan Mollohan of West Virginia's First Congressional District, in which the cemetery is located.

Walters pledged during the meeting that the \$1.75 million in the fiscal 1984 budget, that I was successful in designating for the expansion of national veterans cemetery space in West Virginia,

would not be diverted to any other project, but would, in fact, be used in West Virginia.

The VA Administrator also made clear during our meeting that for the VA to go forward with the West Virginia project, land suitable for burial purposes must be donated to the VA.

Walters told the West Virginia veterans that the VA would study a plot of state-owned land near Pruntytown -- only a few miles from the existing Grafton Cemetery -- to determine its suitability for cemetery use. West Virginia Gov. Jay Rockefeller has already offered to donate that land for a veterans cemetery.

The VA's recent pledge to work together with West Virginia's veterans and with members of the Congressional delegation to achieve the goal of a new veterans cemetery for West Virginia will allow us to continue our efforts on both the state and federal levels to make the new site a reality.

A new national veterans cemetery for West Virginia will be an appropriate and fitting memorial to the sacrifices West Virginia's veterans have made for their country.

June 6, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Boosting West Virginia Exports

West Virginia is not often thought of as an exporting state.

Our state is better-known, perhaps, for its rich coal reserves, chemical and glass manufacturers, lumber industry, steel mills of the Northern Panhandle, fruit growing in the Eastern Panhandle, and other industries.

But, in fact, West Virginia is a leader in exports -- in 1981, according to the U.S. Commerce Department, the third-highest ranking state in the percentage of manufactured goods sold to overseas buyers.

Those exports included more than \$1 billion-worth of West Virginia chemicals; \$600 million in primary metals; \$82 million in fabricated metals; and \$78 million in machinery products.

And that ranking does not take into account West Virginia's coal exports. In 1982, West Virginia sold 45 million tons of its coal to overseas buyers, which accounted for nearly 43 percent of all U.S. coal sold abroad.

In an effort to maintain and build upon the success that West Virginia companies have had in exporting, I recently sponsored an export seminar to give the West Virginia business community a chance to talk with federal Commerce Department officials about the possibilities open to them in foreign markets.

For first-time exporters, the seminar -- which was held in Charleston -- offered guidance on

selling West Virginia products overseas.

For those who are already in the export market, the seminar provided tips on ways to expand foreign trade.

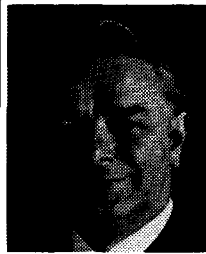
I was proud that during the seminar, the announcement was made that a West Virginia firm, Standard Instrumentation, Inc. of Charleston, has won the Commerce Department's Excellence in Exporting Award -- the first West Virginia company to receive the citation since Huntington's International Nickel Company won it in 1974.

Following the seminar, West Virginia companies interested in exporting got another boost when the Commerce Department announced that it has designated an Export Trading Company in West Virginia, one of fewer than 50 in the country.

That company -- H.L. Porter and Associates of Wayne County -- will be in a position to help West Virginia firms find foreign markets for their goods, especially lumber products; mine machinery and spare parts; coal; chemicals; and arts and crafts.

World markets offer great potential for West Virginia businesses and for our state's economy, and I am encouraged by the positive signs in West Virginia that our exports will not only continue, but that they will also increase in the years ahead.

June 13, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal: New Role in Easing Trade Tensions

Trade relations between Japan and the United States are approaching a crossroads as the U.S. trade deficit with Japan continues to climb.

Last year, the United States' trade deficit with Japan exceeded \$20 billion. This is the largest trade deficit between any two nations in history, and it continues to grow. In April, our deficit was a record \$3.03 billion. Clearly, we cannot sustain that kind of imbalance indefinitely. There are, however, solutions to this imbalance, and West Virginia coal can play a major role in reaching those solutions.

Recently, I met with American and Japanese leaders of the Japan-U.S. Coal Mission to discuss coal trade issues.

Coal is a crucial element in Japan-U.S. trade considerations, but the current outlook for coal exports to Japan seems to be very slim. For many years, the United States provided at least one-third of Japan's metallurgical coal requirements, but from 1982 to 1983, Japanese imports of U.S. coal dropped almost 40 percent. The National Coal Association further estimates that U.S. metallurgical coal exports to Japan are expected to decline about 25 percent in 1990 from 1982 levels.

This state of affairs is clearly disappointing, particularly to a state like West Virginia, which accounts for almost 50 percent of this nation's coal exports.

Although some forecasters say the longer-term prospects in the next decade are better, the gloomy prospect for the period between now and the end of the decade is of concern to me and to many of my colleagues in the U.S. Senate.

Indeed, legislation imposing steel quotas and domestic content legislation have been introduced in this Congress. These bills have growing support as a result of the tensions between Japan and the United States on trade issues.

Therefore, I sincerely hope the efforts of the Japan-U.S. Coal Mission will result in new agreements and arrangements that will help dispel the gathering storm clouds. In particular, I would like to see sales of U.S. coal to Japan maintained and increased at least to historical levels, and I would like to encourage the prospect of providing high quality West Virginia steam coal to Japan.

The success of the efforts of the Japan-U.S. Coal Mission could go a long way toward relieving some of the frustration felt by all Americans with respect to our uneven trade relations with Japan.

June 20, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Oil Supplies: Preparing for the Worst

The crisis in the Persian Gulf, precipitated by the war between Iran and Iraq, is deepening with every passing day.

Although this war is being fought halfway across the globe, the threat it poses to the flow of worldwide oil could bring it home to all of us.

While the United States has reduced its dependence on Persian Gulf oil, other nations have not. A severe cutback or cutoff of oil from the region would bring fierce competition for non-Arab oil and skyrocketing prices in the world market.

As the situation in the Persian Gulf deteriorates, I am becoming more and more concerned that the United States is not prepared to cope with a full-scale energy emergency. I fear that this Administration's approach to emergency energy preparedness is far too limited to deal adequately and fairly with the problems our nation will face in the event of a major oil disruption.

The United States has a stockpile of oil, called the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, to see us and our allies through an oil shortage. But this Administration has no plan for allocation of this oil, and apparently no intention of develop-

ing a plan.

Instead of allocating oil, the Administration plans to sell it to the highest bidder. But saying that whoever can pay the price of the oil will get the oil does not, in my opinion, constitute a "plan." It does not tell me how we will get oil to our hospitals in West Virginia, to our farmers, our truck drivers, our elderly people or anybody else who needs oil but can't afford to outbid the competition.

The Department of Energy has estimated that a major disruption of Arab oil supplies could cause the price of oil to rise to between \$40 and \$80 a barrel -- an increase over current prices of at least 40 percent and as much as 200 percent.

Price increases of that magnitude would be disastrous to the people of West Virginia. Working people and the elderly would be particularly hard hit by another oil price shock.

To allow that to happen is not laissez-faire government but less-than-fair. The United States would not escape unscathed from an oil disruption in the Persian Gulf. It is time this Administration recognized that fact and began planning for the worst -- before the problem arises, not after it is too late.

June 27, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Curbing the Cost of "Spare Parts"

In recent months, we have been treated to repeated horror stories of outrageous prices the Department of Defense has paid for common tools and spare parts.

For example, the Pentagon paid \$450 each for ordinary hammers; \$427 each for tape measures; \$17.59 for a bolt worth 67 cents; and an incredible \$1,118.26 for a simple plastic cap for a folding stool that should have cost about a dollar.

The prices paid for these and other commonplace, off-the-shelf items have been so outrageous that they insult the common sense of all of us.

I wonder what the average carpenter in this country would tell the hardware salesman if he asked \$450 for a hammer? I can imagine how a West Virginia coal miner or steelworker would react if he were told that the cost of a regular sledgehammer was up to \$436 -- the price paid by the Navy for such an item.

I don't think the average citizen would accept such ridiculously high prices, and the military should not continue to do so. The

Senate recently voted overwhelmingly to pass an amendment I sponsored that will put real teeth into a new position being created for each branch of the service -- the job of "competition advocate."

The competition advocate's major responsibility will be to ensure that the military is getting the best possible price on the parts and tools it buys.

My amendment is designed to make sure that the military listens to the competition advocates by requiring that the advocates have the status of senior officers, that they hold their jobs for at least two years, and that any purchases made contrary to their advice are reported to Congress.

As it stands now, the military procurement process is just short of being a nightmare. My intention is to shake up the system, jolt the ingrained habits of procurement officials, and enforce fresh and constant reviews of the adequacy of competition within the procurement process to protect against such obscene wastes of the taxpayer's money.

July 4, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Working For Unity

Unity in the coal industry is essential to meet the challenge of proposed acid rain controls.

The future of the coal industry is especially important to West Virginia, which is the second largest coal-producing state in the nation. Anything that affects the industry will be felt in West Virginia's economy. The downturn in the demand for coal over the past few years, for example, is reflected in West Virginia's high unemployment and the loss of 15,000 coal industry jobs in our state between 1980 and 1984.

Today, one of the greatest threats to the coal industry is the cry for instant acid rain controls. While it is important that the acid rain issue be dealt with, it is crucial that the problem be dealt with prudently.

Premature action could have a devastating effect on the coal industry, and on the economy of states like West Virginia. It could cost thousands of jobs, result in higher electric bills for consumers, and turn some of our most productive coal communities into ghost towns.

Unfortunately, some proponents of acid rain controls have a hidden agenda. Their intention is to use the acid rain issue to clamp a lid on all coal combustion.

That is why it is so important for the coal industry to present a united front in confronting the acid rain issue. If the industry is to prosper, it must overcome its internal fractures and disagreements and put aside regional differences between low-sulphur and high-sulphur coal producers in formulating a response to proponents of acid rain legislation.

Over the years, coal has played a vital role in America's growth and development as a great world power. Coal remains America's most abundant energy resource; it is a national asset worth protecting.

The coal industry can do much to enhance its own position by forging a consensus on acid rain and other issues and by speaking with a single voice. The acid rain debate has produced an opportunity for unity, and thus for growth, that the coal industry cannot afford to ignore.

July 11, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Focus On Jobs

More than a year ago, I created a Senate task force to examine the long-run prospects for the American economy and the ability of the United States to compete in the international marketplace.

That task force produced a far-reaching document entitled "Jobs for the Future." Just recently, I joined several of my colleagues in the Senate in introducing comprehensive legislation based on the "Jobs for the Future" concept.

Unemployment remains unacceptably high in many states, including West Virginia. One reason for this is that unemployment and economic instability go hand-in-hand. For this reason, the cornerstone of the proposed jobs legislation -- called the Economic Competition and Cooperation Act of 1984 -- is the creation of a council of business, labor, government, and public representatives charged with developing a national strategy to combat unemployment and economic instability.

This bill also deals with the fundamental causes of unemployment and underemployment.

For example, it calls for improving industrial innovation; increasing the nation's commitment to education, especially in math

and science; changing unemployment and training systems to help workers adapt to changing technologies; increasing investment in small business; and expanding international negotiations to better balance worldwide supply and demand.

Between the time the task force undertook its study and the time this legislation was introduced, the economic situation in this country went through a variety of changes. But the recommendations being offered today are as timely now as when the task force first broached them, and they will continue to be necessary next year, and the year after that, and the year after that.

This is not a "quick fix" put together in the heat of a recession. It is a start in making the U.S. economy more competitive. It fosters the kind of behavior needed both within this country and between the U.S. and other countries that is needed to establish full employment on a permanent basis.

Although this bill would not eliminate all the barriers to full employment, it is an important step in the right direction. West Virginians, as all Americans, want and deserve an opportunity to work at good jobs. This bill is an essential part of what is needed to achieve that goal.

July 18, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Boost For The Steel Industry

America's steel industry got a much needed shot in the arm recently when the International Trade Commission (ITC) recommended that quotas and tariffs be imposed on some steel imports.

Although the ITC's action is only a recommendation which can be changed or even rejected by the President, the remedies proposed signal an increased awareness of the way unfair foreign competition has handicapped America's steel industry.

I am encouraged that the ITC is willing to recommend relief for the steel industry. This is particularly good news for West Virginia, where unemployment stands at nearly 14 percent, and where steelmaking and the production of coal used in steel are major industries. A healthy steel industry can translate into a healthier economy for West Virginia.

However, I am concerned that the ITC's recommendations will not go far enough. For instance, the ITC has found that only some segments of the steel industry are being harmed by unfair imports, and it has left other segments unprotected. This action in itself could prompt increased foreign competition in the unpro-

ected product lines.

The U.S. steel industry is vital to America's national security, and I believe the industry deserves our strongest support. Because the domestic steel industry has been so severely undercut by subsidized foreign steel illegally dumped into the open U.S. market, strong measures are needed to help it recuperate.

That is the intent of the Fair Trade in Steel Act, which I have joined in sponsoring. This legislation proposes a comprehensive policy to deal with the steel industry's problems. It would impose a 15 percent quota on steel imports over a period of five years, and it would require that American steelmakers plow revenues back into modernization of their own plants and equipment to accelerate their own recovery.

The quicker the steel industry gets back on its feet, the more jobs will be saved and the bigger boost the economy will get, not just in West Virginia but also throughout the country. The International Trade Commission is on the right track, and the Fair Trade in Steel Act is the logical next step to recovery.

July 25, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stealth: A Strategic Advantage

One of the key strategic advantages the United States holds over the Soviet Union is in the area of high technology.

And in this category, the so-called "Stealth" bomber is one of the most advanced and therefore one of the most valuable weapons systems the United States has under development.

The sophisticated technologies utilized in Stealth are designed to enable the aircraft to slip undetected into Soviet airspace, thus presenting major complications for Soviet military planning.

As such, Stealth is a crucial element of America's strategy to deter Soviet adventurism and makes a vital contribution to our overall defense capability.

For this reason, it is vitally important that we push full speed ahead on the production of the Stealth bomber, and that we make sure no funds are siphoned from the Stealth budget.

I believe that the Stealth program is so important to America's national security that I have again this year offered an amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill that puts the Senate on record as endorsing Stealth and

prevents the transfer of any funds out of the Stealth budget.

This sends an important signal to our friends and foes alike on the significance which the Senate places in maintaining America's lead in defense technology. I believe this action also reflects the sentiments of most West Virginians.

However, this does not mean that we can take the Stealth program for granted or assume that its future is assured. The Stealth program and its funding level have been challenged by those who would delay or even scuttle the Stealth bomber in favor of expanding the B-1 bomber program.

Unfortunately, the B-1 bomber cannot match the capabilities of the Stealth, and it would be foolish to pour all our bomber money into the B-1 program at the expense of the Stealth. To do so would be to weaken our technological edge over the Soviets, eroding our biggest advantage.

The Stealth bomber will be a noteworthy addition to America's defense arsenal -- we must go forward with it aggressively and direct our efforts toward meeting its production schedule.

August 1, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Halting the Runaway Trade Deficit

The most recent trade figures released by the Commerce Department show that the United States is continuing to be plagued by dangerous trade shortfalls.

The Commerce Department reports that the U.S. trade shortfall for the first half of 1984 is a record \$59.7 billion, which is more than twice as high as the trade deficit in the first six months of last year.

And, economic analysts at the Commerce Department are predicting that the worst news is yet to come. They are forecasting a year-end shortfall of between \$120 billion and \$130 billion -- the largest trade deficit in the history of our country.

Unfortunately, multi-billion-dollar trade deficits are not just something for the economists to worry about. Trade deficits cost jobs -- an estimated 25,000 jobs are lost or not created for every \$1 billion in our trade shortfall.

The trade deficit is of special concern in West Virginia because export trade plays an important role in our state's economy.

The steel industry, in

West Virginia and elsewhere, is a good example of how trade deficits hurt our people. The unfair dumping of subsidized foreign steel into U.S. markets is devastating America's steel industry. Imports account for nearly 25 percent of the domestic steel market. For the first six months of this year, steel imports were the highest in history -- 73 percent higher than in the first half of 1983.

But more than steel is at stake in America's continuing trade crisis. The trade deficit is primarily the result of an overvalued dollar, brought on by high interest rates. Thus, the enormous federal budget deficit feeds the trade deficit, and both of these record deficits undermine the foundations of our economy.

A trade deficit of the magnitude we are facing threatens the economy of every state in the nation, particularly strong exporting states like West Virginia. We must take steps to ensure fair trading practices and to strengthen our economy so that this hemorrhage of jobs and dollars out of America can be stopped.

August 8, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Gold

The world was treated to a sample of courage and determination, West Virginia-style, during the 1984 Summer Olympics with the dazzling performances of gymnast Mary Lou Retton of Fairmont and sharpshooter Edward Etzel of Morgantown.

All West Virginians can take pride in these two gold medal winners. They serve as brilliant examples of what hard work and sacrifice can accomplish.

Mary Lou Retton became the first American ever to win the gold medal in the Olympic all-around gymnastics competition. Strong efforts by all the competitors elevated the competition to the level of perfection. Mary Lou Retton faced the daunting prospect of needing a perfect score on her final turn in order to win the gold medal. Millions of people worldwide watched as she overcame the intense pressure and achieved the perfect score of "10" on the vault -- thus winning the gold.

Two days after she turned in her gold medal performance, Mary Lou Retton competed again in the finals for each apparatus. She won a silver medal in the vault, bronze medals in the uneven bars and in floor exercise, and placed fourth in the balance beam. These efforts completed a memorable Olympic Games for

the remarkable Mary Lou Retton.

Edward Etzel -- West Virginia's master marksman -- made his spectacular performance look easy. He won a gold medal in rifle competition by shooting a near-perfect 599 points out of a possible 600. This particular event required a level of skill equivalent to hitting a dime from half the distance of a football field. Telescopic sights are not used in this event, so steadiness of hand and eye are tested to the limit.

Edward Etzel's score tied the Olympic record in English match shooting. There have been many expert marksmen in the history of West Virginia, and Edward Etzel's performance in the Olympics has earned him a place among the ranks of these legendary sharpshooters.

The 615 athletes of the United States Olympic team represented our country with dignity and courage, and turned the slur intended by the Soviet-sponsored Communist bloc boycott of the games into a tribute to American talent and tenacity.

All the members of the U.S. team are to be congratulated; they are all world-class competitors. West Virginia can take special pride in being the home of two of the best of these fine athletes.

August 15, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Encouraging Excellence in Education

Recent studies on the state of America's educational system have underscored the need for improvement in a broad range of subject areas, from raising student test scores to toughening graduation requirements.

The majority of these findings can be categorized as recommendations to improve the quality of American education.

In an effort to encourage excellence in education, I have introduced legislation which would establish a Federal Merit Scholarship Program.

This program would award scholarships to high school graduates who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement.

The scholarships would be based entirely on merit. Under the provisions of my bill, one-year scholarships of \$1,500 each would be awarded to 10 graduates in every congressional district in the country every year.

The program would be administered by the Secretary of Education, but responsibility for developing the criteria for selection and making the awards would rest at the state level. To begin this program, I have sought funding of \$8 million for three years.

This proposal is a departure from our traditional federal approach of needs-based programs. I believe there is a legitimate federal role in encouraging and rewarding excellence in education. This proposal does that.

In 1969, with my own funds, I established the Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Award Program for West Virginia students. Through this program, I award every valedictorian from every public, private, and parochial high school graduating class in West Virginia a savings bond in recognition of that student's achievements.

My own program is a very modest recognition of the achievements of gifted and talented students in West Virginia, but my experience with this program has convinced me that merit-based incentives can be effective in motivating students to strive to excel.

I believe the Federal Merit Scholarship Program I am proposing is a needed and appropriate federal effort to recognize and nurture America's gifted and talented students.

Such a program is a needed investment in our nation's future.

August 22, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Toward A Stronger National Defense

Recent Pentagon reports have revealed that although the United States is spending billions of dollars on defense, our nation's military readiness has been allowed to decline.

The reports show that America's armed forces have only enough ammunition available at any given time to fight one small war in one part of the world for a limited period of time.

It is sobering to learn that despite the billions of dollars that have been poured into military spending over the past few years, our nation is not more secure, and in fact is "ready for anything" only if the "anythings" come one-at-a-time, and for a limited period of time.

Compounding our readiness problem is a foreign policy that relies heavily on tough-sounding rhetoric -- but then conducts business as usual with the very nations we condemn, such as the Soviet Union.

America can do better than this. Our nation needs a foreign policy and a defense strategy that

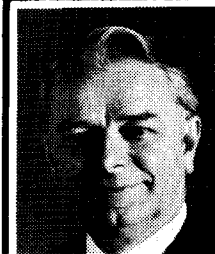
combine to make clear our vital interests in the world to friend and foe alike.

That is the message I took recently to the national convention of America's veterans of foreign wars in Chicago. It is a message that I hope the veterans, who know first-hand the horrors of war, will carry back to the elected officials in their home states.

The real test of the spine of a nation is consistency between words and action. It is important not to overstate. We damage our image, and our national morale, when we overstate, hype, and then back away. That is what happened in Lebanon, after a tragic loss of American lives.

We must do our best to ensure that there are no more Lebanons in America's future. Flamboyant, bellicose language can be satisfying, but it can also be counter-productive to a prudent foreign policy, and it can increase the levels of tension and risk. It is better to "speak softly and carry a big stick," than to bluff and bluster and carry a small stick.

August 29, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening Our Maritime Industry

The United States, throughout its history, has prided itself on being a great maritime nation.

Our commercial fleets have played a leading role not only in America's economic growth and development but also in our national security.

Today, however, our merchant fleet is on the decline. The combined U.S. private fleet useful for military purposes currently includes about 244 general cargo ships. Even if the 180 ships in the mothballed National Defense Reserve Fleet were added to the merchant fleet, the total would be less than the 500 ships required more than a decade ago to support U.S. operations in Vietnam.

In short, the defense-related status of our maritime industry is cause for great concern. It has become apparent that both our current maritime assets and our shipbuilding base would be inadequate to meet the demands of a global war.

It is now, more than ever, that America needs a strong shipbuilding industry. Given our

widening global commitments, a healthy maritime industry is absolutely essential to our ability to defend our vital interests and to work with our allies in promoting free world interests.

Recently, I proposed the creation of a three-year commission to study the defense-related aspects of America's maritime industry and to recommend steps to strengthen that industry. I am concerned that the link between national security and maritime policy has not been given the priority it deserves.

It has been my consistent position that a strong industrial base -- and a strong steel industry as a central part of that base -- is essential for our national security. Building up the U.S. merchant marine fleet would strengthen both our country's basic heavy industries and our national security.

Our industrial base must be revitalized, and our maritime industry brought back to a position of strength, if we want to be fully prepared to meet our national security needs.

September 5, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting America's Senior Citizens

Americans are getting older. In 1900, only one person in 16 was 60 years of age or older. Today, one person in seven is in that age group nationally, and in West Virginia, the percentage is even higher -- nearly one West Virginian in six is over age 60.

Longer life is one of modern America's greatest triumphs, but it is also one of the nation's most pressing challenges. Finding new ways to increase a person's lifespan is no longer enough. It has become just as important to preserve and enhance the quality of life for older Americans.

Social Security has long been the foundation of support for America's elderly and perhaps the single most important factor in determining the quality of life for our nation's retirees. The Social Security system must be protected.

For this reason, I was disturbed to read in a recent news report that Presidential Counselor Edwin Meese, during a speech before a pension group,

criticized Social Security as a "tax and benefit program" but would not discuss the Administration's specific plans for the system.

Criticisms like the remarks Mr. Meese made raise serious questions about the Administration's future plans for Social Security, particularly since the Administration thus far has not elected to reveal its plans.

This kind of talk is very concerning. I believe we need to protect the Social Security system, not take pot shots at it. Since the beginning of the Social Security program, the United States government has been honor-bound to retired Americans, and to contributing workers and employers, to protect the integrity of the system.

As the number of elderly Americans increases, the importance of preserving the Social Security system increases. We must make sure the government recognizes that fact and keeps faith with America's senior citizens.

September 12, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building For The Future

Over the past few months, I have traveled extensively throughout West Virginia to attend ground-breakings or dedications of new water and wastewater treatment plants.

These public works systems are examples of the kind of progress that is needed to bring new resources and new prosperity to West Virginia.

Today, 73 percent of West Virginia's population is served by public water systems, and 48 percent of our people have access to public sewer systems.

This is an encouraging advance over 20 or 30 years ago. It shows that our state is moving in the right direction and that our communities are willing to lay the foundations to attract new businesses, industries, and residents.

But there is a reverse side to that coin -- more than a quarter of West Virginia's people do not enjoy public water supplies, and about half have no public sewer service.

That is why I am so impressed with the amount of activity occurring in this area. This demonstrates

clearly that West Virginia communities realize that the future does not just happen, and that communities create their own futures by the plans they lay and the investments they make in themselves.

These projects are not cheap. They require careful planning and budgeting and considerable federal support. I have always been pleased to assist in obtaining federal funds for these projects because the return on the government's investment is so great. One of the best routes to a more prosperous future is investing in the basic services that attract opportunities--and public water and wastewater treatment systems are high on the list of important investments.

West Virginia is a great state with a promising future. That future should not be postponed by a lack of decent public water or waste treatment systems, or by inadequate systems.

Improved public works facilities are wise investments. They are the foundations on which West Virginia can build a better way of life.

September 19, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ferroalloys: Help For An Ailing Industry

Increased foreign imports have had a tremendous impact on key sectors of the American economy, and of West Virginia's economy as well. The steel, auto, footwear, and copper industries have been the victims of foreign products often sold in the United States with the assistance of foreign subsidies or other unfair trade practices.

These are giant industries. They account for hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in annual sales.

But there is another American industry which, although it is only a fraction of the size of the industrial giants like steel and autos, is indispensable to the manufacture of everything from aluminum cans to computer chips. It is the American ferroalloys industry.

Almost every kind of specialty metal -- including those employed in the aerospace and defense industries -- is dependent on ferroalloys, and yet the American ferroalloys industry has lost 60 percent of the U.S. market to unfairly priced foreign goods.

This is a dangerous situation. The American ferroalloys industry has given other American industries a competitive edge by supplying the new metals technologies they need to produce advanced aircraft, drilling equipment, and a host of lighter, stronger

machinery and parts.

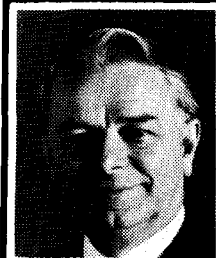
It is unthinkable that this industry could be driven out of business by unfair foreign competition, and yet that is what could happen if the United States does not take preventive action.

The health of the American ferroalloys industry is especially important to West Virginia because some of the most modern and efficient ferroalloys companies are located in the Mountain State, including Elkem in Fayette County, Foote Minerals in Mason County, and Chemetals in Preston County.

I was pleased, therefore, that the Senate recently adopted a trade bill amendment I sponsored that will, if agreed to by the House of Representatives, impose "breakpoint" duties on ferroalloy imports so that the price of imports will be competitive with the price of ferroalloys produced in the United States.

This legislation will have little effect on the price of ferroalloys, but it can have a major impact on the economic well-being of the American ferroalloys industry and, because of the nature of ferroalloys, on America's defense preparedness. Breakpoint duties are a small price to pay for enhanced national security and preservation of an essential American industry.

September 26, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Meeting the Challenge of an Aging America

Congress recently passed and sent to the President the 1984 update of a major piece of legislation that was first enacted nearly 20 years ago: the Older Americans Act.

This act, which has changed in some specifics but not in spirit over the years, remains as relevant today as when it was first passed in 1965. It is the one federal program that is directed solely toward improving the lives of America's senior citizens.

The Older Americans Act embraces a wide range of programs, from Meals-on-Wheels to information-and-referral services. The elderly in West Virginia and in every state have access to services provided under the Older Americans Act.

One of the most significant influences on American society today is the aging of its population. For the next half century, the number of elderly persons is expected to grow at a faster rate than the total population.

This increase in numbers, coupled with longer lifespans, will affect all aspects of our society. Helping the elderly live out their lives with dignity and indepen-

dence will become increasingly important.

That is the goal of the Older Americans Act, to help the elderly retain and maximize their independence. This goal is accomplished by programs that provide such services as transportation, home health care, homemaker services, shopping assistance, home repair, counseling, or other types of supportive services.

The 1984 Older Americans Act places special emphasis on providing long-term, community-based health care and on extending community services to those elderly persons who, because of economic, social, or health reasons, need extra services.

A special section on Alzheimer's disease -- a disease commonly known as senility and once thought to be an inevitable consequence of old age -- makes in-home and respite care for victims and their families a priority.

The Older Americans Act has grown over the years to meet the changing needs of our society. It has proved its worth time and again, and it deserves our continued support.

October 3, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bolstering a Needed Insurance Program

West Virginia, like all great coal-producing states, is a land honeycombed by underground coal mines, many of them long abandoned.

Most of the time, abandoned coal mines present no problem. But occasionally, in a phenomenon known as mine subsidence, abandoned underground coal mines cave in.

Property damage caused by mine subsidence is a serious problem in West Virginia and other states. Approximately 2 million acres of land in 30 states are endangered by mine subsidence. West Virginia faces an estimated \$500 million of mine subsidence problems, and the problem nationwide could exceed \$12.5 billion.

While newer, better designed mines are less likely to collapse, subsidence can result from mining that occurred as much as 100 years ago. And the impact of subsidence can be devastating to a property owner, ranging from serious damage to destruction of a home or property.

Mine cave-ins cannot be prevented, or in most cases even predicted. The federal government's Abandoned Mine Land Fund, financed by a tax on coal production in coal states like West Virginia, was established to handle

the expense of controlling mine subsidence. But the federal government does not compensate property owners for structural damage caused by mine subsidence.

West Virginia is among the states that have stepped in to fill this gap in protection by instituting state-managed mine subsidence insurance programs that cover the expense of structural repairs.

But any insurance program is expensive to start up, and until the program has been in operation long enough that insurance premiums make it self-sufficient, West Virginia does not have the necessary funds to underwrite its coverage.

To maintain this important insurance program until it can become self sufficient, I recently proposed a plan, which was endorsed by the U.S. Senate, to permit West Virginia and other states to use a portion of their Abandoned Mine Land funds to underwrite their insurance programs.

Because Abandoned Mine Land funds are state dollars, collected from coal states to address the problems created by abandoned mines, I believe that mine subsidence insurance is a fitting use for this protection, and states like West Virginia should be encouraged in their efforts to provide it.

October 10, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Finding the Families

For most Americans, the book was closed on the Vietnam war nearly a decade ago with the withdrawal of American troops from Southeast Asia.

But for the families of nearly 2,500 Americans still missing in Southeast Asia -- including 26 West Virginians -- the final chapter has yet to be written.

Some time ago, as I looked over the long list of names of those missing, I became convinced that Congress needed to reaffirm its commitment to the families of the missing that their loved ones are not forgotten and that an accounting for the missing-in-action remains at the top of this country's list of unfinished business.

I could think of no more fitting way to recognize the missing than by striking a commemorative Congressional medal to serve as an enduring symbol of America's commitment to our nation's missing-in-action.

This past summer, the first national POW-MIA medal honoring America's prisoners of war and missing-in-action was issued.

My hope now is that individual medals will be presented to the families of each of the West Virginians listed among the missing. But the years have taken their toll on the accuracy of government records, and today not all of the relatives of the 26 West Virginians can be located.

The list of West Virginia's missing servicemen includes the following:

Army: Albert Harold Altizer, Squire, McDowell County; Jerry Edward Auxier, Dixie, Nicholas County; Earl Roger Biggs, Matheny, Wyoming County; James Edward Duncan, Point Pleasant; Robert William Hunt, Beckley; Larry Francis Lucas,

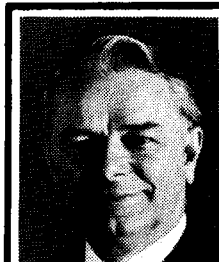
Marmet, Kanawha County; Michael Robert Norton, Eskdale, Kanawha County; Joe Harold Pringle, Horner, Lewis County; Hughie Franklin Snyder, New Cumberland, Hancock County; Dean Calvin Spencer III, Morgantown; James Lawrence Taylor, Nitro, Kanawha County.

Air Force: John Scott Albright Jr., Huntington; Joseph Clair Austin, Moundsville, Marshall County; Ronnie Lee Hensley, Richwood, Nicholas County; Everett Oscar Kerr, Belmont, Pleasants County; Carrol Baxter Lilly, Morgantown; Edward Milton Parsley, Naugatuck, Mingo County; Marshall Irvin Pauley, Milton, Cabell County; Raymond Paul Salzarulo Jr., Follansbee, Brooke County; and George Winton Thompson, Beckley.

Navy: Keith Royal Wilson Curry, Salem, Harrison County; David Wallace Wickham, Wheeling. Marines: Danny Marshall, Waverly, Wood County; Ronald Keith Pennington, Hambleton, Tucker County; James Ray Sargent, Anawalt, McDowell County; and Hobart McKinley Wallace Jr., Sharon, Kanawha County.

Those with information on the whereabouts of West Virginia MIA families are encouraged to write to the National League of Families West Virginia Coordinator, Louis Peake, at 3602 Skyview Drive, Huntington, W. Va., 25701.

The families of the missing-in-action have kept this issue at the forefront of America's conscience through their dedication and perseverance. It is my hope that all those who are entitled to receive the commemorative medal will be located.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Voting Is Our Duty!

November 6 is Election Day, and a day for all eligible West Virginia voters to take a few moments to go to the polls and cast their ballots.

Our right -- indeed our duty -- to vote in America is one of our most cherished and important privileges.

Voting is a duty we must fulfill.

Unfortunately, however, over the past several decades fewer and fewer Americans have been going to the polls on Election Day.

At the beginning of this century, in the election of 1900, 74 percent of all eligible voters cast their ballots. Eighty years later, in our 1980 Presidential election, only 53.9 percent of the voting age population voted, and Mr. Reagan received only 50.8 percent of the votes of those who voted. In other words, Mr. Reagan was elected President by only slightly over one-fourth of the U.S. voting-age population.

For increasing numbers of voters, apparently, it has become easy to sit on the sidelines on Election Day and say, "My one vote really doesn't count that much, anyway."

But history refutes that notion.

In at least four Presidential elections -- those of Grover Cleveland, Woodrow Wilson, Harry Truman, and John F. Ken-

nedy -- the margin of victory was less than one vote per precinct in only one or two key states.

By not exercising our voting privilege and performing our duty to vote, we risk having a government that is not elected by and responsive to the whole citizenry, but one that feels a compulsion to heed the demands of single-issue and special interest groups whose political power is greatly out of proportion to their actual numbers.

The issues that face all of us today -- runaway federal deficits, tax fairness, keeping our social security commitments, and maintaining a strong national security while working for peace -- are too important for us to allow a minority of voting-age Americans to choose those who will deal with such issues.

West Virginians can be proud that our voter turn-out in 1980 was significantly higher than the national average. That year, 737,715 of West Virginia's 1,034,546 registered voters -- or 71 percent -- cast their ballots on Election Day.

In 1980, we showed America that West Virginians take their voting privileges seriously.

On Election Day 1984, let West Virginians again show America that we know the importance of exercising our privilege of voting.

October 24, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Partner In The War Against Cancer

For many years, West Virginians battling cancer have had to go out of state to obtain the latest advances in cancer treatment and therapy.

Not only is there no cancer center in West Virginia, but up until now, there has been no organized approach to cancer research, detection or state-of-the-art treatment anywhere in the Appalachian region.

But all that may change soon. At my request, Congress recently appropriated \$4.5 million to begin development of a cancer research and treatment center to be headquartered at West Virginia University in Morgantown.

This will be West Virginia's first comprehensive, in-state cancer center, and it will be designed to serve the needs of all West Virginians. The facility will have outreach centers in Charleston, Huntington, and Wheeling, and its staff will work in concert with doctors and hospitals throughout West Virginia.

This cancer center will focus on early detection, prevention, and treatment of cancer. It will place special emphasis on those

cancers prevalent in West Virginia, such as lung cancer.

This facility is to be named the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center as a tribute to the late wife of Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia. Mrs. Randolph, who died of cancer following a lengthy and courageous battle, was known for her compassion and concern for the well-being of others. I believe it is fitting to name in her honor a center that will be dedicated to easing suffering and to working toward the prevention and cure of cancer.

The Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center will take approximately four years to build, at a total federal cost of \$16 million to be matched by an equal amount of funding from the private sector.

It will be money well spent for the future health of West Virginians. In the years ahead, I believe that all who have joined in supporting this cancer center will find it to be not only an enduring tribute to Mrs. Randolph, but also an effective weapon in the war against cancer for the people of West Virginia and, ultimately, for all Americans.

October 31, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

AWARDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

American education is in the midst of a crisis today -- a crisis of excellence.

This crisis threatens America's prosperity and security. Our nation's once unchallenged leadership in commerce, industry, science, and technological innovation is being overtaken by competitors throughout the world.

Mediocrity is not good enough. It is time to return the notion of excellence to American education. Parents, teachers, and school administrators have the most direct roles in this effort, but through a new provision in the law, the federal government also will have an opportunity to encourage academic achievement.

This provision is the Federal Merit Scholarship Program, which I authored and which was recently enacted by Congress. This program, which should be in operation by the spring of 1986, establishes one-year scholarships -- earmarked for a student's first year of college or higher education -- to be awarded

to each of 10 outstanding students in every Congressional district in the country.

West Virginia has four Congressional districts; therefore, 40 West Virginia students will be eligible to receive these \$1,500 scholarships every year.

Scholarships awarded under the Federal Merit Scholarship Program are to be administered by state education agencies and to be based solely on academic achievement. My hope is that the availability of these scholarships will be an incentive to spur students onto greater academic achievement.

The Federal Merit Scholarship Program recognizes America's young academic achievers as the champions they are. The future of our nation hinges on our young people. It is the goal of this program to encourage these young men and women to achieve their potential so that they will be well prepared to restore America's preeminence in the world.

November 14, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Computer Science: New ABC's of Education

The scientific know-how that has helped to create such sophisticated pieces of equipment as the space shuttle is only one example of America's new age of technology.

New developments in computer technology are among the most important factors in encouraging scientific breakthroughs, so I am pleased that the state of West Virginia has embarked on an ambitious program to establish a statewide school computer education program.

With equal access to computer technology emerging as one of the most important educational challenges of the 1980's, West Virginia's program is especially commendable.

However, like many states, West Virginia does not have the financial resources to send its computer program into all grades at all of the state's schools.

To help students in states like West Virginia, I joined Sen. Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey in sponsoring legislation during the last session of Congress that would in-

crease computer education opportunities. This is an extremely important program, and it is one I intend to continue fighting for when Congress begins a new session next year.

The legislation I support targets federal assistance to schools and students who need it most, and it emphasizes planning by schools to ensure that the best computer education program is pursued. It is a tribute to West Virginia's school planners that our state's computer education plan was used in the bill as a model system.

Teacher training and the development of computer programs specifically for elementary and secondary school students are additional features of the bill.

Along with reading, writing, and arithmetic, computer science has become one of the basics of a quality education. Government has a legitimate role in ensuring equal access to computer education -- I am hopeful that this role will be translated into legislation during the coming session of Congress.

November 21, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia: Winter Wonderland

Wintertime is one of West Virginia's best kept secrets.

But what West Virginians have known for a long time, the rest of the country is beginning to discover: West Virginia has an outstanding winter recreation industry.

Easy accessibility to the Eastern seaboard, magnificent winter scenery, and a network of easy-to-expert ski slopes are helping to make West Virginia a favorite destination of winter vacationers and weekend visitors.

Among the most popular ski resorts are Canaan Valley State Park, a 6,000-acre resort near Davis in Tucker County where the average annual snowfall is 180 inches; and Snowshoe Resort in Pocahontas County, which averages 200-plus inches of snow a year and which boasts Cupp Run, one of the longest continuous drops in the East.

Other popular ski resorts in the state, according to the West Virginia Ski Association, include Alpine Lake in Terra Alta, Preston County; Timber-

line near Canaan Valley; Oglebay Park in Wheeling, Ohio County; and Winterplace at Flat Top, in Mercer County.

Cross country skiing also is becoming a popular winter sport in West Virginia with Pipestem State Park, in Summers and Mercer Counties, offering some of the most beautiful scenery in the state.

Wintertime is certainly not West Virginia's only recreational season -- hiking, canoeing, white water rafting, hunting, fishing, and golfing are only some of the sports that make our state a year-round vacation destination -- but it is only recently that West Virginia has gained a reputation out of state for its excellent winter sports facilities.

All of these activities point to the fact that tourism is becoming an important element of West Virginia's economy. This is a healthy sign and a development that, if nurtured carefully, can bring many cultural and economic benefits to the Mountain State.

November 28, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Drinking + Driving: A Recipe for Tragedy

The holiday season is a time of good cheer and celebration with our families, friends, and neighbors. For most Americans, it is a season of great happiness.

But holiday celebrating can turn into tragedy in a split second on the highway if alcohol or drugs are mixed with driving.

The statistics alone are sobering:

- In the past decade, 250,000 Americans have lost their lives as the result of alcohol-related accidents.

- Fifty percent of all highway deaths involve the use of alcohol.

- Automobile accidents are the Number One cause of death for Americans under age 35 -- and more than half these deaths are caused by drunk drivers.

- West Virginia led the nation last year in the number of traffic deaths compared to miles traveled.

Thousands of Americans -- especially young people -- are dying needlessly, tragically on the nation's highways every year because of drunk driving. Hundreds of thousands more are crippled or injured as a result of drunk driving.

The problem of drunk driving is especially acute during the holiday season, when more people are socializing and more drivers are on the road. This year, you can help by making safety your holiday motto.

Do not, under any circumstances, drink and drive.

If you are with someone who has been drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel. Drive the person home or arrange other transportation.

Sometimes it takes courage to be a good friend or a good citizen when it comes to drinking and driving, but the stakes are too high to ignore.

December 5, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Helping Hand For Ethiopia

The Holiday Season is a time when Americans traditionally open their hearts, and their pocket-books, to the poor and the needy.

Whether it be dropping coins into the familiar red pails of the Salvation Army, collecting toys for disadvantaged children, or baking cookies for an elderly neighbor, Americans make a special effort during the holidays to share their good fortune with those who have less.

Fortunately, we live in a nation that has the resources to help ease the hardship of poverty or unemployment. An array of federal and state programs, including unemployment compensation, Medicaid, and heating fuel assistance are available to those who need a helping hand.

Not every nation is as fortunate as we are. The tragic photographs and news reports of the famine victims in Ethiopia have brought into our living rooms evidence of suffering beyond the comprehension of many Americans.

Massive amounts of outside aid are needed to save the children of Ethiopia. Many Americans,

and many West Virginians, have helped already, but more help is needed. We can help without shortchanging the needy in our own country by reaching a little deeper into our pockets and into our hearts to help these children in their fight for survival.

Many charities are conducting relief operations for Ethiopia, including churches and community organizations. In addition, donations can be sent to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) or to the American Red Cross. Contributions marked for Ethiopian relief can be addressed to the U.S. Committee for UNICEF and sent to 110 Maryland Avenue N.E., Box 36, Washington, D.C. 20002. Contributions for Ethiopian relief addressed to the American Red Cross can be sent to your local Red Cross office or to the Central West Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross, 1605 Virginia Street, East, Charleston, W. V. 25311.

This Christmas, your generosity can mean the difference between life and death for a starving youngster.

December 12, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Remembering Afghanistan

"Peace on Earth" is a theme we hear repeated in song and verse and Scripture throughout the Holiday Season.

Americans can be thankful, as we celebrate the holidays and usher in the New Year, that ours is a nation at peace and that we live in a free country.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for all nations.

Afghanistan is one such example. December 27th marks the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union. It is an important anniversary because it focuses the attention of the world once again on an almost forgotten war.

Afghanistan is a world away from West Virginia, but its people share the same kind of independence that spurred on the men and women who settled West Virginia and the rest of America's frontier decades ago.

This fierce independence has sustained the Afghan freedom fighters for the past five years, and it encourages them to fight on in the face of enormous hardships.

But the war has taken

its toll. The Soviet invaders have destroyed crops, food supplies, farms, hospitals, and public buildings in their efforts to subdue the Afghans. Many Afghans have fled their homeland to escape the Soviet atrocities. Those who remain lack adequate food and medical supplies.

Efforts have been made to assist the Afghans, including Senate adoption of a resolution I offered that urges all free world governments to assist the Afghan people in their struggle for freedom by providing food and medical assistance.

Americans know the price of freedom -- our forefathers paid that price to win freedom for this country. We cannot turn our backs on the struggle for liberty that is now being waged by the brave freedom fighters in Afghanistan.

This Holiday Season, as we give thanks to God for our blessings and reflect on the peace and freedom all Americans enjoy, we should also remember the brave people of Afghanistan and their five-year struggle to regain these precious gifts.

December 19, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Proven Leadership

Proven leadership is important to the future of Congress and to the future of the country.

It was on the basis of proven leadership that I was recently elected to my fifth term as Democratic Leader of the United States Senate, and I look forward to continuing my service to the people of West Virginia and the nation in this position during the upcoming session of Congress.

The 98th Congress was a good session for West Virginia, and I believe the 99th Congress will see continued progress on the issues that are important to our state.

For example, in the last session of Congress, I was able to forge a consensus on the future of the synthetic fuels program that sets aside \$750 million to establish a new Clean Coal Technology Program, which will benefit the economy of coal-producing states like West Virginia.

I am hopeful that the new Congress will also make progress on other programs that I have spearheaded, including:

- Continued federal funding for the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center --- West Virginia's first comprehensive, in-state cancer research and treatment center -- to be located at West Virginia University in Morgantown;

- Appropriation of funds for the Robert C. Byrd Federal Merit Scholarship Program, for which I have secured Congressional authorization; and

- Progress on major water projects, including the Tug Fork Flood Control Project in southern West Virginia, lock-and-dam work at Gallipolis on the Ohio River, and authorization for locks and dam 7 and 8 on the Monongahela River.

Vision and perspective are important ingredients of leadership. They are among the qualities that I have emphasized in my service to West Virginians in the past, and I will continue to use these qualities as guidelines in addressing the important issues facing the 99th Congress.

December 26, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Thank You, Senator Randolph

Jennings Randolph's retirement from the U.S. Senate as of January 3, 1985, marks the end of our 26 - year Senate partnership working together for West Virginia.

That partnership has resulted in a better West Virginia -- through such programs as the Appalachian Regional Development Act, the Economic Development Act, black lung laws, and a host of other efforts to promote our state's economic development, from the interstate highway system to flood control projects.

During our years of service together, Senator Randolph and I have shared the same vision for our state: that of a prosperous West Virginia offering a good and decent place in which to live and work.

Both Senator Randolph and I have dedicated our efforts to achieving that goal, and to ensuring that West Virginia continues to make the gains so necessary to our state's prosperity.

Fortunately, "retirement" is not a word in Jen-

nings Randolph's vocabulary. Even after Senator Randolph leaves the Senate, I know he will continue to devote his time and attention to the needs of West Virginia.

Through his many interests -- in the handicapped, cancer research, senior citizens, young people and education, and the underprivileged and disadvantaged -- Jennings Randolph will have abundant opportunity to continue his service to West Virginians.

Jennings Randolph's warmth, thoughtfulness, sincerity, and graciousness will be missed in the U.S. Senate. He has touched the lives of millions of Americans and thousands of West Virginians through his work. And he has been a staunch friend and colleague to me throughout our years of service together.

Senator Randolph has earned the respect and gratitude of all who know him. He deserves our heartfelt thanks for a job well done, and our best wishes for success in his future endeavors.

January 2, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Squaring Off On Arms Control

Negotiating a workable arms control agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union is one of the most pressing issues facing both superpowers -- and the world -- today.

West Virginians share with all Americans a stake in the achievement of responsible arms control agreements. Any accord with the Soviet Union to restrict, control, or reduce strategic weapons will vitally affect the security of the United States and all Americans.

The Soviets are tough negotiators, and it will not be easy to reach an agreement with them, particularly an agreement that provides for mutual weapons reductions.

We must also be mindful that the Soviets have been deceptive before. Any agreements with them must be structured so that if the Soviets cheat, we will know it.

To stand the test of time, I believe that any arms control agreement must receive substantial support from the American public. This consensus can best be achieved through the traditional treaty making process, in which the Senate plays a central role.

In view of the current plans to resume arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union, I recently

took steps to ensure that the Senate is informed on a regular basis about the progress of any negotiations that take place.

In December, I suggested to the President that a bipartisan group of Senators be sent as observers to any arms control negotiations and on January 3rd, the first measure adopted by the Senate was a resolution I cosponsored urging the inclusion of Senate observers in any U.S. arms control delegation.

On the following day, after a meeting with President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz at the White House, I was pleased to join with Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole in appointing a bipartisan Senate delegation to serve as arms control observers.

News that the United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to resume negotiations is encouraging. While the United States should prepare to proceed in good faith, we should also move with caution when dealing with the Soviets. The security of America and its citizens must be the top priority for any U.S. delegation working to reach an arms control agreement with the Soviet Union.

January 9, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hotlines: Information You Can Use

West Virginians with federally related questions or problems have access to information through a variety of toll-free telephone hotlines.

Listed below are some toll-free hotlines maintained by the federal government that may be useful to West Virginians.

Consumer Product Safety Commission.....	1-800-638-2772
(Product recall, complaints, fact sheets)	
Retired Army Pay.....	1-800-428-2290
Army Employment Information.....	1-800-872-2769
Marine Corps Employment Information.....	1-800-423-2600
Navy Employment Information.....	1-800-327-6289
Pesticide Emergency Information Clearinghouse....	1-800-858-7378
Federal Emergency Management Agency.....	1-800-638-6620
(Flood insurance information)	
National Health Information Clearinghouse.....	1-800-336-4797
Cancer Information, Department of Health and Human Services.....	1-800-638-6694
Parents Anonymous (child abuse).....	1-800-421-0353
National Runaway Switchboard.....	1-800-621-4000
(For parents and runaways to leave messages)	
Transportation Department.....	1-800-424-9393
(Auto safety information and complaints)	
Washington, D.C., Central Reservation Center....	1-800-554-2220
(Information on lodging in the nation's capital)	

January 23, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preserving American Industries

"Made in America" is a label that many look for when buying a product -- whether it be clothing, an appliance, furniture, or a pair of shoes.

That label, unfortunately, is appearing less and less often as cheap foreign imports flood our country, eroding our domestic market, shutting down many of our manufacturers, and robbing our workers of jobs.

This trend, which is so damaging to our nation, must be reversed. That is why I have sponsored and supported measures in Congress to stop unfair trade.

The ferroalloy industry is one example of a vital U.S. industry that has been hit hard by underpriced imports.

Ferroalloys might not be a household word, but they are crucial to our national defense effort. They are tough, versatile metals that are essential components in a variety of military equipment, such as jet engines, ships, tanks, and other weapons.

Unfortunately, employment in the ferroalloy industry is 50 percent below 1979 levels -- and the unchecked flow of ferroalloy imports threatens to shut down the entire domestic ferroalloy industry.

Such an occurrence would force us to rely on other countries for our fer-

roalloy needs, which could jeopardize our entire national defense effort. This is a point I made in a letter to the President last year in support of the ferroalloy industry, and I believe the President received some bad advice when he determined that ferroalloy imports do not threaten U.S. national security.

The national security issue, coupled with the importance of the ferroalloy industry to West Virginia, prompted me to reintroduce legislation -- which the U.S. Senate passed last session -- to impose "breakpoint" pricing on all ferroalloy imports. Breakpoint pricing would bring the price of foreign ferroalloy imports up to that of the domestic market, enabling American producers to regain a competitive edge.

That could be helpful to West Virginia's ferroalloy producers -- Elkem Metals in Fayette County, Chemetals in Preston County, and Foote Minerals in Mason County -- which have been forced to lay off more than 1,000 West Virginians because of unfair trading practices.

Steps must be taken to ensure that all American industries have the chance to compete on a fair, equal footing with foreign competitors. We need to see that "Made in America" label more often.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fighting For Economic Development

When Weirton Steel employees were putting together a financial package in their successful buy-out of that facility, one of the federal agencies to which they turned was the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The EDA came through with a grant to help Weirton Steel's employees meet the administrative costs of setting up their Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP).

The EDA grant, which contributed to the ESOP's success, is just one of many instances in which the Economic Development Administration has benefited West Virginia.

Over the years, millions of EDA dollars have been channeled to West Virginia in the form of public works, planning, and technical assistance grants -- grants that have been translated into community improvements and jobs for West Virginians.

At present, West Virginia has nearly \$6 million in grant applications pending before the EDA.

I was concerned, therefore, when the Administration recently announced that it was impounding almost all of EDA's funding for the current fiscal year -- \$179 million of the \$202 million appropriated.

In response to that announcement, I joined a number of my colleagues in

sponsoring a Senate resolution opposing the Administration's plan.

The Administration cannot permanently impound the EDA funds without Congressional approval, and I believe our Senate resolution signals the White House that Congress wants the EDA to remain intact.

The attempt by the White House to find budget savings in important programs like those offered by the Economic Development Administration -- which has as its main goals promoting economic development and creating jobs -- is a prime example of a penny-wise, pound-foolish approach to our country's current budget deficit problems.

Without the help of the Economic Development Administration, many of our West Virginia communities -- and many other communities across the country -- would not be able to afford the projects so crucial to attracting and keeping industry and creating jobs.

The programs of the Economic Development Administration have borne fruit in building better communities and increasing job opportunities -- and those programs are worth fighting to keep. That is what we in the Senate will be doing in the coming months, as we work to keep the EDA alive.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Television: A New Role for the Senate

It may not be the most popular program on the air, but television coverage of the U.S. House of Representatives has brought an important part of Congress into the living rooms of millions of Americans across the country.

But the House of Representatives represents only half of Congress. To complete the picture, I believe the American public should have similar access, through television, to the floor of the United States Senate.

For this reason, I recently introduced legislation that would for the first time allow television cameras to capture legislative debate on the Senate floor.

Proposals for television coverage of the Senate have been controversial for the past several years, and with good reason. The Senate's tradition of free and open debate has remained in place for 196 years, and there are those who fear that the unblinking eye of

the television camera would change the unique role of the Senate.

The rules and procedures of the Senate are very different from those of the House and must be considered when introducing television into the chamber, but I believe that the rules and procedures can be accommodated while adjusting to the realities of our time.

Television is without question a reality of the 20th century. It is fast becoming the foremost means of communication in the world. And without television, the Senate is fast becoming the invisible half of Congress.

I have proposed televising the Senate because I believe the American people deserve equal access to both chambers of Congress, and an opportunity to follow Senate debate, to analyze the arguments on all sides of an issue, and to draw their own conclusions.

Wednesday, February 13, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Getting Help from the IRS

Federal income tax returns are due April 15, and that means that many West Virginians are currently in the midst of calculating income and expenses and filling out Internal Revenue Service forms.

The IRS maintains a variety of services to help you get the right tax forms for your needs, and to answer your federal tax questions.

To call the IRS toll-free from West Virginia, the telephone number is 1-800-424-1040. IRS personnel at this number will assist you in obtaining federal tax forms, answer questions you may have in filling out your tax forms, or refer you to a taxpayer assistance program in your community.

West Virginians who prefer to write for tax forms and publications should send their order to IRS Forms Distribution Center; P.O. Box 6900; Florence, Kentucky 41042.

In addition to these central services, the IRS maintains a permanent district office at 425 Juliana Street in Parkersburg that is open from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Taxpayer assistance offices are open in several West Virginia communities during filing season. Some are open five days a week, and others operate on a part-time schedule. Following is a list of federal tax-

payer assistance offices in West Virginia, including locations and the days and hours of operation:

BECKLEY: 101 Harper Park Drive, Suite E; Mondays and Tuesdays, 8-11:45 a.m. and 12:30-4:15 p.m.

BLUEFIELD: Federal Building, Federal and Scott Streets; Wednesdays plus April 15, 9:30-11:45 a.m. and 12:30-3:00 p.m.

BRIDGEPORT: 170 Thompson Drive, Holiday Plaza; Fridays plus April 15, 9-11:45 a.m. and 12:30-3:15 p.m.

CHARLESTON: Federal Building, 500 Quarrier Street; Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

HUNTINGTON: U.S. Courthouse, 5th Avenue and 9th Street; Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

LOGAN: Suite 1, R K Building, Washington and Stratton Streets; February 25, March 11, April 1 and April 15; 9:45-11:45 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m.

MARTINSBURG: Federal Building, West King Street and Maple Avenue; 2nd and 4th Monday of each month plus April 15, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

MORGANTOWN: 75 High Street; Mondays, 8-11:45 a.m. and 12:30-4:15 p.m.

WHEELING: 12th and Chapline Streets, Federal Office Building; Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia: Home of Patriots

Not long ago, in an appearance on Capitol Hill, Budget Director David Stockman called America's military retirement system "an outrage."

He charged that "institutional forces in the military are more concerned about protecting their retirement benefits than they are about protecting the security of the American people."

Mr. Stockman's outburst did little to serve his cause. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger accused the Administration's chief budget officer of defaming the men and women of the armed forces who sacrificed for the security of the United States, and even those sympathetic with Mr. Stockman's efforts to cut the budget took exception to his attack on the military.

Among those upset with Mr. Stockman are a number of West Virginians who have contacted me, and I can understand their concerns.

Throughout its history, West Virginia has been one of the most patriotic states in the nation. West Virginia ranked fifth in participants as a percentage of the male population in World War II, first in the Korean conflict, and

second in the Vietnam War.

Our state ranked first during the Vietnam and Korean conflicts in deaths as a percentage of the male population.

These figures show that West Virginia's military men and women have been willing to fight for their country and for their freedom. Ever since the state of West Virginia was born during the strife of the Civil War, the young men and women of our state have been willing to stand up and be counted, to sacrifice, and to give their lives, to defend the security of the United States.

No other state has sent such a consistently high percentage of its young men to war. It is clear that West Virginians have historically placed the defense of freedom above personal considerations.

Comments such as those Mr. Stockman made can sting, but they cannot tarnish the character of our military men and women. West Virginians are proud of their country and of the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who, over the years, have contributed so much to the security of the United States.

Wednesday, February 27, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Welcoming the Democrats to West Virginia

This month, Democrats from both the United States Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives have scheduled weekend breaks from the crush of business on Capitol Hill to discuss some important issues facing our nation today.

I think it is a tribute to the beauty and serenity of our state that both the House and Senate Democrats selected West Virginia as the site of their conferences.

House Democrats met at the Greenbrier recently, and I have invited Senate Democrats to a conference in Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, over the last weekend in March.

This will be the second time I have brought Senate Democrats to West Virginia -- in 1981, I brought my colleagues to Canaan Valley State Park in Tucker County for a similar conference. That first conference was a tremendous success and convinced me that these meetings can be extremely valuable.

I am especially pleased that West Virginia is rec-

ognized as an ideal location both by my colleagues in the Senate and by the Democratic leadership in the House. West Virginia is one of the most beautiful states in our nation, and I am always proud to show it off to my fellow members of Congress.

More importantly, West Virginia provides a quiet and peaceful environment in which House and Senate Democrats can meet to talk about the problems our nation is facing and the contributions we can make toward solving those problems.

Democrats have an agenda -- we believe America's economy must remain second to none; we believe education for our children is a key to our future; we believe in a strong national defense; and we want a dollar's worth of defense for every defense dollar spent.

Our hope, through the conferences we are holding in West Virginia, is to focus on our vision of the future for this country and chart the course we will take to reach our goals.

March 6, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Auto Imports: Who Should Call the Shots?

The United States, reeling under the impact of a record \$123 billion trade deficit in 1984 -- topped off by a \$10.3 billion trade shortfall in the first month of 1985 -- is in the midst of a foreign trade crisis.

In view of our current trade situation, I cannot help but believe that the President got some bad advice recently when he decided against asking Japan to continue its quotas on automobile exports to the United States.

Japan is responsible for nearly a third of the entire U.S. trade deficit -- \$37 billion of the \$123 billion in 1984, and \$3.7 billion of the \$10.3 billion in January of this year -- and more than half of our trade deficit with Japan is the result of auto imports.

It seems unrealistic to me to leave the fate of America's auto, glass, and steel industries in the hands of the Japanese government, and I do not believe that the thousands of West Virginians employed in these and related industries are willing to let Japan set the agenda for their industries.

I am reluctant to give

up any concession that the Japanese have made without some significant reciprocity in our trade relationship. I know, from my experience in encouraging increased purchases of West Virginia coal, that Japanese leaders are slow to make concessions.

It is extremely important to work toward a better balance with our trading partners because trade deficits cost U.S. jobs, and they cost business for strong exporting states like West Virginia.

The International Trade Commission estimates that last year's trade deficit would have been \$4 billion higher without the restraints to Japanese autos, and that approximately 44,000 American jobs were saved by continuing the quotas.

America's trade deficit strikes directly at the economy of states like West Virginia. It is unfortunate that the Administration has handed Japan a decision that could boost the trade deficit even more without gaining any advantage for American industry and workers.

March 13, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Competing For Defense Dollars

West Virginia businesses produce hundreds of top-quality products each year that could be used in our national defense effort -- everything from rubber rafts and canvas sacks to sophisticated electronics gear.

A needed approach is to match our West Virginia sellers with Defense Department buyers -- a feat not always easy for those confronted with the often confusing network of offices to contact and forms to complete.

West Virginia businesses interested in selling to the Department of Defense and some of its largest defense contracting companies can get information helpful to them as defense suppliers by attending the Defense Trade Fair I am sponsoring in Charleston on April 4.

This trade fair -- which will begin at 9 a.m. at the University of Charleston -- will feature presentations by top Defense Department officials, as well as by representatives from some of the nation's largest defense contractors, such as Lockheed, Boeing, Northrop, Westinghouse, and Rockwell International.

This will be the fourth defense trade fair that I

have hosted for West Virginians as part of my effort to bring more defense dollars into our state.

The Pentagon buys tens of billions of dollars in goods from our country's businesses every year, but, unfortunately, West Virginia's share of that business has been low. I believe that West Virginia's share of Pentagon business can be increased.

One thing that might enable West Virginians to participate in more defense contracts is the establishment of a West Virginia chapter of the American Defense Preparedness Association (ADPA), a nationwide group that shares information on defense issues and defense contracts.

During this Defense Trade Fair, I will be sponsoring the organizational meeting for a West Virginia ADPA chapter, and I will be encouraging our businesses to get involved in the group.

West Virginia businesses can play a bigger role in our national defense efforts, and I hope that my upcoming Defense Trade Fair and my other defense-related activities will help broaden West Virginia's defense industrial base and draw more Pentagon dollars into our state.

March 20, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Arms Control Talks: An Optimistic Start

Recently, Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole and I led a delegation of Senate observers to the opening round of the new U.S.-Soviet arms control talks in Geneva, Switzerland.

I believe our trip was valuable.

Our delegation of 10 Senators undertook this mission with two main goals, both of which we fulfilled. First, we wanted to convey to the Soviets and to the rest of the world that the U.S. negotiating team is backed by strong bipartisan support.

Secondly, we wanted to demonstrate our commitment to fulfilling the Senate's unique constitutional role in the area of treaty-making. The Senate must advise and consent to any treaty which may result from these talks -- and it will take far more than just a cursory understanding of the very complex issues to be resolved for the Senate to exercise its responsibility properly.

The trip was productive and useful. We came away with a strong feeling of unity, that we are all Americans with the common goal of trying to reach a sound agreement with the Soviets that would be in the best interest of our country.

I am optimistic at the start of these talks, but I also believe that a word of caution is in order. These negotiations are not going to be easy or short-lived. The Soviets can be stubborn, obstinate, and tenacious bargainers at the negotiating table, and our negotiators must be tough, patient, and willing to hold out for a good agreement.

The Soviets may well believe that Americans, who are accustomed to "instant" everything, will cave in on key issues if the Soviets just sit tight and bide their time. But this matter is too important to settle for a quick fix.

I would rather see no agreement at all than to see the American negotiators stampeded by political pressures into a bad agreement. These talks are for keeps. Their outcome will affect not only ourselves, but also the generations that follow us.

Our negotiators must be watchful and wary and ever mindful that the United States cannot afford to compromise national security in the interests of expediency. Our goal must be to reach a good treaty, one that advances the security of the United States, and is in the best interests of our nation.

March 27, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Education: A Wise Investment

Not long ago, columnist Ann Landers published a letter from a 12th grade English teacher seeking comment on a student whose poor performance in class led to the discovery that the student could not read.

"I am embarrassed and sad that my colleagues had allowed the boy to slip by all these years, but I am also distressed that parents could let a son reach the 12th grade without noticing he can't read," the teacher wrote.

Ann Landers agreed: "I see here a double tragedy -- and it is happening all over the country. I call it a national disgrace."

That such a tragedy can occur is evidence of the severe problems facing our educational system at all levels -- elementary, secondary, and higher education.

The most pressing problem facing American education today is the need to regain a standard of excellence.

There is, for example, a critical shortage of math and science skills in our students. Japanese high school students ranked first while ours ranked 15th in a recent study of science and mathematics excellence. The typical Japanese high school student takes six years of

science and math; the average Soviet student takes twice as much. By contrast, fewer than half of American high school graduates take any math or science after the 10th grade.

The Japanese, with half of our population, are graduating more engineers than the United States. Almost half of the doctoral degrees awarded in engineering by American universities in 1981 went to citizens of other countries.

In the face of this crisis in education, I think that it is shortsighted for this Administration to propose deep cuts in funding for education, especially higher education.

West Virginians tell me they are worried that they will not be able to send their children to college. Educators are worried that financial ability will take the place of scholastic ability as the test for admittance to college.

There are few more important tasks before us than making America's educational system number one in the world. Just as we recognize the need to invest resources to ensure our nation's military defense, so too must we invest in education, which is the front line of our national security.

April 3, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Tip of the Hat

In the past three years, Richard Viglianco of West Virginia University has spent 5,411 hours on voluntary public service and personal development activities.

Steven Edmond of Fairmont State College has donated 5,291 hours in the same pursuits; Michael B. Stern, also of Fairmont State, has donated 2,435 hours; Elizabeth Skidmore of Clarksburg, 1,833 hours; and Margaret Joan Enos of WVU, 1,815 hours.

Each of these young West Virginians was honored recently during ceremonies on Capitol Hill as part of the Gold Congressional Award program.

The West Virginians were among 48 young people from across the nation who received the special congressional awards, which are given to highlight the initiative and achievement of those between the ages of 14 and 23.

West Virginia is one of 10 states participating in the pilot program for the award, which I helped establish as a way of recognizing the contributions of outstanding young Americans. Each member of Congress has the opportunity to establish a Congressional Award Council to promote this program.

Our goal is to expand the program so that young people in each of the 50

states can work to achieve Congressional Awards. This effort is being undertaken by the Congressional Award Foundation, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, which oversees the program. The foundation is funded by private sector contributions.

I was proud to participate in the award ceremonies for this year's congressional award winners, and to congratulate them personally for setting goals and striving to meet those goals.

And I was proud to congratulate these young winners for selflessly giving of themselves to help others -- for volunteering their time for such organizations as local rescue squads, Special Olympics, Boy Scouts, 4-H, the Salvation Army, and local churches.

Our young West Virginians and their counterparts from across the country, by striving for these Congressional Awards, have expanded the boundaries of their own achievements, and, in doing so, have added to their potential as American citizens.

Our hats are off to West Virginia's five Congressional Award winners, and to all our young people who have the determination and will to set goals for themselves and to work to achieve those goals.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Colombian Coal: A New Challenge to West Virginia

West Virginia's coal industry has been challenged in recent years by the decline of the U.S. coal export market and by the threat of acid rain legislation, which would devastate coalfields in the northern part of the state.

Now, another challenge to West Virginia's coal industry has emerged in the form of stepped-up coal production in Colombia, South America.

This latest threat comes from the opening of a new surface mine in Colombia -- one of the largest surface mining operations in the world with estimated reserves of 1.6 billion tons and the capacity to produce 15 million tons of high quality, low sulphur steam coal a year.

Currently, the total output of this mine is aimed at the export market, which places it in head-to-head competition with U.S. -- and West Virginia -- coal.

Colombia is in a position to become a major coal competitor in both the export market and the U.S. domestic market. As such, it poses a direct threat to the economy of coal-rich states throughout the central Appalachian region.

This is of particular

concern to me because the economic implications of this situation will be felt most directly in West Virginia, where unemployment in the coal industry stands at more than 30 percent.

To the extent that Colombian coal joins the fierce competition for the international coal market, and to the degree that coal produced in Colombia is used in the United States in place of domestic coal -- a situation that already is occurring -- the economy of coal producing states like West Virginia will suffer.

Because of the many questions surrounding the economic implications of Colombian coal imports on U.S. coal markets, I have requested that a U.S. Senate energy subcommittee examine this issue in a formal hearing.

It is essential that we establish the facts of this matter, determine a national strategy to assure that our best interests are protected, and pursue that strategy vigorously.

West Virginia's coal industry is vital to America -- we cannot afford to ignore the present challenges to its viability, including those posed by coal production in Colombia.

April 17, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Social Security: An American Priority

I recently received a poignant letter from one of my constituents in West Virginia on the subject of Social Security.

"We depend on this so much," the writer said. "When my husband retired (he's also ill) we never dreamed we'd live in such fear. Our children are in no position to help us; with the steel mills not working, they are having many problems with their young families. Please help."

That letter -- one of many pleas for help that I have received from elderly West Virginians -- illustrates clearly why I am opposed to a so-called "freeze" on Social Security cost-of-living adjustments, or COLAs.

Social Security is a bedrock of support for many elderly Americans. I hear every day from West Virginians who are worried and confused over what is happening to their Social Security benefits.

These people have reason to be concerned. Despite continuous promises from the President that he would never reduce Social Security benefits to current recipients, he has joined with Senate Republicans in proposing a budget that would do just that.

Under the Administration-backed proposal, hundreds of thousands of elderly Americans could

fall into poverty. These people cannot afford to be abandoned by their government, and I for one am willing to use every means available to block efforts like this to reduce Social Security COLAs.

Many elderly Americans, such as the West Virginia woman whose letter I quoted above, take pains to point out that they need Social Security because their children cannot afford to support them.

In fact, many working Americans, through their own Social Security payments, are contributing to the support of their parents.

This is part of what makes the Social Security system work. With proper management, guided by proper priorities, we can honor our promises to the elderly Americans who depend on Social Security.

As another West Virginian wrote, "Extravagant projects could wait, but old folks haven't the time to wait for food and medical care."

Many elderly Americans share that opinion. Social Security is a priority with them, as it is with the family members who cannot afford to support them. Social Security is also a priority with me, and it is a program I will continue to fight to protect.

April 24, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Competitiveness: The Key to America's Future

Recently, I took a group of Senate Democrats to Shepherdstown, West Virginia, for a conference on the problems and challenges that face our nation as we move toward the 21st century.

What came out of that weekend session with experts in the economy, defense, and international affairs was a realization that the United States must take bold action if it is to regain its competitive edge in the world marketplace.

Unless we begin to take a hard look at some of the structural changes that have taken place in our economy, unless we are ready to re-examine the way in which we educate our children, and unless we take steps to ensure that our basic industries are not displaced by the fast growing service sector of the economy, we will continue to lose ground in the battle for a share of the global market.

The United States must start now to prepare for the future. One of the first steps that needs to be taken is to rein in this country's out-of-control trade deficit. We need to stop exporting our jobs overseas, where lower labor costs, government subsidies and tariff barriers combine to provide unfair competition for American-made goods. And, perhaps most impor-

tant, we must prepare our children for the jobs of tomorrow.

America's educational policies do not, on the whole, emphasize mathematics, science, and technology. Our children attend school fewer days than do the children of other nations, and our schools have not come up with a formula to produce excellence in education.

We have to learn to think globally. Johnny is not just in competition with Billy and Susie for the jobs of the future. Johnny is also in competition with Nicolai and Yuri and Hans and Kim Soo for those jobs.

Maintaining our technological edge is an important key to the future. And we will not be able to maintain that edge unless we begin now to chart a new course for our country.

A fundamental conclusion that emerged from the Shepherdstown conference was that regaining America's competitive edge should be a national priority.

If this country is united in purpose, it will be a force to be reckoned with on the global market. It will take a strong sense of national purpose to reach that goal, but there is no better time to begin than today.

May 1, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginians In Space

Since the first historic, 15-second space flight of astronaut Alan Shepard on May 5, 1961, outer space -- the so-called "Last Frontier" -- has seen many American visitors.

In those years, American astronauts have landed on the moon, walked in space, rendezvoused with other craft high above the earth's orbit, and, most recently, returned from space in the country's first reusable space vehicle -- the Space Shuttle.

The space shuttle program offers our country a cost-effective way to carry out space exploration, and has contributed greatly to our knowledge of the world that lies beyond the earth's atmosphere.

America's space program is proof positive that when our country sets out to meet a goal, the goal can be met.

And West Virginians can take particular pride in the unique role our state has played in helping to create our country's space history.

West Virginian Chuck Yeager was the first man to fly faster than the speed of sound. Beckley's Jon McBride was one of seven astronauts aboard the October 1984 flight of the

space shuttle Challenger.

And now, two West Virginia teachers -- Melanie Vickers of St. Albans Junior High School, Kanawha County, and Nancy Wenger of Vandevender Junior High School, Wood County -- are among 100 teachers nationwide who will have a chance to travel as part of the January 1986 space shuttle mission.

In June, Vickers and Wenger, and two nominees from each of the other 49 states will be in Washington to participate in a space education workshop and to meet with a national review panel. By September, one finalist will be selected to become the first teacher in space.

I am pleased that NASA has decided that the first private citizen in space will be a teacher, and I wish our two West Virginia finalists the best as they compete to become part of the historic January 1986 space mission.

Our country's space program is a source of genuine pride for all Americans, and West Virginians have made important contributions in making that space program a success.

May 8, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Federal Budget: A Blueprint for the Future

A nation's budget is more than just a bookkeeper's balance sheet. It is also a blueprint for the future.

That is why, during the recent Senate debate on the federal budget, I offered a budget alternative to the White House-backed package. My budget was designed to look to the future by emphasizing economic growth and competitiveness, and fairness and equity.

For example, my plan:

- restored full funding for federal cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), including Social Security; Black Lung benefits; veterans pensions, disability, and health care programs, civilian and military retirement;
- restored funding for education; for scientific and medical research; for job training, including Job Corps, and for export promotion;
- restored funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission, Amtrak, Economic Development Administration; Urban Development Action Grants, mass transit, and urban infrastructure programs;
- restored funding for Medicare, and eliminated out-of-pocket cost increases in premiums for Medicare recipients that the Administration was seeking; and
- reduced foreign aid, except to Egypt, Israel, Greece, and Turkey.

To enhance our national security in light of the constant Soviet military buildup, while at the same time refusing to condone Pentagon waste, my proposal placed a 1-percent ceiling on real growth in fiscal 1986 and 3 percent for the next two years.

The programs that I focused on in my budget are important -- not just to West Virginians but also to millions of people throughout America. These programs are the building blocks of our future.

My budget plan would have reduced the deficit over the next three years by \$303 billion -- an \$8 billion deeper cut than the Administration plan, which called for \$295 billion in deficit reductions.

My proposal was voted down, largely along party lines, and the White House budget passed by the barest of margins, on a 50 to 49 vote. But I think my package made an important point -- that the federal deficit can be reduced without balancing the budget on the backs of our elderly, our children, or our future.

The focus of the budget debate now moves to the House of Representatives; undoubtedly there will be differences between the House and the Senate that will have to be resolved. I hope, when that time comes, that concern for the future will prevail.

May 15, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

“Software Valley, West Virginia”

West Virginia has countless attributes to attract business and industry -- a willing and able labor supply; plentiful natural resources; a growing state infrastructure; spectacular scenery; a good living environment.

But if West Virginia is going to prosper in the years ahead, we must take full advantage of the potential that our state has to offer, with an eye to bringing new industries and new jobs to West Virginia.

That is why I am excited about the possibilities that exist for West Virginia in the growing field of computers and computer software.

On July 1, I will host a computer/software seminar in Morgantown -- entitled “Software Valley, West Virginia” -- to examine the possibilities of forming new West Virginia-based computer companies and attracting existing software-oriented companies into West Virginia.

I am encouraged about the potential for the development of a thriving

West Virginia computer software industry, especially in light of the U.S. Defense Department's recent proposal to establish a Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

West Virginia University will be affiliated with that institute, which is expected to attract software development companies to the Western Pennsylvania/Northern West Virginia area.

The West Virginia chapter of the American Defense Preparedness Association, which I helped form recently in an effort to increase West Virginia's share of defense contracts, will co-host the computer symposium with me, along with WVU's Small Business Development Center.

Our objective in having the “Software Valley, West Virginia” symposium is to create new jobs for West Virginia, and I hope that many interested West Virginians will attend the symposium and get in on the ground floor of a blossoming industry.

May 22, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia: A Good Choice for "Saturn"

Over the past several months, General Motors Corporation has been scouring the country -- including a look at West Virginia -- in search of a site for its new Saturn automobile manufacturing plant.

I believe that our state would be an ideal location for the Saturn plant, and I recently arranged for the West Virginia congressional delegation to meet in my office with Roger Smith, the chairman of General Motors, in an effort to impress upon him our interest in this facility.

The concept of the Saturn venture, which is to feature advanced computer and robotics technology, will be high-tech at its best, and I believe West Virginia would be uniquely suited to showcase this new manufacturing concept.

West Virginia has the resources needed for the manufacture of automobiles. We have coal, glass, steel, aluminum, and chemicals. We have abundant energy and transportation resources, and we

have a skilled and dedicated labor force.

In addition, West Virginia is centrally located, and it has a strong research and development community backed by numerous universities and vocational educational facilities.

The Saturn plant would create 6,000 direct jobs and 14,000 or more associated jobs, which would be a great asset to West Virginia. In addition, this state-of-the-art type of facility could lead the way in bringing other high-tech industries into our state.

In short, West Virginia would be a good site for the General Motors Saturn plant, and the Saturn plant would be a good shot in the arm for West Virginia.

General Motors has not made a decision yet on where it will locate the Saturn plant. I hope GMC keeps West Virginia in the running -- our state is a strong candidate, and we would welcome the opportunity to be part of this new venture.

May 29, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Remembering Vietnam

Not long ago, America observed the 10th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

It was an anniversary that brought back many painful memories for our country, but it also offered an opportunity for healing some of the scars left by the longest conflict this nation has been involved in since gaining its independence.

Some 3.4 million Americans served in the Vietnam war -- many of them from West Virginia. More than 57,000 Americans lost their lives, 300,000 were wounded, and 2,400 Americans are still listed as missing-in-action in Southeast Asia.

For too long, America tried to forget the Vietnam war. Only recently has our nation started coming to grips with the legacy of this war; only recently have we taken steps to recognize the patriotism and sacrifices of the men and women who served in Vietnam.

In an effort to pay tribute to the veterans who served in this conflict, I authored a resolution designating May 7, 1985 -- the 10th anniversary of the official end of America's involvement in Vietnam -- as "Vietnam Veterans

Recognition Day."

I am pleased that this resolution was passed by Congress, and that May 7 was chosen as the date for a massive ticker-tape parade in New York City to give Vietnam veterans a long overdue welcome home.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, where I placed a spray of flowers in observance of Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, is another example of America's acceptance, recognition, and honor of Vietnam veterans.

West Virginia is one of the most patriotic states in the nation. This fact is nowhere more evident than in the statistics of the Vietnam war, where West Virginia ranked second in the number of participants as a percentage of the male population.

America owes its veterans from all wars a debt of gratitude, but official recognition of Vietnam veterans is certainly long past due. I am pleased that I was successful in having one day set aside to honor the patriotism of Vietnam veterans and to salute the memory of those who did not return.

June 5, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ferroalloys: The Case for Preserving A Vital Industry

"Ferroalloys" is hardly a household word, and yet few of us could imagine living without the products made possible by this group of metals.

The result of combining iron with other minerals, ferroalloys are found in a host of common household items -- aluminum pots and pans, stainless steel kitchenware, metal appliances -- just about everything, including the kitchen sink.

But ferroalloys also have larger applications. They are important to the operation of oil wells, refineries, hospitals, airplanes, food processing facilities, and power plants to name a few categories.

Without ferroalloys, we could not produce state-of-the-art ships, tanks, missiles, guns, ammunition, or the myriad of other items essential to our national security.

Unfortunately, America's ferroalloy industry -- which includes three plants in West Virginia -- has come upon hard times. Unfairly subsidized foreign imports have eroded the U.S. domestic market and consequently have injured the domestic ferroalloy industry to the point that capacity and employment today are at about half of the 1979 levels.

In West Virginia, Elkem Metals in Fayette County, Foote Minerals in Mason County, and Chemetals in Preston County are all operating at well below capacity. Nationwide, capacity has dwindled from 29 to about 15 plants, and employment has dropped to about 4,000.

In an effort to increase awareness of the importance of ferroalloys, I recently introduced an amendment in the U.S. Senate requiring the Department of Defense to determine what effect the loss of the U.S. ferroalloy industry would have on national security.

The Senate adopted my amendment by a resounding 95 to 0 vote, which I hope will send a clear signal to the Administration that the U.S. ferroalloy industry needs import protection for national security reasons.

There's an old saying that goes, "For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the rider was lost." There is a message in that adage that relates to ferroalloys; I hope the Administration heeds the warning signals and takes action soon to protect our vitally important domestic ferroalloy industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Espionage: An Unforgivable Crime

The news that several members of a U.S. Navy family have been charged with selling military secrets to the Soviet Union has shocked our nation, and new details in the case that emerge almost daily have caused many top officials to fear that our country's security has been seriously compromised.

In fact, over the past decade nearly 40 Americans have been charged with espionage -- jeopardizing our national interests and calling into question the way our country handles those who betray us.

Espionage -- treason against our country -- is an unforgivable crime that merits the ultimate punishment.

That is why I was pleased when the Senate recently adopted my amendment requiring a mandatory sentence of life in prison for individuals found guilty of espionage for the Soviet Union or any other communist country. My amendment rules out any possibility of parole for

convicted spies.

Our country has the responsibility to take the strongest possible measures against those who would sell our military secrets to the communists. Before a person takes that step, he or she must know that the punishment will be swift and irrevocable.

Personally, I would prefer to see convicted spies face the death penalty, but our Supreme Court has ruled it unconstitutional to mandate capital punishment for any crime.

That being the case, I believe that those who are convicted of spying against our country should know -- at the very least -- that they will spend the rest of their lives behind bars, with no possibility of ever again enjoying the freedoms that our country has to offer.

As the latest sad tale of treason against our country unravels, my conviction is strengthened that no punishment is too severe for those who would sell out America for a few pieces of silver.

June 19, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S./Soviet Trade: Proceed With Caution

Our record trade deficit -- which could top \$150 billion this year -- has been a contributing factor to much economic misery in our country, with West Virginia bearing a large share of the suffering.

Lingering, double-digit joblessness, and record business bankruptcies and mortgage foreclosures in our state are the sad legacy of our continuing trade imbalance with our foreign trading partners.

I have joined many of my congressional colleagues in supporting measures aimed at increasing our country's share of the world market. In doing that, however, we have been careful not to jeopardize America's economic interests or security.

That is why I am concerned about recent actions on the part of Administration officials to expand trade with the Soviet Union.

For the first time since the Soviets invaded neighboring Afghanistan, one of our top government officials -- Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige -- has met with Soviet leaders to talk about trade between our two countries.

Before we launch into

a full-scale effort to do more business with the Soviets, we must make certain that we are acting in our own best national interests and not unwittingly aiding the Soviets.

Any trade discussions we might hold with the Soviets must be predicated on the understanding that the Soviet agenda is dominated by the need to expand its war machine.

I am particularly concerned about our high-technology goods, which are far superior to the technology of the Soviet Union and which are an important key to our country's military muscle.

Congress has put the Administration on notice that before it considers any changes in the economic relationship between our country and the Soviets, we in Congress will expect close consultation on the matter.

My efforts to erase our deepening trade debt will continue, but I will not support policies that buy increased trade with the Soviet Union at the price of our own national security.

In dealing with the Soviets, America must proceed with caution.

June 26, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Social Security: Defending a Vital Program

The Senate recently commemorated the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Social Security Act, and it was a time for many of us to redouble our efforts to defend and preserve a system that has meant a better life for millions of Americans.

Many West Virginians can remember -- as I do -- the days before Social Security, when retired or disabled Americans did not have the security of a federal pension program.

Among my earliest memories, growing up in Raleigh County, was passing the county poor farm, where old folks went when they could no longer provide for themselves.

Over the past 50 years, the Social Security system has undergone many changes and improvements, and the result is a program that has meant the difference between a life of dignity and one of destitution for many of our older citizens.

Unfortunately, the Social Security system -- which is finally on a firm financial footing -- has become a target for many in the Administration as they eye areas in the federal budget to cut in order to bring our burgeoning deficits under control.

To those who would weaken the Social Security system for momentary po-

litical gain, our message is loud and clear: We will fight to preserve the benefits upon which millions of Americans depend.

Just recently, the Senate passed the fiscal 1986 budget, which I voted against -- in part because it cut certain Social Security benefits. I will continue to press for a budget that treats Social Security fairly, and that does not seek to balance the budget at the expense of deserving Social Security recipients.

I have also joined an effort, with a number of my Senate colleagues, to prevent the Social Security Administration from closing or consolidating local Social Security offices, including ten in West Virginia.

I have put the head of Social Security on notice that I will oppose the closure of any of West Virginia's local offices -- which are located in Elkins, Logan, Martinsburg, Montgomery, Morgantown, Petersburg, St. Albans, and Williamson -- or the downgrading of offices in Fairmont and Welch.

For 50 years, the Social Security system has been a bedrock for many Americans, and we must continue to be vigilant to protect this important program for current recipients and for future generations of Americans.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Black Lung Benefits: Battling the Backlog

More than 15 years ago, I cosponsored the legislation that created the Black Lung Benefits Act of 1969.

Over the years since this program was created, many thousands of West Virginia coal miners stricken with black lung have applied for, and received, benefits.

I know first-hand their need for help. I grew up in a coal miner's home in West Virginia, and I have memories from my youth that will never leave me -- memories of men gasping for air, and memories of the sorrow of their families, powerless to help.

I believe in the black lung benefits program, and I am determined to make sure that it is operating at maximum efficiency.

Currently, the system is badly bogged down, with a backlog of 21,000 claims and an average processing timetable of three years or more.

That backlog must be eliminated, and the processing of claims must be expedited. Accordingly, I am seeking enough funding from the Senate Appropriations Committee, of which I am a member, to eliminate the backlog in black lung cases and put the system on as expeditious a schedule as possible.

From discussions I have had in my office with Labor Secretary

William Brock, with representatives of the United Mine Workers of America, and with others involved in the black lung program, it appears that the solution to the backlog and to delays in processing claims is to hire more judges to speed up the workload.

Cost estimates for hiring enough judges to take care of the problem range up to \$5 million. I will certainly encourage the Labor Department to borrow personnel from other federal agencies whenever possible, but I am also planning to ask the Appropriations Committee for whatever amount is necessary to solve this problem once and for all.

In addition, I am forming a bipartisan U.S. Senate Black Lung Working Group of coal-state Senators to promote actions to accelerate the processing of black lung claims.

Without tackling the backlog of claims, the lag time in processing will only continue to grow at the expense of those who are least able to afford the delay -- the sick and the poor.

The men and women who work in West Virginia's coal mines deserve better treatment than they are now getting -- they deserve prompt consideration of their claims, and that is what I intend to see that they receive.

July 10, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Toll-free Hotlines: Help for West Virginians

The federal government maintains a number of toll-free hotlines to assist people with federally related questions or problems.

West Virginians may find the following hotlines useful in dealing with the federal government.

Auto safety information and complaints.....	1-800-424-9393
(Transportation Department)	
Army employment information.....	1-800-872-2769
Marine Corps employment information.....	1-800-423-2600
Navy employment information.....	1-800-327-6289
Retired Army pay.....	1-800-428-2290
Consumer Product Safety Commission.....	1-800-638-2772
(Product recall, complaints, fact sheets)	
Parents Anonymous (child abuse).....	1-800-421-0353
National runaway switchboard.....	1-800-621-4000
(For parents and runaways to leave messages)	
Pesticide Emergency Information.....	1-800-858-7378
Clearinghouse	
National Health Information.....	1-800-336-4797
Clearinghouse	
Federal Emergency Management Agency.....	1-800-638-6620
(Flood insurance information)	
Cancer Information (Department of.....	1-800-638-6694
Health and Human Services)	
Washington, D.C. Central Reservation Center.....	1-800-554-2220
(Information on lodging in the nation's capital)	

July 10, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Striking Out Against Terrorism

Most of the hostages have returned home safely, but the recent hijacking of TWA Flight 847 in Lebanon remains a reminder that the United States and its citizens are not immune from worldwide terrorism.

The fact that one passenger on that flight, a young American Navy man, was brutally beaten and murdered and that seven other Americans are still held hostage in Lebanon is evidence enough that we cannot simply wish terrorism to go away. Our nation must redouble its efforts to combat terrorism, to obtain the freedom of the remaining hostages in Lebanon, and to bring to justice the murderers and the hijackers responsible for the seizure of Flight 847.

Although American leadership cannot eliminate the threat posed by international terrorism, the U.S. can help steer an international course of action to address this threat more aggressively.

As a starting point, I have asked the President to initiate an international convention directed at reaching agreements or treaties that would increase protection against terrorism for innocent citizens, foster cooperation

among nations to prevent terrorist acts, and ensure punishment for terrorists. Incentives can be established to encourage nations to move against terrorists, and sanctions should be imposed on nations that refuse to cooperate.

I have further asked the President to review all the international air transport agreements signed by the United States to determine whether any should be renegotiated to emphasize increased airport and in-flight security; I have requested that Congress be provided the identity of any nations where airports represent security risks to Americans, and what actions are being taken to increase security at these airports; and I have suggested that further improvements to U.S. intelligence activities be considered to target terrorism.

Terrorism possesses no one nationality, and no nation is safe from this threat.

The past several weeks have been filled with talk about how we should fight terrorism. It is time now to undertake the leadership role expected from the United States in forging a worldwide movement to combat terrorism before it strikes our citizens again.

July 17, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Line Item Veto: A Blueprint for Disaster

One of the first lessons that is taught in any American civics class is that the United States has three equal branches of government: the Executive Branch, led by the President; the Judicial Branch, headed by the Supreme Court; and the Legislative Branch -- the Congress -- consisting of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Those three branches are the heart of the checks-and-balances that give the United States its unique system of government.

Today, our system of checks-and-balances is being challenged by some who would like to take some of the power of the purse away from the Congress -- which is the people's branch of government -- by giving the executive branch something called the "line item veto."

Under our current system -- a system that has served us well for more than 196 years -- when Congress passes a spending bill, the President has three choices: he can sign it, he can veto it, or he can refuse to sign it.

But if the President had the power of a line item veto, he would have another option: he could reshape a spending bill, crossing out every item he did not like.

The people of West Virginia have, by and large, supported programs such as the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Act, and scientific and medical research. As a Senator from West Virginia, I,

too, have supported these and other programs that benefit West Virginia.

But an Administration that did not support these programs could dismantle any of them with the stroke of a pen if a President were given the line item veto. West Virginians would have no voice in that decision.

What is particularly worrisome to me is that, in most instances, it would not be an elected President making these choices -- it would be an army of unelected, unknown, and unaccountable bureaucrats in the Office of Management and Budget.

What the line item veto really means is that after you, the people, have spoken through your elected representatives in Congress about how you want to spend your tax dollars, and after a spending blueprint reflecting your priorities has been written by Congress -- then a group of anonymous bureaucrats would be able to rewrite the whole package.

In any event, if the line item veto is to be given to a President, it should be done through a Constitutional amendment rather than by statute.

The line item veto is not a partisan issue. Regardless of which party is in the White House, the line item veto boils down to an issue of public versus closed-door decisions. I think that the process of spending the taxpayer's money should stay public and above the table if the public's interests are to be served.

July 24, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Thoughts from the Leaders of Tomorrow

"The most important concern facing my personal future is having enough money to go to college and get a decent education and then being *able* to find a job here. I would like to stay in West Virginia, but if there are no jobs I will have to leave."

That comment -- from a Huntington high school senior -- typifies many of the nearly 12,000 responses I received from West Virginia students to a questionnaire I sent to the state's 199 public and parochial high schools early this spring.

More than two out of three students told me -- in response to my question on the greatest concern facing their personal future -- that they were concerned about finding a job following high school or college graduation. Many of the students added that they hoped that job would be in West Virginia.

I was impressed by the perceptive answers from the young West Virginians, and by the depth of their understanding of the important issues that face our state and nation.

For instance:

-- Thirty-one percent of the students said that negotiating an arms agreement with the Soviets was the greatest challenge facing our nation. Controlling federal budget deficits was second, chosen by 22 percent.

-- An overwhelming majority -- 69 percent -- view increasing job opportunities as the greatest challenge facing West Virginia, with attracting more business and industry a distant second, selected by 18 percent of the students.

-- To cut federal budget deficits, 57 percent of the students said that Congress should enact a program of tax increases and federal program cuts. Forty percent said that deficits should be tackled by simply cutting federal programs, while 3 percent opted for raising taxes.

-- The idea of spending more tax dollars to stop drug trafficking in the U.S. met with overwhelming approval (74 percent for, 26 percent opposed).

-- And finally, West Virginia students supported, by a 94-6 margin, stiffer penalties on those who drive under the influence of alcohol, though they turned thumbs down on the idea of instituting a national drinking age of 21 (44 percent for, 56 percent opposed) and the notion of raising the driving age to 18 (18 percent in favor, 82 percent against).

Our young people are the leaders of tomorrow. I am pleased that so many West Virginia students showed an interest in my questionnaire and took the time to share their thoughts with me.

July 31, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Federal Budget: Good News For West Virginia

West Virginians have much to be pleased about in the budget that recently passed Congress.

The most significant achievement of this budget, in my opinion, is that it reduces the deficit by approximately \$57 million next year without sacrificing certain programs that are vital to America's future and vital to the people of states such as West Virginia.

Social Security benefits were saved, as were pensions for veterans and retired federal workers.

Programs of special significance to West Virginia -- including the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Administration, and the Urban Development Action Grant program -- were protected from earlier efforts by the Administration to eliminate them. (In fact, I was able to overcome strong Senate opposition to the ARC and add \$50 million to a related Senate bill for the ARC highway program.)

Needed funding for education and for scientific and medical research also was preserved in the budget, as was funding for Amtrak's passenger rail service.

The budget that Congress passed is not a perfect budget. But it is a major improvement over what the Administration initially proposed, and it is an important first step in our efforts to place the budget

deficit on a downward spiral.

I was especially pleased that Congress, after many months of grappling with the budget, came around to the kind of deficit reduction formula that I could support.

Several months ago, I introduced a budget proposal in the Senate -- which was defeated on mostly party lines -- that would have achieved even greater deficit reduction than the budget just passed, and it would have done so without endangering essential programs.

Instead of accepting my plan, the Senate Republican leadership pushed through a Senate budget that cut Social Security benefits, education and health research, and other programs important to West Virginia and Appalachia. The House of Representatives approved a budget that contained a far lower level of deficit reduction.

The compromise measure adopted by Congress, which was similar in many respects to the budget I proposed, is a blend of the tough deficit reduction stand of the Senate and the fair-mindedness of the House budget.

This budget is proof that the deficit can be reduced without hurting programs that are essential investments in the future of America and in the future of her people, including West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Arms Control: A Global Challenge

Arms control is an issue that many West Virginians -- especially young people -- have told me they are concerned about.

In a recent survey of West Virginia high school students that I conducted, negotiating an arms control agreement with the Soviet Union was the item mentioned most frequently as the greatest challenge facing our nation.

In fact, the nuclear arms race was the foremost concern cited by nearly a third of all students who responded to my survey.

I share that concern of my fellow West Virginians, and I, too, believe that negotiating a workable, enforceable arms control agreement with the Soviet Union should be a priority for the United States. Mutual and verifiable arms control is an item that requires cooperation and understanding between both nations.

Because of my longstanding interest in promoting an arms control agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, I am pleased that I have been able to arrange a meeting with the new leader of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, in Moscow in September.

I am leading a bipartisan Senate delegation to conduct these talks with Mr. Gorbachev and other high-level Soviet officials in hopes of paving the way for the upcoming summit conference between President Reagan and Mr. Gor-

bachev.

I have offered my services as an emissary of the President, and he has been enthusiastic in his support of my efforts. I met recently at the White House with President Reagan, and he has given me a letter to deliver to Mr. Gorbachev.

This visit to Moscow is not the first such mission I have undertaken. As Senate Majority Leader, I traveled extensively as an emissary of former President Carter, meeting with such world leaders as the late Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, the Shah of Iran, and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd.

Hopefully, my experience will serve me well in this trip to the Soviet Union, and I will be able to promote an atmosphere of better understanding between the world's two superpowers on the crucial issues -- including arms control, human rights, and economic and political relations -- that divide our nations.

I think West Virginia's young people should be able to look to the future with confidence and optimism. An arms control agreement cannot be reached overnight, but progress can be made, and I hope my meeting with Mr. Gorbachev will help move that process forward.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sharing West Virginia's Secrets

West Virginia has all the attributes to make it the ideal location for new business and industry.

The state has a willing and able workforce, a strategic location, newly inaugurated state tax incentives, and an emerging network of community services, recreation areas, industrial parks, and public facilities, all of which contribute to West Virginia's growing attraction as an area for business and economic development.

Unfortunately, West Virginia's climate for corporate expansion seems to be one of the country's best-kept secrets.

Next month in Washington, I will be holding a seminar for some of the nation's largest corporations to acquaint them with what West Virginia has to offer.

I have asked representatives from more than one hundred large corporations to attend the seminar -- entitled "West Virginia Facilities Development Day" -- which I will host on September 9 in the Russell Senate Office Building.

Some of West Virginia's top elected officials and business leaders -- including Gov. Arch Moore, State Chamber of Commerce President John Hurd, and Russell Isaacs, head of the West Virginia Business Roundtable -- have agreed to join me to talk with the corporate officials about West Virginia's many attributes.

In addition, the corporate representatives will see a slide presentation of available West Virginia facilities, as well as some of the state's industrial park sites.

Through "West Virginia Facilities Development Day," we hope to make a convincing case to some of the nation's top businesses that West Virginia is a good place for corporate location and expansion.

New business and industry in our state could brighten West Virginia's economic future. It is time that we share West Virginia's "secrets" with Corporate America.

August 21, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Remembering West Virginia's Missing In Action

For growing numbers of young Americans, the Vietnam War is a chapter in America's past -- a history lesson to be learned in a classroom, along with the Korean conflict, World War II, and a host of other battles fought on foreign shores.

For these young people, Vietnam is fading into a hazy memory.

But for millions of other Americans -- those who served there, those who lost loved ones there, or those whose loved ones are still "missing in action" -- Vietnam remains a part of their everyday lives.

Especially for those whose loved ones have not been accounted for, Vietnam is an unfinished chapter.

To date, more than a decade after the end of the Vietnam War, the fate of 25 West Virginia servicemen remains unknown. They are among 2,400 Americans still listed as missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

The families of those missing servicemen have shown a remarkable strength of spirit in their efforts to obtain information and keep alive the memories of their loved ones.

Recently, I was privileged to participate in

a ceremony, held in Huntington, at which I presented Congressional POW/MIA medals to the families of nearly all of the missing West Virginia servicemen.

Many of the families traveled long distances to attend this ceremony in honor of their missing sons, fathers, and brothers.

As author of the legislation that created the bronze POW/MIA medal, I was honored to lead this ceremony and to present individual medals designed to salute the spirit and fortitude of the families of the missing.

These family members know that their relatives are not forgotten. Accounting for the Americans missing in Southeast Asia remains at the top of this country's list of unfinished business.

The POW/MIA medal is inscribed with the words, "You are not forgotten." As America's attention is drawn to new crises and new challenges, and as the Vietnam War becomes a part of history to more and more Americans, it is important to remember the missing and to redouble our efforts to end the uncertainty in which their families have lived for so many years.

August 28, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Joblessness: Top West Virginia Concern

When I asked West Virginians in a recent state-wide survey what they saw as the biggest problem facing West Virginia, the overwhelming majority told me that joblessness topped the list.

In addition to unemployment, 26.5 percent of the West Virginia respondents said that industrial decline was West Virginia's greatest challenge.

Nearly 30,000 West Virginians answered my questionnaire, and I was gratified that so many people were interested in sharing their views with me.

Many of the West Virginians who responded also took the time to explain their answers to me, and to tell me about issues of particular interest or concern to them.

For instance:

--- On national issues, 52 percent of the respondents singled out budget deficits as the country's major problem, with the trade deficit mentioned by 29 percent.

--- When given choices on how to cut federal spending, 48 percent of the West Virginians said they would reduce foreign aid. Pentagon spending was also a popular area to cut, mentioned by 41 percent.

--- Asked what federal programs they did *not*

wish to see cut, 58 percent said they were opposed to cutting Social Security, and 30 percent said they were against reducing funds for education programs.

--- Eighty-seven percent of the West Virginians polled said they supported federal income tax simplification.

I was particularly interested in the responses to a question I raised on how West Virginians would bring budget deficits under control.

When asked to choose between cutting certain programs or raising taxes to pay for those programs, more than 60 percent of the West Virginians polled said they favored raising taxes instead of cutting Social Security.

Nearly 66 percent said that Pentagon spending should be cut before tax increases were considered, and by a 60-40 percent margin, West Virginians said they would rather face tax increases than suffer cuts in education programs.

I appreciate the effort made by thousands of West Virginians in responding to my questionnaire, and the many comments I received have reinforced my own thoughts on the opinions and concerns of West Virginia.

September 4, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

ARC: A Needed Highway Program For West Virginia

Often, I hear from West Virginians who are concerned about the condition and status of the state's network of highways.

In recent years, the Administration has tightened the purse strings on federal highway funding throughout the country. West Virginia has been no exception, but in our state the need for new highways is more critical than in many other areas of the country.

That is why I have continued to fight for highway funding under the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Much good has been accomplished for West Virginia through the ARC highway program, but more work needs to be done.

For example, completion of the Corridor G highway between Charleston and Williamson on the Kentucky border is especially important. This new highway -- which is only feasible with ARC assistance -- will substantially reduce travel time, thereby enhancing commerce, in areas of southern West Virginia which have been hit by exceptionally high levels of unemployment.

We know from experience the impact that the Appalachian highway system has on local communities. According to a study completed several years ago, finished segments of the ARC highway network have helped to attract many new businesses to West Virginia, creating over 40,000 jobs in the process.

Failure to complete construc-

tion now underway would preclude the realization of such benefits for other areas of the state in the future.

Because ARC highways are so important to West Virginia, I offered an amendment to provide \$50 million in funding for the ARC highway program in legislation that recently passed the Senate.

Although this amendment is small in terms of highway building, it will help to continue the program which has been so helpful to West Virginia and the rest of Appalachia. Funding for the ARC has faced a great deal of opposition in the Senate this year, with the Administration having called for zero funding of ARC highway construction.

In addition to the \$50 million for ARC highways, the bill passed by the Senate provides \$31.3 million for ARC economic development programs.

The total amount of funding in this bill -- \$81.8 million for the ARC -- is still less than I want to see, and I will press for additional funding when the bill goes to conference committee with similar House legislation.

Since 1980, the ARC has been kept alive in Congress by those of us who recognized the many benefits that it has provided to the people of Appalachia. The need for the ARC remains critical, and my commitment to supporting it remains unshaken.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A West Virginia Perspective on Arms Control

Recently, I traveled to the Soviet Union to discuss arms control issues with the new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Prior to my trip, I spoke with people throughout West Virginia about arms control and world peace. I carried their thoughts into my meeting with Mr. Gorbachev.

One young West Virginia mother told me, "I want my children and my grandchildren to grow up in a world of peace. I don't want them to know war."

And a group of West Virginia high school students expressed to me their uncertainty about their future -- and the future of the world -- because of the threat of nuclear weapons.

Arms control is one of the greatest challenges facing the United States and the Soviet Union, and it is perhaps the most important concern shared by the people of both nations.

That is why I felt it important to lead a bipartisan Senate delegation to the Soviet Union to meet with Mr. Gorbachev.

With the arms control talks in place in Geneva and the upcoming summit conference scheduled between President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev in November, the United States is in a position of historic opportunity. The events of the next few months could set the tone for U.S.-Soviet relations for years to come.

As the leader of the first Senate delegation to

meet with Mr. Gorbachev, my goal was to increase U.S.-Soviet understanding and to help pave the way for President Reagan's November summit. I also wanted to make clear to the Soviets the unique constitutional role of the United States Senate in the approval of treaties, and underscore the fact that the Senate will not approve any arms control treaty that is not in the best interests of the American people.

The fact that we were successful, and that Mr. Gorbachev used this opportunity to send clear signals to the White House that he is at least apparently willing to work with the United States, sets a positive tone for the upcoming summit.

The people of West Virginia have told me that world peace is an issue of great concern to them. It is to the mutual benefit of the United States and the Soviet Union, and of our people, to cooperate, to coexist, and to deal fairly with each other. The weapons of destruction that are in place remind us of that fact daily.

Perhaps the most important message that I conveyed to Mr. Gorbachev was a conviction I share with the people of West Virginia -- that although the United States and the Soviet Union compete philosophically and politically, we should do so with ideas, not arms.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sharing a Part of West Virginia

Quality craftsmanship is a cherished part of West Virginia's heritage. We are justly proud of the hand-made patchwork quilts, wood carvings, hand-crafted toys and countless other handicrafts that reflect the skill and talent passed down from generation to generation of West Virginia artisans.

Because of the pride we all take in West Virginia, one of the highlights of my recent trip to the Soviet Union was my presentation of some traditional West Virginia crafts as gifts from the Senate delegation to Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Mrs. Gorbachev, and other high-ranking Soviet officials.

I am grateful to the members of the West Virginia Artists' and Craftmen's Guild, who donated the crafts, and to the dozens of West Virginia artisans who spent long hours making them.

Through the efforts of many West Virginians, our Senate delegation was able to share with the Soviets many of our state's outstanding hand-made products, including:

---a handcrafted quilt from Cabin Creek Quilters (made available through the State Department of Culture and History);

---a handwoven wicker basket, Charlotte Henson, The Rocking Chair, Hurricane;

---a handwoven pillow, Janet Hamstead, The Warped Weavers, Charleston;

---a stained glass window, Denny Hight, Denny's Stained Glass Studio, St. Albans;

---a wheat weaving design, Jane Rutledge, Wheat Weaving, Beckley;

---lithographs of West Virginia sternwheelers, William D. Goebel, Charleston;

---patchwork quilt design silk screens, Katy and David Fidler, Harpers Ferry;

---a pottery bowl, Ren and Pam Parziale, Sycamore Pottery, Kearneysville;

---a walnut and oak hoop-handled basket, David and Karen Barrett, Barretts Bottoms Chairmakers, Kearneysville;

---handcrafted folk toys, Dick Schnacke, Mountain Craft Shop, New Martinsville;

---an inlaid brass desk set, pen set, stamp box, and bud vase, David and Suzanne Gibson, Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs;

---a silk-screened West Virginia scene, Richard and Vivian Pranulis, Wolf Creek Printery, Alderson; and

---"Mountain Measures" West Virginia cookbook, Junior League of Charleston.

I was proud to share a part of West Virginia with the people of the Soviet Union, and the West Virginia artists who donated their crafts can take pride in knowing that our state's rich heritage was well-represented in their work.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ending the Abuses

Tales of large defense contractors charging exorbitant prices for everyday items -- hundreds of dollars for hammers and tape measures that you and I could buy for less than \$10 -- have moved lawmakers to endorse my approach to putting an end to such abuses.

Not long ago, the Senate approved an amendment I offered which allows a \$1 million fine on defense contractors who set out to bilk the Pentagon.

Further, the Senate agreed with my proposal to give Defense Department auditors greater power to obtain the records of contractors to determine if costs billed to the federal government are justified.

Prior to the Senate's action on my amendments, contractors faced only a \$10,000 fine if convicted of knowingly defrauding the government. To a multimillion dollar company, a \$10,000 fine is barely a dent in the corporate wallet.

By raising the fine to a maximum of \$1 million, we in the Senate hope to

convince the country's defense contractors that the practice of overcharging the American taxpayers will no longer be tolerated.

This is not to suggest that every incident of overcharging the federal government is done knowingly and willfully or that every contractor is out to swindle the federal government. To be certain, the defense procurement process is complex and often difficult to understand.

For that reason, we have added a safeguard in the law that provides for judicial discretion to determine if a contractor cheated the government or merely made an honest error.

American taxpayers and their representatives in Congress have the right to expect the most from their defense dollars. When contractors deliberately overcharge the Defense Department, they are not only cheating the taxpayers, but they are also damaging the country's defense effort.

The days of hundred dollar bolts, forty dollar light bulbs, and hammers worth their weight in gold must come to an end.

October 2, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stepping Up West Virginia's Military Activities

West Virginians are among the most patriotic Americans, so it is only fitting that our state should play a meaningful role in the national defense effort.

Recently, I have held a series of meetings with Defense Department officials -- including the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Air Force -- in an effort to encourage expanded military involvement in West Virginia.

As a result of these meetings, West Virginia is beginning to receive increased attention from the Defense Department. Currently, more than \$90 million worth of military construction projects -- including a proposal to build a \$9.5 million active duty training facility in Preston County -- are either underway or being proposed for West Virginia.

The proposed Army training facility has been suggested for the Camp Dawson National Guard facility in Preston County. The Army, which already has signaled its intention to proceed with design work on this proposal, has estimated that if the project receives final approval and proceeds on schedule, construction could begin as early as next fall.

Also being proposed for Camp Dawson are 18 construction projects estimated to cost a total of \$7 million. In addition, the National Guard's long-range plans include a \$23.7 million expansion project at Camp Dawson designed to turn the facility into a

major training area.

Other military projects already underway or budgeted for construction in West Virginia include: Charleston Armed Forces Reserve Center, \$7 million; Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Moundsville, \$2.9 million; Sugar Grove Navy Communications Center additions and associated improvements, \$8.2 million; Martinsburg Air Guard training facility, building alterations, and aircraft parking apron, \$4.8 million; and firefighting systems at Martinsburg and Charleston Air Guard bases, \$2.2 million.

Other military projects proposed for West Virginia include: building alterations at the Buckhannon and the Point Pleasant National Guard Armories, \$0.8 million; Charleston Air Guard aircraft holding pad, \$1 million; six construction projects for the Martinsburg Air Guard, \$10 million; Army Reserve centers at Ripley, New Martinsville, Parkersburg, Rainelle, and Kingwood, \$6.5 million; helicopter detachment for the Wheeling National Guard unit, \$2.8 million; Army aviation support facility for the Parkersburg National Guard, \$2.7 million; and Wheeling National Guard Armory, \$1.6 million.

West Virginia has a great deal to offer the Defense Department in terms of land, people, and other resources. I intend to continue urging the military to increase its presence in West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Too Little, Too Late?

After almost five years of silence on our country's deepening trade deficits, the President recently endorsed a series of measures aimed at strengthening America's trade posture in the world market.

For those of us who have been working to stop the unfair practices of some of our foreign trading partners -- practices that have seen American jobs go to overseas workers and caused American industries to struggle to compete -- the Administration's entrance into the battle for fair trade, while belated, is welcome.

However, I am afraid that the Administration might be offering too little, too late.

This year, the United States will accumulate a trade deficit estimated at \$150 billion.

That means that we will buy \$150 billion more in foreign goods than we sell to other countries. And it means that we have a trade crisis on our hands.

West Virginians know that firsthand.

Our steel, ferroalloy, and footwear industries have been hard-hit by underpriced foreign imports. Many of our industries have been forced to cut back on production, and, as a result, thousands of West Virginians have lost their jobs.

The Administration has endorsed a number of proposals already offered in Congress to help alleviate our trade crisis -- bring-

ing down the overvalued dollar, opening U.S. markets in foreign countries such as Japan, Brazil, and Korea, speeding up trade dispute resolutions, and protecting American high-technology equipment from foreign counterfeiting -- but it stopped short of endorsing or advancing the kind of comprehensive trade strategy we need.

Further, I am concerned that the Administration did not mention the connection between fair trade and our national security.

Healthy basic industries are the keystone to a strong national defense. When a country is forced to rely on outside sources for its steel, ferroalloys, and other defense-related products, it places itself in great jeopardy during times of national emergency.

That is why I recently introduced a bill in the Senate to expand the public and private sectors' ability to take action in cases where imports are threatening the country's defense effort. That would be especially helpful to the country's emerging high-tech industries and the ceramics industry.

My trade bill -- and a number of provisions already under consideration in Congress -- could help bolster our country's trade posture.

It is time for the Administration to join Congress and throw its full weight behind the effort for fair trade.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balancing the Budget: The Case for Responsible Action

Like most West Virginians, I believe the U.S. should be able to balance its books.

One way to achieve this is through an amendment to the Constitution mandating a balanced budget -- a proposal that I have voted for and continue to support.

More recently, in an effort to accelerate the march toward deficit reduction, I joined in proposing a balanced budget amendment to a debt ceiling bill.

I support these budget-balancing measures because they offer a workable mechanism to reduce the staggering budget deficits that have plagued this nation since 1981.

That is why I was disappointed when the Senate rejected the balanced budget proposal I authored with Sen. Lawton Chiles of Florida (the Chiles-Byrd amendment) in favor of a proposal offered by Senators Phil Gramm of Texas and Warren Rudman of New Hampshire (the Gramm-Rudman amendment).

I believe the Gramm-Rudman amendment puts a straightjacket on federal fiscal policy, preventing it from responding to changes in the economy, international situations, and national security requirements.

The Chiles-Byrd amendment, however, contained important safeguards to avoid handcuffing the federal government. In addition, my amendment would have started the deficit reduction process a year sooner and placed it on a faster track

than the Gramm-Rudman amendment.

One significant difference is that the Chiles-Byrd amendment would have automatically protected necessary spending for U.S. national security requirements during times of undeclared war. The Gramm-Rudman amendment suspends its budget constraints only during times of "declared" war.

This difference is crucial because, although the United States has been involved in a "declared" war only once in 40 years, there was no declaration of war in Korea or Vietnam, two of the heaviest and most costly conflicts.

Another escape hatch provided in the Chiles-Byrd amendment -- but not in the Gramm-Rudman proposal -- was designed to guard against excessive unemployment during an economic recession.

I believe that an unemployment provision is essential -- particularly to states like West Virginia, which have been battling high unemployment since 1981 -- because estimates have shown that unemployment under the balanced budget spending restrictions contained in the Gramm-Rudman proposal could rise dramatically during a recession.

The federal deficit needs to be eliminated -- it is an enormous drain on the economic vitality of the United States. But deficit reduction needs to be handled in a serious, effective, and responsible manner. Any other approach could cause far more harm than good.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hiring the Right Person for the Job

Most of us cannot conceive of getting a job without going through the process of a job interview, during which the employer or the personnel department can take a look at our background and qualifications and determine whether we are suited for such work.

That is what has been happening lately, however, as the current Administration has adopted a practice of making key appointments to important federal jobs during times when the Senate is in recess.

The Senate's duty of "advice and consent" with respect to Presidential appointments can be likened to that of a personnel department of a corporation.

As stated in our Constitution, the Senate has the responsibility of taking a look at, and passing upon, the qualifications and abilities of a President's nominee before that person is placed in a position of authority and influence in our government.

But when the President makes recess appointments -- during those times when the Senate is not in session and most Senators are working back in their home states -- the Senate does not have the chance to scrutinize and to confirm or deny these appointments, as our Constitution requires.

There are times when crucial appointments must be filled during a congressional recess, and such appointments are both necessary and proper.

However, this Administration has abused that authority by making more recess appointments than any Administration in recent memory, and by making appointments that are

sponsibility of the Senate.

During a recent congressional recess, for instance, the Administration made an appointment to the Federal Reserve Board -- a position that carries with it a 14-year term. Imagine giving a person a 14-year job commitment without ever expecting him or her to submit to a job interview!

When my letters to the White House, urging that recess appointments be kept to a minimum, failed to get the Administration's attention, I recently blocked the confirmation of all Presidential appointments -- except the most crucial nominations -- to send a clear message to the White House that its approach to recess appointments was not acceptable.

My action finally got the attention of the President, and his representatives were finally willing to sit down with me and listen to my objections to this Administration's handling of recess appointments.

During that meeting, Administration officials agreed to notify the Senate leadership -- prior to a congressional recess -- of any appointment it may wish to make during that recess. That way, the Senate will be able to look at these candidates in advance to ensure that they are appropriate for the job.

As the people's elected representatives, members of the Senate take their appointment confirmation duties seriously. Presidential appointees are in positions of great responsibility and influence.

High-ranking government appointees make decisions every day that affect millions of Americans, and we in the Senate want



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Populating West Virginia's "Software Valley"

West Virginia offers the potential to be a fertile breeding ground for high-technology businesses.

The overwhelming response I received when I hosted a computer software/high technology seminar in Morgantown this past summer -- more than 360 West Virginians attended -- reinforced my belief that our state would provide a perfect home for high-tech industries.

Especially promising for West Virginia would be the development of a "high-tech corridor" along Interstate 79 south of Pittsburgh into the north-central part of our state.

Pittsburgh is key to the development of West Virginia's computer industry because of the U.S. Defense Department's recent selection of that city's Carnegie-Mellon University as the site for its new Software Engineering Institute. That facility will devote its efforts to finding ways to adapt computer software developed by private companies for use by the Pentagon.

I hope that West Virginia will be able to take advantage of the closeness of the Software Engineering Institute by attracting companies that can work with the Institute on defense-related computer programs.

To that end, at my July software symposium, I had the pleasure of welcoming what I hope will be the first of many new high-tech companies to West Virginia. Nations, Inc., a New Jersey-based compu-

ter engineering firm, announced that it intended to open a branch operation in Morgantown, thus becoming the first resident of West Virginia's new "Software Valley."

That development, and the subsequent formation of the Software Valley Corporation -- a non-profit organization that will serve as an information clearinghouse for West Virginia companies interested in computer and high-technology work -- convinced me that we should move quickly to capitalize on the momentum generated by the first "Software Valley" symposium.

For that reason, I will host a second computer symposium, also in Morgantown, on November 25.

"Software Valley II" will feature officials from the Defense Department who will discuss the Pentagon's computer software programs and how West Virginia businesses might do more high-technology work with the DOD.

Representatives from the country's leading computer software firms will also be on hand to talk about their plans for expanding their operations into our state under the auspices of the Software Valley Corporation.

West Virginians interested in attending the symposium, which will be held from 9 am until 4 pm on Monday, November 25, at WVU's Mountainlair Little Theatre, can make reservations by contacting the Software Valley Corporation at 304-293-5839.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fighting Back Against Terrorism

Last month, in the midst of rejoicing over the capture of the hijackers who seized an Italian cruise ship and brutally murdered an elderly, crippled U.S. citizen, America marked a tragic anniversary -- the October 23, 1983, bombing of the U.S. Marine compound in Beirut.

The Beirut bombing took the lives of 241 Marines -- including four from West Virginia -- in an act of terrorism that enraged and frustrated America.

Earlier this year, Americans again experienced outrage and frustration when the hijackers of a TWA jet held in Beirut escaped punishment for the murder of an American Navy diver who was a passenger aboard the aircraft.

So it is no wonder that the people of this country were elated when the President and the U.S. military orchestrated a bold and effective interception of the Egyptian aircraft carrying the terrorists who had hijacked the cruise ship Achille Lauro.

One important element that contributed to the success of this mission was the cooperation of Greece and Tunisia in refusing to allow the hijackers' aircraft to land.

This kind of united front against terrorism is what I have been urging for some time. Earlier this year, I asked the President to call for an international convention dealing with

terrorism, and I continue to believe that international cooperation -- whether through treaty or agreement -- remains an essential element in the worldwide effort to combat terrorism.

I also believe the U.S. must examine its ability to respond to terrorist actions, and take steps to increase its efficiency and coordination. The fact that everything came together this time is no guarantee that the U.S. will be as fortunate the next time terrorism strikes.

Despite America's success in dealing with the murderers and hijackers who seized the Achille Lauro, the United States should not forget the lessons learned from the bombing of the Marine barracks in Lebanon two years ago, or the frustration of trying to free the surviving passengers from the TWA jet hijacked to Lebanon earlier this year.

Terrorism continues to exist throughout the world. As we remember the individuals who have lost their lives in past terrorist attacks -- including Cpl. Mecot E. Camara of Hinton, Cpl. Russell M. Cyzick of Star City, Lance Cpl. David L. Cosner of Elkins, and Lance Cpl. Joseph Timothy Dunnigan of Princeton who were killed in the Marine barracks bombing --- our nation should resolve to redouble its efforts to stamp out terrorism.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Extending a Helping Hand

Thanksgiving is a holiday that gives Americans an opportunity to reflect on their blessings and to think about the things that are meaningful to them.

But for many West Virginians this Thanksgiving, a wall of water has washed away much of what gives life meaning.

In more than half of West Virginia's 55 counties, the floods of the first week of November have left thousands of West Virginians with little more than their lives. Thousands of homes have been damaged or destroyed, and nearly 50 West Virginians are either dead or missing.

Never have I seen so much devastation resulting from a flood. In my trips to the state's worst-hit areas, I have seen homes reduced to rubble; businesses lying in ruins; and concrete bridges and railroad tracks snapped like kindling, leaving large gaps in the state's transportation network.

Not only have many West Virginians rallied around their friends and neighbors at this time of crisis, but officials on the local, state, and federal levels have also swung into action.

Community volunteers have set up temporary shelters and are providing meals, clothing, and other basic needs. State officials have set up a special fund to handle flood relief donations, and are working with federal officials on the relief effort.

On the federal level, I have pursued a number of options to speed federal assistance to West Virginia.

For example, I was successful in helping to convince the Federal Emer-

gency Management Agency (FEMA) to exempt West Virginia from having to pay most of the required 25 percent share of any community recovery assistance from FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers.

I met with Transportation Secretary Dole to gain her support for emergency road and bridge repair in the state -- an essential element for the rebuilding of our communities -- and I was able to gain Senate approval for an amendment I sponsored on behalf of myself and Sen. Rockefeller, Sens. Warner and Tribble of Virginia, and Sen. Johnston of Louisiana that increases from \$30 million to \$55 million the amount of bridge and road repair funds available to West Virginia from the Federal Highway Administration.

Also I am seeking an appropriation of \$25 million to begin stream and river bed work in the counties hit by flooding.

Finally, I have been working with Governor Moore, the West Virginia Congressional delegation, and the top officials of FEMA -- which is heading up the federal assistance effort in the state -- and with other federal agencies to speed up help for the flood victims.

Our fellow West Virginians need our help today, but more than that, they will need our help tomorrow as they struggle to put their lives back together.

The recovery from the disaster of the flood will be slow and laborious, but we can help our fellow West Virginians by supporting them in their time of need.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Revering Our Flag (Part I)

More than 208 years ago -- on June 14, 1777 -- Congress authorized the first American flag consisting of thirteen white stars on a field of blue and thirteen stripes, each representing the country's original 13 colonies.

Today, 27 changes later, our flag still flies over a land of opportunity and freedom -- and over a country for which thousands of brave Americans have given their lives to preserve our way of life.

West Virginians -- long known as among the most patriotic people in the country -- take a special interest in the flag, and often I am asked to outline the proper way to fly and care for it.

For the many West Virginians who have expressed an interest, the following are some basic guidelines for the care of and conduct around the American flag.

--- Generally, the flag is flown from sunrise until sunset on any day when the weather is good, especially on holidays. All-weather flags may be flown during inclement weather. At sunset, the flag should be lowered, though it can be flown 24 hours a day if it is properly illuminated.

--- The flag should be raised briskly to the peak of the flagpole, except during a time of mourning, when it is raised to the peak of the flagpole and then lowered to half-mast.

--- In caring for the flag, first fold it in fourths

lengthwise. Then fold it diagonally, ending with the stars outside.

--- A worn flag, no longer suitable for use, should be destroyed in a "dignified way," preferably by burning.

--- In pledging allegiance to our flag, women may leave hats on, but men should remove their hats. The pledge should be given with the right hand over the heart, standing at attention. Men in uniform should leave their hats on and salute the flag.

--- During the playing of our National Anthem, those present should stand at attention facing the flag, the right hand over the heart. Men should remove their hats, holding them with their right hand at their left shoulder, their hand over their heart. Men in uniform should leave their hats on and salute the flag.

--- When a flag is raised or lowered, or when it is passing in a parade, people should face the flag and stand at attention, right hand over their hearts. Those in uniform should salute the flag. A man not in uniform should remove his hat, holding it at his left shoulder with his hand over his heart.

--- When saluting a flag in a moving column, the salute should be rendered at the time the flag passes.

Next week, I will provide some guidelines for displaying the American flag.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Revering Our Flag (Part II)

Our American flag can be flown any day that the weather is good (and during inclement weather, if an all-weather flag is used), but we most often see Americans displaying their flags on our nation's patriotic holidays, such as Flag Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and the Fourth of July.

Our flag also plays a special role in many of our official functions and ceremonies, such as parades, sporting events, school and college activities, political rallies -- in fact, in most every meaningful American event, our flag is present to remind us of the beliefs and ideals upon which America was founded.

How many of us will ever forget, for instance, the thrill of seeing American Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin raise the American flag after landing on the moon in 1969?

In displaying the American flag here on earth, the following guidelines apply.

--- If the flag is hung flat on a wall, the stars are always on the top and to the observer's left.

--- When two flags appear on the same staff, the U.S. flag is always flown on top.

--- In a group of flags, the U.S. flag should be placed in the center or at the highest point.

--- In a row of flags, the U.S. flag appears on the observer's left and should be hoisted before the flags of other nations.

--- On a speaker's platform, the U.S. flag should appear above and behind the speaker, or on a staff to the speaker's right.

--- In an audience, the U.S. flag is found to the group's right.

--- In a procession with other flags, the U.S. flag is positioned to the marcher's right (observer's left) or appears at the front and center of a line of flags.

The U.S. flag should not be used as decoration. Instead, bunting should be used, with blue on the top, white in the middle, and red on the bottom.

I hope these guidelines will be helpful to West Virginians as they use and display our flag.

December 4, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Bhopal Disaster: One Year Later

One year ago this month -- December 3, 1984 -- a disastrous gas leak at a chemical plant in Bhopal, India, turned a worldwide spotlight on West Virginia's chemical industry.

The chemical involved was methyl isocyanate, or MIC, and Institute, West Virginia, was the only place other than Bhopal where MIC is manufactured.

The Bhopal tragedy claimed more than 2,000 lives. In the aftermath of that accident, the safety of the chemical industry in general, and especially in West Virginia, was called into question.

One of the most important results to emerge from the intense scrutiny that has been focused on the chemical industry during the past year is a greater awareness of the need for cooperation and coordination among government, industry, and the public.

On the federal level, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have sharpened their oversight of the chemical industry.

At the local level, community groups, repre-

sentatives of the chemical industry, and government officials are working together to enhance public health and safety.

And in the private sector, the National Institute for Chemical Studies, headquartered in West Virginia, has been established to address the issues facing the future of the chemical industry.

The President recently signed into law a funding bill that includes \$250,000 I secured in the Senate Appropriations Committee for a comprehensive health study of chemical production in the Kanawha Valley.

This study, to be conducted jointly with the Harvard University School of Public Health, is an important step toward increasing our base of knowledge about the health effects of chemical production.

The Bhopal tragedy raised many questions that remain to be answered. But as our knowledge grows -- through such efforts as the study being undertaken by the National Institute for Chemical Studies -- the ability to protect both the health and the economic well-being of West Virginians can only be improved.

December 11, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Rescuing an Ailing Industry

America's steel industry is in a crisis, and without quick and aggressive action, we risk losing one of the mainstays of the country's economy and one of the key components of our national defense.

Look at the decline in our domestic steel industry in just the last ten years.

In 1975, foreign imports accounted for about 13.5 percent of all steel used in the country. By 1985, foreign steel had captured 25 percent of America's domestic market.

The human factor behind those statistics is staggering: In the last ten years, steel industry employment has dropped by 46 percent -- or by a half-million jobs.

And in West Virginia, not only have thousands of steel jobs been lost to foreign steelworkers, but related industries also have suffered as a result.

For instance, demand for West Virginia's metallurgical coal -- crucial to steelmaking -- rises and falls with the steel industry, and recent years have seen production cuts and job losses in that industry.

The steel industry's woes have had a rippling effect on the economy, and they could have a disastrous effect on national security during a time of emergency.

Historians tell us that

America's industrial might -- especially our steel industry -- was a deciding factor in the outcomes of both World War I and II.

One lesson that those wars should have taught was that America cannot become addicted to foreign steel -- a vital material that might disappear in a time of national emergency.

The time has come for more drastic approaches to cut our dependence on foreign steel and to strengthen the American steel industry.

That is why I have been urging the Administration to act to stop the flow of cheap steel imports into our country. Last year, in response to my insistence and the calls of many of my colleagues, the Administration launched a program for lowering steel imports. Unfortunately, that program is not working.

For that reason, I recently asked the appropriate Senate and House Committees to hold hearings on the current crisis in our steel industry and on the shortcomings of the Administration's steel import policies.

In the meantime, I will continue pressing for measures that will pump new life into the American steel industry.

December 18, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Air Traffic Safety: A Troubling Year

The past year has been the worst in history in terms of safety for the airline industry, a fact that is troubling for the many Americans who must travel by air.

The most recent disaster -- the fatal crash in Canada of a chartered DC-8 aircraft carrying 248 U.S. soldiers home for the holidays -- is a particularly tragic accident.

I am sure that all West Virginians mourn with the families of those who were killed in this accident, especially the three West Virginians who were among the victims: Pfc. Mark Abrams of Rhodell, Raleigh County; Sgt. Kevin Gantzer of Wheeling; and Sgt. James A. Mollett of Kermit, Mingo County.

One aspect of this crash that greatly disturbs me involves the serious questions that have been raised regarding the safety of civilian aircraft and airlines that derive most of their business from transporting U.S. military personnel.

Our nation asks much from the men and women in our armed forces, who have never shirked from making sacrifices in the defense of the United States. The least our country can do in return is to assure our military personnel that they will be carried in safe aircraft in time of peace.

For this reason, I have called on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to initiate a special investigation of all civilian aircraft and airlines that rely on military transport contracts for their main source of

business. I believe our government should do all in its power to prevent such terrible accidents in the future.

Prior to the Canadian crash, I discussed my concerns over air traffic safety -- particularly commuter airline safety -- with U.S. Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole.

As I told Mrs. Dole, commuter airline safety is especially important to states such as West Virginia, which must depend heavily on commuter airlines for air transportation service.

In view of the fact that commuter airlines are the only source of air travel for many communities, I strongly believe that the FAA should do everything possible to ensure that commuter aircraft are carefully maintained, inspected, and equipped with state-of-the-art safety devices.

In an effort to make sure that air travel in West Virginia is as safe as possible, I also included provisions in the government funding bill recently passed by Congress preventing the FAA from closing any air traffic control towers in West Virginia and directing the agency to staff the control tower at Tri-State Airport in Huntington 24 hours a day.

Air travel remains a convenient, and often necessary, means of transportation for many West Virginians. The airline industry and the government both must do their best to ensure that air travel also remains a safe and reliable means of transportation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Highlights of 1985: Accomplishments for West Virginia

West Virginia stands to benefit from a number of actions that I initiated and that Congress approved in the past 12 months, including enactment of an emergency relief package to help the victims of the floods that hit the state in early November.

Following is a look back over some of the congressional highlights of 1985:

West Virginia flood relief: Immediately after the November floods, I worked with my Senate colleagues and with the heads of several federal agencies to channel federal relief to West Virginia flood victims. One of my first efforts, with Gov. Moore, was to obtain a waiver of nearly all of West Virginia's 25 percent share of federal assistance.

Also, Congress approved a package of flood relief measures that I had earlier secured in the Senate Appropriations Committee, including \$40 million for stream and farmland rehabilitation; \$10 million to speed up disaster loan processing; \$3 million to expand a flood warning system into 29 counties hit by the floods; funding for restoration work at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the C&O Canal, the Monongahela National Forest, and the Forestry Products Laboratory at Parsons; and a special waiver to help West Virginia college students qualify for education assistance under the Pell Grant program.

Finally, at my request, Congress raised from \$30 million to \$55 million the amount that West Virginia can receive for emergency road and bridge repairs.

West Virginia Cancer Center:

At my urging, Congress approved, and the President signed into law, a bill containing \$4.5 million to begin construction of the state's first regional cancer facility, the Mary Babb Randolph cancer center in Morgantown.

Black lung claim backlog:

One of my priorities this year was to work to erase the 21,000-case backlog of black lung claims. Following meetings in my office with Labor Secretary William Brock, that Department agreed to implement a plan to eliminate the backlog. Also, I gained congressional approval of funding to hire extra administrative law judges to speed black lung claim processing.

Economic development in

West Virginia: Continuing my efforts to bring new industry and jobs to the state, I held several seminars this year for the state's business community, including a defense trade fair, two computer software symposiums, and a special day to acquaint the nation's large corporations with West Virginia business opportunities.

Federal programs of benefit to

West Virginia: I joined my colleagues in the successful fight to save the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and Amtrak rail passenger service, all of which have been helpful in building a better West Virginia.

Congress took other actions this year that will have a positive bearing on our state, and I will be working to achieve similar results for West Virginia when Congress reconvenes in January.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Looking Ahead to 1987: Issues Facing an Historic Congress

The recently convened 100th Congress will be an historic and memorable session as we mark not only the bicentennial of our country's Constitution, but also the 200th anniversary of the conception under our Constitution of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Ceremonies for both events are planned, including a meeting of the House and Senate in the City of Philadelphia in July 1987, the first time that the Congress has met outside of Washington since the spring of 1800.

I hope the 100th Congress will also be remembered as the Congress that tackled -- and solved -- a number of crucial national and international problems.

The first of these is our country's position in international trade, which, over the past six years of the current Administration, has deteriorated to the point that our country has amassed an estimated \$170 billion trade deficit for 1986 **alone**.

That trade deficit has resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of American jobs, and it has seriously weakened many of the basic industries upon which our country has relied.

Clearly, developing a national policy that re-establishes agriculture's competitiveness, that opens world markets to American

products, and that promotes a fair international trade network is one of the priorities of the coming Congress.

The 100th Congress will also concentrate on other areas that will contribute to our nation's future, such as education, energy programs to increase our country's self-sufficiency, development of a "lean, mean" national defense, and a federal budget that reduces deficits while protecting programs vital to America's prosperity.

Arms control and bettering our relations with the Soviet Union will also be a focus of the 100th Congress, and I hope that the Administration will make a resolution in 1987 to work with Congress to achieve those goals.

My personal agenda for the coming Congress will also include reform of our campaign financing system, which, as it is currently structured, gives special interests a disproportionate amount of influence in the government's decision-making processes.

Conducted against the backdrop of the bicentennial celebrations of the Congress and the Constitution, the 100th Congress promises to be a session packed with important and far-reaching issues that could have an impact on our lives today and on our children's lives.

January 7, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Highlights of 1985: A Step Toward Arms Control

In a year that was sprinkled with victories as well as with disappointments for the U.S. Senate, the Senate's role in the Geneva arms control process stands as one of its most important contributions of 1985.

In September, I led an eight-member Senate delegation to Moscow to discuss arms control with the new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev. Ours was the first Senate delegation to meet with Mr. Gorbachev, and we left that session feeling that we had helped pave the way for the November summit meeting between the Soviet leader and President Reagan.

And, for the first time ever and at my suggestion, U.S. Senate observers were present at the arms control talks, a situation that has given the Senate -- which is responsible for treaty ratification -- valuable, firsthand knowledge of the arms control negotiations.

Among other highlights of the 1985 legislative session are:

--- Congressional funding of a landmark program that it had earlier established at my initiation -- the clean coal technology program. At my request, my colleagues agreed to fund the program -- which is aimed at developing new technologies to use coal -- at nearly \$400 million over the

next three years.

Developing new technologies to use our coal in cleaner ways will give our country a better shot at achieving energy independence, and, for coal-rich states like West Virginia, a program that promotes coal will mean an economic boost and more jobs.

--- Congressional approval of an amendment that I offered that would increase to \$1 million the fine that can be imposed on defense contractors who knowingly cheat the Pentagon. Providing for a strong national defense is a top priority, but our large federal deficits dictate that every defense dollar be spent wisely, which was the goal of my amendment.

--- the successful fight to retain cost-of-living adjustments for social security recipients, despite attempts by the majority party in the Senate to eliminate the COLAS.

The first session of the 99th Congress also saw some important things left undone, including the failure to pass legislation allowing for television coverage of Senate proceedings.

That, and other items of importance to West Virginia and the nation, will be on my agenda when Congress goes back to work this month.

January 8, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Clean Coal Technology: Challenge for the Future

Finding more ways to use coal as an environmentally acceptable fuel is a major challenge facing coal-rich states like West Virginia.

That is why I was pleased when Congress recently passed, and the President signed into law, legislation that funds my Clean Coal Technology Program at a level of \$400 million over a three-year period.

The Clean Coal Technology Program, which I persuaded Congress to establish in 1984, is aimed directly at demonstrating techniques that use coal efficiently in ways that are not harmful to the environment.

As an added incentive to succeed, the guidelines for this program provide that the private sector put up at least half of the cost of any project.

The result should be a broader and more efficient use of coal and more jobs in the coal fields for states like West Virginia.

Last year, following the establishment of the Clean Coal Program by Congress, the Department of Energy received 175 expressions of interest from

the private sector in developing clean coal projects, including four that would be carried out in West Virginia -- two at Weirton Steel, one at West Virginia University in Morgantown, and one from Stirling Energies, Inc., in Beckley.

The funding authorized in the recently passed legislation -- \$100 million for fiscal year 1986 and \$150 million each for fiscal years 1987 and 1988 -- commits the federal government to the development of clean coal projects and allows the Clean Coal Technology Program to go forward.

This is important because clean coal technology holds the potential for stronger national security, greater energy independence, more jobs for Americans, improved energy efficiency, and better environmental performance.

Equally important, this program recognizes the contribution that coal-producing states like West Virginia make to the economy, the national security, and the energy independence of the United States.

January 15, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The War In Afghanistan: Supporting the Freedom Fighters

Six years ago last month, the Soviet Union launched an invasion of Afghanistan that has escalated into one of the most savage wars in recent memory.

Though exact figures are not available, an estimated 500,000 Afghan civilians have died in the war, and more than three million people have been forced to flee Afghanistan, many living in makeshift homes in neighboring Pakistan and Iran.

For the past six years, the Afghan freedom fighters have waged a determined struggle in the face of great adversity, and though experience and firepower are on the side of the Soviets, the Afghans have left the Soviet Union in a war that is increasingly unpopular at home and abroad, and in a war that the Soviets cannot seem to win.

With its mountainous terrain and proud, tough, independent people, Afghanistan is a country that in many ways reminds me of West Virginia.

That feeling of kinship has encouraged me to speak out on behalf of the Afghans in their struggle for freedom against the Soviet invaders.

Consequently, Afghanistan was one of the issues on my mind this past September when I went to Moscow to meet with Soviet Leader Gorbachev.

The main focus of our

meeting was arms control, but I also urged Mr. Gorbachev to withdraw Soviet troops from Afghanistan, a suggestion that led to the most heated exchange in our discussions.

Though Mr. Gorbachev was unyielding on Afghanistan at that time, recent statements and actions by the Soviets give me hope that they may be reconsidering their position with respect to Afghanistan.

Recently, for instance, Mr. Gorbachev said he looked forward to "essential progress" on regional issues in 1986, including Afghanistan.

To help facilitate an end to the brutality being inflicted on innocent people, President Reagan has offered the help of the United States in achieving a settlement between the Soviets and Afghanistan.

President Reagan has stipulated that such a settlement must include the total withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan, independence for the people of that country, and the resettlement of the millions who have fled Afghanistan because of the Soviet invasion.

I hope that 1986 will be the year that the Soviets end their war in Afghanistan, withdraw their military forces from that country, and return to the Afghans complete control of their homeland.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tackling Cancer in West Virginia

Cancer remains a serious health problem in West Virginia, where the American Cancer Society estimates that deaths from the disease are 6 percent higher than the national average.

Despite these troubling statistics, West Virginia has no in-state comprehensive cancer research and treatment center. Many West Virginians who are stricken with cancer have been forced to seek treatment out of state.

I am hopeful this situation will soon be remedied. Just recently, President Reagan signed into law a funding bill that contains my amendment adding \$4.5 million to begin construction of West Virginia's first comprehensive cancer care facility.

The facility is being developed by West Virginia University to provide state-of-the-art cancer research, prevention, and treatment services for West Virginians.

The first-year funding that I secured for this facility, which is to be used in conjunction with other sources of funding, should be available soon to begin

construction.

The University's plans call for the center to be headquartered in Morgantown with at least three satellite centers, in Charleston, Huntington, and Wheeling.

The need for a regional cancer center in West Virginia to serve all of Appalachia was recently acknowledged by the National Cancer Institute, which conducted a study of cancer treatment in the state.

The study, which was conducted at my request as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, found that current cancer research, education, and treatment facilities are scattered throughout the Appalachian region.

Recent medical advances have opened many new possibilities in the prevention and treatment of cancer. I am hopeful that the cancer center at West Virginia University will soon become a reality so that West Virginians can join in exploring the new frontiers of cancer prevention and treatment.

January 29, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Challenger Crew: A Legacy of Courage

Millions of Americans -- in homes and schools and offices, in West Virginia and in every other state in the union -- recently witnessed the tragic death of our exceptionally gifted and courageous fellow Americans aboard the space craft Challenger.

So great had become our confidence in America's space program that few of us were prepared for the tragedy that befell Challenger and its crew.

Most of us did not know Francis Scobee, Michael Smith, Ronald McNair, Judy Resnick, Gregory Jarvis, Ellison Onizuka, or Christa McAuliffe personally, but around the country the pain of their deaths was akin to that experienced at the passing of a family member or friend.

All of us -- as individuals, as West Virginians, and as Americans -- felt diminished by this terrible catastrophe.

Part of America's destiny, however, is to be on the cutting edge of mankind's larger destiny. Throughout our history, being an American has often demanded some kind of risk. In generations past, numberless men and women who braved the uncharted oceans to settle America were lost at sea. But others

pressed on, to realize their dreams. Such was the courage that built this nation.

We saw that courage, that questing spirit, exemplified again in the seven members of the Challenger crew. They were aware of the hazards of sailing into the uncharted reaches of outer space, but they were willing to face those risks to expand the boundaries of knowledge.

Those seven dauntless space pioneers realized, as did many of our forebearers, that a pioneering people will always seek the outer frontiers of knowledge.

Their witness cannot be lost. Prophets tell us that space is our destiny. And if Providence is with us, Americans will be in the vanguard of those who reach out into the universe, of those who plant human footsteps on the dust of distant planets.

Schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe planned to teach us about space voyaging from her classroom in the stars. Instead, she and her colleagues taught us a much larger lesson of courage and of humanity. It was a lesson that will stay with us. From this day, wherever we go, the memory of the seven heroes aboard the Challenger will go with us.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Right Approach on Acid Rain

A program to develop cleaner methods of using coal is the best plan of attack in controlling acid rain.

That was the conclusion reached recently by a special U.S.-Canada acid rain task force, and it is a conclusion that I wholeheartedly support.

The special task force -- appointed by President Reagan and Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney -- endorsed an approach that is virtually identical to my own clean coal technology program, which Congress approved in 1984 and funded in 1985.

Since the acid rain debate began several years ago, I have followed a two-track plan.

I have fought the imposition of strict new controls on sulphur dioxide emissions, arguing that we must have conclusive scientific data on its causes and effects before we consider strict regulations which could stunt economic growth in coal areas, cost thousands of jobs, and cause higher utility bills.

At the same time, I

have pressed the federal government to become a partner with the private sector in searching for more environmentally sound ways to use coal.

That is what would happen under my clean coal technology program, which has been funded at \$400 million over the next three years.

The special acid rain task force recognized -- as I do -- the importance of coal to our country's energy future, and its support of clean coal technology is a positive way to tackle the acid rain problem.

The task force called for a five-year, \$2.5 billion federal commitment to develop clean coal technologies, matched by a \$2.5 billion commitment from the private sector. I have urged President Reagan to endorse this approach.

Coal is the fuel of tomorrow, but its future is clouded by those who believe that it is the culprit responsible for the acid rain phenomenon. A clean coal technology program is the only logical course in the acid rain debate.

February 12, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Gramm-Rudman: A Dangerous Course of Action

The American people have heard a lot of debate about the Gramm-Rudman budget amendment in recent weeks, and they will be hearing a great deal more as Congress wrestles with the impact of this law on the budget-making process.

Although a federal court recently declared the Gramm-Rudman law unconstitutional, the ruling will be appealed. In the meantime, Congress will continue to work toward a budget that complies with the guidelines.

Because of the impact that the Gramm-Rudman process could have on so many West Virginians, I think it is important to understand the potential impact of this law and why I oppose it.

Under the Gramm-Rudman process, if Congress fails to cut the budget enough to meet predetermined annual deficit reduction targets, automatic across-the-board cuts in domestic and defense spending will be triggered.

Only a few federal programs, including Social Security and certain health and welfare programs for poor Americans, are exempt from Gramm-Rudman. All other federal programs are subject to deep cuts or outright elimination.

The impact of this on federal, state, and local government services for states like West Virginia could be very serious.

For example, through my efforts on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I obtained millions of dollars in federal assistance to help West Virginia recover from last November's devastating flood.

But Gramm-Rudman does not recognize disastrous emergencies like the West Virginia flood. If that law had been on the books last year, federal funding for pro-

grams vital to the flood recovery effort in West Virginia -- including road and bridge repair by the federal Department of Transportation, stream and farm land rehabilitation by the Soil Conservation Service, and a flash flood warning system by the National Weather Service -- would have been subject to cuts, not increases.

Looking at the broader picture, national security could be jeopardized by overly steep defense cuts, sending the wrong message to the Soviets as the United States continues to work toward arms control at the negotiations in Geneva.

Programs vital to local communities -- such as the police and fire protection provided by general revenue sharing funds, highway construction financed by the Appalachian Regional Commission, or coal research funded by the Department of Energy -- are likely to see their budgets slashed or even eliminated.

And programs essential to people -- black lung benefits, cancer research, education assistance, airline safety, and jobs for disadvantaged young people, to name just a few -- will have to be cut back even further than they have already been cut.

I support efforts to reduce the deficit and balance the budget -- last year I developed an alternate budget that would have accomplished those goals -- but Gramm-Rudman places Congress in a fiscal straitjacket, without providing the leeway to set priorities.

Responsible deficit reduction is one thing, but I fear that Congress and the American people will regret the day that the Gramm-Rudman amendment became law.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tackling the Trade Deficit

Not long ago, I had the privilege of participating in a panel discussion with a group of recognized authorities on trade policy.

The topic of our debate was "free trade-versus-protectionism." However, in my opinion, free trade versus protectionism is not the central trade issue facing the United States. The biggest trade issue facing our nation today is the question of U.S. competitiveness in the international market. To foster that ability to compete, free trade must also mean fair trade.

Our country's trade deficit for 1985 -- a record \$148 billion -- is the largest trade shortfall in our nation's history. A trade deficit of this magnitude is especially troubling to me because the economies of strong exporting states like West Virginia are very sensitive to the U.S. trade deficit. Free trade is essential to a healthy U.S. economy, but fair trade demands that we not allow unfair foreign competition to destroy our native industries, nor can we allow foreign competitors to restrict U.S. exports in an unfair manner.

Just recently, I asked the U.S. Trade Representative to take steps to help two West Virginia companies threatened by foreign trade competition -- to deny duty-free treatment of Mexican glass globes and shades, which could hurt Corning Glass Works' Parkersburg manufacturing operation; and to seek access into Korean markets

for ABS plastics resin, used in a variety of products ranging from telephones to refrigerators. ABS is manufactured by Borg-Warner, which employs more than 2,000 West Virginians at its Parkersburg operation.

These are just two of the many examples of what fairness in trade practices can mean to West Virginia. In a state where one out of every seven jobs depends upon exports, few communities in West Virginia have escaped unscathed from the current trade deficit.

The trade policies of this Administration are leaving basic industries such as steel and ferroalloys -- which are vital to our national security -- increasingly vulnerable to imports. Meanwhile, American jobs are being exported overseas.

The Administration needs to develop and execute a trade policy that recognizes the harmful effects that America's trade deficit has on employment and national security. The Administration must also address the steps that are needed to ensure that our country can remain competitive in the marketplace of a rapidly changing world.

Until that time, America's position in the international marketplace and her industries back home will continue to suffer, because a trade policy that ignores the impact of our huge trade deficit on jobs and on national security is no policy at all.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Televising the U.S. Senate

The United States Senate recently took a history-making step by agreeing to a resolution designed to provide gavel-to-gavel coverage of Senate proceedings.

Over a year ago, when I first introduced a resolution to provide television in the Senate, I said that I believed the Senate could maintain its traditions while also meeting the realities of our times.

I believe the Senate can change without violating its unique role as an institution -- and I believe it must change.

The American people have the right to know, see, and hear what their elected officials are debating. Certainly, television will leave its mark on the Senate; but, more important, television will allow the Senate to leave an even more significant mark on the public mind.

There is virtually no noteworthy aspect of modern life -- in any corner of the globe -- that West Virginians cannot tune into by turning on their television sets. And what we miss on television in the evening, we can hear on our automobile radios the next morning.

Since 1947, the American people have been permitted to see the President

House of Representatives speak to Congress. The House of Representatives televises its proceedings. And yet, until now, the U.S. Senate -- known widely as the world's greatest deliberative body -- has not allowed this electronic door to the world to be opened.

As a result, the American people only partially know and understand the vital work of the Senate and how and why it makes its decisions.

The great majority of West Virginians, for example, seldom have the opportunity to come to the nation's Capitol and observe the deliberations of the Senate. And we who serve here cannot communicate the importance of many of these issues -- or our views about them -- to our constituents nearly as effectively as we could with live broadcast coverage.

An informed electorate is fundamental to an effective democracy. I do not believe that I exaggerate when I say that broadcasting Senate proceedings will make a difference, and a difference for the better, by increasing the level of knowledge about what we do in the Senate and how we make the decisions that affect the lives of every West Virginian and of every U.S. citizen.

March 5, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help at Tax Time

April 15 -- the deadline for filing federal income tax forms -- is fast approaching.

A famous humorist once said that filling out Internal Revenue Service (IRS) forms was a "taxing" experience. Most taxpayers, from time-to-time, probably have yearned for a helping hand at income tax time.

This year, as in past years, the IRS has a number of services to help taxpayers who have questions about their federal tax forms.

West Virginians can call the IRS toll-free -- at 1-800-424-1040 -- for information or assistance in obtaining and filling out tax forms. IRS specialists at this number can also refer callers to the taxpayer assistance office closest to them.

West Virginia has a

permanent IRS district office -- in Parkersburg at 425 Juliana Street -- that is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:15 pm, for taxpayers with questions.

West Virginians can also seek help from one of the IRS's nine special taxpayer assistance offices -- located in Beckley, Bluefield, Bridgeport, Charleston, Logan, Huntington, Martinsburg, Morgantown, and Wheeling.

These special offices operate during the tax filing season -- some on a part-time basis and others full-time -- so that West Virginians can get assistance on a personal basis.

April 15 is just around the corner, and I hope that West Virginians who need help will take advantage of the services offered by the IRS.

March 12, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cashing in on High Technology

When the Pentagon's computers communicate with one another -- or with the nation's defense contractors -- they do so in what is known as the "Ada" computer language.

The Ada language is our defense establishment's universally accepted method of computer communication, and, as a result, Ada-trained computer specialists will find plenty of job opportunities in the years ahead.

Next year alone, an estimated 115,000 to 140,000 computer software jobs will go unclaimed in our country for lack of trained specialists to fill them. And by the year 1990, the Ada computer language industry is expected to be a \$20-billion-a-year business.

I would like to see West Virginia get a chunk of that business, and I have tried to take steps which could assist our state in heading in that direction.

Last summer, I helped establish the Software Valley Corporation, a Morgantown-based, non-profit organization dedicated to bringing high tech businesses and jobs to West Virginia.

One of the other goals

of the Software Valley Corporation is to establish West Virginia as a national Ada language training center -- and in the process, to give qualified West Virginians an edge in getting high-tech jobs.

As a first step, two special Ada-language training sessions have been held at WVU in the last several months.

To build upon those seminars, I announced just recently that, at my urging, the largest-ever national Ada language conference will be held in Charleston's Civic Center in November. More than 100 exhibiting companies will take part in the conference, which will also feature 50 seminars and technical sessions.

High technology and the industry it spawns offer West Virginia a way to broaden its economic base and bring new jobs into the state.

The Software Valley Corporation has made a good start in that direction, and the Charleston Ada conference should prove to be another boost to the efforts to get West Virginia a piece of the high-tech action.

March 19, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pulling Together to Rebuild West Virginia

In a recent ceremony in my U.S. Capitol office, the West Virginia Broadcasters Association was honored for organizing a statewide telethon to help victims of the November floods in West Virginia.

That telethon -- which was broadcast December 7 on all of the state's television stations and many of our radio stations -- raised more than \$1.7 million to assist West Virginians who suffered flood losses.

The honor bestowed on the West Virginia Broadcasters by its parent organization, the National Association of Broadcasters, was well-deserved, and all West Virginians owe our broadcasters a debt of gratitude for their hours of hard work to make the telethon a success.

Their efforts stand as a symbol of how West Virginians have pulled together to rebuild after the flood.

That rebuilding work is far from complete, however.

Just after the floods, tens of millions of federal dollars were earmarked for relief activities in the state.

Now, more than four months after the flood, efforts are still underway in Washington to transform those dollars -- as quickly as the bureaucracy and federal regulations will per-

mit -- into refurbished homes and businesses, and rebuilt roads and bridges.

Just recently, for instance, I learned that \$8.6 million in federal disaster aid designated to repair damage at West Virginia schools had not been released to the state, putting schools that had already undertaken repair work -- in anticipation of receiving the funding -- in a financial bind.

Following a meeting in my office with top Administration officials, federal funds were released to West Virginia, thus clearing the way for schools in 14 counties to proceed with flood repair work.

I have also told the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that I would support a request for extra funding for that agency -- which is \$250 million in the red this year because of the high number of federal disasters in 1985, including the West Virginia flood -- so that it could complete its flood recovery work in our state.

We all wish that the flood recovery effort could move more quickly. Efforts will continue to prod the federal agencies involved in the relief activities to move as quickly as possible to rebuild and restore flood-damaged areas of West Virginia.

March 26, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Promoting Safety in the Skies

"An unsuspecting aviation public flies overhead while Federal Aviation Administration managers hold their breath and pray there are no major outages in air traffic control equipment."

That chilling assessment -- delivered to a Congressional committee by the chief representative of the workers who maintain air traffic control equipment -- is becoming increasingly common as nationwide attention focuses on the safety of air travel.

For years, the flying public has taken for granted the federal government's role in maintaining the highest possible level of airline safety -- from ensuring that planes are well-maintained and pilots are fully qualified to making certain that air traffic controllers and their equipment are top-notch.

In recent months, though, stories of slipshod aircraft maintenance, overworked air controllers, under-qualified pilots, and close calls on the ground and in the air have left many with a feeling that air travel is becoming risky and unsafe.

I share that concern, and recently urged the head

of the Senate Aviation Subcommittee to take a close look at one factor that may be affecting airline safety: the 1978 decision to deregulate the nation's airline industry.

In a letter to Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, I pointed out that airline deregulation has fostered a highly competitive environment within the industry -- competition that could result in airlines cutting corners in safety-related areas such as aircraft maintenance.

Beyond the impact that airline deregulation may be having on airline safety, I believe that we need a strong federal presence -- through the FAA -- to maintain a high level of airline safety.

According to recent news accounts, the FAA is working at less than full strength, a situation that puts that agency at a severe disadvantage in carrying out its responsibilities.

The federal government must take the leading role in ensuring that air travel is as safe as possible, and I will continue to press for vigilance on the part of the government in promoting safety in the skies.

April 2, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Financing West Virginia's High Tech Development

The effort to bring high technology businesses and jobs to West Virginia --to create a "Software Valley" in our state -- is just getting off the ground, and to make it a success, one key ingredient must be found: financing for high-tech development.

For that reason, "Software Valley III"--the third in a series of symposiums I have held in the state to set the stage for a high-tech industry in West Virginia--will concentrate on ways to fund the development or expansion of computer and related businesses.

"Software Valley III" will be held May 22 in Morgantown, and West Virginians will hear representatives from some of the nation's leading accounting, venture capital, investment banking, and business development firms--including Price Waterhouse, BDM Corporation, Ashland Oil, Raytheon Ventures, Baker, Watts and Company, and the Pittsburgh High Technology Council.

Our first two conferences--held last year in Morgantown--laid the foundation for the Software Valley movement in West Virginia.

The movement will not take off, however, unless businessmen can find the capital to start a new venture or to expand an existing business, and I hope

that Software Valley III will give guidance to West Virginians interested in high tech development.

I have also asked Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson --the head of the President's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) program -- to give the keynote presentation at the conference. A large part of the proposed SDI program will be dependent on computers and supercomputers, and I believe that West Virginia might benefit by involving Gen. Abrahamson in our Software Valley effort.

"Software Valley III" will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Morgantown's Sheraton Lakeview Inn, and West Virginians can make reservations by contacting Ms. Diane Fowler at the Sheraton, Route 6, Box 88A, Morgantown (1-800-624-8300 or 304-594-1111). The cost of the conference is \$35 per person, which includes lunch.

The interest that I found among West Virginians during the first two Software Valley conferences was enough to convince me that high technology could become a bright spot in the state's future economic picture. Finding the money to undertake high tech development -- and setting up successful firms -- should bring that economic picture into focus.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balancing the Budget: A Case for Responsible Action

Grappling with the budget under the new restraints of the Gramm-Rudman process is one of the most pressing, and most difficult, tasks facing Congress this year.

We all want to reduce the deficit and balance the budget. At the same time, we must be very careful to protect programs that are vital to people and vital to the future of our country.

As Congress moves closer to producing a budget, the problems caused by the Gramm-Rudman process are becoming increasingly evident. The Gramm-Rudman amendment -- which I voted against -- has imposed a fiscal straitjacket on Congress that makes it difficult to deal with economic realities.

Recently, the Senate was asked to vote on another budget measure -- a resolution calling for a balanced budget constitutional amendment.

Like many West Virginians, I support a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. In fact, I offered an alternative to the original proposal that was introduced in the Senate, the Simon-Hatch amendment. Both the proposals were defeated, for different reasons.

My balanced budget constitutional amendment alternative would have accomplished the goal of constitutionally mandating

a balanced federal budget, and it clearly would have protected our national security in the event of an undeclared war such as Vietnam or Korea.

My amendment provided an automatic exception for war, whether declared or undeclared, and for any other type of military conflict.

The Simon-Hatch amendment, which I did not support, was unsound, in my opinion, because it could have hampered our nation's ability to provide for vital national security interests.

Although the Simon-Hatch proposal provided an escape hatch to enable the country to mobilize for a declared war, it did not adequately address the problem of providing for our national security needs in a time of undeclared war.

When it comes to budget matters, I believe that we must invest in America's future -- e.g., in education and research and resource development -- while at the same time providing for a strong national defense.

Congress has discovered that the Gramm-Rudman restrictions make our budget goals hard to reach. The additional restrictions proposed under the Simon-Hatch amendment could have made those priorities very difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Applause for America's Military Forces in Libya

All Americans have a right to be proud of the bravery and superior professionalism demonstrated by our armed forces in carrying out the recent attack against the terrorist operations of the government in Libya.

Many West Virginians have contacted me to express their views on the attack, and to convey their hope that this action will not precipitate further violence. Americans recognize that something must be done to combat terrorism, and we all hope that this was the right action.

As residents of one of the most patriotic states in the nation, West Virginians can share a particular sense of pride and patriotism in the performance of our fighting forces.

I believe many West Virginians also share my disappointment in the reluctance of many of our European allies -- with the laudable exception of Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher -- to support the United States in its efforts to deter Colonel Khadafy's regime from its policy of terrorism, including support for economic sanctions as well as giving our military troops at least overflight rights during the recent military action.

Terrorism is a world

problem which demands a world solution. The sooner that other nations recognize this fundamental reality, the sooner that appropriate common steps can be taken.

Before our military operation, most of America's allies responded inadequately to requests for joint efforts to combat international terrorism. By placing economic self-interests above a common approach against terrorism, these nations failed to take the actions which might have reduced the need for this military strike.

I hope our allies recognize this and will now join with the United States in a renewed anti-terrorism campaign encompassing a full range of actions in the economic, political, diplomatic, criminal justice, and security areas.

I am very hopeful that the actions taken by the United States will have the desired effects -- to damage Libya's military and terrorist support sites, and to inhibit Colonel Khadafy and others like him from further terrorist acts.

I also hope that in the future, many more of our allies will meet the standards set by Prime Minister Thatcher in the continued battle against international terrorism.

April 23, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Falling Oil Prices: A Mixed Blessing

Oil prices have tumbled more than 50 percent in the last six months, holding forth the prospect of lower energy costs, less inflation, and greater economic growth.

Gasoline for less than a dollar a gallon is a welcome sight, to be sure, but I am concerned that the short-term benefits brought about by cheaper oil will be outweighed by the long-term price tag.

Already, signs point to energy problems in the future.

For instance, despite the expected increase in domestic consumption, American producers have cut back on oil exploration and production.

Industry experts predict that many domestic "stripper" wells -- the kind of low volume oil production found in states like West Virginia -- will be forced out of operation.

In response to cuts in domestic oil production, the nation's refiners have begun selling off their refining capacity, much of which is being purchased by foreign oil producers in an effort to establish direct links to American consumers.

Cheap foreign oil also hurts coal-rich states like West Virginia, as large industrial users and electric utilities switch from coal and natural gas to the more economical foreign oil.

Former Energy Secretary James Schlesinger said

recently that he feared we were "sowing the seeds of the next oil crisis." For those of us who can remember the long gasoline lines of the 1970s, the thought of another oil crisis is not a pleasant one.

But even more important than the inconvenience an oil crisis would cause consumers is the impact that reliance on foreign oil could have on national defense.

Our domestic oil industry is an important contributor to our national security, and we could find ourselves in deep trouble if we were forced to rely on foreign countries -- and especially on unstable countries -- for the oil necessary to our defense effort.

That is one reason why we should use this opportunity to fill our nation's strategic petroleum reserve. Unfortunately, the Administration is proposing a moratorium on further development of the reserve after it reaches 500 million barrels of oil, 250 million barrels less than required by law. With oil prices so low and the future so uncertain, this appears to be a penny-wise but pound-foolish decision.

All these factors must be taken into account as the nation considers its energy future, and we must strive for a policy that produces not only short-term benefit, but one that also results in long-term gain.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Talking Trade With Japan

West Virginia provides almost 40 percent of the coal that Japan imports each year, so the fact that Japan's U.S. coal purchases have dropped by nearly two-thirds since 1982 is cause for concern.

That concern was on my mind recently when a group of senators and I met with Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone during his visit to Washington for discussions with President Reagan.

After the luncheon, I asked my good friend, former Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, who is now our ambassador to Japan, to deliver a letter from me to Prime Minister Nakasone. In the letter, I urged the Japanese leader to step up his country's purchases of American goods and services, particularly our coal.

My interest in seeing Japan buy more American goods is twofold: Not only would it benefit West Virginia -- one of the country's leading coal exporting states and a top exporter of manufactured goods -- but it would also help ease the U.S. trade deficit, which has grown to historic and damaging proportions.

Despite the fact that Japan has reportedly increased its coal purchases from other coal exporting countries, I am troubled that Japan last year imported only 13.3 million metric tons of U.S. coal --down from 31 million metric tons in 1982. Further, U.S. producers have

been told by Japanese officials to expect coal purchases to dwindle even further in 1986, to approximately 11 million tons.

Coal, glass, chemicals, and automobile parts could fill the needs of Japanese industry while a host of U.S. manufactured goods could be useful to Japanese consumers. Stepped up imports of these goods by Japan could help ease our record \$50 billion trade deficit with that country.

I have pointed that out to Prime Minister Nakasone, adding that unless we see some progress on the part of foreign countries -- and particularly on Japan's part--toward fair trade policies that will help whittle down U.S. trade deficits, our trading partners face the possibility of the U.S. taking strong steps to protect itself against unfair foreign trade and to even our unbalanced trade situation.

To his credit, the Japanese Prime Minister has made some inroads toward improving the U.S./Japan trade relationship, and I commend him for his efforts.

But I also believe --and I have conveyed this belief to Prime Minister Nakasone and to many other Japanese government and industry leaders -- that more must be done by his government and by Japan's industrial leaders to improve trade between our two countries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Senate's 1987 Budget: A Good Starting Point

The Senate recently completed one of its most challenging tasks this year when it passed a budget for 1987 that is designed to fund federal services adequately while meeting the deficit reduction targets of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget process.

The budget that the Senate passed is certainly not perfect, but it is a workable document, and it represents an important victory by averting the calamity of triggering the Gramm-Rudman automatic budget cuts.

As one who opposed the Gramm-Rudman amendment, and who has been worried about the consequences of the Gramm-Rudman process, I am pleased that the Senate approved a bipartisan budget designed to achieve a balanced budget in three years and adequately fund national defense without raising income taxes.

On the plus side, as the result of an amendment I cosponsored, this budget has \$1.2 billion more in fiscal 1987 education funding than did the original Senate Budget Committee proposal -- though frankly, this was not as much funding as I would have preferred.

I believe that the Senate was shortsighted in rejecting a second amendment I cosponsored, which would have invested \$17.1 billion over the next three years in education, job training, and basic science and research.

I also believe that the Senate

made a mistake in rejecting an amendment I cosponsored to provide full funding for federal revenue sharing -- \$4.3 billion a year -- for the next three years.

Federal revenue sharing is important to communities in West Virginia and throughout the country, and I am disappointed that the Senate voted to continue revenue sharing for only the first half of next year.

Hopefully, education funding and revenue sharing -- both of which are opposed by the Administration -- will be addressed again this year, either by the House of Representatives when it takes up the budget or in conference committee, where differences between the House and Senate bills will be resolved.

Other pluses in the Senate budget of particular importance to West Virginia are that cost-of-living adjustments are protected for Social Security recipients, veterans, black lung beneficiaries, and other federal retirees.

In addition, programs that the President's budget would have eliminated -- including the Appalachian Regional Commission, Economic Development Administration, Urban Development Action Grant program, and Amtrak -- are saved, for the most part with funding frozen at this year's levels, and that is good news for West Virginia.

May 14, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Software Valley's Business Plan for West Virginia

West Virginia's Software Valley movement -- begun less than a year ago -- would mean new jobs and industries for our state.

The founders of the Software Valley Corporation are developing a business plan for the entire state -- one that would reach past the I-79 corridor and draw other West Virginia communities into the lucrative and growing commercial and defense computer software markets.

Specifically, the Software Valley Corporation's business plan for West Virginia would:

---encourage major, established data systems corporations to locate in West Virginia;

---assist the start-up of new businesses across the state and support existing state high-tech industries through conferences, information and personnel exchanges, and computer services;

---establish a national software engineering training center in West Virginia that would focus on the practical, marketable, industrial applications of software engineering;

---develop, in conjunction with the state's institutions of higher learning, an academic program to educate and train West Virginians in advanced technology fields; and

---work with Pittsburgh's Software Engineering Institute and the National Science Foundation Supercomputer Consortium in their efforts to transfer research and development technology into commercial applications.

The Software Valley movement is gathering steam, and that is good news for West Virginia and for those of us who have been working to develop high-tech industry in our state.

May 21, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Refocusing on Airline Safety

Is air travel in the United States as safe as it can be?

I have grown increasingly concerned that the margin of airline safety has deteriorated since the deregulation of the airline industry several years ago, and I believe it is time to reexamine the federal government's role in aviation safety.

Since airline deregulation went into effect, I have heard time and again from West Virginians who are disappointed or angry over the fact that airline service to our state has declined while rates have skyrocketed.

And now, serious questions are being raised about the safety of the airlines since deregulation.

I am concerned that the fierce competition among airlines has caused some airlines to skimp on safety and maintenance, and that air travel safety is being compromised as a result.

Further, I believe that valid questions have been raised over whether the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) can effectively make airline safety its top priority when the agency is also in the business of promoting aviation.

Under its current structure, the FAA has the dual responsibilities of promoting commercial aviation and of ensuring aviation safety. I am concerned that those two responsibilities might not al-

ways be compatible.

For these reasons, I have introduced legislation in the Senate that would establish a special "blue ribbon" commission to determine if the FAA can effectively carry out both responsibilities, or if airline safety and aviation promotion should be handled by separate agencies.

Under my legislation, the President would appoint an independent panel made up of seven members, who are to have extensive expertise in corporate management but no ties to the FAA or the commercial aviation industry.

That independent panel would have one year to submit to the President and to Congress its findings on the FAA and its recommendations on how airline safety procedures can be improved.

My bill has received bipartisan support in the Senate -- including Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va.; Ernest Hollings, D-S.C.; James Exon, D-Nebraska; Wendell Ford, D-Ky.; Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kans., who is chairman of the Senate Aviation Subcommittee; and Sen. Mark Andrews, R-N.Dak., who chairs the Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee.

Airline safety is important to every American, and I hope that my legislation will be a step toward ensuring safety in the skies for us all.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hotlines: Information You Can Use

West Virginians with federally related questions or problems have access to information through a variety of toll-free telephone hotlines.

Following is a list of some of the toll-free hotlines maintained by the federal government that may be useful to West Virginians.

Consumer Product Safety	
Commission.....	1-800-638-2772
(Product recall, complaints, fact sheets)	
Retired Army Pay.....	1-800-428-2290
Army Employment Information.....	1-800-872-2769
Marine Corps Employment	
Information.....	1-800-423-2600
Navy Employment Information.....	1-800-327-6289
Pesticide Emergency Information	
Clearinghouse.....	1-800-858-7378
Federal Emergency Management	
Agency.....	1-800-638-6620
(Flood Insurance Information)	
National Health Information	
Clearinghouse.....	1-800-336-4797
Cancer Information, Department of Health	
and Human Services.....	1-800-638-6694
Parent Anonymous (child abuse).....	1-800-421-0353
National Runaway Switchboard.....	1-800-621-4000
(For parents and runaways to leave messages)	
Transportation Department.....	1-800-424-9393
(Auto safety information and complaints)	
Washington, D.C, Central Reservation	
Center.....	1-800-554-2220
(Information on lodging in the nation's capital)	

June 4, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The West Virginia Flood: A New Push for Recovery

It has been seven months since the disastrous flood that devastated a large area of West Virginia, and some individuals and communities still are in need of assistance.

Immediately following the flood, I took a variety of actions to bring emergency federal assistance to West Virginia. Now, I am bringing federal officials back into West Virginia to take a follow-up look to determine what still needs to be done.

For example, many West Virginians have complained about delays on the part of Washington- and Atlanta-based agents of the Small Business Administration (SBA) in processing loans for flood-related claims.

I met not long ago with the new acting administrator of the agency and a group of West Virginians, and I told the SBA administrator that there had been too much bureaucratic foot-dragging.

The administrator, Charles Heatherly, responded immediately to my concerns by sending 16 additional SBA personnel into West Virginia to speed the processing of loans, and by directing agency personnel to review and expedite the handling of pending loan applications. I have asked for weekly reports from the SBA so that I can monitor the progress of this effort.

But the SBA is only one agency involved in the work that still needs to be done in West Virginia as a result of the flood. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I recently added \$8 million to a Senate supplemental funding bill to enable the

federal Soil Conservation Service to continue flood recovery activities in West Virginia.

This funding is needed to continue clean-up activities in streams and rivers, where debris and gravel deposits pose a threat of future flooding with only moderate rainfall.

In the Senate, I have been able to secure a time extension to help Preston County school officials apply for federal funding to rebuild the Rowlesburg School, which was destroyed by the flood. I also acted to move the supplemental funding bill onto a faster track for Senate consideration so that FEMA -- which has depleted its disaster relief funds -- could receive \$250 million needed for work in West Virginia and throughout the nation.

In addition, I recently directed members of my staff and officials from several federal agencies to visit or survey by helicopter many of the counties damaged in the flood to determine what clean-up work remains to be done.

I was able to accompany the tour into some of the counties that had been most devastated so that I could see first-hand the problems that remain. This comprehensive sweep of the state should enable the proper federal agencies -- including FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Soil Conservation Service -- to identify and, where possible, to finish the clean-up job.

The people of West Virginia were hard hit by last year's flood. They are entitled to get all the help possible so that they can put this suffering behind them.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Choices Ahead For Our West Virginia Graduates

In recent weeks, thousands of young West Virginians began a new journey when they picked up their diplomas and became high school graduates.

Many young West Virginians will continue their education at an institution of higher learning; others will choose the military; some will enter the workforce, an apprentice program, or take another course.

But whatever decision they make, our young West Virginians will be making choices that will help shape the rest of their lives.

Anyone who has attended a graduation ceremony recently has probably heard a commencement address about a world full of opportunities and a bright future ahead.

Those things can be true. But increasingly, the world into which our graduates will go is a place of intense competition. Young Americans will not be competing just with one another, but also with alert, hard-working, intelligent men and women from other countries.

If America is to stay Number One in the world, and if we are to keep and create jobs in America and in West Virginia, we are going to have to outwork, out-perform, out-produce, and out-train

our foreign rivals.

That was on my mind recently when the Senate considered the Higher Education Act -- a bill that renews the federal government's student aid programs, including guaranteed student loans, scholarship programs, teacher training programs, and others.

I supported this bill, which I believe may be a deciding factor in whether some high school graduates can go to the college of their choice; whether those students can finish their college degrees; or whether parents can afford to send their sons and daughters to college.

At my urging, the Senate adopted my amendment to that bill to encourage college students participating in the work-study program to provide tutoring services, which could help improve the quality of education in our high schools, elementary schools, and adult education classes.

Today's West Virginia high school graduates -- and graduates from across the nation -- are tomorrow's leaders, workers, builders, and innovators, and the better we prepare them academically, the better decisions they will be able to make about their futures and the direction of our country.

June 18, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Happy Birthday, Lady Liberty!

One of America's most famous women -- and the symbol of our country's freedoms and opportunities -- will mark her 100th birthday this year.

Appropriately, July 4th weekend will climax America's celebration of the centennial of the Statue of Liberty, which, since October 28, 1886, has stood in New York Harbor and welcomed millions of immigrants to a land of new possibilities and promise.

The Statue of Liberty has weathered two world wars and the storms of a century since the day President Grover Cleveland accepted it as a gift to the United States from France.

Those years took their toll on the statue's structure, prompting President Reagan to launch a special commission in 1983 to rehabilitate Lady Liberty.

Repairs to the 151-foot, 225-ton statue -- including replacement of the iron supports for the statue's copper exterior and a duplication of the torch -- are nearly complete, and carry a pricetag of \$66.3 million.

West Virginians and

all Americans can take pride in the fact that the statue's facelift has been financed by private contributions from millions of Americans -- a demonstration of the high regard in which the Statue of Liberty is held.

An estimated 10 million Americans will gather in New York on July 4th weekend to see President Reagan light the statue's torch -- which has been dark since restoration work began -- and pay tribute to the ideals for which the statue has stood for these past 100 years -- for freedom and opportunity and a better life for millions.

Perhaps the poet Emma Lazarus expressed it best when she wrote of the Statue of Liberty:

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Happy Birthday, Lady Liberty, and may your lamp of freedom shine for centuries to come!

June 25, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Acid Rain Controls: Fighting a Renewed Threat

Recently, supporters of acid rain controls have renewed their campaign in Congress to see legislation passed that could prove devastating to states like West Virginia.

For example, an acid rain bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives that would cost an estimated 7,200 jobs in West Virginia and result in about \$690 million in annual losses to the state's economy.

And, according to the United Mine Workers of America, similar legislation that has been introduced in the Senate would have even more disastrous effects on coal-producing states like West Virginia.

I am concerned that well-meaning supporters of acid rain legislation have lost sight of the consequences of their proposals on the everyday lives of ordinary people.

For instance, some proponents of acid rain controls contend that workers displaced from the high sulfur coal mines of West Virginia's northern panhandle as a result of acid rain legislation could easily find work in the low sulfur coal fields of southern West Virginia.

Unfortunately, this argument -- even if relocating were that simple -- ignores the impact on the communities. Acid rain legislation such as that being proposed in the House and the Senate would turn

coal mining communities in northern West Virginia into ghost towns. Shopkeepers, school teachers, gas station attendants -- all the people that make up a community would be affected by dislocations in the coal industry.

Beyond all the statistics and scientific measurements, the effect of these acid rain bills on people is what really matters. I will vigorously oppose any legislation that would have such devastating consequences on West Virginia.

What is needed is a positive approach to the problem of acid rain. That is why I believe that my Clean Coal Technology Program is so important.

The Clean Coal Technology Program -- which I authored and for which I secured \$400 million in funding over a three-year period -- is designed to find ways to use coal in an environmentally acceptable manner.

The Clean Coal Program holds the potential to produce cleaner air, jobs, and energy for the future. It represents a positive, non-regulatory approach to the acid rain problem.

All Americans, including West Virginians, have a great deal at stake in the acid rain issue. If we are to preserve jobs and secure our energy future, we must look toward positive solutions -- such as Clean Coal Technology -- to resolve the acid rain debate.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting the Nation's Libraries

The public library is a focal point of many communities in West Virginia and across the country -- a place to gather, a place to learn, a place to spend an afternoon discovering new worlds.

Our public library network is a source of national pride, and the investment we make in keeping that network in operation is returned tenfold in the benefits and knowledge gained by the millions of Americans who use the nation's libraries.

I was concerned, therefore, when the 1987 federal budget proposal -- crafted in the shadow of the Gramm-Rudman budget process -- called for drastic reductions in the services offered by the Library of Congress to libraries across the nation. One of the reasons I opposed the Gramm-Rudman process was because I recognized that it would force automatic cuts like this in important services.

The importance of the Library of Congress to our library system nationwide was underscored by Frederic J. Glazer, executive director of the West Virginia Library Commission, who recently wrote me:

"I would hope that the Congress will not blindly follow recommendations which undermine the ability of the Library of Congress to be our national focal point for information,

books, and in essence, the finest library collection not only in the nation but in the world as well."

I used Mr. Glazer's quote in persuading my colleagues to adopt my amendment -- to a supplemental federal funding bill recently approved by Congress -- to add back funding for the Library of Congress to help it purchase 40,000 new books and to continue its cataloging and bibliographic service.

In a related area, our nation's small public libraries have also been hurt by recent telephone rate increases of nearly 43 percent, which have made it too expensive for many small public and college libraries to continue using the bibliographic services of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC).

I have protested the rate hikes to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Mark Fowler, and urged him to take our libraries into consideration when future rate hike requests come before his agency.

Our libraries are too important to fall victim to unwise federal budget cuts, and I hope that the recent approval of my Library of Congress amendment will reassure West Virginians and other Americans that we are committed to preserving the knowledge and learning symbolized by our nation's libraries.

July 9, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tax Reform: A Giant Step Toward Fairness

Not long ago, the U.S. Senate passed a landmark tax reform bill that is crafted to bring tax relief to Americans in every income category.

This legislation is true tax reform. It reduces the heavy tax burden borne by the middle class, and it eliminates tax shelters and loopholes so that major profitable corporations and very high income individuals pay their fair share of federal taxes.

But beyond these monumental accomplishments for Americans in every income category, the Senate tax bill achieves something else -- it addresses the skepticism about the ability of the government to hear the people's voice, address the people's concerns, and enact fundamental changes in the tax code.

Still, there is room for improvement, and we are bound to see some changes as a joint conference committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives works over the coming weeks to iron out differences.

One area of discussion will be Individual Retirement Accounts, or IRAs. I have heard from hundreds of West Virginians concerned about the impact of the tax bill on their IRAs, and I fought during debate on the tax bill to restore the federal income tax deduction for IRA contributions. Although that effort did not succeed, I am hopeful that the issue will be addressed again by the con-

ference committee.

Although the IRA question will have to be resolved by the conference committee, the Senate did act on several items that will benefit West Virginians.

For example, my amendment allowing business owners who were victims of West Virginia's 1985 flood to choose between old and new depreciation systems will help defray the cost of rebuilding, and could save West Virginia businesses as much as \$10 million.

I co-sponsored an amendment to preserve tax incentives to encourage the formation of employee buy-outs of troubled companies -- such as the Weirton Steel ESOP -- and I offered an amendment, which the Senate adopted, to protect the pensions of coal miners who retired prior to 1976 or their surviving widows.

Additionally, Senator Rockefeller and I joined in the successful effort to fight off an attempt to strip the tax bill of an investment tax credit provision needed by the steel industry in West Virginia and elsewhere to help modernize and upgrade steel plants.

The action of the Senate in passing this massive tax reform legislation should go a long way toward making our tax code fairer and helping to restore some of the lost confidence in America's system of representative democracy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Striving for a Bigger Role In the National Defense Effort

West Virginia is rich with assets and opportunities -- factors that have helped my efforts to more firmly plug our state into the military defense network.

In the last several years -- with the growing emphasis on beefing up our national defense -- West Virginians have recognized the potential offered by increased defense-related activities in our state.

I am pleased that the Defense Department has begun to recognize the potential that West Virginia -- with its able and abundant workforce, its proximity to Washington and other major metropolitan areas, and its growing number of community services -- has to offer to our national defense effort.

These assets have generated an encouraging response from the Defense Department, which has approximately \$100 million in construction projects underway or contemplated for West Virginia over the next five years.

For instance, after a series of meetings I have held with Army Secretary John Marsh to try to increase Army activities in West Virginia, the Army has agreed to locate in our state an Army Reserve equipment maintenance company, a Reserve ground ambulance company, and two National Guard ambulance helicopter units, as well as expanding Army Reserve facilities at Camp Dawson in Preston County and accelerating construction of a

number of Army Reserve building projects throughout the state.

And just recently, a Senate Armed Services subcommittee gave its approval to a number of military projects which I have been working to secure for West Virginia, including \$8.7 million for an Army student training facility at Camp Dawson; \$5 million for ramp and runway improvements at the Martinsburg Air National Guard facility in Berkeley County; and \$625,000 to expand the Charleston Air National Guard facility in Kanawha County.

Encouraging increased military activity in West Virginia is only one part of the effort needed if West Virginia is to gain a greater share of the defense dollar.

That is why I have held a series of seminars in West Virginia to help our business community win more defense-related contracts, and it is why I have been working, through the Software Valley movement, to promote West Virginia as a logical home for defense-related and high-tech commercial businesses.

The defense industry offers West Virginia great potential in terms of new jobs and new business, and West Virginia, with its many attractive features, can become a greater and more important part of the country's national defense effort. I shall continue to do everything I can to promote West Virginia's potential.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Well Done, Weirton Steel!

Weirton Steel Corporation's proposal to produce iron from coal -- without using a coking process -- is one of nine projects across the nation recently selected to be the first participants in the federal Clean Coal Technology Program.

The Hancock County steelmaker's selection is good news for the company, for the Weirton area, and for the state of West Virginia, and I am proud that Weirton Steel's project is one of the select few that will now negotiate for funding under the nearly \$400 million federal program.

The news of Weirton Steel's selection is especially meaningful to me because of my sponsorship of the Clean Coal Technology Program.

I first introduced legislation creating the Clean Coal Technology Program in 1983; and in 1984, despite objections from the Administration, I gained congressional approval for the program. Last year -- again over the objections of the Administration -- I was able to secure congressional approval to fund almost \$400 million worth of clean coal projects.

Establishing the Clean Coal Technology Program has been a tough fight, but the effort has been worth it because the program holds great potential for coal-producing states like West Virginia.

The Weirton Steel proposal -- which was one

of 51 projects submitted for funding to the U.S. Department of Energy -- allows for the use of either high or low sulfur coal directly in a clean steel-making process, avoiding the cost and the environmental problems associated with the coking process.

In fact, Weirton Steel's proposal carries a triple benefit for West Virginia and other steel and coal states: It promotes the use of coal, it helps the steel industry by reducing production costs, and it safeguards air quality by eliminating the coking step.

I was encouraged that two other West Virginia clean coal proposals -- one at West Virginia University in Morgantown and the other a United Coal Company proposal tentatively slotted for the community of Sharples in Logan County -- are among 14 projects under consideration by DOE as alternatives should any of the nine selected projects fall through.

Just four years ago, the future was uncertain for Weirton Steel. Today, the employee-owners of the company have built an impressive record of profits. And now, Weirton Steel has put together a solid proposal that holds much promise for the company and for the future of both the coal and the steel industries.

Well done, Weirton Steel! West Virginia is behind you.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Message from West Virginia: Let Us Compete!

West Virginia's basic industries -- like those of the rest of the nation -- have been a chief contributor to America's strength.

Our steel, coal, glass, ferroalloys, chemicals, timber, and other industries have been a key factor in making America a great world power.

But today, our basic industries are under attack by foreign enemies -- enemies who are using government subsidies and import barriers to steal American jobs and put American businesses out of operation.

Our country is in a worldwide trade war, and with a record \$148.5 billion trade deficit in 1985, the time has passed for this Administration to recognize our trade problems and take strong actions to correct them.

During a recent congressional break, I toured several West Virginia companies, including American Cyanamid and Borg Warner in Parkersburg, Weirton Steel, and the Wheeling-Pitt/Nisshin joint steel venture in Follansbee.

At each stop, I was impressed by the high degree of professionalism among employees and management; by the dedication they exhibited; and by the excellence of their operations and their products.

After visiting just this small sampling of West Virginia companies, I am more convinced than ever that American companies can outpace, outproduce,

and outdistance their foreign competitors.

But West Virginia companies -- indeed, companies across the country -- cannot compete in the face of the unfair trade practices of our foreign competitors supported by foreign governments.

The answer to our trade crisis is a strong national trade policy that puts our workers on an equal footing with their foreign competitors. But that will not be possible unless the Administration finally backs a fair trade policy.

The sentiment for such a policy is already in Congress. For my own part, I have introduced bills in the Senate to protect many crucial American industries from imports. In addition, I have appointed a Senate working group on trade, which has urged the Administration to get behind a tough, realistic trade policy.

Unfortunately, the Administration is now opposing any meaningful trade legislation in Congress.

American industries and workers are not afraid to compete with their foreign rivals. They are not looking for protectionist measures or worldwide trade wars. They are simply looking for trade policies that give our industries and workers a chance to compete.

That is the message I have heard from West Virginia, and it is the message I will keep trying to pound home to this Administration.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Waging War Against a Deadly Enemy

Pick up the local newspaper or turn on a news broadcast and you are likely to discover evidence of a growing national tragedy -- a tragedy that is ruining tens of thousands of American lives each year.

A young athlete dies at the peak of his career after ingesting a large amount of cocaine.

Scandal hits a top-notch university when a dozen students are charged with the sale of narcotics.

A familiar television star is arrested and jailed for possession of drugs.

A well-known rock musician admits that he is a heroin addict.

Drug and substance abuse are very quickly becoming our country's greatest enemy, and winning the battle against drugs will require a major commitment of national will.

The President's Commission on Organized Crime has estimated that within the United States, there are four million cocaine users, half a million heroin addicts, and twenty million regular users of marijuana.

Thousands of innocent Americans are also affected by

drug abuse each year. As much as 60 percent of all street crime in our country could be drug-related, according to the Administration.

My concern about drugs prompted me recently to set up a special Democratic Senate Working Group on Drug and Substance Abuse.

My working group will concentrate its study on six major areas:

- stricter law enforcement and stiffer penalties;
- eradication of drug crops;
- interdiction of drug shipments and drug traffickers;
- domestic enforcement of substance abuse laws;
- public education on the dangers of drug abuse; and
- treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers.

I have no illusions that my working group alone will be able to free our country from the death grip of drug abuse. But it can develop legislative proposals and push ideas with the hope of obtaining legislative action in the near future to help conquer our national drug problem.

August 13, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Television in the Senate: A Successful Experiment

Since the opening day of the 99th Congress, when I introduced the legislation that was enacted to broadcast the proceedings of the U.S. Senate, I have spoken many times on why I believed that television and radio in the Senate were long overdue.

In the wake of an overwhelming vote on July 29 in favor of permanent radio and television coverage, the Senate has now entered a new era of openness and accessibility.

Starting with the first day of televised Senate debate during the six-week trial period back in June, television coverage proved itself to be a positive force in the Senate.

In catching up with 20th century technology, the Senate now has a stronger voice in the national debate. People throughout this country for the first time are able to see and hear the Senate in action -- debating the tax bill, voting on the nation's budget, deciding the issues in the Department of Defense bill.

Many West Virginians have expressed to me their amazement that it took the Senate so long to go to television. They see this as

their right as American citizens. And I agree with them.

The American people have the right to be as fully informed as possible about the workings of their government. This principle is fundamental to an effective representative democracy. The survival of our nation depends on an informed electorate, and television in the Senate already has proved its worth as a source of unedited, unabridged information about what we do here and how we make the decisions that affect the lives of all U.S. citizens.

I believed from the beginning of the debate over television that the Senate's unique role in our government could be preserved -- even with the cameras and the microphones on. The test period proved that to be the case.

I have every confidence that the Senate and the American people, 10 or 15 or 20 years from now, will applaud this decision and will look back with gratitude -- gratitude tinged with astonishment that the Senate waited for so long to open its doors to live television broadcasts.

August 20, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Campaign Financing: The Need for Reform

Every election year, we see new evidence of the spiraling cost of campaigning. Candidates are having to raise and spend ever larger sums of money to get elected. And more and more, that money is coming from political action committees, or PAC's, representing special interests.

Many Americans belong to PAC's, and many PAC's represent the beliefs of a majority of Americans. Unfortunately, the PAC system tends to give special interests a disproportionate amount of influence in the decision-making process.

There is nothing illegal about PAC campaign contributions, but there is something wrong with our campaign laws because they allow -- and even encourage -- PAC's to play such a large role in elections.

This is a problem that strikes at the heart of our representative form of democracy. For this reason, the U.S. Senate has been debating legislation that I am cosponsoring with Sen. David Boren of Oklahoma to limit the influence of PAC's.

Our proposal places a population-based ceiling on the total amount of PAC contributions that congressional candidates may accept, and it restricts the capability of PAC's to exploit loopholes in the law through which they have

been able to elude even the current inadequate limitations on PAC contributions.

Our proposal is not a condemnation of PAC's. It is a condemnation of a process that encourages campaign costs to skyrocket and fosters cynicism among the American people. I am concerned that if something is not done about PAC contributions and the "money chase" that candidates must engage in, our political system will self-destruct.

Ours is a government of representatives elected by the people -- representatives who make judgments which in their view best serve the national interest and best reflect the wishes of the people who elect them.

We Americans continue to put our faith in that system. But once that faith is undermined, America is in trouble. Our current system of campaign financing undermines that faith, and that is why I have been working to change it.

It will not be easy to achieve the reforms that are badly needed, but it is an effort of such importance to our form of government that it must be faced, and it must be met successfully. The legislation I am cosponsoring with Senator Boren is an important step in the right direction.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Students Speak Out

The nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union continues to top the list of concerns expressed to me by West Virginia high school students.

In my yearly questionnaire to West Virginia's nearly 200 public and private schools, a plurality of the students -- 34 percent -- told me that nuclear arms escalation was the country's greatest concern. Last year's questionnaire evoked a similar response.

Federal budget deficits were also on the minds of the West Virginia students, with 23 percent of the nearly 8,000 respondents listing them as the nation's top problem.

I was impressed by the students' thoughtful, honest, perceptive answers, which have given me good insight into the issues that are important to them.

For instance:

---44 percent of the students told me that the state's biggest challenge was increasing job opportunities, followed by attracting more business to the state, which was mentioned by 30 percent;

---41 percent of the respondents said that they believed the federal budget had gotten out of control because Congress was reluctant to cut programs important to their constituents;

---West Virginia students are supportive of the Social Security program, with 95 percent saying it was important to their future;

---By a 54-46 margin, the students said they

thought the U.S. bombing of Libya would discourage future acts of aggression;

---As they did in last year's questionnaire, West Virginia students opposed the Administration's proposal to send \$100 million in aid to help the Nicaraguan contras overthrow the Sandinista government;

---On arms control, the students opposed -- by a 60-40 margin -- the development of space-based weapons. And by a 49-39 margin, the students thought that little was accomplished toward arms control at the November summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet Leader Gorbachev;

---The manned space program was another item of importance to West Virginia students, with 86 percent in favor of continuing it.

I was particularly interested in the responses I received when I asked the students what they would most like to discuss with me and what their top priority would be if they were a U.S. Senator.

Jobs headed the list of what the students would most like to discuss, followed by arms control. And 36 percent of the students told me that if they were a senator, they would concentrate on bringing more jobs and industry to West Virginia.

West Virginia students have again demonstrated their keen interest in the events of the day, and I am pleased that so many of them took the time to share their thoughts with me.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening Our National Security

West Virginians often tell me that strengthening America's national security should be one of the federal government's top priorities.

I agree. But I also believe that national security goes beyond troops and weapons. The ability to sustain a defense production base and support the military in time of crisis is a crucial measure of America's national security -- and our strength as a nation.

Unfortunately, while much attention in recent years has appropriately been focused on building up America's defense network, unfair foreign competition has been allowed to cripple many industries necessary to support that defense effort.

The economic well-being of industries vital to national security -- such as steel, ferroalloys, chemicals, machine tools, semiconductors, and fiber optics -- must be as much of a national priority as the maintenance of strong armed forces.

For this reason, I have introduced legislation in the Senate -- the National Security Trade Act of 1986 -- that is designed to protect domestic defense industries from being under-

cut by foreign competition.

The legislation strengthens provisions in existing law to ensure that threatened industries have access to prompt consideration of their petitions for relief; to provide more options for relief; and to give the Secretary of Defense a larger role in determining whether imports of certain products are undermining national security.

Despite the fact that there are laws on the books to protect our defense industries, the administration has ignored them in favor of policies that are leading to the erosion of our defense production assets.

But ignoring the problem is not helping to resolve it. The government of the United States needs to know whether our national security is threatened as a result of imports, and how serious that threat is. Once an industry is gone, it is too late.

It is important to provide for a strong, well equipped military. But it is a dangerous policy to ignore the needs of America's basic defense industries while building up our defense forces. We should never forget that our manufacturing base is the backbone of our national security.

September 10, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Greening of West Virginia's Software Valley

The Software Valley movement -- launched in North-Central West Virginia just over a year ago -- is beginning to take root in areas of our state outside the Interstate-79 "corridor" that was originally envisioned as fertile territory for high technology businesses.

That is not surprising; high tech is such a booming and lucrative field that many areas of West Virginia can profit.

An examination of how West Virginia communities outside the software valley region can take part in high tech development will be the focus of "Software Valley IV," which I will co-sponsor on October 24 at the Mine Safety and Health Administration Academy in Beckley.

I am encouraged at the progress that has been made by the Software Valley movement in the 14 short months it has been in existence.

Three Software Valley conferences -- each of them held in Morgantown -- have attracted more than 1,000 West Virginians, who have taken part in discussions on what high tech has to offer the state and how interested West Virginians can get involved in high tech and computer software businesses.

Also, the non-profit, Morgantown-based Software Valley Corporation recently authorized the for-

mation of regional software valley chapters to generate interest across the state in high technology, and I was pleased when the Beckley area quickly applied for, and organized, the first such chapter.

In connection with that, the upcoming Beckley Software Valley conference will include presentations on how communities can set up their own software valley chapters and tap into the high-tech movement.

West Virginia's traditional strength has been its basic industries -- mining, steel, glass, chemicals, ferroalloys, and others. High technology is a new frontier for West Virginia, and, therefore, offers our state new avenues for economic prosperity.

I am encouraged by West Virginia's response to the Software Valley movement, and by the fact that so many West Virginians are expressing the interest, desire, and motivation needed to make West Virginia a magnet for high technology and computer software industries.

(West Virginians interested in attending Software Valley IV can make reservations by contacting MPL Corporation, Box 2226, Buckhannon, W.Va. 26201. A registration fee of \$35 -- which includes lunch -- must be paid in advance, and checks should be made payable to the Software Valley Corporation.)



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Escalating the War Against Drugs

October 6 will be an important day in our country as millions of Americans will focus on the dangers of drug and substance abuse.

"National Drug Abuse Education Day" -- mandated by Congress and backed by President Reagan -- might prove to be one of the most effective methods of turning the tide of ever-increasing drug use in our country.

Sadly, drug use is often glamorized -- movies depict casual drug use; television programs treat it in an offhand way; comedians joke about it.

No wonder so many of our young people have a distorted, romanticized view of drugs -- a view that seemingly does not include the many, many pitfalls of drug abuse, such as the risk to health; the impact on family and loved ones; the threat of jail; the possibility of serious injury or death.

National Drug Abuse Education Day's message will be simple: Drugs take so much, and offer nothing in return. That is the message that young Americans -- indeed, *all* Americans -- must have before they are faced with their friends or relatives urging them to try

an illegal drug.

Drug education is such an important element in the fight against drugs that recently, my Senate Democratic Task Force on Drug Abuse introduced legislation in the Senate that includes a \$150 million federal drug education program.

Through such a program, we hope to reach young people before it's too late.

Fighting our nation's drug problem is a big job -- and it will take more than education programs to beat it. Stiffer sentences for drug pushers and a concerted effort to stop the flow of drugs into our country are both elements of my working group's drug bill and both are necessary in our efforts to combat drug abuse.

First, though, we need to fix the nation's attention on the problem at hand and to convince young and old alike to join in the effort to reverse the growth of drug and substance abuse.

National Drug Abuse Education Day is a good step toward that goal, and a good way to kick-off the nationwide war against drugs.

September 24, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stepping Up the Campaign Against Terrorism

After a summer-long lull in international violence, the recent terrorist attacks in Pakistan, Turkey, and France offer a sobering reminder to Americans that terrorism remains a principal threat to human life and democratic values.

The violent end to the hijacking of Pan American flight 73 in Karachi, Pakistan; the murders of 22 worshippers in a synagogue in Istanbul, Turkey; and the epidemic of terrorist activities in Paris, France -- all of these underscore the continuing need for action against international terrorism and the grievances which inspire it.

West Virginians know that we cannot take our freedoms for granted. We recognize the fact that the United States must deepen its resolve to act in concert with our friends and allies to combat international terrorism.

As the most powerful nation in the free world, the United States should lead these efforts. It was for this reason that I offered an amendment to the Diplomatic Security Act several months ago encouraging increased cooperation among our NATO allies to combat terrorism.

That amendment, which was adopted by the Senate, urged the President to propose to our NATO

allies that the alliance should create a permanent committee to deal with terrorism.

In addition to encouraging government-to-government cooperation against terrorism, the United States must also step up its war against terrorism through all possible means -- diplomatic, political, economic, and, when appropriate, military.

To reinforce our ongoing antiterrorist campaign, I have urged the President to make antiterrorism cooperation a high priority subject of discussion in every new communication he has with any of America's friends and allies, and even to consider proposing a special antiterrorism summit meeting.

The Soviet Union -- which condemns terrorism but is suspected of providing material and political support for terrorist training -- must also be challenged to demonstrate its opposition to terrorism by cooperating with the United States and other civilized countries.

It is all too clear that Americans abroad are especially vulnerable to the violence of terrorists, but international terrorism ultimately affects all nations and all people. The United States must do all within its power to mobilize as many nations as possible in the campaign to eradicate terrorism.

October 1, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Averting Another Airline Tragedy

Several weeks ago in the skies above Los Angeles, the unthinkable occurred: a small plane strayed into the path of a passenger airliner, plunging both aircraft into a heavily populated neighborhood. At least 85 people lost their lives.

The Los Angeles crash is a tragic reminder of the declining margin of airline safety in our country. The worst has happened, and unless action is taken to tighten up on airline safety, I am afraid it will happen again.

Earlier this year, I introduced a bill in the Senate to reexamine the nation's aviation safety policy.

That bill -- approved recently by the full Senate -- provides for an extensive look at the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) duties and at the impact of airline deregulation on aviation safety.

Specifically, it would establish a special commission to determine whether the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) -- which now has the duties of both ensuring aviation safety and promoting commercial aviation -- should be reorganized as an independent federal agency with only one responsibility: aviation safety.

My bill must now receive the approval of the House of Representatives.

The issue of airline safety is one that touches millions of Americans each

year, and so it is not surprising that the rapid decline in aviation safety in the last few years has evoked calls from many corners to do something to improve the system.

The statistics are frightening.

The FAA's own figures show that airline passengers today are nearly twice as likely to encounter an "aviation safety incident" -- the FAA's euphemism for close calls on the ground or in the air -- as they were 10 years ago.

The aviation system is operating with 4,000 fewer air traffic controllers than were on board only five years ago -- and in that time period, the workload has increased 78 percent.

The level of pilot experience has also declined. In 1983, for instance, a pilot for a major airline had an average of 2,342 hours in a jet aircraft. Only two years later -- in 1985 -- that average had dropped to 818 hours.

The time has come for a careful examination of our aviation safety system, and that is why I am eager to gain House approval for my legislation.

If action is not taken -- and taken soon -- it will only be a matter of time before we have another tragedy like the Los Angeles collision. Aviation safety is not something that will be enhanced by a laissez-faire, "business as usual" attitude. The time to act is now.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Military Task Forces: A New Perspective on West Virginia

Last month, the U.S. Air Force sent a task force into West Virginia at my request to assess the potential for increasing Air Force activities in the state.

That task force has come back with a series of recommendations, including a proposal to locate a 50-member Air Force Reserve civil engineering squadron in West Virginia.

As a result of the task force survey, the Air Force also is increasing the number of security police at the Charleston and Martinsburg Air National Guard units and stepping up its construction schedule in the state.

The Air Force recommendations are only the latest developments in my ongoing effort to increase military activities in West Virginia.

For example, a U.S. Army task force that was sent into West Virginia at my request last year on a similar mission recommended several major initiatives -- which are currently being undertaken -- including the establishment of an active duty Army

training center at Camp Dawson in Preston County.

And the U.S. Navy is in the process of putting together a task force to send into West Virginia. The Naval Receiving Station at Sugar Grove in Pendleton County, which I secured in the mid-1960's, is a good example of how a land-locked state like West Virginia can contribute to the Navy's shore-based operations.

My intent in having these task forces sent into West Virginia is to expand the presence of the military in our state, and I am encouraged by the results thus far. This effort will continue to be a significant part of my ongoing work to increase defense spending in West Virginia.

West Virginia has a citizenry that is qualified, patriotic, hard-working, and dedicated. Above all, West Virginians have the enthusiasm and the willingness to work in partnership with the military to enhance America's national security.

October 15, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Your Vote Counts!

How many times have you heard the following Election Day excuse? "I didn't vote. My one vote won't make a difference anyway."

I have heard it more than once, and my response is invariably: "Your vote does and will make a difference."

On November 4, West Virginians and all Americans will have another opportunity to exercise one of the greatest privileges of U.S. citizenship: the privilege of casting a ballot in a general election.

West Virginians can be proud of the fact that we typically have a higher-than-average voter turn-out.

In 1984, for instance, approximately 72 percent of West Virginia's registered voters turned out on Election Day, a figure that was nearly 20 percent higher than the national turn-out.

But despite West Virginia's strong tradition of going to the polls, more than a quarter of West Virginia's voters decided to stay home on Election Day 1984, and nationwide, nearly 45 percent of all Americans decided to sit on the sidelines while ballots were cast.

To these Americans, I offer the following:

In our nation's history, at least four Presidential elections -- those of Grover Cleveland, Woodrow Wilson, Harry Truman,

and John F. Kennedy -- hinged on less than one vote per precinct in one or two key states.

In the 1960 Kennedy-Nixon race, for instance, one Kennedy vote in each precinct in Illinois and New Jersey was enough to swing 43 electoral votes into the Kennedy column securing a victory for Kennedy in the Electoral College. Had those few Kennedy voters switched and voted for Nixon, the margin would have been enough to throw the election into the House of Representatives.

Similar small margins determined the outcome of the Cleveland, Wilson, and Truman races.

But beyond those demonstrations that a single vote does count is the fact that those people who do not vote give up the opportunity to exercise one of the most important privileges of a democratic society.

Through the ballot box, American voters have the power to select who will govern them. Voters have the ultimate say over the make-up of the U.S. Congress, state legislatures, local and county governments, state houses, and the highest office in the land, the Presidency.

That privilege -- that responsibility -- is too important to give up, and I hope all eligible West Virginians will take a few minutes to vote on November 4.

October 22, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Remembering the West Virginia Flood

One year ago this month, West Virginia was struck by one of the most devastating floods in its history. Dozens of lives were lost, livelihoods were destroyed, and property damage soared into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

West Virginia will bear the scars of the November 1985 flood for years to come, but as we remember the terrible ordeal of the disaster, what stands out most is the way in which West Virginians pulled together to help each other.

I visited many of the hardest hit communities in West Virginia immediately after the flood, and I saw first-hand not only the massive destruction of land and property but also the courage and compassion of West Virginians responding to the disaster.

My highest priority goal as a Senator from West Virginia in the weeks and months following the flood was to do everything possible to speed federal assistance to the victims of the flood.

To achieve that goal, I brought federal disaster relief officials with me into West Virginia on a number of trips so that they could see and comprehend the devastation, and take steps to help the state recover.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I fought for millions of dollars in emergency relief money for West Virginia, including funding to rechannel

streams and enhance flood protection, repair roads and bridges, and provide loans and grants to families and businesses. Over and over again, I pressed my case in the Senate for additional funding for West Virginia to help meet the staggering cost of the flood recovery effort.

As of a few weeks ago, the federal government had obligated more than \$325 million in disaster assistance for West Virginia.

And when I found instances in which the federal bureaucracy was dragging its feet and delaying the recovery effort with needless red tape, I dealt with the officials in charge and removed the roadblocks.

But no matter how thorough or well-intentioned the effort by federal, state, and local disaster relief workers, it is inevitable that some flood victims continue to face obstacles to full recovery.

If you or someone you know still needs help in dealing with a federal agency in regard to a flood-related problem, please let me know. Write to me -- U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd; United States Senate; Washington, D.C., 20510 -- and I will do my best to be helpful.

As we mark the anniversary of the West Virginia flood, it is encouraging to remember that West Virginians can and will continue to pull together to help one another.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Federal Funding:

A Winning Season for West Virginia

West Virginians from all walks of life will benefit from the 1987 federal funding bill that recently passed Congress and was signed into law by the President.

This measure contains millions of dollars for West Virginia -- nearly \$20 million in military construction projects alone.

It funds scores of programs vitally important to our state, including work on the cancer center at West Virginia University, the black lung program, and the Appalachian Regional Commission. In terms of its impact on West Virginia, this may be the most far-reaching piece of legislation that Congress has acted on this year.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I was instrumental in securing this funding for West Virginia, and in many instances in fighting to keep it in the bill.

Some of the key projects I worked to obtain for the state include the following:

- * \$19.5 million for military construction projects in West Virginia, including \$8.7 million for an active duty Army training facility at Camp Dawson, Preston County; \$5 million for improvements at the Martinsburg Air National Guard facility; \$5.2 million

for four construction projects at West Virginia's Allegheny Ballistics Laboratory in Mineral County; and \$625,000 for work at the Charleston Air National Guard unit;

- * \$4 million for land acquisition, construction of a park headquarters, development of recreation areas, and operating costs at the New River Gorge National River, headquartered in Fayette County;

- * \$4.5 million for phase II construction of a new statewide cancer research and treatment center to be located at WVU in Morgantown;

- * \$1.5 million to hire eight more administrative law judges to help eliminate the backlog of black lung claims. This funding will augment the \$3.5 million I obtained last year to hire 15 additional judges;

- * \$1.5 million to complete the installation of a federal flood warning system in West Virginia;

- * \$8 million to fund the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program, which will provide first-year college scholarships worth \$1,500 each to outstanding academic achievers; and

- * \$105 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission, including \$45 million I obtained for ARC highway programs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Superfund: A Formula for Success

The identification and cleanup of America's abandoned toxic waste sites under the Superfund program is one of this nation's most important environmental advances.

For this reason, I was pleased that the President recently abandoned his threat of a veto and signed into law legislation passed by Congress that extends and expands the Superfund program.

The key to the success of this legislation is the funding mechanism adopted by Congress: not only is the formula fair and equitable, but it also averts a catastrophe for West Virginia's chemical, steel, and oil and gas industries.

Under the new Superfund program -- a \$9 billion program -- toxic waste cleanup will be financed through a broad-based combination of corporate, petroleum, and feedstock taxes combined with general revenues.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified a variety of responsible parties at Superfund sites nationwide. These include more than 30 industries, such as electronics, furniture, farm and industrial equipment, aircraft and aerospace, computers, papers and packaging products, communications, and textiles.

Furthermore, EPA has indicated that petroleum and chemical companies combined cause no more than 15 percent of the pollution found at Superfund sites.

In view of this evidence, I am pleased that efforts I supported to block adoption of a straight toxic waste tax were successful.

Such a tax would have proved devastating to West Virginia's basic industries, and it would have prompted the shutdown of chemical, steel, and other plants in West Virginia.

The sources of hazardous waste are diverse, so the money to clean up Superfund sites should come from a variety of sources. The funding formula contained in this Superfund bill not only distributes the cost burden equitably, but it also avoids being detrimental to our trade situation.

West Virginia's basic industries are facing ever increasing competition from foreign imports. The new Superfund financing mechanism recognizes the importance of maintaining the ability of our industries to compete in both the domestic and international marketplaces. That makes this program good for our country, and good for West Virginia.

November 12, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal: America's Energy Future

In the mid-1970's, America learned the painful lesson of relying too heavily on foreign energy supplies.

Unfortunately, it seems today that many Americans are forgetting that lesson. According to the Department of Energy, oil imports are up more than 17 percent over last year, and our domestic oil industry is in severe economic trouble.

Although the present worldwide oil surplus has driven down prices and increased demand, the situation is likely to be short-lived. We must remember that this surplus is not based on the discovery of any vast new reserves of oil or natural gas.

Americans will be the ultimate losers if we ignore our domestic energy resources -- including coal -- in favor of unreliable sources of imported fuel.

Coal has played a major role not only in the economy of West Virginia but also in the overall development of America. Our abundant domestic resources dictate that coal will remain the cornerstone of this nation's energy future.

That is why I developed the Clean Coal Tech-

nology Program, which is designed not only to increase the use of coal but also to be an attractive middle-ground that environmentalists, coal producers, and coal users alike can support.

Recently, at my request, Congress directed the Department of Energy to seek a second round of clean coal technology proposals specifically aimed at upgrading existing plants with advanced technologies.

The benefits of the clean coal program, in addition to increased coal use, will be lower costs and cleaner air for all Americans.

America must continue to wean itself from imported fuels. For my part, I will continue to oppose any short-sighted legislative initiatives that encourage the United States to depend excessively on unreliable foreign sources of fuel.

The Clean Coal Technology Program can play a major role in helping this nation realize the promise of our domestic coal industry. Our national security requires that we have a dependable energy supply in the event of a sudden national emergency.

November 19, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Trade Policy: Unfinished Business

In 1980, America enjoyed a trade surplus -- we were selling our foreign trading partners \$20 billion more in American goods than we were buying from them.

Just six years later, America's trade situation has been turned upside-down.

A \$20 billion surplus in 1980 has become a projected \$170 billion trade shortfall in 1986, and our country has been thrown into a trade crisis of unimagined proportions.

Consider that between 1981 and 1983 -- a two-year period -- over 1.1 million export-related jobs in our country were lost.

The country's basic industries -- steel, ferroalloys, coal, automobiles, and others -- have seen foreign imports eat into more and more of the domestic market. In steel's case, for instance, foreign nations have gobbled up more than 27 percent of the domestic market, costing tens of thousands of jobs.

Even our country's agricultural exports -- traditionally one of our strongest exporting industries -- have declined by 26 percent since 1980. The cost in human terms? Our country has become a net **importer** of agricultural products, and in the process, thousands of U.S. farms have gone bankrupt.

As foreign imports ravage our nation's econo-

my, the current Administration has taken the approach that the best trade policy for the country is to do nothing.

That approach is not only ill-advised, but it is damaging to our country's long-term economic well-being.

Helping to develop an effective trade policy for our country will continue to be one of my top priorities when Congress meets again in January.

A sound trade policy for our country means not only developing policies that will open foreign markets to U.S. goods and that will make America more competitive. It also means taking into consideration things like world debt -- particularly Third World debt -- international banking, and other parts of the world trade equation.

Our government -- this Administration -- has an obligation to American workers and American industries to adopt policies that open up world markets to our goods and that promote an open and fair world trade system in which our industries have a chance to **compete** and in which American jobs will stop being lost to foreign workers.

That is the unfinished business of this Administration and of the last Congress, and I hope to see that situation remedied in the Congress to come.

November 26, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Learning a New Language

West Virginians -- in the sixteen months since the founding of the Software Valley Corporation -- have become more familiar than most Americans with what might be one of the fastest-growing segments of the computer software field -- the Ada high-order computer programming language.

Developed several years ago, the Ada computer language has enjoyed phenomenal growth recently, primarily because of a Defense Department directive mandating that the computers that drive the nation's major weapons systems be Ada-compatible.

Prior to the Ada mandate, military contractors working on weapons systems used the computer software of their choice. Consequently, military programmers could not service more than one weapons system because of the unique computer software that each used.

The common Ada programming of all our weapons systems will mean that servicing costs -- and thus our defense budget -- will decrease, and it will mean that one weapons system will be able to communicate with another via the Ada language.

All of this translates into a \$20-billion-a-year Ada business by the year

1990, and we hope that West Virginia will have the inside track on the jobs that that business will provide.

I think that West Virginia is already headed in that direction. Recently, our state was the site of the largest-ever Ada programming language convention, a three-day event I was pleased to co-sponsor that drew more than 2,500 participants from across the nation to the Charleston Civic Center.

The convention -- and the emergence of Ada programming courses at several of our state's colleges and universities -- could well provide the impetus needed to make West Virginia a national center for Ada language training.

Making West Virginia an Ada center of excellence is one of the top goals of the Software Valley Corporation, and if that dream becomes reality, it could mean jobs for West Virginians, and an economic boost for our state.

Through the efforts of the Software Valley Corporation, I hope that many West Virginians, in the years to come, will be "speaking" the Ada language, and will be enjoying the benefits that Ada-trained computer specialists are sure to be offered.

December 3, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Year in Review: Accomplishments of the 99th Congress

In a number of important areas, the 99th Congress has left a record of which it can be proud: landmark pieces of legislation that will have far-reaching impact well beyond the close of 1986.

I was pleased to play an active role in the formulation of many of these pieces of legislation, several of which have already begun to have a positive effect on West Virginia and the nation.

The omnibus drug bill -- approved by Congress shortly before it adjourned this fall -- comes to mind as one such piece of legislation.

Recognizing the tremendous problems our country faces with drug and substance abuse -- with an estimated 20 million regular users of marijuana, four million cocaine users, and a half-million heroin addicts -- Congress moved quickly to craft legislation to address those problems.

A key part of that bill -- drug education for young Americans -- was recently put into action by the Secretary of Education when he released funding for drug awareness programs in the 1987 school year. West Virginia will receive approximately \$1.3 million for such a program.

Another important bill approved this year was my airline safety legislation, which I hope will result in safer travel for all Americans.

As a West Virginian, I am acutely aware of the importance of a proficient, safe federal aviation system, especially for states like West Virginia with small airports, rugged ter-

rain, and unpredictable weather. My bill sets up a special commission to determine if the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is doing the best possible job in ensuring airline safety.

The 99th Congress will also be remembered for hammering out one of the largest overhauls of our nation's income tax system. I voted for the tax reform bill with some reluctance -- especially as it may affect the long-term health of our basic industries -- but in the final analysis I believe that the bill goes a long way toward making our tax system fairer to middle- and lower-income taxpayers.

Other legislative achievements of 1986 include extension of the Superfund program, which is aimed at cleaning up the nation's abandoned toxic waste sites; approval of a budget for next year that significantly cuts federal deficits; and continued support for a strong national defense, including research funding for the President's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

Much of the work that the Senate undertook this year was performed under the watchful eye of the television camera, a result of the Senate's approval of my proposal for televised Senate proceedings.

TV in the Senate has prevented the Senate from becoming the invisible and unknown half of Congress, and I am pleased that through televised proceedings, the American people were able to witness some of the legislative debates of the 99th Congress.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Year in Review: Accomplishments for West Virginia

A number of initiatives that I developed to benefit West Virginia -- some of which have been many months in the making -- moved forward during 1986, and I will continue to work for similar progress in the coming year.

The first of these is my Software Valley effort, a movement begun in mid-1985 to attract computer software and high-technology business and jobs to our state.

During 1986, two Software Valley conferences were held -- in Morgantown and Beckley -- with an emphasis on finding venture capital to set up West Virginia high-tech companies and on spreading the Software Valley movement beyond the Morgantown-I-79 corridor.

I am particularly excited about the latter development, especially since the Software Valley Corporation -- based in Morgantown -- voted this year to form regional Software Valley Chapters across West Virginia.

The Software Valley movement got another boost when we were able to land the largest-ever national Ada computer language convention, an event that was held in Charleston this past November.

Several Software Valley conferences are being planned for the coming months, and I hope the movement will continue to gather steam and generate new economic opportunities for our state.

I have also continued my work this year to bring more defense dollars and more jobs into our state.

At my request, the U.S. Army and Air Force have both sent special task forces into West Virginia to look at increasing their presence in the state, and the Navy is putting together a similar task force to travel to the state sometime early next year.

As a result of its trip to West Virginia, the Army task force recommended several major initiatives for our state, including the establishment of an active duty Army training center at Preston County's Camp Dawson. I was pleased when the Army recently awarded an \$8.7 million contract -- federal funding I was able to earmark -- for construction of that facility.

The Air Force task force has also recommended a series of initiatives for our state, including a proposal to locate a 50-member reserve civil engineering squadron in West Virginia.

In another area important to West Virginia, my clean coal technology program -- a federal-private sector effort to promote new and effective ways to use our coal -- moved forward when the government awarded its first contracts for clean coal projects, including one submitted by Weirton Steel.

I intend to work during this upcoming session of Congress to secure federal funding for a second round of clean coal projects, which I believe could help our country further its efforts to become energy independent.

Another area I concentrated on this year was that of rebuilding West Virginia following the flood of November, 1985.

Through the appropriations process, I was able to help channel more than \$325 million in federal disaster assistance to West Virginia, and though the recovery effort is not complete, we have made much progress since the state was struck by the worst flood in recent memory.

West Virginia -- and projects and programs to benefit our state -- will continue to be my focus when the 100th Congress convenes in January.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Renewing the Fight Against Acid Rain Controls

As Congress gears up to begin a new session, it is likely that proposals to control acid rain will once again be a major topic of debate.

Already, acid rain hearings are being planned in the Senate, with the possibility of legislation being reported as early as this spring.

I am concerned that the proponents of acid rain controls will make a determined effort this year to recast and broaden the debate in an effort to generate additional support for a new regulatory program.

Acid rain controls such as those proposed in the past could be devastating to coal-producing states like West Virginia, and I will continue my fight against such proposals.

For one thing, the available scientific evidence used to justify a costly acid rain control program remains ambiguous or incomplete. For example, scientists at the U.S. Energy Department's Sandia Laboratories just recently reported the discovery of a chemical process that holds the potential for controlling acid rain.

Additionally, the acid rain controls that have been proposed in the past would surely undermine the competitiveness of our domestic industries. In West Virginia, the Con-

gressional Budget Office estimates that the price of electricity in 1995 would be 150 percent higher for electricity consumers under the acid rain legislation introduced last year. In fact, estimates show that up to one-third of acid rain control compliance costs would be borne by U.S. industry through increased electricity rates.

At a time when we need to strengthen U.S. industrial competitiveness, the proponents of costly regulatory acid rain controls would be adding, across the board, to the production costs of U.S. industries, thereby reducing their ability to compete in world markets.

To avoid pitfalls like these, we need to explore positive, non-regulatory approaches to the problem of acid rain. That is why I established the Clean Coal Technology Program, which is designed to use coal in an environmentally acceptable manner.

Congress must not fail to take into account the impact that drastic new emissions reductions would have on people's lives -- on their jobs, their businesses, and their communities. It is imperative that we focus on solutions -- such as the Clean Coal Program -- that can balance environmental preservation and the economic well-being of communities.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Looking Ahead to 1987: Issues Facing an Historic Congress

The recently convened 100th Congress will be an historic and memorable session as we mark not only the bicentennial of our country's Constitution, but also the 200th anniversary of the conception under our Constitution of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Ceremonies for both events are planned, including a meeting of the House and Senate in the City of Philadelphia in July 1987, the first time that the Congress has met outside of Washington since the spring of 1800.

I hope the 100th Congress will also be remembered as the Congress that tackled -- and solved -- a number of crucial national and international problems.

The first of these is our country's position in international trade, which, over the past six years of the current Administration, has deteriorated to the point that our country has amassed an estimated \$170 billion trade deficit for 1986 **alone**.

That trade deficit has resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of American jobs, and it has seriously weakened many of the basic industries upon which our country has relied.

Clearly, developing a national policy that reestablishes agriculture's competitiveness, that opens world markets to American

products, and that promotes a fair international trade network is one of the priorities of the coming Congress.

The 100th Congress will also concentrate on other areas that will contribute to our nation's future, such as education, energy programs to increase our country's self-sufficiency, development of a "lean, mean" national defense, and a federal budget that reduces deficits while protecting programs vital to America's prosperity.

Arms control and bettering our relations with the Soviet Union will also be a focus of the 100th Congress, and I hope that the Administration will make a resolution in 1987 to work with Congress to achieve those goals.

My personal agenda for the coming Congress will also include reform of our campaign financing system, which, as it is currently structured, gives special interests a disproportionate amount of influence in the government's decision-making processes.

Conducted against the backdrop of the bicentennial celebrations of the Congress and the Constitution, the 100th Congress promises to be a session packed with important and far-reaching issues that could have an impact on our lives today and on our children's lives.

January 7, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Purer Water and Cleaner Rivers for West Virginia

Over the last nearly two decades, the American people have made a strong commitment to ridding our streams, rivers, and lakes of toxic wastes and poisonous pollutants. In response to that popular commitment, Congress launched programs to clean up our waterways.

In West Virginia, those programs have been translated into building community wastewater and sewerage treatment plants, correcting acid drainage from many abandoned mines, and ending much industrial discharge into streams.

The job of cleaning up our streams and lakes is not finished, however. Knowing that, I joined my colleagues in the United States Senate and House of Representatives last year in the unanimous passage of the Water Quality Act of 1986.

Unfortunately, against the advice of members of his own party leaders, the President "pocket vetoed" that bill -- that is, he failed to sign it after Congress had adjourned last October.

Because that legislation is so vital to progress toward better water quality across our country and in West Virginia, I joined in introducing an identical bill -- the Water Quality Act of 1987 -- on the opening day of the 100th Congress.

Without quick enactment of such legislation, construction of many sewerage treatment plants will halt, millions of dollars

already spent on such construction might be lost, industries and towns facing cleanup deadlines could be fined for breaking environmental regulations, and the water from many of our lakes and streams would be left polluted.

The Clean Water legislation, on the other hand, will ensure that several West Virginia communities will be able to finish work on wastewater construction projects already approved or underway. Experience has shown that communities with sewerage and wastewater treatment systems are more likely to attract and hold new industries and businesses, and that such assets are essential if West Virginia's economy is to improve and if more jobs are to be created in our state. In addition, this bill will encourage the cleanup of stream pollution from abandoned mines in West Virginia.

Both Republican and Democratic Senators co-sponsored this new water quality bill, the result of over five years of research, testimony, and debate. Prospects for its passage in the Senate look good.

I hope that the Administration will join in this effort to continue improving the quality of our waterways. At stake for thousands of West Virginians and millions of Americans are cleaner rivers, streams, and lakes, for recreation, drinking, and commerce for generations to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Proposed Federal Budget And West Virginia

The President recently sent his Fiscal Year 1988 federal budget to Congress. In that budget are several items of interest -- and concern -- to West Virginia.

Among the bright spots in the President's budget are certain projects that I proposed and for which I requested federal funds, including FY '88 military-construction projects in West Virginia worth \$6.1 million, with another \$22.4 million in military construction in our state in FY 1989.

Another item proposes \$47.5 million for additions and improvements at one of my priority projects, the Huntington VA Medical Center.

In addition, the proposed federal budget allows spending \$350 million over five years to fund my national Clean Coal Technology program--for developing technologies to burn coal cleanly, thereby increasing the use of coal while, at the same time, reducing air pollution. Also, the budget includes \$8 million for the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship program, a nationwide effort to promote educational excellence.

Unfortunately, the President's budget would lop off certain current programs that are important to West Virginia's economic progress -- notably, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Administration, the Urban Development Action Grant program, and vocational training, among others. The budget also contains ill-advised proposals to tax black-lung benefits and cut veterans' medical benefits.

Eliminating programs such as these would hurt West Virginia -- just as an example, more than 80 percent of West Virginia high school students are involved in vocational education. West Virginians need such programs, and I intend to fight to preserve them, as well as to resist the taxing of black-lung benefits.

I am on record as favoring a balanced federal budget, and I am working to cut federal deficits. However, I am also committed to helping draft a fiscally responsible federal budget without short-changing programs needed to enhance education and employment opportunities for West Virginians.

January 21, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Thwarting a Threat to American Democracy

America is in the midst of an election-campaign financing crisis.

In 1958, I ran for my first term in the United States Senate. Senator Jennings Randolph also ran that same year. Together, both of our campaigns totalled about \$50,000.

In 1986, however, the cost of Senate campaigns per candidate nationwide averaged about \$3 million each. Some Senate candidates spent well over \$10 million.

The consequences of such astronomical campaign price tags are several. No sooner have most Senators been sworn into office than they must launch fundraising efforts to pay for their next election campaigns. Largely through political action committees -- PAC's -- special interest groups make massive contributions to elect favored Senate candidates, giving such PAC's at least the appearance of an unhealthy influence over the election process. Because of such prodigious campaign expenses, many talented men and women of modest financial means are being discouraged from running for the Senate.

Serving in the Senate is a fulltime job, one that should not entail nonstop fundraising. Moreover, Senators should be answerable primarily to the constituents who elect them, and should not feel inordinantly obligated to political action committees or special interests. Voters, on the other hand, should not be denied choosing among qualified and talented

candidates because potential candidates cannot afford stratospheric campaign costs.

To put a brake on campaign costs and to introduce greater integrity into elections, I have joined Senator Boren of Oklahoma in introducing legislation to help reform campaign financing.

Among other proposals, our bill would set voluntary spending limits for Senate candidates in general elections in all states. Partial public funding from the existing voluntary federal income tax checkoff would be made available to Senate candidates who qualify. Funds from political action committees to candidates and campaigns would be further limited. Loopholes in current election laws permitting unfair financial influences by special interests and even foreign companies would also be closed or corrected.

Election to the United States Senate is one of the highest privileges and responsibilities to which any American can aspire. The office of United States Senator should not be for sale to the highest bidder, or subject to prejudicial financial influences. The legislation that Senator Boren and I have introduced is aimed at ensuring that the voters of West Virginia and other states have the clearest voices in deciding who their Senators will be, and that they can have the fullest confidence in the candidates whom they elect to serve.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Defense-Dollar Ranking

Recently, a myth has confused some West Virginians -- the myth that West Virginia ranks last among the states in obtaining defense dollars.

The myth does not square with the facts.

Certainly, defense industries do not come uppermost to mind when one thinks of West Virginia. Landlocked, our state cannot boast the vast shipbuilding facilities of Virginia, Maryland, or Massachusetts, for example. Likewise, West Virginia is not noted as an aircraft-industry center, as is California, with its incomparable high-technology resources; or for its tank factories, as is Michigan, the vortex of the U.S. automobile industry.

In fact, for better than a century, West Virginia's economy has rested primarily on its vast raw material and energy stores, and on its advantages for steel, glass, chemical, and other manufacturing.

However, many of these West Virginia products are defense-related, such as chemicals, and vast quantities of West Virginia coal, metals, and other products that are sold directly to the military, or major primary defense contractors that manufacture military weapons and equipment.

Annually, the Pentagon and Department of Defense (DOD) publish a comprehensive and authoritative projection of future defense dollars to be spent on a state-by-state basis. The projection is called the Defense Economic Impact Modeling System (DEIMS).

The DEIMS includes defense dollars paid directly to primary contractors, DOD payrolls, military construction figures, and to defense subcontractors.

The DEIMS projections for 1987 in West Virginia are encouraging. According to 1987 DOD projections, West Virginia will rank 44th among the states in direct defense-related purchases. Moreover, our state is projected to rank 39th in the total sum of defense spending, including direct purchases, subcontracts, construction, and payrolls.

Many West Virginia manufacturers found helpful the DOD procurement conferences that I have held over the past two years in Charleston, Morgantown, and Washington, as well as the defense trade fair I held in the state capital. At those well-attended conferences, I assembled DOD and defense-industry experts who explained to West Virginia business people how to obtain defense contracts, and who also explained DOD product and service requirements.

This year, I plan to hold such defense procurement conferences in Huntington, Logan, Bluefield, and other cities, as well as additional Software Valley conferences. Anyone wanting more information on those conferences, or seeking help in pursuing defense-related contracts, should feel free to contact me, either at my Washington office (Telephone: 202-224-3954), or my Charleston office (Telephone: 304-342-5855).



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Assisting One of Our Most Important Professions

Educating the young -- teaching children -- is one of the most important duties that one generation owes to the next.

But teaching does not take place in a vacuum. Children bring into a classroom with them a battery of influences and perspectives with which a teacher has to compete every day -- influences many of which were unknown but a few years ago. Television, computers, space exploration, youth culture, trips overseas, part-time jobs, air travel -- many of today's students have experienced these, studied them, or been influenced by them. As a result, the classroom may offer scant stimulation by comparison.

Likewise, schoolroom studies -- math, science, literature, and social studies -- are constantly growing and changing. Decade by decade, knowledge multiplies. Periodic studies of student achievement in many foreign countries demonstrate that boys and girls in those countries often outperform American students in many fields of study. That is a sinister and disappointing fact that should concern all Americans.

Our society has laid on our teachers an enormous burden. We need to provide our teachers every possible assistance in helping them to teach our children, and to impart to young people the

knowledge that they must have to compete in this world, as well as to keep our country strong and free in years to come.

To that end, I have introduced a bill to establish teacher training programs across the country, in which veteran teachers might expand their teaching skills and gain mastery over the latest advances in their major fields of teaching -- the Teachers Skills Enhancement Act of 1987.

Locally created and locally controlled, such teacher training programs would serve as demonstrations and laboratories for teachers to discover new ways to stimulate and inspire students to learn. Veteran teachers would be able to devote their full energies to such training programs in the weeks in which they would be enrolled, with substitute teachers temporarily assuming the veterans' duties at their regular teaching posts.

My teacher-training program proposal has the support of a wide array of educators and professional teachers' organizations. At a time when schools and public education are coming under increased attention, I hope that my bill will assist our teachers to accomplish some of the most important tasks that any men and women are doing anywhere in our society.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Progress in the Software Valley Movement

A little more than a year-and-a-half ago, I hosted the first Software Valley Conference in Morgantown.

The Software Valley movement -- spearheaded by the non-profit Software Valley Corporation -- is a concerted effort to lay the foundations for high-technology and computer software industries in West Virginia.

This month, on February 11th, with more than three hundred fifty in attendance, I hosted the fifth Software Valley Conference, this one also in Morgantown.

In the short months since its launching, the Software Valley movement has taken encouraging root in West Virginia, drawing the participation and interest of business people from many sections of our state.

The positive response of more and more West Virginians to the Software Valley movement is a good sign, and bodes well for our state's progress into the age of high technology, as well as into new economic, business, and job opportunities for West Virginia.

The Software Valley V Conference was an occasion for unveiling several concrete and promising high-tech advances linked to the Software Valley movement.

NASA administrator James Fletcher, for example, announced that West Virginia University has been named one of the space agency's 50 technology utilization centers. NASA will install two computer terminals at WVU, giving the university and private West Virginia firms no-cost access to years of NASA-related research and information, ranging from

Also attending the conference, representatives of the Harris Corporation of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, announced the donation of a \$500,000 state-of-the-art super mini-computer for research use in WVU's software engineering program.

The Harris Corporation further stated that it will invest \$500,000 in a similar computer to link WVU to Carnegie-Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute in Pittsburgh, giving West Virginia University and West Virginia firms a vital added connection to national defense possibilities.

In addition, West Virginia University announced the establishment of a University-Industry Research and Development Center through which, in conjunction with the Software Valley movement, it can assist in developing an atmosphere in which software companies can grow and flourish, and through which the University can help basic West Virginia industries to streamline their operations and become more competitive.

Another highlight of the Software Valley V Conference was the revelation that the giant IBM Corporation has joined our state's Software Valley movement, and will be lending the movement one of its executives for one year to help promote software technology.

These developments confirm my faith in West Virginia as a home for high-technology businesses. I hope that more West Virginians will involve themselves in our Software Valley movement, as together we open more doors for a growing high-tech future for our



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Impending New Cancer Center

The American Cancer Society estimates that this year -- 1987 -- approximately 4,300 West Virginians will die of cancer, and that another 8,400 West Virginians will learn for the first time that they have developed cancer.

That is a tragic prediction.

Indeed, cancer is the second leading cause of death in West Virginia, and statistics of deaths attributable to cancer are rising in our state.

Because of these circumstances, large numbers of West Virginia cancer sufferers must travel long distances every year to obtain specialized treatment and care in out-of-state cancer centers.

Realizing the pain and despair wrought in our state by cancer, I proposed, won approval of, and have obtained \$8.8 million in federal funds for, the establishment and construction of a major new regional cancer treatment and research center in West Virginia.

In memory of the late wife of former U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph, that cancer center is to be called the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center. Mrs. Randolph was herself a victim of cancer.

Associated with the West Virginia University Medical Center, the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center will be built in Morgantown, with construction to begin this summer.

With floor space of more than 15,000 square feet, the planned cancer center will promote basic

research on the causes, spread, treatment, and cure of cancer in West Virginia and the surrounding region. The center will provide the best clinical care for cancer patients in West Virginia and neighboring areas, and will educate and train doctors and other health-care professionals to work with cancer patients. It will also develop informational programs to make available to physicians and health-care institutions in West Virginia and nearby jurisdictions state-of-the-art techniques for diagnosing, treating, and rehabilitating cancer patients.

Cancer is one of the scourges of modern life, with causes rooted, insofar as we now know, in lifestyle, diet, hereditary dispositions, and environmental and workplace factors, to name but a few suggested culprits. Once a tragedy so threatening that people were reluctant to utter its name in public, cancer is today, however, increasingly treatable, curable, and survivable. Moreover, research scientists and cancer specialists predict that more and more forms of cancer will be conquered in the years ahead.

That is hopeful news. As new developments in cancer treatment become available, I want West Virginians to have at convenient proximity the finest facilities possible for fighting that disease.

To that purpose the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center will be dedicated.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Essential Air Service in West Virginia

The mass transportation mode-of-choice for most Americans is the airplane.

Because of that, reasonable access to adequate air transportation is one of the pluses for which business and industry executives look when they consider locating plants and outlets in a state or community.

No state can sustain major economic growth without good connections to America's air transportation network.

Consequently, adequate air transportation is vital if West Virginia is to move ahead and develop economically.

For that reason, I am co-sponsoring legislation to continue our nation's Essential Air Service program. That program was started in 1978 when airline deregulation ended air service to many small and moderate-sized communities. The program is scheduled to end next year.

Under the Essential Air Service program, the federal Department of Transportation subsidizes basic air service to airports that cannot guarantee ridership adequate to attract air carriers without subsidies, and that are more than an hour's drive from a major "hub" airport, such as those at Washington, Pittsburgh, or Charlotte, North Carolina.

Currently, five West Virginia air centers --

Morgantown, Clarksburg/Fairmont, Elkins, Beckley, and Bluefield/Princeton -- receive airline service subsidized under the Essential Air Service program.

A large percentage of West Virginia's population lives within a near radius of these five airports. In addition, some of West Virginia's major educational and financial institutions, research facilities, industries, and tourist attractions depend upon these airports for their success, service, and growth.

Without the subsidies offered by the Essential Air Service program, maintaining commercial airline service into these airports would be difficult, if not impossible.

Given the economic problems that West Virginia has endured in recent years--as well as the new economic opportunities on which enterprising West Virginians are working in several parts of our state -- West Virginia cannot afford to lose current levels of airline service.

The airline service legislation that I am co-sponsoring will ensure that we have air service at several important West Virginia airports well into the future.

West Virginians need safe, reliable airline service.

Keeping and improving that air service will continue to be one of my top priorities.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Acid Rain and Clean Coal Technology

For more than a decade, "acid rain" has been a growing environmental concern.

Some people have asserted that coal-burning is producing a caustic rainfall that kills trees, and turns lakes and streams into acid baths in which fish can no longer live.

Alarmed, some experts have called for immediate and drastic remedies to the perceived acid-rain problem, many of which "remedies" would be immensely expensive, and could have a devastating impact on our economy and our way of life.

Heeding the acid-rain warnings, in 1980, at my urging, Congress put into place an acid-rain research program.

Though not yet completed, this research program has already reported some important findings.

First, we are neither suffering an acid-rain emergency, nor are we headed toward the environmental Armageddon that some alarmists have predicted.

For instance, less than 1% of the lakes in the eastern United States show significant acid content, and none of our western lakes are acidified. Also, factors other than fossil-fuel emissions seem to be damaging forests and trees. Likewise, instead of panicking, the research program recommends thoughtful, measured, and well-researched approaches to rendering smokestack emissions cleaner.

I, too, want to

eliminate any potential negative effects that acid precipitation may cause.

But I am also concerned that we not rush into position the questionable, outdated, regulatory, and prohibitively expensive pollution control systems now under consideration. In an effort to remedy a problem that may not exist, these control systems threaten to cripple large segments of our economy, skyrocket our electric bills, and needlessly cost the jobs of thousands of workers in states like West Virginia.

Against those possibilities, in 1984, I proposed, and Congress adopted, a \$750 million Clean Coal Technology program. This program promises to achieve, among other goals, long-term, real reductions in industrial emissions that might contribute to acid rain.

The Department of Energy has already selected nine projects to be brought on line. Demonstration efforts, these nine projects will use coal in a variety of clean-burning technical processes to produce electricity on an industrial level.

These nine model projects give evidence of reducing coal-originated pollution in excess of any of the other anti-pollution technologies now in use. The success of these nine new plants would go far toward cutting pollution, and in giving West Virginia coal widespread new markets and uses.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Returning the Congressional Pay Raise

Congressional salaries have been a problem since the birth of our country.

In 1789, the wage paid to each member of the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives was \$6 per day.

The Constitution placed on Congress the ultimate authority for setting its own compensation.

That may help to explain why, during the 198 years of its existence, Congress has only received twenty-two pay raises, one of which it repealed.

Expecting someone to set his or her own salary is to impose an uncomfortable duty, especially for political officeholders.

In 1967, Congress sought partially to ease some of that burden by establishing a quadrennial salary commission to recommend salary scales for Congress, and also for the vice-president, federal judges, members of the president's Cabinet, and many other highly placed federal officials. The commission makes its recommendations to the President, who then proposes salary figures for Members of Congress and those other officials.

Unless the President's proposals are officially rejected by both the Senate and House, the proposed salaries go into effect.

The quadrennial salary commission, which bases its recommendations on comparable salaries in the business and private sector, in 1986 proposed that each Cabinet officer's salary be nearly doubled, from \$88,800 to \$160,000. The commission also rec-

ommended that the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court be paid \$175,000 (up from the current \$111,700), and the deputy librarian of Congress and the assistant architect of the U.S. Capitol each be paid \$120,000.

The commission proposed that Senators and Congressmen be paid \$135,000.

In December of last year, instead of endorsing the commission's recommendations, President Reagan proposed lower, 16-percent per annum salary raises for the affected positions. The President's recommendations raised the salaries of Senators and Congressmen to \$89,500.

On January 29th of this year, the Senate rejected the recommended raises by a vote of 88-6. The House of Representatives, however, delayed voting on the President's proposed raises past the legal deadline. Consequently, the pay raises recommended by the president went into effect.

I voted against the pay raise. I shall return my salary increase -- minus the income tax that I shall owe on it -- to the Treasury, for the remainder of this Congress.

That action does not solve the 200-year-old dilemma of setting Congressional salaries, of course. Perhaps Congress could eliminate the quandary of having to vote on its own remuneration by providing that such salary increases not take effect until a future Congress.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Curbing the Disastrous Foreign Trade Deficit

The United States was once the world's leading exporting country.

Today, however, the United States is in the midst of a monumental foreign trade crisis.

Last year, our trade deficit hit \$170 billion.

Worse, economists have warned of another \$170 billion trade deficit this year.

As a result of such deficits, the United States is currently the world's number one debtor nation.

Add to that trade debt the lost jobs, closed mines, and boarded-up factories into which the trade deficit translates in states like West Virginia, and one begins to get a clearer idea of the significance of the current trade disaster in which we find ourselves.

More ominously, we are losing our trading lead not only in the area of traditional heavy industries, but also along the new frontiers of high technology -- a field in which the United States was once the unquestioned pioneer.

Time and again, Congress has tried to get the federal administration to take action to turn our trade situation around. In almost every instance, however, the administration has denied that a trade problem exists, has argued that laissez-faire market processes will eventually correct the problems, or has ridiculed Congress as being "protectionist."

If the administration is unwilling to assert the needed leadership to bolster our economy, Congress is not unwilling to

supply such leadership. Both as the Senate Majority Leader and as a Senator from West Virginia, trade is one of my top priorities.

Just the other day, when statistics indicated that Japan was not living up to a joint agreement on exporting computer semiconductors to the United States, I joined in supporting the adoption of a Senate resolution calling on the administration to enforce that semiconductor agreement strictly. Operating in high-tech weapons systems, semiconductors are vital components in a strong national defense.

That resolution was adopted 93-0.

That should indicate the mood of Congress toward reversing our trade deficit.

Currently, several committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate are putting together legislation to boost American exports and enhance competitiveness by our domestic industries.

Congress is determined to do what it can to encourage greater growth of our share of the world market, and to increase job opportunities in American industries.

I intend to see that the Senate sends a comprehensive trade bill to the White House for the President's signature this year.

I know that all Americans are eager to see our foreign trade crisis ended, and that they will support the effort to make the United States the world's leading exporting country again.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Reward for Excellence in Education

In the late 1950's, the Soviet Sputnik triumph warned the United States that we were lagging dangerously in technology and space research.

Sputnik so jolted Americans that we put our priorities in order, and, by the end of the 1960's, became the first nation to land people on the moon.

Recent losses in world and domestic marketplaces to our foreign competitors have sounded new alarm bells.

More and more Americans are realizing that quality of production and quality of performance are often the differences between winning and losing customers.

Excellence matters, no matter what one is judging.

Today, America is reawakening to the need for excellence -- excellence in everything that we do, and excellence as the best guarantee of quality.

Habits are set early in life. If a young man or woman is to perform or achieve to his or her highest possibility, the habit of achieving excellence must be nurtured from an early age.

To foster excellence among young West Virginians and young Americans, last year I proposed and won passage of a national honors scholarship program. Under this program, a number of federally underwritten college scholarships will be made avail-

able in every state. At \$1500 each, these scholarships will be awarded to those students who have shown outstanding academic achievement in high school, and have been accepted for enrollment at an institution of higher education. These scholarships are based solely on merit, and are for the first year of study for a one-year period. The scholarships are not renewable.

The first of these scholarships will be awarded this year -- in number totalling 4,763. By a formula based on student population, forty-one scholarships will be given to meritorious West Virginia college freshmen.

In a gracious gesture, my Senate colleagues, at the behest of Republican Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, voted to call this effort to encourage academic excellence officially the "Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship" program. The winning students will be known as "Byrd Scholars."

I am particularly proud of this scholarship program. I hope that, in years to come, students all across West Virginia and the United States will strive to achieve the excellence demanded to earn academic distinction as Byrd Scholars, and that the level of excellence will become theirs throughout their lives.

April 1, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Highway Dollars for West Virginia

The Senate recently joined the House of Representatives in passing -- over a White House veto -- the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1987.

That is good news for West Virginia, and comes in time to ensure approximately 6,000 jobs in our state at the start of the building season in construction and related industries.

Included in this highway bill are funds totalling more than \$100 million for a variety of West Virginia road, bridge, and other transportation projects.

Specifically, this bill provides \$14.1 million toward construction of the New River Parkway -- a scenic route planned to draw tourist dollars and jobs into the Hinton area -- and \$1.6 million toward building the Chelyan Bridge in Kanawha County.

Further, I have requested that Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole give preference to funding replacement of the dilapidated Sixth Street Bridge in Huntington from special funds contained in the new highway bill.

Other West Virginia projects to be funded from this bill will be selected by the state highway department.

Putting this highway bill together was a demanding but necessary task that took several months of negotiation and study by the Congress.

The last major highway bill was passed in 1982. Because of the complexity and legal constraints of writing highway

bills, several states were running out of funds previously allotted for projects. As a result, many long-planned projects and projects under construction faced shutdowns.

Economists estimated that nearly 800,000 jobs would have been lost across the nation if the highway bill had failed to pass. Some experts also predicted that such a loss of jobs would have thrown our country into a recession.

Nationally, the highway bill calls for spending nearly \$88 billion for highway and transportation programs over a five-year period.

Opponents of the bill charged that it was a "budget-buster."

In fact, this bill is not only within the limits of this year's budget resolution, but 86 percent of the funding for this bill is already in the Highway Trust Fund.

The Highway Trust Fund is specifically set aside for meeting highway and transportation needs, and is supported by the 9-cent-a-gallon federal gasoline tax that Americans pay every time they drive up to a gasoline pump.

In effect, the highway bill is a means by which Washington returns to American drivers the money that belongs to them, in the form of safer, better roads, bridges, and transportation systems -- improvements so vital to creating jobs and ensuring economic growth and progress in states like West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Clean Coal Technology Act of 1987

Currently, millions of Americans are reflecting on two energy-related concerns -- future availability of reasonably priced energy resources, and solutions to the environmental phenomenon called "acid rain."

In addition, residents of coal-rich states like West Virginia are concerned that efforts to solve the acid rain problem could spell widespread unemployment and economic disaster in those states.

I recently introduced legislation in the United States Senate aimed at responding to all of those concerns -- the Clean Coal Technology Deployment Act of 1987.

Three years ago, I sponsored legislation that launched the federal clean coal technology program. That program has successfully demonstrated a number of innovative coal-use technologies that had previously shown small-scale promise, but that were not yet ready for commercial-scale application -- technologies such as the coal-burning fluidized-bed boiler, for example.

The success of the clean coal technology program has made clear that a number of new technologies are now ready for commercial application.

Though enthusiastic, most utility companies on their own do not possess the resources to risk launching such massive first-time commercial use

of these technologies unaided.

My Clean Coal Technology Deployment Act would encourage the commercial deployment by the utility industry of clean coal technologies by providing \$3.5 billion in matching grants over a ten-year period.

Claiming an acid rain crisis, Canadian environmentalists are demanding immediate regulatory action that would mandate pollution reductions from power plants. The most-suggested regulation is expensive smokestack scrubbers.

Latest research demonstrates, however, that there is no acid rain emergency. Whatever the acid rain problem is, we still have time to solve it without being stampeded into ineffective and expensive regulatory programs. Such programs would add billions of unnecessary dollars to electric bills in West Virginia, and could boost unemployment in northern West Virginia by 17 percent.

On the other hand, my approach would reduce future costs of electricity production; cut long-term pollution from coal-powered utility plants even more than the suggested alternatives; ensure vitality and jobs in the West Virginia coal industry; and provide America with an abundant, reasonably priced, and secure energy supply long into the future.

April 15, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Scores High in Federal Highway Bill

Congress recently passed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1987 over the President's veto.

Because of the complex formula by which federal funds from this bill are allocated on a state-by-state basis, some people have spread misinformation about West Virginia's share of these funds.

In total, over a five year period, West Virginia will receive more than \$670 million from this legislation.

Now that the highway bill is law, the federal government will allot to the states roughly \$13.5 billion annually over that five year period.

Of the \$13.5 billion annual allotment, West Virginia will receive yearly about \$105.9 million for specific highway and bridge projects, plus an additional \$25 million for other projects to be built at state discretion.

Further, the highway bill authorizes approximately \$15.6 million for the Chelyan Bridge in Kanawha County and the New River Gorge Parkway.

This money will be dispersed from the federal highway trust fund, which was established in 1956, the funds of which come from the nine-cents-per-gallon federal excise tax that automobile and truck drivers pay at the gasoline pump.

West Virginia's allotment from this bill is more generous than that of most states. Our state's population is about eight-tenths of one percent of the U.S. to-

tal, but West Virginia is to receive nearly one percent of the funds included in this bill.

In 1985, West Virginia got back \$2 for every \$1 it paid in federal gasoline taxes. Cumulatively, since 1956, West Virginia has gotten back \$2.65 for every dollar it paid into the highway trust fund.

Only six other states received a better return on their gas tax dollars in 1985, and, cumulatively, since 1956, only three other states have gotten back more for their gas tax dollars than has West Virginia.

The highway bill authorizes the distribution of approximately \$87.5 billion of federal funds to the fifty states and the District of Columbia for highway and bridge construction, and mass transportation projects -- subways and urban rail systems, for example -- over the five-year period.

Of the total sum, \$68.6 billion will be directed toward highway and bridge construction over the five years.

The federal Department of Transportation distributes funds from the federal highway trust fund by a complicated mandated formula.

Factors determining how much each state receives include population and total miles of interstate highway.

These facts should help to correct some of the confusion caused by the recent misinformation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Federal Budget: Rhetoric versus Reality

One of the most pressing economic problems currently facing our country is the combination of continuing record federal deficits and the soaring national debt.

By 1980, the national debt -- the total owed to its creditors by the federal government -- had mounted to \$998.8 billion. Accumulating that debt had taken over 190 years and the administrations of 39 presidents.

In just the six years from 1981 to 1986, however, the national debt more than doubled to \$2.1 trillion.

During those six years, there have been unprecedented deficits -- a \$128 billion deficit in 1982, followed by a \$208 billion deficit in 1983, a \$185 billion deficit in 1984, a \$212 billion deficit in 1985, and a \$221 billion deficit in 1986.

As a result of such mounting deficits, simply paying interest on the national debt now consumes roughly 37 cents out of every individual income tax dollar paid -- \$139 billion in FY 1987.

Economic experts declare that America's national debt and the continuing deficits are looming threats against our country's future security and prosperity. Several economists have further counseled that some revenue increases will be essential to regaining control of deficits and to taming the national debt.

Against that advice, the administration has claimed steadfastly that it

will veto any revenue increases that Congress sends it.

Simultaneously, those in Congress of either party suggesting even modest tax increases to help reduce deficits are attacked by the administration as reckless and irresponsible.

Paradoxically, the President's own proposed budget for Fiscal Year 1988 contains over \$22 billion in increased revenues, including \$6.1 billion in new or added taxes.

Among those increased revenues and new taxes are added fees on FHA and VA home loans; national park entrance fees up to ten dollars per vehicle; new fees for processing guaranteed student loans; a new international ticket tax on travelers exiting or entering the country; extending Medicare taxes to more payroll checks; charging fuel taxes to many now-exempt transit companies; increased excise taxes on coal; and a tax on black-lung payments.

With such added taxes and revenue increases, one wonders if the President would be willing to extend his veto pledge to his own budget if it were passed intact by Congress.

No one likes taxes. But many concerned Americans hope that, for the sake of America's future economic well-being, the administration will lay aside demagogic tactics, and join Congress in a serious cooperative effort to reduce deficits and to put a brake on the national debt.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Defense Dollars for West Virginia

Earlier this year, the Department of Defense estimated that, in 1987, West Virginia would rank 39th among the states in the total of federal defense dollars spent by the federal government in each state.

That ranking represents a significant and encouraging advance in winning a greater share of defense dollars for our state, and I am pleased that my ongoing efforts to interest the Pentagon in West Virginia's defense potential continue to bear dividends.

But ranking 39th in total defense-dollar receipts does not spell the limit of West Virginia's national defense possibilities.

Last month, West Virginia's defense future again expanded.

At my request, the U.S. Army some months ago sent a task force into our state to identify new opportunities for Army presence in West Virginia.

As a partial result of that task force effort, just prior to Easter, I received word of the Army's decision to locate six new Army Reserve units in West Virginia, with a combined projected annual economic impact of nearly \$6 million.

The reserve units, their locations, and their fiscal years of activation are as follows:

- a 59-member Headquarters Detachment of the 3rd Brigade, 80th Training

Division, Charleston, FY 1988;

- a 128-member 3rd Battalion, 320th Regiment of the 3rd Brigade, Charleston, FY 1988;

- a 128-member 2nd Battalion, 320th Regiment of the 3rd Brigade, Beckley, FY 1988;

- a 218-member 396th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Company, Logan, FY 1988;

- a 99-member 473rd Medical Company ground ambulance unit, Ripley, FY 1988;

- a 90-member Army Reserve 91st Military Intelligence Company, Morgantown, FY 1989.

These military units will provide new opportunities for West Virginians to serve in the Army Reserve, and will, at the same time, raise West Virginia's military profile among the states.

Army officials have also agreed to my request to accelerate the construction schedule of more than \$12 million-worth of regular Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard projects in West Virginia over the next three fiscal years.

I am committed to increasing West Virginia's role in America's national defense network. I shall continue working with the Defense Department to obtain more military dollars for our state.

May 6, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Danger in the Skies

How safe is commercial air travel today?

For 1986, the Federal Aviation Administration reported 839 midair near-collisions involving commercial airline flights in U.S. air space -- an average of greater than two potential air disasters every day.

Each of those near-hits included airliners passing within less than 500 feet of other aircraft -- 85 percent of which were smaller general aviation planes.

In the first third of 1987, the total of midair near-collisions reported to the FAA already exceeded 235.

Several years ago, "government deregulation" was a popular slogan.

Certainly, airline deregulation has yielded some benefits -- more people can fly at lower costs than ever before.

But prices have increased for some flying consumers, particularly for travelers using smaller airports. Many West Virginia consumers complain that they are paying higher airplane ticket prices and getting less service, in order that big airlines can offer bargains on flights into major airports and to popular resorts here and abroad.

But deregulation has also contributed to the increase in air hazards and near-accidents.

In an effort to avoid airport delays and to meet rising air travel demands, the FAA has squeezed more planes into the limit-

ed airlines, increasing the chances of accidents.

Yet, in the face of a 20-percent increase in air traffic over the past five years, we have significantly fewer air-traffic controllers than we did in 1981.

Clearly, the United States is fortunate not to have suffered more airline collisions than we have.

To avoid such tragedies in the future, I recently called on the FAA and the White House to take several practical steps to increase air safety -- bringing the air-traffic control force rapidly to full force; requiring the use of warning devices on small aircraft; planning air traffic nationally to avoid creating dangerous "rush hour" conditions at major air centers; and convening the Aviation Safety Commission that Congress mandated six months ago, to study the growing safety crisis in air travel, among other possible moves to increase safety in the skies.

Air travel is the preferred mode of distance transportation for most Americans, and airline deregulation has been popular with a majority of consumers. However, the President, the Congress, and the traveling public must work together to reap the benefits of deregulation without compromising air safety.

Indeed, if the FAA cannot preside over our deregulated skies safely, I would support the re-regulation of some aspects of the airline industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Death Penalty for Espionage

From Benedict Arnold until recently, Americans have considered treason and espionage against their country among the most heinous of crimes. Throughout our history, the majority of spies caught in the United States have been aliens, not American citizens.

The Walker spy ring, the Pollard case, and the Moscow embassy scandal, however, are radical departures from that earlier patriotic tradition. In these recent espionage incidents, greed and avarice appear to have superceded any sense of loyalty to country.

This plague of Americans selling military secrets to foreign governments -- what some have called "an espionage epidemic" -- is an outrage.

Consequently, I recently introduced legislation to help curb that espionage epidemic--a bill to set constitutional standards by which the death penalty could be imposed in certain espionage cases.

This legislation does not in itself impose capital punishment for espionage. That decision was enacted by Congress some years ago.

However, in 1972, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the death penalty was unconstitutional unless certain procedures were established to safeguard defendants against unjust, discriminatory, unreasonable, or inhumane conviction and

sentencing.

My legislation puts into place such procedures in espionage cases.

Under my bill, a person found guilty of espionage against the United States would face a second hearing to determine if his deeds warranted the death penalty. Courts and juries would have wide latitude in making that decision, taking into account both the mitigating and aggravating factors in the case.

And if the death penalty were applied, that decision could be appealed.

The main purpose of this legislation is to use capital punishment as a deterrent to espionage.

Currently, an individual who considers spying against our country, weighs the value of monetary or other gain against the sometimes notorious leniency of our penal codes.

But capital punishment is final, and anyone caught spying on the United States should have to contemplate that he might also be risking his life.

Spying is not a crime of passion.

Individuals who engage in espionage do so calculatedly, deliberately, and coldly. With the enactment of my proposed legislation, such individuals might have second thoughts about espionage if their own executions were the possible outcome of their actions.

May 20, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Senate Continues Programs Helpful to West Virginia

The United States Senate has passed a federal budget plan that continues a number of programs essential to West Virginia's progress and future growth.

Conscious of the need to cut federal budget deficits, the Senate reduced funds for certain government programs. At the same time, however, the Senate increased the funds for job training by \$700 million--a program especially helpful for West Virginians needing new skills to enter the job market.

In addition, the Senate budget retained the valuable Community Development Block Grant program, as well as extending the life of the Urban Development Action Grant program, the Economic Development Administration, and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

In recent years, those programs have funneled millions of federal dollars into West Virginia for highways, downtown revitalization programs, public water system expansion and modernization, new and updated wastewater treatment plants and systems, and the creation of industrial and business opportunities in several West Virginia communities.

In the process, those

federal funds have ensured jobs for thousands of West Virginians.

Ironically, the President had sent a proposed budget to Congress that would have cut back or terminated all of those programs. The Senate--by a vote of 81 to 18--rejected the President's budget, under which West Virginia would have lost millions in future federal dollars, along with countless jobs.

The Senate budget also defeated administration efforts to end a number of rural programs that have built water and sewer systems in numerous West Virginia communities.

Another effect of the Senate's budget was to prevent the administration from cutting student financial assistance for higher education by 45 percent, and to terminate federal assistance for vocational education.

In addition, the Senate budget establishes a deficit reduction account by which the federal budget will be balanced by 1991.

The Senate budget is good news for West Virginia, and ensures that educational, economic, highway, development, and training programs vital to thousands of West Virginians and many West Virginia communities will continue.

May 27, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships in West Virginia

Academic performance is often a clue to a young man's or woman's future accomplishments and contributions to our state and country.

To further the pursuit of excellence in academic performance, and to encourage the development of America's and West Virginia's future leaders, in 1985, I proposed and won passage of a national Honors Scholarship Program.

Under this program, each year, by a formula based on student population, a number of federally underwritten college scholarships will be made available in every state.

At \$1,500 each, these scholarships will be awarded to those students who have shown outstanding academic achievement in high school, and have been accepted for enrollment at an institution of higher education. The scholarships are not renewable.

In a gracious gesture, my Senate colleagues, at the suggestion of Republican Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, voted to call this effort to encourage academic excellence officially the "Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship" program. Winning students will be known as "Byrd Scholars."

The first Byrd Schol-

arships are being awarded this year -- 4,749 in all.

Recently, I received a warm letter from one young Michigan Byrd Scholar, who wrote, "If it were not for this award, I fear I would not have been able to meet my college expenses this fall."

The Byrd Honors Scholarship program is based strictly on scholastic merit. In West Virginia, candidates for this honor are nominated by their high schools, with the West Virginia Board of Regents making the final selection.

This year, 41 outstanding West Virginia college-bound high school students have been named Byrd Scholars.

On Saturday, June 13th, in ceremonies at the University of Charleston, sponsored jointly by the Board of Regents and the state Department of Education, these 41 Byrd Scholars will be recognized, and will receive their awards.

These young West Virginians have made excellent academic records.

I know that all West Virginians are proud of these students, and join me wishing West Virginia's 1987 Byrd Scholars every success in their academic careers and in all of their future endeavors.

June 3, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Day 1987

This year, on June 20th -- West Virginia Day -- our state will be 124 years old.

Few people today, however, realize how near West Virginia came to not becoming a separate state.

By 1861, many rugged pioneer Virginians on the western side of the Allegheny Mountains believed that their Richmond capital was too far away, and often did not give a sympathetic hearing to the concerns of western Virginians.

For many in western Virginia, Virginia's secession from the Union at the outbreak of the Civil War was a last straw. Eager to remain loyal to the United States, the majority of West Virginians chose to break away from the Richmond government and form a new state.

Opposed to the new statehood movement, however, a significant number of western Virginians desired just as sincerely to stay a part of Virginia.

Thus was the ground laid for a bloody and often fratricidal struggle that tore West Virginia from 1861 until hostilities ended in 1865.

At the same time, powerful men in Washington were adamantly opposed to statehood for West Virginia. If secession from the Union was wrong for the Confederacy, they asked, how could

Washington sanction the counties of a state seceding from that state without legal permission?

Fortunately, President Abraham Lincoln admired both the loyalty and the bravery of the Unionists of West Virginia. His influence swung support to West Virginia statehood. After all, Lincoln said, "...There is still a difference between secession **against** the Constitution, and secession **in favor of** the Constitution."

So, on June 20, 1863, West Virginia officially became the Thirty-fifth State.

After the War Between the States, Union and Confederate West Virginians alike joined in developing their new state. Drawing on their pioneering heritage, they harnessed our state's natural resources and made West Virginia one of the world's industrial giants. In so doing, West Virginia's founding patriarchs likewise left us a legacy of decency, democracy, hard work, courage, and patriotism for which our state is recognized even today.

As we celebrate West Virginia's 124th birthday, we can be proud of our rich history, and can build on that foundation to make our state stronger and more prosperous in the years ahead.

Happy 124th Birthday, West Virginia!

June 10, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

One Year of Televising the U.S. Senate

On June 2, 1986 -- roughly one year ago -- the C-SPAN cable television system began carrying the daily sessions of the United States Senate for the first time on a regular basis.

That first day, 180 C-SPAN affiliated local cable systems made the Senate telecasts available to 7.5 million households.

Currently, after one year, the C-SPAN Senate telecasts are being carried by 400 cable systems serving 9.2 million households.

I am particularly gratified by those expanding statistics. For many years, I worked to open the Senate to television, and I was an original sponsor of the legislation that made the Senate telecasts possible. The growing audience for the Senate telecasts confirms my belief that the American people are interested in the work of the Senate, and appreciate the opportunity to watch the Senate on a regular basis.

As the Senate debated the legislation to authorize the telecasts, some Senators and others expressed con-

cern that television might distort the legislative process and prolong Senate debates. Instead, television seems to have shortened and focused Senate speeches and debates, and has increased public understanding of the Senate and the legislation it considers.

Among their comments, viewers have written, "The script is being written as we watch," and "You really get to see both sides of the subject in detail."

Right now, only 9 percent of the cable-served households in West Virginia receive the Senate telecasts. I hope that more cable systems in our state will obtain the C-SPAN II channel in the future, in order that more West Virginians can take part in a growing American experience. The Senate daily debates and discusses issues important to the people of our state, and the Senate telecasts would help more West Virginians to understand and to make decisions on vital concerns that touch all of our lives.

June 17, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Glorious Fourth of July

July 4, 1776, is a date of worldwide significance.

On that day, representatives of the sprawling colonies of British North America, meeting in Philadelphia as the Continental Congress, officially cut the ties that made them subjects of the British Crown.

That was the first time in history that a politically sophisticated group of people had risen en masse to assert their ordained liberties against a Divine Right monarchy.

That was also but the first step on the road to independence for the United States. A grueling war had to be won against the most powerful military force of that era before the Declaration of Independence was more than wishful thinking.

But win that war the Colonists did, and the longest experiment in self-government in human history was launched.

The success of the American Revolution has been an inspiration to struggles against tyranny worldwide. Since 1776, advocates for democracy in countries as diverse as France, China, India, Germany, Italy, and the nations of Latin America have listed the Founding Fathers of the United States as their philosophical ancestors.

But the primary significance of the Fourth of July is for the American people themselves.

The proclamation of independence on July 4, 1776, translated our forebears from being subjects of a royal majesty into being free citizens of a nation that they themselves had created.

Citizenship is an active, not a passive, condition. Citizenship carries with it responsibilities, as well as rights and privileges.

Unfortunately, too many Americans are content to allow others to exercise the responsibilities of citizenship for them, taking but passing interest in the decisions being made by their town councils, state legislatures, or the Congress of the United States.

All of us pay a price for that abdication of involvement. I hope that during this year's Fourth of July celebrations, many Americans and West Virginians will reflect on the unique event that we are commemorating, and will breathe a solemn vow to commit themselves to active, rather than passive, citizenship.

Apathy is democracy's greatest enemy, and can do more to unravel our liberties than whole battalions of invading troops.

June 24, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Vital Decision for America And West Virginia

During the two World Wars, America's heavy industrial might -- represented in West Virginia by such powerful enterprises as our steel and chemical plants and our coal mines -- turned the tide for the Allies.

Indeed, America was rightly called "The Arsenal of Democracy."

In recent years, however, the United States has lost much of its industrial potential. As foreign imports have captured as much as 25 percent of the American automobile market, the resulting cutback in domestic demand has meant alarming job losses and plant curtailments in industries supplying materials to U.S. automakers. Also, many foreign countries have cut American and West Virginia goods out of their markets, and placed our products at unfair disadvantages in other ways.

Unfortunately, certain economists, wedded to outmoded policies that made sense when the United States enjoyed overwhelming strength in world trade, see no cause for alarm. Some of them point to the rise in service-industry jobs as America's future, claiming that the U.S. can do without heavy manufactur-

ing. Preserving free trade is more important, we are told, than holding onto, and modernizing, our heavy industries. Besides, they continue, we can always import more foreign goods if we need them.

That is shortsighted and potentially catastrophic thinking.

That philosophy has cost us the jobs of countless Americans and West Virginians, denying us the skills of some of the world's best workers. It also places our country in an untenable position, were we again to confront a conflict equal to the First and Second World Wars.

In time of general war, how could America depend for its security on steel mills thousands of miles away, or coal, chemicals, and weapons from distant countries?

Common sense tells us that America needs a policy that strengthens industries vital to our national security and economic strength, that revives and gives preference to high-paying West Virginia enterprises such as steel and coal, and that assures that we will always possess the industrial might that we need to defend our freedom and guard our interests around the world.

July 1, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Career Planning for Young West Virginians

With my support, early in July the U.S. Senate approved a measure for added federal funds to retrain men and women in 31 states who have been displaced from their jobs as a result of foreign imports.

West Virginia's steel, coal, shoe, textile, and glass industries have been particularly hurt by such foreign competition.

Recent figures show that approximately 300 people in Kanawha County and 1,100 people in McDowell County have been certified as "displaced" by the impact of foreign steel imports alone.

U.S. Labor Department statistics indicate that our state can currently use at least \$1 million more in worker retraining funds to re-equip displaced West Virginians to compete in today's job market.

The new retraining funds just approved will be welcomed by those West Virginians seeking job retraining at vocational schools and colleges.

Job displacement, however, points up vividly the shifting nature of the world, U.S., and West Virginia employment and career situation.

At one time, many young men and women in West Virginia might count on lifelong employ-

ment in the same industry and even with the same company. Often, basic educational skills were enough to qualify for, and hold onto, many jobs.

Today, however, young men and women need to plan their employment futures more carefully. Genuine proficiency in basic educational skills, combined with knowledge in a variety of newer vocational abilities, can give a job applicant a fairer chance at winning the position he or she wants.

Particularly, today's students should aim at acquiring practical computer skills. Whether in white-collar or blue-collar careers, some computer knowledge is more and more expected by potential employers. Likewise, those students not planning on pursuing college might master one or more trade skills to become more attractive in their job searching.

More than a century ago, Ralph Waldo Emerson advised, "Make yourself necessary to somebody."

In the wisdom of job-winning, that slogan is as valid today as it was in the last century. A good basic education, coupled with sought-after vocational skills, affords a potent mixture for making one necessary in the contemporary job market.

July 8, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Software Valley Update

West Virginia's Software Valley movement is only two years old, and is already producing economic benefits.

The Software Valley movement is a concerted effort that I helped initiate, to lay the foundations for a high-technology and computer software industry in West Virginia.

Since being launched, Software Valley has drawn the interest and participation of hundreds of West Virginia business and industry leaders, educators, technologists, and government representatives.

Several conferences on Software Valley and West Virginia's computer potential have been held in Morgantown and Beckley.

West Virginia University, Marshall University, and many of our state's public and private colleges have been enlisted in active promotion of the goals of Software Valley.

The Harris Corporation, Digital Equipment Corporation, and IBM have made major technological, financial, and personnel contributions to Software Valley, better to connect West Virginia with important national computer resources, and to help West Virginia develop and capitalize on its software potential.

In addition, NASA has established a "Recon Network" link with West Virginia University that will enable the University to work with other colleges on NASA research and de-

velopment projects. West Virginia University has also signed cooperative agreements with Carnegie-Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute (a Department of Defense entity) and the National Science Foundation's Supercomputer Consortium, both in Pittsburgh.

Software Valley chapters -- groups of West Virginians interested in developing software possibilities in specific areas of the state -- have been organized, or are forming, in Morgantown, Wheeling, Beckley, Charleston, Huntington, Clarksburg, and Martinsburg.

In addition, this month, I was pleased to join in the announcement in Morgantown of the awarding of a \$5 million Defense Department contract to Nations, Inc. Earning this defense contract was a result of Nations' association with the Software Valley movement. This contract will mean the expansion of the Nations company, and the creation of more jobs in the Morgantown area.

I congratulate Nations on winning its defense contract. Likewise, I congratulate the the Software Valley movement on the progress that is being made. I also invite anyone interested in finding out more about this important technological and economic movement in West Virginia to contact my offices in Washington or Charleston for more information.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Liberty's Two-hundred-year-old Charter

During the Summer of 1787, delegates from the Thirteen Original States assembled in Philadelphia to discuss problems of mutual concern. When the delegates adjourned, they left our country with one of the greatest political documents ever written -- the Constitution of the United States of America.

We are this year celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Constitution. Without that Constitution, our country could have hardly achieved the greatness that it has, and it is questionable that Americans would enjoy the liberties and the way of life that are ours today.

The Constitution was conceived and adopted in a world largely ruled by Divine Right monarchs who claimed absolute authority over their subjects. In effect, the Founding Fathers were launching an experiment in democratic rule that many in Europe expected to fail.

The Founding Fathers, however, believed that free people should decide for themselves the questions that shaped their own destiny. Likewise, the Founding Fathers distrusted unbridled power in the hands of anybody. For that reason, the Constitution put into place a feature unique to American government -- a system of

checks and balances.

The Constitution gives immense powers to the federal government.

But the Constitution divides and shares that power among the three branches of our federal system -- the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial -- to ensure against the rise of tyranny, the abuse of power by high officials, and the violation of the legal and constitutional rights of the American people.

That system of checks and balances can never be taken for granted. Several times in our history, even in the defense of democracy and freedom, government figures -- often unelected -- have overstepped the limits of their authority and power. Again and again, threats to our republic were neutralized because of the checks on power written into the Constitution.

The Founding Fathers did not create a perfect government. But they were wise enough to give us a practical framework by which to govern ourselves, and by which to correct mistakes and injustices when they arose. We stand ever indebted to the men of that Philadelphia summer two hundred years ago for authoring the great charter of liberty the anniversary of which we celebrate this year.

July 22, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Trade Bill That Would Boost West Virginia's Economy

West Virginia would stand to benefit from the comprehensive trade bill recently passed by the U.S. Senate.

For six years, the federal administration has failed to take seriously the alarms that I and other Senators of both parties have sounded about our deteriorating international trade problems.

All the while, America's trade deficit ballooned. Last year alone, that deficit registered \$170 billion, and statistics for May indicate that this year's trade deficit is already running at an annual rate of \$173 billion.

Much of the current trade crisis can be laid to the unfair practices of several foreign competitors -- dumping, the exclusion of American products from overseas markets, the massive subsidizing by foreign countries of domestic products, and deliberate efforts to eliminate certain American industries as competitors and then take over their markets, for example.

Such practices cost West Virginia dearly in lost jobs, wages, and profits, in the steel, coal, glass, shoe, chemical, and other heavy industries.

Not knee-jerk protectionism, the Senate trade

bill promises to reverse some of that damage, offering positive measures to open foreign markets to American and West Virginian products.

For example, an initiative would be launched to encourage the removal of foreign trade barriers and to increase our exports.

Other measures of this legislation would boost science and mathematics programs in our schools, so as to better prepare American youngsters to compete technologically in the future world economy.

To assist displaced workers in ailing industries, retraining programs would be reformed and expanded. In addition, American commercial innovation and scientific advances would be promoted by the focused efforts of the federal government, and by stricter patent laws to protect American inventions against foreign piracy.

West Virginia is one of our country's leading exporting states. West Virginia industries and workers would profit by the Senate's trade bill. This legislation is a positive effort to stand up for America, for American industry, and for the American worker.

July 29, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Financial Help for West Virginia College Students

As the opening of a new school year approaches, first-time and returning college students often start adding up their upcoming expenses. Such students should realize that several financial-aid possibilities are open to them.

One aid plan is the **Pell Grant** program. Pell Grants help under-graduates pay for their education. Repayment is not required, but student eligibility must be maintained and will be monitored.

Another financial-aid option is a campus-based **College Work Study Program (CWS)**. A CWS program provides jobs for undergraduates and graduates who need financial aid. The amount of a CWS stipend depends on need, as well as on the availability of CWS funds at that college or university. No repayment of CWS funds is required.

A **Perkins Loan** is a campus-based loan, carrying a low interest rate (5% currently), made directly by a college to a specific undergraduate or graduate student. Loan amounts are based on need and local availability of funds. A Perkins Loan is repaid after graduation and the passage of a reasonable grace period, with terms and penalties governed by the expected practices related to most promissory notes.

Many students use **Guaranteed Student Loans (GSL)**. A GSL is a low-

interest loan made to a student by a lender such as a bank, credit union, or savings and loan association. GSL's are insured by state guarantee agencies and re-insured by the Federal Government.

Interest rates on GSL's for new borrowers run currently at 8 percent. Repayment of a GSL is a legal obligation, and default on a GSL repayment may bring serious consequences.

With good planning a student can budget his expenses and payments using one or a combination of the programs mentioned. Other grants, scholarships, and awards are also available.

Students or potential students should consult with their high school counselor, a college financial aid officer, or a local bank loan department for specifics about college costs and possible financial assistance.

Answers to further questions about the financial programs listed here may also be obtained by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center in Rockville, Maryland, telephone number (301) 984-4070.

West Virginia students interested in GSL's can find added help by contacting the Higher Education Assistance Foundation in Charleston, at (304) 345-7211.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Resource to Promote Better Airline Safety

Last year, I authored a bill to create an agency to improve air travel safety in our country.

Out of my legislation came the recently established Aviation Safety Commission, an independent panel charged with investigating the impact of airline deregulation on aviation safety, and with studying ways to improve the nation's air traffic system.

As the lead-off witness in the Commission's recent first hearing, I underlined the urgency of the safety task before them.

The growth of air traffic resulting from airline deregulation, coupled with the firing of 11,500 veteran air traffic controllers in 1981, has left America's air traffic system overburdened and understaffed.

As a result, this year, near mid-air collisions are up 21 percent over last year, and operational errors are up 18 percent.

Air travel is currently the favored mode of transportation by a majority of Americans. Every day, hundreds of thousands of Americans board airplanes.

Airline deregulation was touted as a boon to the flying public. Unfortunately, with airline deregulation has come shoddy airplane maintenance and a narrow-

ing of the margin of air traffic safety.

Currently, flying is becoming more and more a gamble -- a deadly gamble that should not go unchallenged. We cannot continue playing Russian roulette with the lives of air travelers.

In my testimony, I urged the Aviation Safety Commission to press upon the Federal Aviation Administration the paramount duty of improving the airline safety situation in this country.

I voted to deregulate the airlines, but I did not vote to deregulate air safety. No commercial carrier has a right to boost profits by cutting corners on safety and maintenance.

Real flesh-and-blood people board planes, trusting in the integrity of the airline companies to get them unharmed to their contracted destinations. We have every reason to expect that the airlines have taken every conceivable precaution to ensure our travel safety in exchange for the privilege of soliciting our business and using the skies that belong to all of us.

All American and West Virginian air travelers are counting on the new Aviation Safety Commission to improve the margin of aviation safety in our sky lanes.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Handy Hotlines: Free Federal Information Lines

West Virginians sometimes ask where they can get information on a variety of federal programs, services, and opportunities.

I have compiled the following list of toll-free federal hotlines that may help West Virginians find answers to some of their questions. I hope that these numbers will prove useful.

Retired Army Pay Problems	1-800-428-2290
Cancer Information, Department of Health and Human Services	1-800-638-6694
National Runaway Switchboard	1-800-621-4000
(for parents and runaways to leave messages)	
Parents Anonymous (child abuse)	1-800-421-0353
Consumer Product Safety Commission . .	1-800-638-2772
(product recall, complaints, fact sheets)	
Environmental Protection Agency	1-800-424-9346
(hazardous waste information)	
Army Recruitment and Employment Information	1-800-872-2769
Marine Corps Recruitment and Employment Information	1-800-423-2600
Navy Recruitment and Employment Information	1-800-327-6289
Pesticide Emergency Information Clearinghouse	1-800-858-7378
Federal Emergency Management Agency . .	1-800-638-6620
(flood insurance information)	
National Health Information Clearinghouse	1-800-336-4797
Small Business Administration	1-800-368-5855
(answer desk)	
Federal Home Loan Bank Board	1-800-424-5405
(mortgage rate information)	
Social Security Administration	1-800-848-0106
(Medicare questions)	
Veterans Benefits Counseling	1-800-642-3520
Transportation Department	1-800-424-9393
(auto safety information and complaints)	
Washington, D.C., Central Reservation Center	1-800-554-2220
(information on lodging in the Nation's Capital)	

August 19, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Falling into Another OPEC Energy Trap

During the 1970's, Americans learned how vulnerable our country's energy supplies are to foreign crises.

In the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, and following the overthrow of the Shah of Iran in 1979, Americans suffered through gasoline lines, soaring energy prices, and spiraling inflation.

Fighting back, and supported by a coast-to-coast consensus, Congress, on a bipartisan basis, put into place a number of innovative public and private efforts to develop new energy resources.

In 1981, however, the current federal administration took a meat ax to America's domestic energy programs.

Asserting that the best energy policy is no energy policy, the administration emasculated the Department of Energy, dismantled federal programs to develop fossil and synthetic fuels, slashed energy conservation programs, put the brakes on filling the national strategic petroleum reserve, and vetoed legislation providing emergency plans to meet new energy crises.

The current Iran-Iraq clash underlines how perilous that misguided policy is for the United States.

Right now, Iran can threaten much of the world's economy by blocking petroleum shipments from the Persian Gulf.

In 1986, the U.S. im-

ported 37 percent of its total petroleum needs, compared with 31.5 percent a year earlier.

Of those 1986 imports, 46 percent came from members of the OPEC cartel, up from 35 percent from OPEC countries in 1985.

Ominously, America's most expert energy authorities have estimated that, at current rates, foreign oil imports could constitute as much as 50 percent of our national consumption by the mid-1990's.

How often must we be reminded that America's national security rests on our energy security? The United States possesses the resources and the technology to develop the energy security that would free itself from the despots and uncertainties of the Middle East. We need the determination to put into place a long-term energy policy that could harness West Virginia's nearly measureless coal supplies through modern, clean-burning technologies; that could renew the development of liquid fuels from coal; that could launch the search for new petroleum and natural gas resources; and that could free us from the blackmail of potential petroleum cutoffs.

Before the gasoline lines form again, and while we still have the opportunity, let us take the steps needed to ensure America's future energy security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Low Crime Rate

Recently, the FBI published the state-by-state crime statistics for 1986.

For the fourteenth year in a row, West Virginia holds the distinction for having the lowest crime rate in the Nation.

The annual FBI report records crimes in eight categories: murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, car theft, and arson.

Overall last year, West Virginia suffered 2,317 such offenses per 100,000 population -- less than half the national average of 5,480 per 100,000.

Understanding that low crime rate will be difficult unless one grasps that West Virginia is more than a geographic territory.

West Virginia is, more significantly, a culture, as well.

The West Virginia culture is inherently moral and spiritual. As corollaries to their religious faith and family loyalty, most young West Virginians are reared to respect other people, to revere the rights of their neighbors, to regard the sanctity of private homes and businesses, and to follow age-old codes and principles of behavior and conduct.

Likewise, outside observers often comment on the closeness of West Virginia families, and on the warmth and hospitality

that West Virginians show toward one another and toward strangers in their midst.

Certainly, those and other qualities are becoming rare in many parts of the contemporary world, and their presence in West Virginia should be a matter of genuine pride to all of the people of our state.

Looking beyond their borders, West Virginians understandably see possibilities that we would like to import into our state -- new industries, greater tourist enterprises, sports and entertainment developments, and other projects that would create more jobs and renew our economy.

But in the process of making West Virginia materially more prosperous and like other states, how tragic would be the loss of those qualities that make West Virginians the special people that they are.

In our state, good character, and decent and honorable conduct, are salient elements of the West Virginia way of life. Let us take pride in these sterling assets and in our consistently low rate of crime, and let us shape West Virginia's future in such a fashion that our mountain people will continue to be one of the Nation's most notable resources.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Key to West Virginia's Future: Flexible Manufacturing

Robots are today in use in many major American industries.

Commanded by sophisticated computer software, these robots are complex processing machines that can be geared to assemble automobiles, print electronic circuits, weave fine cloth designs, or manufacture a variety of goods in everyday use.

This is a result of the development of "flexible manufacturing systems." Flexible manufacturing is the use of computer software to direct and control robots and other processing machines in the production of goods. To produce a different product, or a different version or size of the same product, requires only a change in the software running the computer. Flexible manufacturing allows customized items to be produced at the same cost as mass-produced items, and allows products to be made of a higher quality and at a more competitive price.

Indeed, industrial experts project that, in the future, flexible manufacturing will prevail throughout most industries, here and abroad.

For that reason, I have initiated efforts to acquaint more West Virginia business and manufacturing people with the flexible manufacturing concept.

At my request, a number of West Virginians

have been taken on tours of the Automated Manufacturing Research Facility at the National Bureau of Standards in Gaithersburg, Maryland, to witness flexible manufacturing firsthand.

In addition, I have initiated contact between the Department of Commerce in Washington and a number of West Virginia institutions and enterprises -- Software Valley, the West Virginia Roundtable, Marshall and West Virginia Universities, the Board of Regents, and West Virginia Tech, for example -- to develop a statewide approach for putting flexible manufacturing systems in place in West Virginia. I am also working to obtain support and funding from federal agencies -- NASA, and the Departments of Defense, Commerce, and Agriculture -- to establish flexible manufacturing training centers.

Certain West Virginia firms have already installed flexible manufacturing systems in their operations. Executives of those companies agree with me that flexible manufacturing -- harnessing robots to computer software -- is a key to new industries, new jobs, and growing prosperity.

I invite anyone wanting more information on the exciting possibilities of flexible manufacturing for West Virginia's future to contact my offices either in Washington or Charleston.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Opportunities for Statesmanship

President Franklin Roosevelt once said, "The future lies with those wise leaders who realize that the great public is more interested in government than in politics."

That advice would be helpful to remember as Congress launches its fall session with a full agenda.

In particular, that agenda includes consideration of a Supreme Court nomination (Judge Robert Bork), the federal budget deficit, the trade conference report, the federal debt limit, Contra aid, and a potential arms control agreement. In addition, Congress might also be considering catastrophic health insurance, airline safety, welfare reform, and appropriations bills.

Already Congress watchers are waxing pessimistic about Congress's ability to shape legislation on those topics and others, and then win Presidential approval for its efforts.

I am more optimistic than that. Congress can achieve much in the weeks ahead, particularly if its members keep in mind that their real purpose is broader and deeper than partisan politics and interparty rancor. Congress's real agenda is in ensuring America's security in the world; protecting the American people from unexpected and dangerous occurrences that are perhaps preventable or avoidable; and laying prac-

tical and positive foundations on which to build our country's future.

Such an agenda calls for statesmanship, not partisanship. More often than not, the sum total of political partisanship purely for its own sake is not good for the United States or West Virginia.

During much of August, I spent most of my time traveling throughout West Virginia. Wherever I went -- from Wheeling to Bluefield, from Huntington to Parkersburg, and from Williamson to Clarksburg -- I found countless thoughtful, well-informed West Virginians, concerned about the future of our state and our nation. Those West Virginians discussed with me, for example, our state and national economic problems stemming from foreign competition, perils to our peace from the Persian Gulf, chronic crises and dangers in air travel, and the need to plan and work now to solve these and future problems.

In the coming months, as Congress wrestles with important issues, I shall keep in mind both the concern and the hope that I saw on my recent progress through West Virginia, and I shall continue to seek cooperation from my colleagues and the Administration to satisfy the expectations and needs of our country and our state.

September 16, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Software Valley VI Conference in October

In 1985, I joined in launching the Software Valley movement in West Virginia -- a nonprofit effort to promote advanced-technology industrial computer research, education, and development in West Virginia.

Since its inception, the Software Valley movement has enjoyed steady growth and success. In periodic seminars held in West Virginia, hundreds of West Virginia business people, educators, and government officials have learned first-hand from some of America's foremost computer experts of opportunities that computer technology offers West Virginia.

On October 12, I shall be hosting the sixth Software Valley symposium near Morgantown, the technological anchor for the Software Valley movement, and the executive center of the nonprofit Software Valley Corporation.

The primary focus of this Software Valley VI Conference will be the promising role of computer software in manufacturing, and how it might benefit West Virginia.

In addition, officials from NASA and the Department of Defense will join in a panel discussion on the growing importance of the Ada computer language, the official computer language used by the Defense Department in ad-

vanced U.S. weapons systems.

Further features of this Software Valley conference will be presentations on ways of financing high-tech business ventures, and requirements for winning business contracts from the federal government.

I am encouraged by the ongoing success of the Software Valley movement, by the response of so many West Virginia entrepreneurs to the possibilities embodied in this effort, by the national attention that this movement has drawn to our state, and by the cooperation that has been demonstrated by countless people and institutions in West Virginia in forging this expanding enterprise.

Moreover, I am excited about the possibilities that computerized manufacturing offers our state, and I think that this approaching Software Valley conference will answer some of the questions that West Virginians might have about ways in which so-called "flexible manufacturing systems" could be used in our state.

Persons interested in attending the Software Valley VI Conference on October 12, or in obtaining further information on this promising meeting, should contact the Software Valley Corporation headquarters in Morgantown at (304) 296-0110.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The New West Virginia National Cemetery

Throughout its history, West Virginia has been one of the most patriotic states in the Union.

For example, West Virginia ranked fifth in participants as a percentage of male population in World War II, first in the Korean War, and second in the Vietnam War.

And our state ranked first during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts in deaths as a percentage of our state's male population.

For many decades, the families of many West Virginia veterans had the consolation of burying their loved ones at the Grafton National Cemetery. But the Grafton National Cemetery was closed to new interments in 1961.

The Veterans Administration estimates that, currently, approximately 240,000 service veterans live in the State of West Virginia. As the veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam grow older, more and more of those veterans will be entitled to burial in national cemeteries. Understandably, families would prefer that those burials be nearby.

Fortunately, the recent opening of the new VA West Virginia Na-

tional Cemetery at Pruntytown will help to meet the needs of many West Virginia veterans. Located on 58 acres that were formerly part of the West Virginia Industrial School for Boys, the initially landscaped acreage provides an estimated 3,000 gravesites, with a total capacity of approximately 6,400 when neighboring usable acres are developed in the future.

A number of West Virginia veterans and veterans' groups were active and indispensable in helping make the new National Cemetery at Pruntytown a reality. I am glad that I was able to obtain approximately \$2.4 million in federal funds for the site improvements and future construction that will make this cemetery a shrine of which all West Virginians can be proud.

West Virginia veterans and their families can obtain more information about the new VA West Virginia National Cemetery and policies governing it by contacting Mr. James L. Turner, National Cemetery Director, at 431 Walnut St., Grafton, West Virginia, 26354; or by telephoning (304) 265-2044.

September 30, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Blennerhassett Island: "Eden on the River"

One of West Virginia's premier historical sites is Blennerhassett Island.

Located near Parkersburg in the Ohio River, Blennerhassett Island became famous for the events that took place there between 1798 to 1806.

In 1798, a wealthy, eccentric Irishman, Harman Blennerhassett, purchased 179 acres on what is today Blennerhassett Island. There, he built an exquisite mansion that came to be considered the most spectacular house west of the Appalachian Range.

Unfortunately, Blennerhassett earned infamy through his friendship with Aaron Burr.

In 1804, Aaron Burr killed long-time political rival Alexander Hamilton in a duel.

In 1805, Burr headed west to start a new life, stopping off at the Blennerhassett mansion. Blennerhassett became Burr's chief financial backer and allowed him to use the mansion as his headquarters.

In 1806, convinced that Burr was planning to establish a private kingdom in the West, President Jefferson had Burr and Blennerhassett arrested for high treason.

Despite the government's efforts, Burr was found not guilty.

Blennerhassett also went free. But his connection with Burr had cost Blennerhassett his fortune, and he was forced to sell off his Ohio Valley holdings.

In 1811, a slave accidentally set the mansion on fire, and the house burned to the ground.

In the early 1970's, citizens in the Parkersburg area spearheaded an effort to develop the site as an historic area. In 1980, with the exterior of the mansion reproduced as it originally appeared, Blennerhassett Island was opened to the public as an historical recreation park. This past summer, an historical musical drama, "Eden on the River," was staged there for the first time. As a result, 100,000 tourists, traveling from all states and 30 foreign countries, are expected to visit Blennerhassett Island this year.

Fabled Blennerhassett Island is a place that all West Virginians can take pride in sharing with other Americans, and could be developed into one of our country's major tourist attractions in the years ahead.

October 7, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pending Funds for West Virginia Progress

In the recent Interior Department funding bill passed by the U.S. Senate, I was successful in winning approval of funds for several projects and programs to benefit West Virginia specifically.

One of my ongoing concerns is the advance of coal research programs that will render coal more attractive as an energy source, and increase the demand for West Virginia coal. To that end, I was able to include in the Interior bill \$15 million to establish a National Research Center for Coal and Energy at West Virginia University, and another \$12 million for a new research facility and administration wing at the Department of Energy's Morgantown Energy Technology Center.

In addition, the Senate bill contains \$700,000 that I requested to establish a timber research center at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Princeton, in which ways of expanding manufacturing of wood products using West Virginia hardwoods would be

investigated.

Also in the Interior bill are the following West Virginia appropriations:

---\$2 million for improvement projects in the Monongahela National Forest;

---\$1.6 million for improvements and programs at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park;

---\$10 million for development and operation of the New River Gorge National River project;

---\$3.5 million to improve the Bowden Fish Hatchery in Randolph County;

---\$300,000 for work at the Leetown Fish Hatchery in Jefferson County;

---\$408,000 to underwrite West Virginia's gypsy moth control program;

---and \$100,000 to monitor black-fly spraying in southern West Virginia.

I will continue to work for the final approval of this legislation in Congress and by the White House. The West Virginia items in this Interior bill are important to our state's economy and future progress.

October 14, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stonewall Jackson Lake: The Honor and the Promise

Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson is reputed by many historians to be the world's most famous native West Virginian.

Born in Clarksburg, Jackson grew up along the banks of the West Fork River at Jackson's Mill, Lewis County, before emerging in later years as a brilliant Confederate general, and one of the world's true military geniuses.

Though most West Virginia families boast a Unionist background, many people in our state have voiced disappointment that no monument commensurate with Jackson's stature can be found in West Virginia.

That deficiency may be on the verge of being corrected, and the West Fork River may itself provide the occasion for a suitable means of honoring Jackson's memory.

One of the major tributaries of the Monongahela, the West Fork has flooded the City of Weston and other downstream communities at least fifty times in the past nearly half-century. The floods of 1980 and 1981 caused an estimated \$1.2 million in damages to the Weston area alone.

Armed with such figures, I was able to obtain approval of the necessary federal funds to dam and harness the West Fork

River above Weston.

The value of building the Stonewall Jackson Dam was preliminarily confirmed during heavy rains in 1985 when, according to the Army Corps of Engineers, the partially finished dam was credited with saving the Weston area several million dollars in property damage, and reduced flooding in Clarksburg as well.

Currently, work on the dam is virtually complete, and coming months will see the impoundment behind the dam of Stonewall Jackson Lake--a body of water covering approximately 3,470 square acres, surrounded by over 16,000 acres of scenic wild beauty.

Stonewall Jackson Lake will be the largest lake in West Virginia. Within 300 miles of fifty percent of America's population, and located beside Interstate 79, Stonewall Jackson Lake promises to become a major tourist attraction. Those studying the lake's potential, point specifically to its prospects for boaters, fishermen, hikers, and campers.

At last, West Virginia will have a memorial to Stonewall Jackson worthy of his memory. At the same time, in Stonewall Jackson Lake, we shall enjoy an asset of immense value to the future growth and economy of our state.

October 21, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Answering the Economic Alarm Bell

On Monday, October 19, the New York Stock Exchange index fell 508 points in one day -- an historic record.

On that day, economists estimate that stockholders lost as much as one-half trillion dollars. More, the economic turbulence stirred up on that day has not abated, and the aftershocks are being felt in West Virginia and every other state in the Union.

As drastic, agonizing, and frightening as that "Black Monday" may be, however, its greater significance comes as a warning.

I believe that we are at a critical turning point in America's economic fortunes. The stock market is warning us that our economy is in more danger than we think.

Wall Street has concluded that the days of plastic prosperity -- of the federal government's unbounded borrowing and spiraling federal debt -- are over. We cannot continue living off of a national credit card with no spending limit.

In the starkest warning possible, Wall Street is telling Washington that it wants a new economic policy, and it wants it fast.

Developing a new economic policy that reassures Wall Street and the American people, is the immediate responsibility of the

President and Congress -- a shared responsibility.

With that responsibility in mind, the leadership of both houses of Congress, representing both political parties, recently met with the President at the White House.

We made a good start in that meeting. We agreed that Members of Congress and representatives from the White House would hold a series of meetings to cut at least \$23 billion from next year's federal budget deficit.

We also agreed that every facet of the federal budget, except Social Security, will be on the table. Also, we urged all sides to stop pointing fingers, blaming, scapegoating, badgering, and bickering. We aim at being a bipartisan team, and we plan to look forward, not backward.

Those involved in these high-level meetings realize that this is a special time in our history -- a time for all of us to pull together as Americans, to fix our economy.

Most Americans who are aware of our current economic problems, know that no easy solutions lie ahead. But Congress is committed to working with the White House to hammer out the best solutions available to us in as non-partisan a fashion as possible.

October 28, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Federal Funds for Better Health and More Opportunities

In appropriations bills recently approved by the U.S. Senate, I was successful in including funds for a number of projects and programs that will benefit West Virginia.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in West Virginia. For that reason, I earlier obtained \$8.8 million in federal funds to begin construction of the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center at West Virginia University.

In the recent appropriation legislation, I won Senate approval of an additional \$4.5 million in federal funds for equipment and further construction at the new cancer center. When completed, this new facility will make available to countless West Virginians, treatments currently nowhere available in our state.

Also included in one of these appropriations bills is \$8 million to fund the nationwide Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program. The purpose of this program is to provide college scholarships in every state annually to talented students, in an effort to encourage the careers of scientists, scholars, and leaders for our nation's future. This past spring, forty-one young West Virginia high school graduates

nominated by their principals won such Byrd Honors Scholarships.

Another important measure for which I won approval was \$47.5 million to fund an addition to the Huntington VA Medical Center, which operates in cooperation with the Marshall University School of Medicine in Huntington.

Among other items of interest to West Virginians are the following:

--\$700,000 to fund research in work-related respiratory diseases at the Appalachian Laboratory on Occupational Safety and Health at Morgantown;

--a provision to establish a new Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Counseling Center and satellite center in southern West Virginia to serve Mercer, Raleigh, Logan, and McDowell counties;

--and language to keep in operation black-lung field offices in Beckley, Bluefield, Elkins, Logan, Madison, and Morgantown.

I will continue to work for the final approval of these legislative items in Congress and by the White House. The West Virginia items in these appropriations bills are important to our state's citizens and to their future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Air Passenger Protection Act of 1987

During recent decades, airplane travel has become the transportation mode-of-choice among a majority of Americans making long-distance trips.

Some years ago, some airline advocates touted deregulation of air travel as the means of providing better, less expensive air travel for the largest number of Americans.

Congress bowed to the clamor for deregulation. Unfortunately, the promised benefits of deregulation have been enjoyed by only a select segment of the air-traveling public, while deteriorating service and inconvenience have mounted steadily for increasing numbers of air passengers.

Since the deregulation of the airline industry, problems with delayed flights, cancelled flights, lost luggage, overbooking, poor aircraft maintenance, and customer service complaints, have multiplied manifold.

Further, as the quality of service has declined nationwide, the cost of air travel in many states, such as West Virginia, has continued to soar.

From across our state, I have received a continuing flow of first-hand airline horror tales: two- and three-hour delays; flight cancellations with no alternative flights provided; passengers left sitting in a plane, its air-conditioning broken, on the tarmac for two hours with outside temperatures near 90 degrees, while repairs were attempted; and unsched

uled late arrivals that have inconvenienced and thwarted thousands trying to pursue business concerns and personal agendas.

Clearly, this situation has called for new measures to protect the flying public. Unbridled deregulation has allowed some airlines to turn air travel into a cattle-car experience.

For that reason, I joined recently in supporting Senate passage by a vote of 89-5 of the "Air Passenger Protection Act of 1987." This Senate bill will require airlines to disclose their on-time performance records, and to make public the number of flights they have cancelled, bags lost, and passengers bumped from overbooked flights. In addition, a 24-hour toll-free hotline will be available to the public, to take consumer complaints, and to provide information on airline performance records.

The U.S. House of Representatives has recently passed similar legislation. Both pieces of legislation will be sent to a joint Senate-House conference committee to forge a bill agreeable to both chambers of Congress.

I shall continue working to obtain final passage of this legislation. West Virginians pay high prices for air service, and they deserve better than the cattle-car treatment to which too many air travelers too often are subjected under the banner of deregulation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The American Thanksgiving Day Tradition

On Thursday, November 26, most government, commerce, and other everyday activities will halt in our country, and millions of Americans will observe Thanksgiving Day.

The most popular legend attached to Thanksgiving, places the First Thanksgiving celebration in the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1621. That Thanksgiving was called by Governor William Bradford to give thanks to God for the colony's survival of its first bitter year in New England, and for the gathering in of a great harvest.

But an earlier Colonial Thanksgiving had taken place on December 4, 1619, in the Jamestown colony in Virginia. Held at Berkeley plantation, that Virginia Thanksgiving and the annual ones that followed, were, likewise, expressions of the colonists' gratitude for their survival and for the bountiful harvest.

The first national Thanksgiving Day was proclaimed during the American Revolution by Henry Laurens, President of the Continental Congress, to offer thanks for the Colonial victory over the British armies of General Burgoyne at Saratoga. The date was December 18, 1777.

Other Thanksgiving

Days followed sporadically throughout the Revolutionary War. But, on November 26, 1789, in the wake of the ratification of the Constitution, President George Washington issued a proclamation for a great nationwide day of thanks to be observed in every state and by every religious denomination.

In 1863 -- a year of important Union battle victories and the year of West Virginia's becoming the Thirty-fifth State -- President Lincoln, consciously following Washington's precedent, proclaimed the last Thursday of November as a national Thanksgiving holiday.

For decades thereafter, consecutive American Presidents observed Lincoln's formula. For practical reasons, however, in 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt set the fourth Thursday of November as the legal holiday; and, in 1941, by joint resolution, Congress adopted the fourth Thursday as the official Thanksgiving holiday.

On Thanksgiving Day 1987, I hope that families across West Virginia will join in giving thanks on that day for the abundance of blessings that are ours as Americans, and in reflecting on the values that have made our nation great.

November 18, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Military Construction Plans for West Virginia

One of my ongoing priorities has been to increase West Virginia's participation in national defense projects, and to enlarge the share of defense dollars spent by the federal government in West Virginia.

Progress toward those goals was evident in recent Senate passage of the two-year Department of Defense Authorization Bill. At my request, included in that bill are more than \$30 million in authorized military improvements and new construction in West Virginia.

Aimed primarily at improving West Virginia's military reserve and National Guard facilities, these authorized projects will strengthen our state's traditional role in helping to defend and protect America's national security and worldwide interests.

This bill envisions \$6.1 million in defense projects in West Virginia in Fiscal Year 1988, and another \$23 million in FY 1989.

Among the 1988 authorized improvements are:

- \$1.4 million for a fire suppression system and \$1.1 million for a vehicle maintenance shop at the Air National Guard unit at Yeager Airport in Charleston;
- \$1.3 million to expand the Army Reserve Center and maintenance facility at New Martinsville;
- \$1 million for an addition to the Army National Guard Armory at Point Pleasant;
- \$796,000 for Phase

One construction of the Army National Guard training facility at Camp Dawson in Preston County;

--\$436,000 for an Army National Guard maintenance shop addition at Buckhannon.

Authorized improvements for FY 1989 are:

--\$5 million for an Army National Guard aviation support facility, and \$3 million for an Army Reserve Center, both at Parkersburg;

--\$5.8 million for multiple improvements at facilities used by the Charleston Air National Guard;

--\$3.9 million in additions and improvements for the Martinsburg Air National Guard unit;

--\$3.5 million for construction of Phases Two and Three at Camp Dawson;

--and \$650,000 cumulatively for additions and land acquisitions at Guard and Reserve Centers in Buckhannon, Beckley, and Morgantown.

In addition, this bill authorizes \$600,000 for an Air Force Reserve civil engineering training facility in Morgantown, and an extra \$3 million for renovations at Allegany Ballistics Laboratory in Mineral County.

The Defense Department Authorization Bill now awaits White House approval. Certainly, this piece of legislation will mean important increases in West Virginia's ability to meet its national defense responsibilities.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Memorial to the Women Veterans of the Vietnam War

One of the most moving and profound monuments in Washington is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial--a simple wall of polished black marble on which the names of our Vietnam War dead are engraved, faced by a trio of bronze American soldiers representing the men who served in that long conflict.

As dignified and appropriate as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is, however, a group of Vietnam veterans has come forward to suggest a means by which to make the Memorial even more representative of the sacrifices made by Americans in the Vietnam War.

During the Vietnam era, more than 250,000 women served our country, either as members of the Armed Services or as civilians in such organizations as the United Service Organizations (USO), CIA, and the Red Cross.

As many as 10,000 of those women were stationed in Vietnam. The names of eight of those women known to have died in Vietnam, or as a result of their service there, are

engraved among the names on the wall.

In an effort to pay tribute to the role of American women in the Vietnam War era, the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project has been organized. This volunteer movement is seeking to raise private funds to add the statue of a military woman to the marble wall, the statues of the three infantrymen, and the American flag that currently make up the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

I have joined in supporting this project. Also endorsing this effort are such prestigious organizations as the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was built to honor all Americans who served in Vietnam. Adding a statue symbolizing a woman veteran would be a fitting tribute to the women who served our country in that war.

December 2, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Efforts to Increase West Virginia Trade Exports

West Virginia is one of America's leading exporting states.

For that reason, I have been working to correct the trade deficit from which our country has been suffering -- encouraging foreign countries to step up their purchase of our goods, and to end practices that keep West Virginia products out of their markets.

To that end, I recently met with the Japanese Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Nobuo Matsunaga.

I reminded Ambassador Matsunaga of the agreement signed between the U.S. and Japan in 1983, pledging both governments to work toward greater cooperation in energy trade.

However, I pointed out that, since the Japanese Fiscal Year 1982, U.S. metallurgical coal exports to Japan have declined by 50 percent. West Virginia, with its rich supplies of metallurgical coal, has disproportionately felt that loss of coal exports.

I urged the ambassador to seek a firm pledge from the Japanese government to stabilize purchases of U.S. coal -- particularly West Virginia coal, both metallurgical and steam coals.

West Virginia timber was another product that I recommended that Japan could use. Japan endures a chronic housing shortage that imported West Virginia wood products could help to lessen. In addition, I told the ambassador that Japanese furniture manufacturers might benefit by exploring West Virginia as a location for building joint-venture furniture-manufacturing facilities.

Last year's trade deficit between our country and our foreign trading partners reached \$170 billion. Though recent economic signs point to possible improvements in that imbalance, economists do not expect this year's trade deficit to shrink significantly, if at all.

The battle to bring down the trade deficit will continue, and I shall keep working to forge reasonable legislation to correct that deficit wherever possible.

In the long run, however, one of the best ways to win more foreign customers for our West Virginia products is to sell them on the advantages of trading with West Virginia companies. That goal will also continue to be one of my highest priorities.

December 9, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The U.S.-Soviet INF Treaty

During the recent summit conference in Washington, President Reagan and Soviet Party Secretary Gorbachev signed an intermediate range nuclear forces treaty -- the INF Treaty -- to reduce a certain class of nuclear weapons in Europe and the Soviet Union.

Now, before going into effect, according to the U.S. Constitution, the INF Treaty has to be approved by a two-thirds vote of the United States Senate under its "advice and consent" role. Failure to win from the Senate an approval of ratification would halt the INF Treaty in its tracks.

I know that the people of West Virginia are concerned about nuclear war, and that they want to see progress on arms control.

However, I also know that West Virginians want to ensure that any treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union is, above all, in the security interests of our country.

I have urged the chairmen of the three Senate committees charged with

thorough examination of the treaty -- Foreign Relations, Armed Services, and Intelligence -- to leave no stone unturned in an effort to bring clearly to the attention of the Senate and the American people all aspects of the INF Treaty, especially the verification process.

I am particularly concerned that, in pursuit of nuclear weapons control, we do not leave our allies in Europe vulnerable to intimidation and bullying by vastly larger Soviet and Warsaw Pact conventional forces in Eastern Europe. For nearly four decades, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization -- NATO -- has been a bulwark against communist aggression, and that is a bulwark that must be maintained.

Like so many West Virginians, I am skeptical of Soviet intentions, regardless of how attractive Soviet entreaties may be. In that skepticism, I shall weigh the INF Treaty, and I shall urge my Senate colleagues to take the necessary time to form their own wary decisions.

December 16, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping This Holiday Bright and Happy

One of the tragic ironies of our national life is the toll of violent deaths suffered annually by hundreds of people on our highways at this festive season of the year.

Every New Year, hundreds of Americans lose their lives on our highways through the reckless and irresponsible acts of drunk or drugged automobile drivers. Countless other Americans are crippled or otherwise injured in accidents involving alcohol or drugs.

And for hundreds of thousands, the annual New Year's celebration is a reminder of that holiday when a loved one was killed in an automobile accident.

Drunken driving statistics themselves should give pause for reflection:

-In the past decade, roughly a quarter-million Americans have perished as a result of alcohol and drug-related automobile accidents.

-Fifty percent of all highway deaths involve the use of alcohol.

-Automobile accidents are the Number One cause

of death for Americans under age 35 -- and more than half of those deaths are caused by drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Anyone who has lost a relative or friend in a highway accident knows how agonizing such a loss can be. Adding to the pain of such a loss is the knowledge of how preventable such accidents are.

Those planning to be on the roads this Holiday Season would do well to heed a couple of helpful, life-saving rules:

-Do not, under any circumstances, drink and drive.

-If you judge that a friend has been drinking, make sure that that person does not get behind a steering wheel.

This year, make safe, sober driving a holiday motto. Be a real friend to someone of impaired driving ability, and a good citizen to other innocent drivers on the road.

Have a Happy New Year! And start 1988 the right way -- alive, well, and sober.

December 23, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

My Upcoming Meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister

Japan is one of America's leading trading partners. However, the trade gap between our two countries in favor of the Japanese for the first ten months of 1987 was \$50 billion.

In my ongoing efforts to cut America's foreign trade deficit, to promote West Virginia's economy, and to create more jobs for West Virginians, I shall be meeting with recently chosen Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita during his pending U.S. visit. Our meeting will take place in my U.S. Capitol Building office in early January.

High on my agenda for that meeting, I plan to talk seriously with Mr. Takeshita about increasing Japan's purchases of West Virginia metallurgical and steam coal.

In 1983, Japan and the United States signed an agreement on energy cooperation. That agreement was aimed at increasing energy trade between our two countries. In spite of that, since 1982, U.S. metallurgical coal shipments to Japan have declined by 50 percent, while her coal imports from China and the Soviet Union have increased.

Under past arrangements, West Virginia supplied roughly 65 percent of the metallurgical coal purchased by Japan. Thus, the decline of Japan's purchases of American coal has hit West Virginia mines

disproportionately hard.

In my upcoming meeting with Mr. Takeshita, I shall urge that Japan stabilize its purchases of U.S. coal at the FY 1986 level of 10 million metric tons, as well as commit itself to increasing purchases of U.S. coal.

In addition, I shall discuss with Prime Minister Takeshita my proposal that Japan purchase West Virginia timber, and enter into joint ventures with West Virginia businesses to manufacture furniture and other end products from our extensive hardwood and other timber resources. Such joint ventures could expand the wood products industry in West Virginia, and provide additional jobs for West Virginians.

These joint ventures could solve a number of current problems for both Japan and West Virginia. Japan has limited forests and a large demand for wood and wood products. West Virginia, on the other hand, ships its abundant timber resources to out-of-state manufacturers, which we then, paradoxically, buy back in the form of furniture and other finished wood products.

Japan offers significant opportunities for increasing West Virginia's foreign exports. For that reason especially, I look forward to my meeting with the Japanese prime minister.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Burgeoning Winter Industry

Heated world trade competition and the impact of that competition on West Virginia have led increasing numbers of West Virginians to look for ways to diversify our state's economy.

One of the primary examples of such diversification is tourism. Growing numbers of out-of-state visitors, as well as West Virginians, are taking advantage of the natural beauties and diversions that West Virginia offers.

One swelling facet of West Virginia's tourist industry is, however, still relatively unfamiliar to most people in our state -- the West Virginia skiing industry.

In recent years, hundreds of thousands of Americans have taken to the ski slopes, and more and more enterprising West Virginians have joined in developing this promising tourist industry in our state. Serving the skiing public has meant the building of lodging facilities, the hiring of expanded numbers of service personnel, and increased opportunities for tourist-industry suppliers.

In the 1985-86 season, for instance, West Virginia enjoyed more than 410,000 "skier days" -- that is, one skier skiing one day. In the 1986-87 season, that statistic had jumped to 522,277 skier days.

West Virginia currently boasts five major ski centers or resorts that are growing in popularity. They are:

-Canaan Valley: near Davis in Tucker County, the Canaan Valley ski area is West Virginia's oldest ski resort, and was the first to be established south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

-Timberline: near the Canaan Valley ski area, Timberline is the state's newest skiing development.

-Silver Creek: near Slaty Fork in Pocahontas County, Silver Creek measures snowfall in excess of 200 inches a year.

-Snowshoe: also in Pocahontas County, Snowshoe's top elevation is 4,848 feet above sea level, and its winter climate is comparable to Montreal's.

-Winterplace: located near the Flat Top exit on I-77, between Beckley and Princeton, Winterplace is drawing skiers from as far away as the Carolinas.

Each of these ski areas offers a variety of lodging arrangements, all are equipped with snowmaking capacities on 80 to 100 percent of their trails, all offer lifts, and Canaan Valley and Winterplace provide night skiing.

In addition to these established ski areas, Oglebay Park in Wheeling and Alpine Lake near Terra Alta also offer downhill skiing.

Anyone seeking more information on West Virginia skiing should call toll-free 1-800-CALL-WVA.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Rejoins the Navy

On December 7, 1941, the battleship U.S.S. **West Virginia** was sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Raised and repaired, the **West Virginia** served on active duty for the rest of World War II and after, until it was decommissioned in the late fifties, and was scrapped in 1961.

Interestingly, the battleship **West Virginia** led the convoy of vessels carrying American veterans into Tokyo Bay to witness the surrender ceremonies on board the battleship **Missouri**.

Today, the mast of the old battleship **West Virginia** stands on the campus of West Virginia University.

For nearly three decades, however, no capital ship in the U.S. Navy has carried our state's name on the world's oceans.

In the near future, that situation is going to change.

Currently under construction at Groton, Connecticut, are four advanced, high-tech Trident submarines of the Ohio class.

Working in cooperation with a group of patriotic West Virginia veterans, I have been able to win from the Navy a commitment to name one

of these Trident submarines in honor of our state. The U.S.S. **West Virginia** is scheduled for launching later this year.

In addition, as a result of my efforts, the Navy has informed me that two other vessels scheduled for construction -- a Whidbey Island class dock landing ship, and a Henry J. Kaiser class fleet oiler -- will be named respectively the "Harpers Ferry" and the "Kanawha."

Since the Revolutionary War, West Virginians have been noted for their patriotism and service to our country. In the modern era, West Virginia ranked first in the number of deaths in the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War, and fourth among the states in World War II in war deaths as a percentage of its eligible male population.

That record of participation and sacrifice is one of which West Virginians can be proud. In recognition of that record, the naming of a new Trident submarine in honor of West Virginia, and two other Navy vessels after West Virginia placenames, are well-deserved tributes to the role played by West Virginians in keeping America strong, free, and secure.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

My Meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan

During his recent visit to this country, newly chosen Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita came to my U.S. Capitol office to meet with me.

In that meeting -- a straightforward and frank session -- I raised a number of concerns about Japanese trade policy with Mr. Takeshita -- concerns shared by West Virginians and other Americans alike.

Last year, for example, our country bought from Japan \$60 billion's worth of goods more than Japan bought from us.

As one means of lowering that trade imbalance, I proposed to Takeshita that the U.S. and Japan study the advantages and disadvantages of opening negotiations to establish a free-trade relationship between our two countries. As I pointed out, free trade between our countries would open more of our markets to one another. A primary American complaint is that Japanese trade regulations too often prohibit American goods from entering the Japanese market by erecting petty barriers -- for instance, claiming that American-made baseball bats do not meet Japanese safety standards, or that Japanese cannot eat American-grown beef because their digestive systems are biologically different. Free trade could end such barriers.

Takeshita told me that he would study the possibility of putting my suggestion into effect upon his return home.

One of my primary concerns in my meeting with Takeshita was to boost Japan's purchases of West Virginia metallurgical coal, and I urged the prime minister to examine that possibility, as well. In recent years, Japan's imports of U.S. metallurgical coal have fallen from 26 million metric tons in 1981, to a projected 10 million metric tons in this Japanese fiscal year.

Noting Japan's continuing need for wood and wood products, I urged Takeshita to consider the possibility of Japanese firms entering into joint ventures with West Virginia enterprises to manufacture furniture and other wood products from West Virginia hardwoods. As I indicated, West Virginia has excellent hardwoods, and joint ventures in the wood area would benefit both West Virginians and Japanese.

I am confident that West Virginia -- already a major player in foreign exporting -- can find even wider opportunities in the overseas arena. I shall keep working to open the world marketplace to West Virginia products, and to create new jobs at home for West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

1987 Legislative Achievements To Benefit West Virginia

During the 1987 legislative year, I was able to obtain passage of -- and, in some instances, secure funding for -- a number of initiatives that will benefit West Virginia.

Last year, for example, I won approval of \$575 million in federal funds over a two-year period to continue the Clean Coal Technology Program, an effort which I have sponsored to promote the use of coal in environmentally acceptable ways. I also introduced legislation to expand the Clean Coal Technology Program to encourage the use of clean-coal techniques as a positive means of reducing possible acid rain pollution without resorting to costly and ill-advised government regulations on coal use.

I am especially pleased that I secured \$6 million, with a commitment for an additional \$9 million next year, to establish a National Research Center for Coal and Energy at West Virginia University.

In the area of health care for West Virginians, I secured the third and final payment of federal funds -- \$4.3 million -- for the new cancer center to be built at the University Medical Center in Morgantown. Over the past three years, I have obtained a total of \$13.1 million in federal funds for the cancer center, the first statewide cancer treatment and research cen-

ter in West Virginia.

Besides coal, among West Virginia's greatest natural resources are our hardwood forests. To encourage the growth of a wood-processing industry in our state -- one to build furniture and manufacture other wood products, and create new jobs -- I am advocating the development of a hardwood research center at the Princeton Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Mercer County, for which I secured \$600,000 in federal funds.

The Veterans Administration estimates that roughly 275,000 military veterans live in West Virginia. I am particularly glad, therefore, that I was able to take part in dedicating the new Veterans Administration National Cemetery, for which I had obtained nearly \$2 million in federal funds. Located at Pruntytown in Taylor County, this new cemetery will ultimately accommodate 6,400 graves.

Also of import to veterans, I obtained Senate approval of \$47.5 million to build a large clinical addition to the Marshall University-related VA Medical Center in Huntington.

These efforts represent but some of my ongoing commitment to boost the economy of our state, and to improve the quality of life for all West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More 1987 Legislative Achievements To Benefit West Virginia

In a recent column, I reported on several of my legislative achievements in 1987 to benefit West Virginia in the areas of coal research and development, veterans services, cancer treatment, and wood-product advancement.

In addition to those accomplishments reported, I also obtained authorization of \$30 million worth of military construction projects at a number of West Virginia military sites -- for example, reserve centers, Camp Dawson, and National Guard armories.

In related actions, in accord with my commitment to increase the military and national defense presence in our state, I obtained Pentagon approval of plans to establish six new Army Reserve units in West Virginia with a combined annual economic impact of \$6 million, as well as an Air Force Reserve training facility, and a Coast Guard computer center to be located in the state.

Early in the 100th Congress, I led the successful Senate effort to pass the 1987 Federal-Aid Highway Act, which made West Virginia eligible for an estimated \$105.6 million annually from the federal Highway Trust Fund over a five-year period. That measure also contains \$14.1 million toward construction of the New River Gorge Parkway in southeastern West Virginia, and \$1.6 million for the Chelyan Bridge in Kan

awha County.

West Virginia plays a major role in international trade. In order better to win fairness for West Virginia products overseas, however, I was responsible for moving through the Senate a trade and jobs bill designed to make West Virginia goods more competitive in foreign markets. That bill is awaiting action by a Senate-House conference committee, and I am calling for action on passage of that measure early this year.

Long an advocate of excellence in education, I won approval in the recent past of establishing a national scholarship program to encourage academically talented students to pursue higher education.

My Senate colleagues honored my effort by naming this the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program. In the first ceremonies under this program last June, I was privileged to award Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships to 41 West Virginia high school graduates.

In order to continue granting these \$1,500 federal scholarships nationwide, I obtained \$7.7 million in this year's government funding bill.

I shall continue working to ensure that West Virginia receives a good return on the tax dollars it sends to Washington, and that new opportunities and a better future are opened to the citizens of our state in whatever ways that I can.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Year Ahead for the U.S. Senate

With 1988 underway, most of America's political attention is riveted on the upcoming Presidential election.

Likewise, one third of the Senate seats, and all of the seats in the House of Representatives, are up for election this year.

In spite of upcoming campaign activities, the regular work of Congress must move ahead, and the second session of this 100th Congress faces several issues of interest to West Virginians.

One of the most important matters on which the Senate must vote is the trade and jobs bill currently in a Senate-House conference committee. This legislation will be of concern to West Virginians and all other Americans. Our foreign trade deficit -- heading this year for approximately \$150 billion in favor of foreign countries -- has burdened millions of Americans with joblessness and economic hardship.

Feeling is high in the Senate for passage of legislation to win fairer treatment for our goods overseas and to spur job-creation in our economy. I hope that Congress can complete work on this bill so that it can be sent to the

President for his signature before spring.

Among other issues anticipated to come up in this session are approval of ratification of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty recently signed by the President and Soviet leader Gorbachev; proposals to deal with catastrophic illness among elderly Americans; continued efforts to reduce federal budget deficits; efforts to renew support for elementary and secondary education; and further efforts to ensure improved aviation safety.

I shall also continue my battle for Senate election campaign finance reform. Democracy must not be delivered over to an aristocracy of money, with the Senate controlled by the richest special interest groups. I hope to see campaign finance reform legislation passed this year.

These and other efforts in the Senate will be laying foundations for America's future in a rapidly changing world. Party loyalties are expected in politics, but I believe that party loyalty rates a low priority in the search for solutions to the problems facing America.

February 10, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Catastrophic Health Insurance for Older Americans

Americans sixty-five years old and older make up the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population.

Understandably, responsible voices in our country have long heralded the need to prepare to meet the special requirements in the United States for increased numbers of elderly men and women.

Currently, Congress is hammering out legislation particularly aimed at a basic need of older people: catastrophic health insurance for the elderly.

Again and again, a man or woman who has prudently saved for retirement, is hit by a sudden, unforeseen disastrous illness, the treatment of which reduces him or her to poverty or bankruptcy.

Medicare has helped to soften some of the impact of such blows, but Medicare currently has a number of coverage limits that have blunted its effectiveness in handling catastrophic illnesses.

Catastrophic health insurance would be a hedge against the crushing burden of such a misfortune.

In general, the catastrophic health insurance programs under Congressional consideration would be an optional addition to Medicare, with beneficiaries paying an added premium for coverage. Under a Senate-passed ver-

sion of this legislation, for example, such optional catastrophic coverage would feature unlimited hospital stays after payment of an annual deductible of about \$520. At present, under current Medicare provisions, only hospital stays up to sixty days are covered, with extra beneficiary payments required for stays beyond that time limit. This optional catastrophic health care program would be comparable to a homeowner's insurance policy or automobile insurance. People buy such policies hoping never to have need of using them.

But if their homes burn down, or their automobiles are involved in accidents, they know that they are protected against financial ruin.

Just so would catastrophic health insurance be valuable -- for that unplanned illness that can wreck one's retirement security.

Catastrophic health care insurance has found broad bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. As a backer of this legislation, I look forward to its final passage, and toward its being signed into law.

Older Americans deserve the security and protection that catastrophic health care insurance would afford.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Senate Mission to Our NATO Allies

Recently, in preparation for the upcoming Senate debates on the INF (Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces) arms-control treaty signed last year by President Reagan and Secretary Gorbachev, I led a bipartisan delegation of Senators to five nations in Europe.

Included among the Senators were the chairmen of the Senate Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence. The ranking Republican member on the Armed Services Committee was also part of the group.

Before the INF treaty can go into effect, the U.S. Senate must give its constitutionally mandated consent to the resolution of ratification.

Prior to the Senate's action, however, my Senate colleagues and I wanted to reassure our Western European NATO allies of America's continuing commitment to the alliance, and to find out how they view this treaty. Central to our mission, as well, was to explore attitudes about the new style of Soviet leadership, and the course for the security of the NATO alliance beyond the INF treaty.

Among the leaders our group met with were Prime Minister Thatcher of Britain, Chancellor Kohl of West Germany, President Mitterrand of France, the President and Prime Minister of Turkey, Prime Minister Goria of Italy, and the Minister of Defense of the

Netherlands.

Most West Virginians have told me that they favor arms-control efforts, such as the INF treaty, as long as those efforts enhance America's national security. One of my foremost concerns in judging the INF treaty, is that the vital security interests of the United States and our NATO allies be enhanced, at the same time that we attempt to increase chances for world peace.

Understandably, we found some concern among our allies about U.S. intentions to stay the course with NATO.

We sought to reassure the Europeans that their security is America's security, as well.

Recognizing that the Soviets would like to splinter the NATO alliance, we underlined the need to present a continued united front toward the Soviet Union. The European heads of state were in complete agreement with that goal.

Signing the INF treaty last December has opened the door to new optimism among the people of the United States and Europe.

In opening that door, however, I want to make sure that we maintain a strong-willed, united, and well-armed NATO alliance that will continue to be a bulwark for dealing with the threat of Soviet power to world peace, and a mainstay of U.S. defense security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Getting Europe More Interested In West Virginia

During my recent Senate mission to our NATO allies in Europe, I met with a number of European government officials and industrialists, looking for new opportunities to boost West Virginia's economy and create jobs for West Virginians.

In Munich, I met with the chairman of the board of the giant West German Siemens Corporation.

Siemens is already involved in West Virginia's economy, currently building a telephone switching station in Moundsville, and having set up a \$2 million training program with West Virginia University to train telephone company employees to use the new switching system, largely as a result of WVU's participation in the Software Valley movement anchored there.

At our meeting, I promoted West Virginia as a site for possible future Siemens U.S. expansion. I underlined our state's strong foundation in basic heavy industries, but added that West Virginia wants to diversify its economy. In addition, I praised West Virginia's able work force.

In Paris, I discussed added West Virginia prospects with the chairman and chief executive officer of the Rhone-Poulenc Group, which

owns a large chemical complex at Institute. In that meeting, I encouraged Rhone-Poulenc to invest more in West Virginia.

In Ankara, I learned that Turkey is planning to build new power generating plants. I reminded Turkish officials of West Virginia's vast reserves of quality steam coal, and urged them to import West Virginia coal to meet the demands of Turkey's new power plants.

I enjoyed a promising meeting in Rome with the top officials of the Italian National Electrical Energy Agency.

Italy is currently developing revised energy plans, and is particularly interested in using U.S.-developed clean-coal technologies.

I encouraged the Italian government to step up imports of high-grade West Virginia coal.

At this juncture of West Virginia's economic history, we need to pursue every possible means of broadening our state's industrial base.

Certainly, increased West Virginia commerce with our European trading partners offers us attractive options for creating new job and prosperity opportunities for West Virginians.

March 2, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Just the Beginning of the Battle

In 1958, I ran for the United States Senate for the first time.

In that same election, my longtime colleague Jennings Randolph ran for the other Senate seat from West Virginia.

Together in that election, we spent between us approximately \$50,000 for campaign expenses.

Today, television advertising and other sophisticated campaign techniques have sent campaign costs soaring.

In 1976, for example, the total spent across the country on Senate campaigns was approximately \$38.1 million.

In contrast, the total for the 1986 Senate elections came to more than \$130 million, with losing candidates spending an **average** of \$2.3 million while winners **averaged** spending \$3.01 million.

Worse, *Conservative Digest* magazine estimates that, by 1992, the **average** Senatorial election campaign will cost \$9 million.

Few candidates can afford to pay such astronomical costs from their own resources. Consequently, anyone seeking the office of U.S. Senator must spend countless time searching for out-of-state campaign funds.

The need for such funds has given rise to hundreds of special-interest "political action committees" or PAC's, whose members contribute money to be dispersed to candidates. In the 1986 Senate elections, PAC's contri-

buted 27 percent of the winning candidates' funds.

Nothing is illegal about PAC's, *per se*. However, the massive role played by PAC's in Senate campaigns gives the impression that seats in the Senate are up for sale to the highest special-interest bidder.

To reverse the spiraling costs of Senate campaigns, and to limit the perceived influence of PAC's in electing Senators, I co-sponsored, with Senator David Boren from Oklahoma, the Senatorial Election Campaign Act of 1987, which places a voluntary limit on campaign expenditures by Congressional candidates, and a limit on aggregate PAC contributions to such candidates -- based on a state's population.

Thus far, opponents of campaign financing reform have filibustered against this legislation, keeping it from coming to a final vote on eight occasions, most recently last month.

However, the battle to reform Senate campaign financing and put a cap on election expenses, has just begun.

I believe that American voters are fed up with the galactic heights to which election costs have catapulted.

Therefore, I shall continue the fight to bring Senatorial election financing under control, and to bring reason back to the costs of campaigning for the U.S. Senate.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Thumbs Down on a Foreign Steel Loan

A recent loan proposal by the World Bank -- an international agency generously underwritten by U.S. tax dollars -- deeply concerns me.

That proposal contemplates granting Mexico a \$400 million loan to revitalize its steel industry.

I am sympathetic toward helping Mexico overcome its economic problems.

However, I strongly object when such help comes at the expense of the American steel industry, and a group of my colleagues -- Senators Rockefeller, Howard Metzenbaum and John Glenn of Ohio, John Heinz of Pennsylvania, Lloyd Bentsen of Texas, and Alan Simpson of Wyoming -- joined me in making that clear to U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker in a recent meeting.

With the world steel market suffering an excess steel-making capacity of roughly 200 million tons per year, several foreign steel producers regularly cut their prices and ship their surplus steel tonnage to our country, undercutting our domestic producers and forcing more U.S. steelworkers out of their jobs.

The steel industry in West Virginia and throughout the United States is fighting for its life. In recent years, our steel industry has invested more than \$8 billion in modernization.

While the American steel industry is struggling to survive, it makes no sense to me to send U.S. tax dollars, through the World Bank or any other agency, to subsidize the Mexican steel industry.

Because of the potential for increased damage to our domestic steel industry and a greater loss of jobs from an influx of Mexican steel into the U.S. market, I requested point-blank that Secretary Baker oppose the Mexican steel loan.

Moreover, the Senate adopted a resolution that I co-sponsored asking the federal government to do everything possible to prevent the World Bank from granting the Mexican loan.

Unfortunately, though Secretary Baker opposed the loan, and his representative to the World Bank cast the twenty-percent U.S. vote against it, the World Bank nonetheless approved the loan to revitalize the Mexican steel industry.

In spite of that disappointment, the Senate has sent a message to world financial and other aid programs dependent in large measure on American underwriting.

That message is that, from now forward, America will look more closely at proposals before agreeing to approve loans or financing that might cost West Virginia and American jobs.

March 16, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Improving Commuter Airline Safety

Over a decade ago, "government deregulation" was a popular political cause.

One field that obtained quick deregulation was airline transportation. Proponents of deregulation claimed that the traveling public would benefit from increased competition, reduced fares, greater efficiency, and better service.

Though airline deregulation's record on those counts has been spotty, its impact has been particularly severe in rural states and on small communities.

In West Virginia, for example, deregulation has meant the loss of much regularly scheduled commercial service, increased dependence on small commuter airlines and aircraft, and the tripling of airfares.

Those problems aside, however, another facet of air travel has declined since deregulation took effect.

That area is airline safety.

In 1987, commercial and commuter airlines had both the highest accident and fatality rates in over a decade. Scheduled airlines suffered 31 accidents, the most since 1974, which involved the loss of 231 lives.

At the same time, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reported 1,063 near midair collisions, an increase of 26 percent over 1986. Alarming-ly, 40 percent of those near-collisions involved commercial airliners.

Especially important for West Virginia air travellers were the statistics

on commuter airlines. Last year, commuter lines carried approximately 30 million passengers, up from 9.2 million in 1977.

In 1987, commuter airlines experienced 35 accidents, taking 58 lives.

In just the last four months, however, commuter airline accidents have taken 56 lives!

The airline industry estimates that, by the early 1990's, annual commuter line fliers are likely to double to 60 million per year.

With West Virginia so dependent on commuter lines, I have been increasingly concerned about the adequacy of safety standards and practices among small commuter airlines, which led me to author the legislation that created the Aviation Safety Commission.

In late 1986, I also requested the General Accounting Office to investigate the impact of deregulation on commuter lines. That report--and safety reports now underway by the Office of Technology Assessment, the Aviation Safety Commission, and the FAA--will be made public in the near future.

I will not be content to leave airline safety at the report level, however. I shall continue to beat the drum for airline safety, and to keep working to tighten the laws and standards by which air safety is measured and enforced.

West Virginia air travellers deserve the highest safety possible for the price they pay for their tickets.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Defense-related Opportunities for West Virginia

Currently, West Virginia ranks thirty-ninth in the total of federal defense dollars per state.

That standing includes total federal funds going to primary and secondary defense-related contracts that annually draw millions of dollars into our state's economy, as well as military salaries and purchases made to maintain the several military activities across West Virginia.

Knowing that our state can benefit by increased defense dollars coming into West Virginia, I continue to work to raise the defense and military profile in West Virginia.

As a result of my efforts, the Defense Department has agreed to activate seven new military units in West Virginia that will add to our state's defense role, and will bring significant new military opportunities to West Virginians.

The most recently announced of these additions is an Army Reserve medical unit to be located in Huntington, allowing it to draw upon the talented professionals associated with the Marshall University School of Medicine, area nursing schools, and the VA Medical Center.

Reaching its full strength of about 400 part-time reservists by 1990, this new unit will generate an annual economic impact of more than \$4 million in the Huntington area.

The other six new military units include three components of a combat brigade, an equipment maintenance company, a ground ambulance company, and a military intelligence company. These six units, once they are at full strength, will employ more than 700 West Virginia part-time reservists.

The units, which are scheduled to be activated in Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989, are:

- a 59-member Headquarters detachment of the 3rd Brigade, 80th Training Division, to be located in Charleston;
- a 128-member 3rd Battalion, 320th Regiment of the 3rd Brigade, Charleston;
- a 128-member 2nd Battalion, 320th Regiment of the 3rd Brigade, Beckley;
- a 218-member 396th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Company, Logan;
- a 99-member 473rd Medical Company ground ambulance Company, Ripley; and
- a 90-member Army Reserve 91st Military Intelligence Company, Morgantown.

Planning for these new units is moving ahead, and my ongoing efforts to increase the presence of the military and the Defense Department in West Virginia continue to bear fruit.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Harnessing a New Coal Technology

Coal is America's most abundant fossil fuel energy resource.

In recent decades, however, alternative fuels, coupled with environmental concerns, have combined to render coal less attractive as an energy source.

Mindful of those obstacles, in 1985, I introduced and won passage of legislation that initiated the Clean Coal Technology Program.

The central purpose of this program, joining federal and private funding, is to produce and demonstrate new technologies that will cause coal to be burned in cleaner and environmentally acceptable ways. This program is a keystone in the effort to develop advanced technologies that will promote the efficient, economical, and ecologically safe use of coal, including coal varieties found throughout West Virginia.

Recently, I participated in the groundbreaking for the first large-scale demonstration project under this program, making use of a state-of-the-art coal-burning technology.

American Electric Power, which furnishes 55 percent of the electricity consumed in West Virginia and consumes 15 percent of the coal produced in our state, is building a **pressurized fluidized bed combustion (PFBC)** demonstration facility at its currently deactivated Tidd

power plant near Wheeling and Weirton at Brilliant, Ohio.

The PFBC process produces energy by burning an agitated mix of crushed coal and limestone, which absorbs the sulphur oxides associated with coal-burning and which many blame for producing acid rain. Indeed, PFBC removes up to 90 percent of the sulphur oxides in coal, and produces less than half the nitrogen oxides of a conventional coal-burning generator--a figure 50 percent under the limits required by the Environmental Protection Agency.

In addition, because of its ability to burn high-sulphur as well as low-sulphur coal, the pressurized fluidized bed combustion process offers greater efficiency and lower fuel consumption than conventional coal-fired power plants, promising to deliver electricity at lower costs to individual and corporate consumers.

Pressurized fluidized bed combustion test facilities have proved themselves in locations as varied as Sweden, Britain, Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, and at Rivesville in Marion County.

This new coal-burning technology suggests a bright and vital future for coal, yielding an increased demand for this most versatile resource well into the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reversing America's Trade Decline

From the end of World War II forward, with the industrial infrastructures of Europe and Japan in ruins, America enjoyed a positive foreign trade surplus that lasted for several years.

American goods were prized worldwide. Our mines and factories boomed, and our seaports annually shipped out billions of dollars worth of products stamped, "Made in the USA."

Western Europe and Japan long ago recovered from the damage of World War II. In addition, countries throughout the developing world--South Korea, Brazil, Taiwan, Singapore, India, and Mexico, to name a few--have entered the world trade market in such diverse areas as automaking, steel, electronics, and textiles.

Adopting free trade policies, America has opened its markets to foreign imports almost without restriction. As a result, in recent years, we have imported more goods than we have exported. We are paying out more money than we are getting back. Worse, American workers have lost jobs to foreign competitors. As American

factories have closed, we have watched our industrial base erode away.

Foreign trade is particularly important to West Virginia. Indeed, though our state is virtually landlocked, West Virginia is one of the leading states in overseas trade.

In order to reverse America's foreign trade deficit, an Omnibus Trade bill is being readied for final action by both the Senate and House of Representatives.

The result of a year of hard, bipartisan work, this trade bill would put into place policies to open world markets more fairly to American goods, promote our country's long-term competitive strengths through education and research, retrain workers and retool factories in threatened industries and communities, and prevent foreign investors from dominating industries vital to our national security.

I plan to call this legislation up for Senate action as soon as it is ready, and I hope the Executive Branch will join in supporting this move to restore balance in America's foreign trade.

April 13, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Trade Bill for Working Americans

The recent report of February's \$13.8 billion U.S. trade deficit--the highest since last October--sent the Dow Jones stock average crashing by more than one hundred points, the value of the U.S. dollar tumbling, and interest rates rising to a three-month high.

February's deficit also underlines anew the critical need to enact the comprehensive Omnibus Trade bill that has been crafted over the last two years by Congress.

World trade and financial centers are waiting to see if America is serious about taking the offensive against unfair trade practices, and against foreign countries that want unhindered access to the U.S. market but deny that access to American goods in their markets.

Unfortunately, seemingly without considering such features of this Omnibus Trade bill as its provisions to spur America's competitiveness through educational initiatives and worker retraining, the White House has repeatedly attacked this farsighted legislation as "protectionist," and threatens to veto it.

The Omnibus Trade bill is in no sense "protectionist." On the contrary,

it provides incentives for protectionist countries to abandon policies that exclude or penalize American goods, and to open their markets more freely to our products.

Another feature of the Omnibus Trade bill that has earned it wide support is a provision to give employees more reasonable notice in advance of plant closings.

Tragically, a considerable number of West Virginians and West Virginia communities have experienced firsthand the impact of industrial closings--too often, the result of unfair foreign competition. With little or no notice, hundreds of workers find themselves out of work, their home mortgages in default, their lives in turmoil, and their futures shipwrecked. Also without warning, whole communities are left with their tax bases demolished and their economies in shreds.

I hope that the White House abandons its veto strategy against this important legislation, and joins Congress in the effort to restore the trade balance, save American and West Virginia jobs, and make international trade freer and fairer for American goods.

April 20, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Vietnam Veterans Counseling Centers to Open

Thirteen years ago, the last American troops withdrew from Vietnam.

For countless Vietnam War veterans, however, inner wounds from America's long involvement in that conflict have not healed.

Overall, West Virginia has more than 67,000 Vietnam-era veterans, ranking second in the nation in the number of participants in the Vietnam War as a percentage of male population.

Because of the unique nature of that conflict, large numbers of those veterans have faced continuing problems in readjusting to civilian life.

To assist our West Virginia Vietnam veterans, earlier I obtained federal funds to establish special counseling centers in Charleston, Morgantown, and Martinsburg, with a satellite center in Huntington. These centers offer vocational and personal counseling, as well as referral services where needed.

The case load at the Charleston center -- serving over 45,000 veterans in a 150-mile radius -- has been so heavy that added centers in southern West Virginia seemed advisable.

As a result of approval of a directive that I placed in the committee

report accompanying the Veterans Administration's 1988 funding bill, the VA will locate new Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Counseling Centers in Beckley and Princeton, with an outreach center in Logan.

Vietnam-era veterans in Raleigh, Mercer, McDowell, and Logan Counties number roughly 13,000. Two full-time counselors in the centers in Beckley and Princeton will offer services to area veterans five days a week. The outreach center in Logan will be staffed by one counselor four days per week.

All of West Virginia's veterans deserve our gratitude, admiration, and assistance. I shall continue my efforts to provide that assistance to veterans throughout our state.

Currently, I am exploring with the VA avenues by which to expand services to Vietnam-era veterans in the Northern Panhandle. I hope that these efforts, coupled with the directive that I added to the committee report accompanying the VA funding bill, will extend to more West Virginia veterans from the Vietnam era the special assistance and counseling that they may need in leading fuller, more successful civilian lives.

April 27, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The 1988 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships

A strong believer in education and scholastic achievement, I have annually awarded U.S. Savings Bonds to the valedictorians of West Virginia high school graduating classes since 1969. With this year's awards, more than 5,000 Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Awards will have been presented to graduating valedictorians in our state.

The success of my Scholastic Recognition Awards program in West Virginia encouraged me, in 1985, to author legislation establishing a somewhat similar but much larger scholastic achievement program on a national scale. Congress approved my legislation.

At the suggestion of U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, these awards were officially designated **The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships.**

Awarded on the basis of scholastic merit, these scholarships are provided to graduating high school students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited institution of higher education.

Valued at \$1,500 each for the first year of college study only, The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships are allocated on the basis of the student population of each state, with no state

to receive fewer than 10 scholarships.

In West Virginia, the Byrd Scholars are selected by the state Department of Education, based on nominations from the state's high schools.

In 1987, a total of 4,749 Byrd Scholarships were awarded in the fifty states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, with West Virginia receiving 41.

For 1988, 5,017 students across the country have been named Byrd Scholars, with West Virginia receiving 48 awards.

On May 7, at ceremonies at the Charleston Civic Center, I was privileged personally to present the Byrd Honors Scholarships to outstanding West Virginia winners from all sections of our state.

Throughout my life, I have been committed to the belief that education can open doors of opportunity for young people. Likewise, I have felt a lifelong indebtedness to those unselfish teachers and others who encouraged me to reach for the highest goals of which I was capable.

I congratulate the 1988 West Virginia winners of The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships, and I hope that they, too, will be encouraged by these awards to strive for excellence in all endeavors in which they take part.

May 7, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

My Acid Rain Meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney

For some time, Canada has been clamoring for the United States to impose stringent controls on power plant emissions, in order to reduce downwind acid rain damage across the border in northeastern Canada.

Unfortunately, Canada's acid-rain solutions call for costly quick-fix remedies that would mandate outdated and inefficient scrubbers on American smokestacks, would add an estimated \$15 billion to \$30 billion annually to American electric bills, and would cause countless coal mines to close and force hundreds of miners out of work.

Likewise concerned with controlling acid rain, I authored and won passage of the Clean Coal Technology Program, for which I also obtained nearly \$1 billion in federal funding for research and development of new technologies to burn coal more cleanly and efficiently. Demonstration projects such as fluidized-bed boilers have proved dramatically more effective than conventional pollution devices, and are currently being tested for commercial application.

In his recent visit to Washington, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney met with me, and I

made my case with him for the Clean Coal Technology Program as a preferred solution to much of the acid rain problem.

I told the prime minister that legislating expensive, mandatory regulatory controls to limit sulfur emissions from power plants is not the right answer to acid rain. I further charted the progress being made by the Clean Coal Technology Program, and recommended the prime minister's support for this effort. As I pointed out, given reasonably more time, the Clean Coal Technology Program promises not only to reduce sulfur emissions drastically, but nitrogen oxide emissions as well, with greater economy to consumers.

My Clean Coal Technology Program is a significant leap forward in the battle to solve the acid rain problem and to ensure a cleaner, healthier environment. Just as important, however, while it would be eliminating a prickly issue between the U.S. and Canada, the Clean Coal Technology Program could, at the same time, also open potential new markets and demands for West Virginia's superlative coals, and more job opportunities for West Virginia miners.

May 11, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Federal Defense Construction Dollars for West Virginia

In my ongoing efforts to obtain more federal defense dollars for West Virginia, and to create more jobs in our state, I am currently working on a military construction program involving a number of projects, most of which have been authorized and funded by Congress.

In the 1989 Defense Authorization Bill, currently under Congressional consideration, for example, I have been successful in including several important West Virginia construction projects.

Among these are the following:

- \$3.3 million earmarked to build an aircraft parking ramp and holding pad for the Air National Guard unit at Charleston's Yeager Airport;
- \$3.7 million for the construction of two barracks, two dining facilities, a supply building, and a troop medical clinic at Camp Dawson in Preston County;
- \$5.1 million for an Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility and \$3.3 million for an Army Reserve Center with Maintenance Facility at Parkersburg;
- \$3.9 million for an Air National Guard Avionics Shop, an Operational

Training Facility, and alterations to the Vehicle Maintenance Shop at Martinsburg;

- \$2.6 million for an Air National Guard Jet Fuel Storage Complex and a Squadron Operations Addition at Charleston;
- \$600,000 for an Air Force Reserve Civil Engineering Training Facility and \$150,000 for Army Reserve land acquisition at Morgantown;
- \$325,000 for an Army National Guard Property and Fiscal Office addition at Buckhannon; and
- \$175,000 for Army Reserve land acquisition at Beckley.

In addition, I have been able to include in the Defense Authorization Bill \$3 million for necessary renovations at West Virginia's Allegany Ballistics Laboratory in Mineral County, one of the few federally owned defense plants in the country.

I am encouraged that these West Virginia defense projects have won authorization. I shall be working to push these projects to completion, in order that their economic impact on our state's economy will be translated into new jobs and greater opportunities for West Virginians.

May 18, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taming Floodwaters in West Virginia

People familiar with West Virginia know that flooding is a chronic problem in many sections of our state.

Consequently, one of my ongoing priorities has been to obtain flood control programs for some of our most notorious flood-endangered areas.

One such project has been the R.D. Bailey Dam on the Guyandotte River above Logan, for which I obtained approximately \$208 million in federal funds. According to the Army Corps of Engineers, R.D. Bailey Dam, operable since 1979, has saved more than \$58 million in flood damage.

Another major flood control project, for which I helped obtain \$212 million for construction and development, is the Stonewall Jackson Dam, near Weston. Recently dedicated, the Stonewall Jackson Dam harnesses the West Fork River, which flooded Weston and other downriver communities 15 times from 1966 to 1983. The Stonewall Jackson Dam proved its effectiveness in 1985, when then-80 percent complete, it saved Weston and other West Fork Valley communities \$25.6 million in flood damages, by Army Corps estimates.

A flood control program of a different nature is ongoing in the Tug Fork Valley, from McDowell

County to Williamson and downstream. Subject historically to devastating floods, the Tug Fork is being progressively contained by a series of flood walls and other control measures, for which I have thus far obtained approximately \$58.7 million in federal funds.

Also underway are flood control projects in the Upper Mud River Watershed in Lincoln, Boone, and Cabell counties, for which I have obtained \$6.3 million in federal funds, and the Soak Creek Watershed in Raleigh County, for which I have obtained roughly \$5.5 million in federal funds.

Another area in which I am working is the combined Cheat-Greenbrier-Potomac Watersheds Region. Following the record 1985 floods in that section of our state, I obtained approximately \$330 million in federal funds for reconstruction and recovery in those areas.

At my request, the Army Corps of Engineers is currently conducting studies to develop plans for the best means of providing flood protection to the people in those watersheds.

Flooding is a serious threat to many West Virginia communities. I shall continue my efforts to obtain flood control programs to protect West Virginians from raging rivers and deadly floods.

May 25, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

My Vision for West Virginia's Economic Future

As I was preparing for the Software Valley VII Conference in Huntington, I reflected on the reasons for the growing Software Valley movement in West Virginia, and on my hopes for our state's economic future.

A century ago, West Virginia was in the infancy of its great industrial boom. The mature industries growing out of that boom produced the West Virginia with which we are most familiar -- coal, steel, timber, chemicals, gas, oil, and other heavy labor-intensive industries.

But we live today in an era of changing economies, changing trade patterns, changing technologies, and changing competition.

Throughout my career, I have worked to promote West Virginia's traditional industries. Those industries still command my interest and my concern.

But, likewise, I am interested in laying new economic foundations for West Virginia's future -- in setting the stage for West Virginia to compete in the world not as it was, and not as we might like it to be or to return to being, but to compete in the world as it is.

That is one of the main reasons that I joined in launching the Software

Valley movement.

Survival in today's economy is largely a matter of keeping several technological steps ahead of one's rivals. Industrial success today is a matter of being technologically intensive.

Through the Software Valley movement, I hope that we can help refocus West Virginia's economic vision on high technology, that we can create industries in our state based on the use of flexible computer manufacturing, and that we can pioneer in creating business and economic possibilities in our state never before dreamed of here.

Above all, we must lay new economic foundations on which men and women can build their lives and support their families.

Certainly, we can draw on some federal programs to help improve the quality of life in our communities. But in this era of soaring national debt and rising cries for federal economy, basing West Virginia's future on federal largesse is an unwise strategy.

In the final analysis, West Virginia's future rests on self-initiative and private enterprise -- such as we are promoting through our Software Valley movement.

June 1, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's 125th Birthday

On June 20th, West Virginia celebrates its 125th anniversary as the thirty-fifth state.

At the time West Virginia was admitted to the Union, America was torn by a cruel and bloody civil conflict.

West Virginia itself was gripped by a particularly vicious type of guerilla warfare, which saw brothers and sons, neighbors and long-time friends facing one another across battle lines and in mountain skirmishes.

After the war, however, West Virginians who had been Union and Confederate supporters alike came together to weld their state into an industrial and economic giant. Beginning with the bare skeleton of an infrastructure, West Virginians joined in building railroads, carving roads through a rough terrain, bridging rivers, opening mines and factories, and nurturing a school system.

West Virginians today are not faced with civil turmoil and military conflict.

Our state is, nevertheless, confronting challenges of historic proportions -- challenges that I believe West Virginians are capable of meeting and through which West Virginia can achieve continued growth and development.

In the contemporary world of international trade and technological competition, much of West

Virginia's traditional economy has been severely impacted.

Already, however, West Virginians from diverse backgrounds and varied interests -- political leaders, business and industrial leaders, labor leaders, educators, and researchers -- are coming together to reflect upon and to begin shaping West Virginia's future.

I have been particularly heartened to witness this response in the Software Valley movement -- an effort that is now reaching into virtually every corner of the state.

Through the Software Valley movement, state leaders are looking seriously at technology's future in West Virginia -- how computer manufacturing might revolutionize our manufacturing sector, how the schools and universities might increase educational and training opportunities to prepare students to work in high-tech industries, and how labor and management can ally to understand and use new technologies to create profits and jobs.

As West Virginia celebrates its 125th birthday, we have an opportunity to lay the foundations of a renewed prosperity for our state. Let us continue working together to make West Virginia's next century-and-a-quarter even more successful than its first 125 years.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Religious Freedom and Soviet "Glasnost"

America's heritage of religious liberty is a key to our nation's strength.

Indeed, as our Founding Fathers recognized two centuries ago in the Bill of Rights, freedom of religion and freedom of worship are the birthright of all men and women.

Ironically, even the constitution of the Soviet Union promises freedom of religion to the citizens of that country.

In fact, however, throughout roughly seven decades of communist domination, religious believers in the Soviet Union--Christian, Jewish, Moslem, and otherwise--have been subject to chronic and regular persecution and repression by state authorities.

More recently, though, following his principle of "glasnost," or openness, Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev has authorized the printing and distribution of 100,000 Bibles.

Earlier this month, during my trip to Moscow at President Reagan's invitation to witness the formal exchange of documents marking the ratification of the historic Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, I commended Gorbachev on his action with regard to the Bibles.

However, I further urged Gorbachev to show that "glasnost" knows no

religious boundaries by allowing more Bibles to be distributed, and by translating the Bible into the many native languages of the diverse ethnic groups in the Soviet Union.

Behind my interest lies more than just a concern that the census of Bibles in the Soviet Union increase. I firmly believe that out of freedom of religion grow other liberties and other qualities without which humane and civilized society is weakened and crippled.

Indeed, our pioneer forbearers and the Founding Fathers lay a foundation on this continent of a nation rooted in strong religious faith. Our basic ideals of law and justice, of individual and human rights, of social and community responsibility, and of our international role in the world are based on religious principles.

Freedom of religion and freedom of worship are pillars of the American way of life. If such ideals took firm footing in the Soviet Union, our two nations would have new common ground on which to pursue world peace.

As the Apostle Paul wrote, "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." If true freedom of worship is ever allowed in the Soviet Union, liberty will prevail in the Soviet Union, as well.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Highway Corridor "H," Tug Fork Flood Control, and Other West Virginia Projects

The United States Senate recently passed the 1988 Energy and Water Bill.

In this bill, I was successful in including several items earmarking federal funds for important West Virginia projects.

Among those items was a provision adding \$2 million in planning and design money for Appalachian Regional Highway Corridor "H," a four-lane route linking West Virginia's eastern panhandle with Interstate-79.

I am also working on another legislative front to obtain \$16 million to construct a section of Corridor "H" north of Buckhannon. Corridor "H" -- roughly 135 miles in length -- would pass through Hardy, Grant, Pendleton, Randolph, Upshur, and Lewis counties. Corridor "H" is vital to West Virginia's future development.

Another item for which I won approval in the Energy and Water Bill was \$46 million to advance the ongoing Tug Fork flood control project in southeastern West Virginia, including \$22.6 million for a floodwall and pump station in Williamson and a floodwall in

West Williamson, \$3.9 million for land acquisition and floodwall preparation at Matewan, and \$2 million for non-structural work in lower Mingo County.

The bill also includes a number of other projects important for West Virginia that I supported, such as \$60 million for continued construction of the Gallipolis Locks and Dam on the Ohio River near Point Pleasant; \$14.2 million for Lock and Dam 7 at Gray's Landing north of Morgantown on the Monongahela River; \$2.8 million for Lock 8 on the Monongahela; \$6.5 million for the Winfield Lock and Dam on the Kanawha River in Putnam County; \$13.3 million for recreational facilities at the Stonewall Jackson Lake and Dam in Lewis County; and approximately \$1.84 million for flood control studies in the Potomac River, Monongahela River (including the Cheat), Island Creek, and Cabin Creek basins.

This important Energy and Water Appropriations Bill is moving quickly through Congress, and I hope that it will be enacted into law without delay.

June 22, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Federal Hotlines: Information You Can Use

West Virginians have frequently requested information on a variety of federal programs, services, and opportunities. Such information is often as near as the telephone.

I have compiled the following list of toll-free federal hotlines that may help West Virginians find answers to some of their questions. I hope that these numbers will prove useful.

- Retired Army Pay Problems1-800-428-2290
- Cancer Information, Department of
Health and Human Services.....1-800-638-6694
- National Runaway Switchboard1-800-621-4000
(for parents and runaways to leave messages)
- Parents Anonymous (child abuse).....1-800-421-0353
- Consumer Product Safety Commission 1-800-638-2772
(product recall, complaints, fact sheets)
- Environmental Protection Agency.....1-800-424-9346
(hazardous waste information)
- Army Recruitment and Employment
Information1-800-872-2769
- Marine Corps Recruitment and Employment
Information1-800-423-2600
- Navy Recruitment and Employment
Information1-800-327-6289
- Pesticide Emergency Information
Clearinghouse1-800-858-7378
- Federal Emergency Management Agency...1-800-638-6620
(flood insurance information)
- National Health Information
Clearinghouse1-800-336-4797
- Small Business Administration.....1-800-368-5855
(answer desk)
- Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ...1-800-424-5401
(mortgage rate information)
- Social Security Administration.....1-800-848-0106
(Medicare questions)
- Veterans Benefits Counseling1-800-642-3520
- Transportation Department1-800-424-9393
(auto safety information and complaints)
- Washington, D.C., Central Reservation
Center1-800-554-2220
(information on lodging in the Nation's Capital)

June 29, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Shutting Down The Child Pornography Industry

Sadly, the sexual exploitation of children in America is a booming business. Child pornography movies abound, and telephone solicitations such as "dial-a-porn" are all too common.

There are federal laws in effect to protect our children from this kind of abuse, but, unfortunately, loopholes and new technologies exist that crimp prosecutors' efforts to eliminate these unsavory activities.

I am co-sponsoring legislation in the Senate that would close existing loopholes and toughen federal laws prohibiting child pornography and adult obscenity activity.

Incredibly, current law does not prohibit a parent from selling his child's services for use in pornographic materials. This measure would make it illegal for a parent or guardian of a minor to sell that child's services for use in the production of pornography, and it would establish stiff criminal penalties for violation.

Equally important, this proposed law would prohibit the transmission of obscenity over cable or subscription television. As to "dial-a-porn" messages, this legislation would make it a felony to transmit explicit sexual or sexually obscene messages over phone lines.

Unfortunately, computer technology has advanced the proliferation of

pornography and obscenity. This measure would establish criminal penalties for a person who uses a computer to advertise, distribute, or receive child pornography.

Additionally, the legislation would make it a felony to sell any child pornography or material that has been declared obscene on federal property, which includes federal lands and military bases. There are some large areas of federal property in seven states which lack any obscenity laws: Alaska, Maine, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

Federal prosecutors across the country are working to stem the flow of pornographic and obscene materials, but they need the weapons to win this battle. This legislation would give our prosecutors needed tools, such as the authorization to obtain court orders for wiretaps pertaining to obscenity offenses.

The Department of Justice estimates that the pornography industry is a \$4 billion-a-year business. This highly organized enterprise all too often preys on our young for profit.

There is nothing more important than protecting our children. I am hopeful that this legislation can be passed by Congress this year and signed into law in the effort to shut down this despicable industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reauthorizing the Endangered Species Act

West Virginians rightly take pride in the matchless natural beauty of our state, and in the innumerable species of animals and other wildlife found in West Virginia.

Unfortunately, not all states or regions of our country are as abundantly blessed as is our state. In many places, destruction of forests and other natural habitats has spelled the extinction of many varieties of plants, animals, and birds.

Wisely reacting to that threat, in 1973 Congress passed the Endangered Species Act. As a result, though reportedly 80 more species of plants and animals have vanished in America since that passage, untold numbers of other species have been saved from thoughtless destruction.

Currently pending for Senate action is a reauthorization of the 1973 Endangered Species Act, a measure that I support, and which I am seeking to move toward Senate passage without undue controversy.

However, this reauthorization bill has been targeted by certain interests as a potential legislative vehicle for a number of controversial amendments. In some cases, such amend-

ments might have nothing to do with endangered species, but Senate rules provide no defense against their being attached to this bill.

I am particularly concerned, for example, that proponents of unwise and precipitous acid rain legislation not attach an unwarranted and expensive acid rain provision to the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act. Such an action would kill the bill.

The only way in which to assuredly prevent such crippling amendments from being attached to this act, to forestall a filibuster against it, or to keep it from being mired down in controversial debate, is to reach a "consent agreement" on the bill before calling it up for Senate action.

That is the course that I am following now -- seeking an agreement to bring the reauthorization bill to the floor for consideration with only certain specified amendments to be offered.

I hope that my negotiations on this issue reach a conclusion soon, and that the Endangered Species Act will enjoy an expedited and deserved reauthorization.

July 13, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cabinet Status for the Veterans Administration

With my firm support, the United States Senate recently passed legislation important to West Virginia's approximately 224,000 veterans, and to their nearly 30 million fellow veterans and their dependents across our country.

In an overwhelming vote, the Senate passed S. 533, a bill to give the Veterans Administration Cabinet-level status.

The Veterans Administration (VA) was created in 1930, when Congress consolidated three veterans agencies--the Veterans Bureau, the Bureau of Pensions of the Interior Department, and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. The new agency served 4.7 million veterans with a staff of just over 30,000 full-time employees.

Developments since World War II--a growing number of veterans, benefits under the GI bill, the VA health system, and an expanding National Cemetery System--have made the VA the largest independent agency in the Federal Government, with more than 200,000 full-time employees serving an enormous constituency of veterans and their families.

Currently, the VA administers the largest health-care delivery system in the world--a network of 172 medical centers, 229 outpatient clinics, 117 nursing-

care units, and 16 domiciliaries, for a total of almost 90,000 beds. Last year, for example, the VA outpatient clinics handled a total of 20 million visits.

In addition, the VA also runs 111 cemeteries, and administers thousands upon thousands of pension, compensation, and home loan guarantee and life insurance programs. Almost 89 million persons are potentially eligible for VA benefits and services.

In light of our national commitment to care for our deserving veterans, the role that those veterans played in maintaining our nation's strength and security in peace and war, and the heightened interest on the part of veterans in national issues, I believe that it is appropriate to elevate the Veterans Administration to Cabinet status, thus giving veterans a greater representation in our government councils.

The Senate bill now goes to a conference with members of the House of Representatives, which has passed a similar bill, to iron out any differences between the two measures.

I shall continue to work to see that the resulting legislation emerging from that conference passes into law, and that the military veterans of our country receive an added forum in which to make their opinions known.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Results of the 1988 Student Survey

In recent years, I have conducted an annual Student Survey among West Virginia high school students, to learn which issues and concerns are uppermost on the minds of our young people.

The results of the 1988 survey are in and tabulated, with interesting responses.

In answer to my inquiry concerning the "most important issue facing Congress this year," 20 percent of the respondents pinpointed the federal deficit.

Improving America's educational system was the second most frequently mentioned concern with 19 percent.

The third-place concern was providing for America's homeless (16 percent), while limiting the buildup of nuclear weapons came in fourth place with 14 percent.

In fifth place came maintaining a strong national defense (12 percent); followed by combatting illegal drug use (10 percent); improving the balance of trade with foreign countries, in seventh position (5 percent); and stepping up the war on crime, in eighth place (3 percent).

On each of these issues, Congress is currently working or is involved in looking for solutions. I commend the student respondents on their grasp

of these questions.

Another question included in the survey asked the students to rank in priority the targets toward which limited federal dollars should be aimed.

To this question, the students ranked education first (40 percent), health research second (19 percent), followed by national defense (17 percent), public works projects (10 percent), fighting drug abuse (6 percent), and job training (5 percent). Energy research (2 percent) and transportation (1 percent) came in seventh and eighth.

The students demonstrated their West Virginia pride and awareness by listing our state's beauty as the primary asset of living in West Virginia (67 percent). Other assets of living in West Virginia were its wildlife (28 percent), low crime rate (17 percent), and friendly people (12 percent). Among a variety of added items in this category were small town life (10 percent), family in the state (6 percent), and low cost of living/low population (4 percent).

This year's surveyed students gave the perceptive, thoughtful replies that I have come to expect from West Virginia students, and I thank all of those who participated in the 1988 Student Survey for sharing their ideas and opinions with me.

July 27, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Drought Relief for West Virginia Farmers

With record temperatures and disastrous shortfalls of rain across the country, the United States has been hit this summer with the worst drought in 50 years.

While for most people these conditions have meant discomfort, for many farmers this drought threatens bankruptcy and a loss of livelihood.

Against that background, the United States Senate recently passed S. 2631, a bill to give federal assistance to the agriculture sector as a result of the current drought.

Although rains have come to some parts of parched regions in recent weeks, the damage to crops and livestock for large numbers of farmers and growers is already so great as to spell massive financial losses.

In West Virginia, for example, many farmers have sustained, to date, crop losses up to 40 percent, and some report losses as high as 80 percent.

This legislation will benefit West Virginia farms in several ways. The disaster payment program will provide payments to farmers who have suffered more than a 35-percent loss in production due to the drought, not only for crops covered under current Federal support programs, but

for all "nonprogram" crops as well. These payments will be equal to 65 percent of the established crop price for the production deficiency in excess of 35 percent. This is particularly important to West Virginia farmers whose crops are not currently covered.

In addition, many West Virginia livestock producers have been unable to purchase the feed that they need at a reasonable cost. Under this bill, the livestock feed assistance provisions extend assistance not only to livestock producers who produce their own feed, but also to those who must purchase feed for their herds.

Moreover, West Virginia dairy farmers will benefit from a provision in the Senate-passed version of this bill that would rescind the 50-percent dairy price support cut that was scheduled to occur January 1, 1989. This provision would help dairy farmers who are facing increased feed costs due to the drought.

I hope that this legislation becomes law quickly, in order that West Virginia's farmers will receive the assistance that they need now, before they suffer irreversible damages.

August 3, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Softening the Blow of Plant Closings

One of the greatest blows that a working man or woman can suffer is the loss of a job because of layoffs or plant closings.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that, between January 1981 and 1986, 10.8 million American workers 20 years old or older suffered that blow.

Worse, the General Accounting Office of the U.S. Government notes that many of those millions of workers lost their jobs in mass layoffs or closings without warning, or with advance notice of two weeks or less.

Often, that has meant the sudden loss of health insurance, delay of unemployment benefits, no job search or counseling assistance, and no severance pay.

Indeed, in communities in which one plant dominates the economy, the ripple effect of a closing can devastate the lives of thousands whose livelihoods depend on their plant-employee neighbors' continued working.

Recognition of the rending effect that such closings and layoffs can have, led to a growing call nationally for required advance notice of closings

and mass layoffs. Study after study has revealed that advance notice lessens the trauma and dislocation suffered by workers and communities following closings and layoffs.

Studies also show that advance notice, by giving employees and communities time to adjust and make new plans, cuts the average period of unemployment and lessens the public costs of such unemployment.

As a result of these appeals and studies, Congress passed the Plant Closing Notification Bill. Under this legislation, plants employing 100 workers or more will be required to give their workers sixty days of advance notice before closing their doors. In specific instances, layoffs would also require a sixty-day advance notice.

This is long overdue legislation. Moreover, the President has announced that he will allow this bill to become law.

This is a good bill -- good for business and good for the American family. This fair-minded and decent law will go far toward easing the anguish and dislocation so often caused by plant closures and layoffs.

August 10, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting America Back into the World Trade Race

Last January, I promised that Congress would pass a trade bill.

Recently, Congress passed such a bill--legislation that will help America get its economic house in order, that will make American industry competitive once more, and that will return America's economic future to the hands of her own people.

This trade bill is a forward-looking, comprehensive piece of legislation. It reflects a strong, bipartisan consensus that America must put an end to policies of foreign borrowing and debt, and get back on the plus side of our trading accounts.

The product of three years' work, the trade bill is aimed at opening world markets more fairly to American goods, hitting foreign trade abuses, and helping those American industries and workers most directly suffering from foreign imports and foreign trade practices.

Among other features, this legislation proposes ways to boost exports, helps business and industry to retool to meet

foreign competition more quickly, puts a premium on educating and training a new generation of workers, and gives our trade ambassadors new tools by which to negotiate with our trading partners.

This trade bill is timely--perhaps even urgent. America needs this legislation, not only to ensure our economic strength, but to undergird our national security, as well. No nation can long maintain a great-power status without vibrant, strong domestic industries and a healthy trade balance.

In addition, we are announcing to the world that America is on the way back as an international exporting power. Largely through the trade deficit, in the past five years, the United States has gone from being the world's No. 1 creditor nation to becoming the No. 1 debtor nation. The trade bill is a first step in reversing that ignominy.

Once this bill becomes law, "Made in America" can hope to again become a formidable label of national pride and a guarantee of excellent quality.

August 17, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Labor Day 1988

Labor Day--the first Monday in September--is a holiday that Americans enjoy, but that many take for granted.

In truth, however, Labor Day is one of our oldest official national observances, and can have an important meaning for us in this new era of international trade and competition.

The first major Labor Day celebration began in New York City in September 1882, with a parade sponsored by the old Knights of Labor organization.

Today, every state and U.S. territory, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, observe Labor Day.

Certainly, Labor Day is an important holiday in West Virginia.

From our state's inception, working men and women have played a major role in building and maintaining West Virginia's economy.

Against the background of world economic rivalry and trade competition, West Virginians might benefit by looking at our attitudes toward work and our jobs.

People have a right to be proud of their jobs. All

honest labor has dignity. Through our work, we achieve greater independence, fulfill our dreams and hopes, and gain a deeper sense of self-esteem.

Goods and services produced by people with pride in their work often show increased quality and are more attractive to customers and buyers.

On this Labor Day, I hope that the working men and women of our state will take a renewed sense of pride in the roles that they are playing in West Virginia, and a greater sense of satisfaction in the contributions that they are making to our state and nation.

In addition, I hope that young West Virginians--especially junior high, high school, and college students--will cultivate positive attitudes toward their future work and careers, and will prepare themselves to compete in the world workplace using the highest standards of excellence that they know.

On Labor Day 1988, I salute the working people of West Virginia, and I thank them for the quality of life that they are making possible for all of their neighbors and families.

August 24, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Toward a West Virginia Hardwood-Products Industry

Since pioneer days, West Virginia has been noted for its abundant forests.

In 1870, for example, forests covered 14 million West Virginia acres -- seven eighths of our state's surface.

Those forests included oaks and poplars; walnut, cherry, and sycamore; ash, chestnut, chestnut oaks, and locusts, as well as white pine, hemlock, and spruces of remarkable size and quality.

From the 1870's onward, West Virginia trees were felled and shipped out of state to be converted into fine furniture, houses, wagons, barrels, ship beams, and boundless other wood products.

Unfortunately, in all that time, a major wood-products industrial base -- furniture, homebuilding elements, and other finished wooden goods -- did not take shape within our state's borders.

After World War I, with West Virginia's primeval forests largely stripped away, the volume of lumber emerging from West Virginia saw mills was greatly reduced from previous years, and again was largely shipped outside the state.

But, through scientific reforestation, West Virginia's potential as a growth area for hardwoods is as great now as ever.

For that reason, I sponsored and won pas-

sage last year of legislation establishing the newly opened Advanced Hardwood Processing and Technical Resource Center at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory at Princeton in Mercer County.

My sponsorship of the Advanced Hardwood Processing Center was a logical forward step toward developing West Virginia's hardwood-manufacturing potential. A primary purpose of this center is to help our state to capitalize on one of its most important natural resources, thereby turning West Virginia into a major wood-products manufacturer.

The Advanced Hardwood Processing and Technical Resource Center has been envisioned and launched as a joint government-industry effort, with one of its salient functions being to work with private industry to develop high-tech, state-of-the-art, computerized machinery geared to wood-products manufacturing.

The success of this center will largely depend on continuing cooperation between the government and private sectors. That cooperation will be well-rewarded, for the growth of a wood-products industrial base in our state can mean more jobs for West Virginia, and the creation of a broad new base to help rejuvenate our state's economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Some Sobering Thoughts at the Start of a New School Year

The National Geographic Society recently reported that Americans aged 18 to 24 ranked last in a nine-nation comparative study testing world geographic knowledge.

The survey further discovered that 75 percent of Americans questioned could not locate the Persian Gulf on a map.

Worse, one in seven of the Americans surveyed was unable to find the United States on a world map.

In another survey, the federal government found that American ninth graders ranked 15th out of 17 nations in science knowledge. The same survey indicated that American twelfth graders placed third from the bottom in chemistry and dead last in biology.

In the mid-1960's, 75 percent of the world's new technology was generated from the United States.

Today, only 50 percent of the world's new technology is U.S. generated.

As to the future prospect of overcoming some of the problems listed above, roughly 10 percent of the engineering and science faculty positions at American colleges and universities are currently vacant, while 40 percent of the doctorates awarded an-

nually by American universities are going to foreign students.

These statistics and facts speak alarmingly for themselves. Derek Bok, President of Harvard University, has said, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance." Throughout most of this century, the United States has been a world power with far-flung responsibilities. For generations, this nation has been in the vanguard of science, technology, manufacturing, and research. Indeed, our national security and our standard of living rest largely on foundations requiring top-notch education and training, scientific pioneering, and a literate, knowledgeable electorate.

From my journeys across our state, I know that West Virginians are concerned about the quality of the education their children are receiving.

As our schools and colleges fill once again with returning pupils and students this autumn, I hope that more Americans will consider the meaning of the disturbing figures and conclusions that I have cited, and that they will lend greater support to our teachers and educators as they seek to fulfill roles and duties on which our country's very future depends.

September 7, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Software Valley Update

Recently, I hosted a meeting in behalf of West Virginia's Software Valley movement to celebrate a successful fund-raising effort that has netted Software Valley pledges of approximately \$1.5 million over the next three years.

Software Valley is a non-profit initiative that promotes research, education, and the development of a computer software industry and related high-technology businesses in West Virginia.

Since 1985, I have sponsored seven Software Valley conferences throughout West Virginia to explain to state leaders in business, government, industry, and education the potential economic opportunities posed for West Virginia by computer technology, and to enlist growing numbers of our state's citizens in developing those opportunities.

As a result of those efforts, eight Software Valley chapters have been organized across West Virginia, with members in 47 of our 55 counties.

Participants in the meeting were largely representatives of corporations -- headquartered both within and outside of West

Virginia -- that have pledged contributions to Software Valley in recognition of its importance to our state and national economic and industrial futures.

The funds pledged by those corporations will be used by the Software Valley Corporation to initiate business development, to further research and development resources for state companies, to promote high-tech manufacturing in our state, and to provide education and training in computer and software use.

I am deeply encouraged by the progress that Software Valley is making, as well as by the response that thousands of interested West Virginians have shown in this movement.

Through the Software Valley movement, I hope that we can help refocus West Virginia's economic vision on high technology, that industries can be created in our state based on the use of flexible computer integrated manufacturing, and that we can pioneer business and economic options of which we never before dreamed for West Virginia.

September 14, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Minimum Wage Needs a Boost

In January 1981, the minimum hourly wage was increased to \$3.35.

Even then, that represented less than half of the average hourly wage paid working Americans of \$7.25.

In January 1981, a full-time employee earning the minimum wage was paid an annual \$6,968.

1981's \$3.35 minimum wage is still in place, while the average American hourly wage has risen to \$9.43.

Worse, while the full-time employee making the minimum wage is still earning an annual \$6,968, the 1988 poverty line now stands at \$9,427 for a family of three.

Put simply, if an employee works full-time at a job at the minimum wage, he or she will still be poor and then some. That employee will make \$2,459 less than the current poverty level for a family of three.

Currently, Congress is considering a proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$4.55 in graduated steps by 1991. At present, 15 million Americans on an hourly wage earn less than that figure, three-quarters of them adults, many trying to support families as the sole wage earner.

The \$3.35 minimum

wage is working particular hardships in West Virginia.

Since 1981, the number of good-paying manufacturing jobs in our state has dropped from 111,000 to 85,000 in May of 1988. Coal-mining jobs have declined over that period from almost 60,000 to 28,700.

As a result of those declines, many West Virginians have had to take other jobs to earn a living, but are having to struggle to provide for their families. In the most recent figures available on new job openings filed with the State, of over 41,000 jobs, more than 26,000 of those jobs--63 percent--paid hourly wages of only \$3.35 to \$3.84.

The time has come to look again at the minimum wage. While some claim a rise in the minimum wage would mean recession, the historical record shows that this is not a valid claim.

All honest work possesses dignity, regardless of the wage.

But most Americans and West Virginians believe in fairness and a decent wage for a hard day's work.

An increase in the minimum hourly wage would be consistent with that philosophy.

September 21, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening West Virginia's Export Trade Potential

West Virginia is the third-ranking exporting state in the nation.

Over 13 percent of West Virginia workers in manufacturing enterprises are involved in export-related employment.

One of West Virginia's closest trading partners is Canada, America's northern neighbor, with whom we share the longest undefended border in the world.

In 1986, for example, West Virginia exported goods worth over \$256 million to Canada, while importing approximately \$174 million worth of goods from Canada -- a trade surplus of \$82 million.

Among the major components of West Virginia's trade exports to Canada are coal, chemicals, plastics and other chemical products, aluminum, and motor vehicle and aircraft parts.

Moreover, West Virginia's ties with Canada go well beyond trade. The Canadian investment of \$2.3 billion in our state has generated 15,000 jobs. And in 1986, 93,000 Canadian visitors to West Virginia poured over \$5 million into our state's economy.

With such vital ties between West Virginia and Canada, I took an active part in the recent Senate passage of legislation to

implement the historic U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that was signed earlier this year.

Before lending my support to the legislation, however, I ascertained that this agreement would not be detrimental to West Virginia industry or jobs. I was also encouraged in my support by endorsements of this legislation by major voices in the coal industry and other important West Virginia exporting industries.

Before the FTA goes into effect, the upper house of the Canadian Parliament must approve it.

I believe that this agreement will benefit the United States and West Virginia.

If finally approved, the FTA will, over a ten-year period, eliminate tariffs on merchandise trade, ease import and export restrictions, and establish new mechanisms to deal with trade questions between our two countries.

Above all, however, this new agreement -- especially coupled with the comprehensive trade bill that I helped to shepherd through the Senate earlier this year -- promises to provide opportunities for West Virginia industries to grow and export more West Virginia products, and to create more jobs for West Virginians.

September 28, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Appalachian Highway Corridors

Recently, I won final Congressional approval of \$16 million in federal funds to finance construction of another segment of Appalachian Highway Corridor H.

This segment--the Buckhannon Bypass--will be built in Upshur County, and will be part of a four-lane highway linking Interstate-79 in central West Virginia with Interstate-81 near Strasburg, Virginia. Already, 18.1 miles of Corridor H have been completed, and another 26 miles are moving toward construction.

Corridor H will cover approximately 135 miles in West Virginia, passing through Lewis, Upshur, Randolph, Pendleton, Grant, and Hardy counties on its way eastward.

The Appalachian Highway System is an important part of West Virginia's total highway system. Currently, approximately 266.1 miles of the originally planned Appalachian corridors have been completed or are under construction.

Among these completed or currently under-construction highways are: Corridor D--U.S. 50 from Parkersburg to Clarksburg; Corridor E--U.S. 48 from Morgantown east through Preston County to the Maryland line; Corridor G--U.S. 119 from Charleston to the Kentucky line; Corridor L--U.S. 19

from Braxton County to Beckley; and Corridor Q--U.S. 460 through Mercer County.

The expanding Appalachian Corridor highways are a result of legislation that Jennings Randolph and I and other Senators co-sponsored in Congress establishing the Appalachian Regional Commission, among whose primary purposes I intended the building of the corridor highways in West Virginia.

Authorization of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) expired in 1982, and since 1981, the Administration has sought to eliminate the ARC.

Knowing the vital importance of completing the Appalachian Corridor highways to West Virginia's future growth and economic prosperity, however, I have worked through the appropriations process to extend the life of the ARC, in order that the essential Appalachian Corridor highways might be completed in West Virginia.

The Appalachian Corridor highways are a keystone in our state's and our children's future. I shall continue working to ensure that the total mileage in the Appalachian Highway Corridor System in West Virginia is completed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Support of the Death Penalty for Drug "Kinpins"

By an act of Congress, October 24-30, 1988, is officially "Drug Free America Week."

Though some cynics poke fun at such gestures, the designation of such a national week is a symbol of the determination of serious Americans and their elected representatives to come to grips with a rampant national scourge.

Currently, America is in the clutches of a drug crisis so severe that it threatens our national moral fiber, if not our national security itself.

Daily, countless thousands of men and women, and boys and girls, are being further enslaved by drug pushers to heroin, cocaine, and other dangerous and illegal drugs, mostly imported into our country from overseas.

Annually, in the major cities of our country, scores of people are killed in so-called "drug-turf" wars, in vengeance murders at the hands of drug dealers, or in the crossfires of such violence.

Right now, in the District of Columbia -- the seat of our nation's government -- one witnesses homicides running at a rate of approximately one per day, most of them related in some fashion to the drug problem.

Even in West Vir-

ginia -- the state with consistently the nation's lowest crime rate -- certain communities and areas that have little experience with crime are seeing an alarming upswing in illegal drug trafficking.

Without a strong deterrent, can the accompanying violence that marks drug trafficking in metropolitan areas be far behind, even in West Virginia? In order to send potential drug-trading killers an unmistakable warning, at my urging the recent Senate drug abuse bill included a provision mandating the death penalty for murders committed or ordered by drug lords or "kingpins," and for the drug-related murders of law enforcement officers.

By its very nature, drug trafficking is corroding the foundations of our country and must be stopped.

But violent killings related to the illegal drug trade have reached epidemic proportions.

America is locked in a battle for its life and moral well-being against the drug scourge.

The death penalty for murderous drug lords sends them a message: if you take a life in your nefarious profession, you risk your own life.

October 12, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An American's Most Precious Right and Duty

From May 25th to September 17th, 1787, some of the most brilliant men in the United States met in closed session in Philadelphia to create a constitution for our country.

An apocryphal story has it that, as Benjamin Franklin emerged from that meeting, a woman was said to ask him what kind of government they had given the country.

Franklin is reported to have answered, "A republic, madam, if you can keep it!"

That is still the keystone on which our country stands or falls: whether we the people choose to keep this a republic or not.

Unfortunately, we are today facing a crisis in our country on that count.

In 1960, for example, voter turnout in the Presidential election was approximately 63.1 percent of eligible voters.

By 1984, after continuing election-by-election declines, that percentage was down to 53.3 percent.

Currently, America has one of lowest voting rates of any industrial nation in the world.

Apparently, a growing

number of Americans are not taking their duties as citizens seriously.

If that trend continues, the time may come when less than half of our eligible voters will choose the man or woman who will occupy the most important and powerful office in the world.

The crown jewel of our Constitution and our way of life is our right to vote. It is not just a right; it is also a duty. Our vote is the primary means by which we make known our views on important issues, and whom we want to lead us.

The deadline for registering to vote in the upcoming election in West Virginia has passed.

I hope that all registered West Virginian voters will plan now to go to the polls on November 8 to cast their ballots.

Our right to vote was bought with the blood of thousands who gave their lives that we might enjoy and use that right.

November 8 is an important day on our national, state, and local calendars.

May we see a good turnout in West Virginia on that date.

October 19, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tracking Down a Silent Killer in Our Homes

In the early 1980's, a health hazard long active in homes and other buildings came to light.

Scientists reported discovering a gas--radon--that results from the natural deterioration of soil and rocks containing granite, shale, uranium, and phosphate.

Odorless and colorless, radon seeps out of soil and into the air, allowing it entrance into structures through basements or through cracks in foundations.

In 1986, Congress passed legislation directing that the danger of radon to human health be researched, and that a report be forthcoming from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

As a result of its studies, EPA reported last year that as many as 20,000 lung cancer deaths a year can be attributed to radon, making it second only to smoking as a major cause of that disease.

EPA also said that one out of every five homes tested in a ten-state survey suffered health-threatening radon levels.

Responding to the EPA findings, the 100th Congress passed the State Radon Program Development Act of 1988.

This legislation directs EPA to provide technical assistance to the states to develop programs to

eliminate or reduce radon hazards in homes and other buildings.

The bill further directs EPA to conduct a study of the extent of the radon hazard in the Nation's schools.

Initially, most of West Virginia was thought to be relatively radon safe.

Subsequent research, however, indicates that as many as 60 percent of the homes in certain areas of the state may have unacceptable levels of radon gas.

Dr. Bob Anderson, a professor of environmental studies at West Virginia University, cautions that homeowners and other concerned people should not panic over the radon threat. The problem, where it exists, is relatively easy to correct, and needs to be treated on a case-by-case basis.

The West Virginia University Extension Service is pursuing a program of holding seminars on the radon problem in various locations in the state.

Anyone wishing more information on the radon problem in our state, or seeking specific information on the seminars, can write directly to: Dr. Bob Anderson; 508 Brooks Hall; West Virginia University; Morgantown, West Virginia 26506; or call (304) 293-3912.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Benefits From the Work of the 100th Congress

After a lengthy and extremely productive tenure, the 100th Congress adjourned and passed into history.

Numerous pieces of legislation enacted by the 100th Congress will have a significant impact on West Virginia.

Among its actions, the 100th Congress passed, and overrode the President's veto of, the Clean Water Act, which contains \$151 million in wastewater treatment plant construction grants for West Virginia communities over a four-year period.

Again, the 100th Congress passed over the President's veto a highway bill that includes cumulatively more than a half-billion dollars in federal highway funds for West Virginia over a four-year period.

Congress also passed all 13 appropriations bills prior to the new fiscal year deadline for the first time in twelve years.

Those appropriations bills include funding that I obtained for a number of West Virginia projects, such as \$23 million for military construction in the state, \$18 million for design work and construction of another segment of Appalachian Corridor H, and approximately \$17 million to acquire land and develop tourist facilities for the New River Gorge National River.

In action important to the future of the coal in-

dustry in West Virginia, my Clean Coal Technology Program was funded through the appropriations process in the amount of \$575 million for 1990, which brings the funding that I have obtained for this program to more than \$1.5 billion.

Moreover, the 100th Congress enacted a number of landmark pieces of legislation of historic dimensions. Such major legislation includes comprehensive trade policy, catastrophic health insurance for the elderly, the first housing bill in almost a decade, and important anti-drug legislation.

Congress also passed the Tax Technical Corrections Bill, which maintains tax-exempt status for small police and firefighters' pension plans, as well as establishing a taxpayers' bill of rights, and retaining a fuels tax credit for the oil and gas industry, and exemption from federal diesel excise taxes for farmers, the mining and construction industries, and other off-road users.

The Senate also approved the Intermediate Nuclear Forces arms control treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union, and the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement.

Certainly, the 100th Congress made decisions that will positively affect West Virginia and America long into the future.

November 2, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

TRI-Ada Conference '88 Held in Charleston

In order to promote new business and industrial opportunities in West Virginia, over three years ago I helped launch and began sponsoring the Software Valley Initiative in our state.

Software Valley is a non-profit movement to promote research, education, and the development of a computer software industry and related high-technology businesses in West Virginia.

Since 1985, I have sponsored seven Software Valley conferences throughout West Virginia to explain to state leaders in business, government, industry, and education the potential economic opportunities posed for West Virginia by computer technology, and to enlist growing numbers of our state's citizens in developing those opportunities.

As a result of those efforts, I have been able to gain a groundlevel position for West Virginia in the "Ada" computer language network that is emerging nationally and internationally.

"Ada" is the computer language mandated for use in weapons systems by the U.S. Defense Department, which considers the development of the Ada language vital to our national defense and security. Ada is also becoming the primary computer language used by the Pentagon.

Because of West Vir-

ginia's growing significance as a software center, I was able to bring the week-long international TRI-Ada Conference '88 to Charleston last month.

Estimated to be among the largest conventions in Charleston's history, this seminar and technology exhibition brought together some of America's major computer software manufacturers with leading defense agencies and businesses using the Ada program.

More than 2000 computer professionals and experts from across the country attended the convention, with more than 120 companies from the aerospace, defense, and computer industries displaying their technology and wares.

Speakers at this Ada convention included representatives from the National Air and Space Administration (NASA), major universities, the Department of Defense, and such major defense-related corporations as Grumman, Rockwell, Honeywell, Unisys, Martin Marietta, and Westinghouse.

This was the second time that I have enlisted an Ada convention in meeting in West Virginia, the first occasion being in 1986.

TRI-Ada '88, like its predecessor, was a solid success, and should move West Virginia another step forward toward a more prosperous high-technology future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Thanksgiving 1988

Popular legend places America's first Thanksgiving celebration in the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1621. That Thanksgiving was called by Governor William Bradford to give thanks to God for the colony's survival of its first bitter year in New England, and for the gathering in of a great harvest.

Certainly, some of the imagery attached even to our modern Thanksgiving celebrations -- turkeys, Pilgrim costumes, blunderbuss rifles, pumpkin pies, and the harvest theme -- is drawn from that precedent-setting early New England celebration.

But the Plymouth precedent aside, the people of the United States would have, in all likelihood, developed a national Thanksgiving celebration, with or without the Pilgrims.

Central to America's growth and settlement has been a deep faith in God possessed by countless

numbers of men and women who established their roots in this country.

Of Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Eastern Orthodox, or other religious faiths, our forefathers understood themselves in relation to a merciful and loving God, and ordered their lives accordingly.

Willingly then, they bowed their heads, bent their knees, or lifted their voices in praise and gratitude to the Providence that brought them to such a free and abundant land.

Thanksgiving 1988 affords us a like occasion to follow that example.

In a world still torn by sectarian and international conflicts, a world in which millions still enjoy little freedom to follow their own consciences without penalty, and a world in which so many still yearn for blessings great and small that most Americans take for granted, we have reason without limit to be thankful.

November 16, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Increased Services For West Virginia Military Veterans

Throughout my career in Congress, I have been committed to increasing the services available to the thousands of military veterans in West Virginia.

In fulfillment of that continuing commitment, and as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have acted to provide better and increased benefits to West Virginia's veterans.

In October, for example, I joined in breaking ground for the seven-story clinical addition to the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center in Huntington, a project for which I helped secure \$50.8 million in federal funds.

Likewise, I helped to obtain \$25.9 million in federal funds to construct a clinical addition and undertake major improvements at the Clarksburg VA Medical Center. I also helped to secure \$15.7 million for a clinical addition to the VA Hospital in Beckley.

These expansions and improvements are in addition to the nearly \$75 million that I obtained in the late 1970's to construct the Martinsburg VA Medical Center, and will enable the VA medical centers in our state better to meet the health needs of West Virginia veterans.

I also obtained federal

funds to establish special counseling centers in Charleston, Morgantown, and Martinsburg, with a satellite center in Huntington. These centers offer vocational and personal counseling, as well as referral services where needed, for Vietnam-era and other veterans.

This past year, in order to ease the burden on the Charleston center, I won approval of new Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Counseling Centers in Beckley and Princeton, with an outreach center in Logan.

West Virginia Vietnam-era veterans wishing to contact these centers, or seeking to obtain information from them on the services that they provide, can use the following telephone numbers:

Charleston: 343-3825

Martinsburg: 263-6776

Morgantown: 291-4001

or 4002

Huntington: 523-8387

Beckley: 252-8220

Princeton: 425-5653

Logan: 752-6868

Our country is indebted to the men and women who have enlisted in America's armed forces. I shall continue working to see that America keeps faith with West Virginia's veterans for the sacrifices that they have made for all of us.

November 23, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Helping Older West Virginians Live More Securely

According to the Census Bureau, the older population -- persons 65 years or older -- currently comprises about 12.1 percent of the U.S. population, or more than 30 million Americans.

By contrast, in 1900 that segment of our population represented only 4.1 percent, or 3.1 million people.

Older West Virginians currently make up approximately 13.6 percent of our state's population -- one of the highest percentages in the nation.

With the growth of the older segment of our population in mind, throughout my career in Congress I have made improving the lives of West Virginia's older citizens one of my foremost priorities.

I believe that West Virginians who have worked and been productive all their lives should be able to count on government policies that promote their dignity, security, and well-being in their later years.

For example, since entering Congress, I have sponsored or cosponsored more than 50 bills or amendments to improve or strengthen the social security system.

In the 100th Congress, as Majority Leader, I joined in helping pass catastrophic health care legisla-

tion. With soaring medical care costs, more and more retired people have come to live in fear of a catastrophic illness that might leave them destitute. This legislation is a step in the right direction in providing comprehensive, affordable health insurance to thousands of older West Virginians.

Medicare is another program that I supported from its beginning, and which I have continued to support in the face of efforts to weaken it.

In the area of housing for older people, I have helped communities throughout West Virginia to secure federal funding to build elderly housing units. Among these efforts have been West Arbors in Weston; the Charles Town Towers; the Elk Horn project in Welch; Heritage House in Clarksburg; the E.A. Hawse Village in Hardy County; the Kings Daughters' conversion and Martinsburg Senior Towers in Berkeley County; the Parkersburg High Rise and the Sears Roebuck building conversion in Wood County; and Rivermont Presbyterian in Montgomery.

In the future, I shall continue working to ensure that older West Virginians have available to them resources and opportunities that can make their lives fuller and more secure.

November 30, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Reasons for West Virginia Pride

This year, West Virginia University's football team has chalked up an 11-0 winning record in regular season play -- the most successful in the school's history.

As a result, the West Virginia University Mountaineers will face the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl football game in Tempe, Arizona, on January 2 -- a game that may decide this year's national college football championship.

Regardless of the outcome of the Fiesta Bowl, this year's WVU football team has bolstered the spirits of West Virginians in every corner of our state, as well as the spirits of West Virginians living throughout our country and abroad.

I join all West Virginians and Mountaineer football fans everywhere in congratulating Coach Don Nehlen, his staff, and the members of the Mountaineer football team for the outstanding season just past, and in wishing them every success in the upcoming Fiesta Bowl clash with Notre Dame.

But, at the end of 1988, the success of WVU's football team is

but one reason for West Virginians to take renewed pride in our state.

In addition to WVU's football successes, Marshall University has also enjoyed an outstanding winning football season, as well.

Another reason for genuine pride is that, as in so many past years, last year West Virginia could again boast the lowest crime rate in our nation -- a tribute to the character and moral strength of the people of our state.

Again, the ongoing popularity of country and western music has brought an increased interest in West Virginia's rich cultural heritage -- a heritage that was and is a well-spring of the country music genre.

Likewise, more and more Americans are looking to West Virginia, with its growing network of state park facilities, natural beauty, vast forests and abundant wildlife, fresh-water lakes, white-water rafting opportunities, camping and hunting options, and winter-sport sites, as a choice tourist possibility.

West Virginians have many excellent reasons to be proud of our state!

December 7, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Senate Appropriations Committee

In the upcoming 101st Congress, I shall be the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The Constitution, in Article 1, Section 9, sets forth that, "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by law." The experience of the Founding Fathers was such that they believed it imperative to place the ultimate control over government funds in the hands of the elected representatives of the people, as a further check on the possible excesses of the executive branch of government.

Annually, for example, the President submits a budget to Congress, including recommended funding levels to carry out programs established by law. The President's budget also reflects the priorities of the administration.

Once received, the President's budget is subjected to extensive hearings by committees of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Testimony is heard in these hearings from interested persons representing the administration, the private sector, and administrators of the programs concerned, fed-

eral and local.

Within budget limits set by Congress, the Appropriations Committee is responsible for setting funding levels for federal programs and services.

As Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I will have a voice in helping to determine how federal dollars are being spent within the overall budget proposed by the President and Congress.

However, faced with towering federal deficits, the need to reduce the national debt, and the constraints of the Gramm-Rudman budget limitation law, pressures to cut federal spending will be enormous, and demands on the limited available federal dollars will be tremendous.

In my Senate duties, I have always sought to bring a West Virginia perspective to my work, and I shall continue that policy as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Above all, I hope to help set priorities that will benefit West Virginia -- education, health services, scientific research, a strong national defense, and infrastructure programs, such as the Appalachian Regional Commission, and water and sewer projects.

December 14, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Space-Age Software Valley Symposium

In 1985, I launched the Software Valley movement, a non-profit effort that has enlisted business people, educators, and public officials in every section of our state in the promotion of high-technology business and industry possibilities for West Virginia.

On January 12, a Software Valley symposium will be held at Shepherd College as part of a promising new endeavor that could help West Virginia companies become integral players in the developing commercial space industry.

I shall be sponsoring this symposium, assisted by Space Services, Incorporated, of America, a Houston-based launch services company headed by former astronaut Donald K. "Deke" Slayton.

One of the purposes of this symposium will be to explore the possibilities and resources available for launching a high-technology space research park in Jefferson County, similar in concept to an industrial park.

With the growing sophistication of space exploration, the opportunities for an emerging commercial space industry are expanding nationwide, and I would like to see West Virginia take its place on the ground level of such an industry.

Among participants in the Shepherd College symposium will be represen-

tatives of the aerospace industry, Department of Defense officials, college and university faculty involved in space/computer systems with commercial and government applications, defense industry representatives, interested business people, officials of NASA and other government agencies involved in space efforts, and local private developers and government officials.

Certainly, located so near to our nation's Capital and the headquarters of numerous defense/space agencies, Jefferson County and other Eastern Panhandle counties offer attractive elements needed by an emerging space-oriented industry.

I am pleased to join with forward-looking planners in the Jefferson County area in examining potential space-industry opportunities for West Virginia.

Likewise, I hope that the Software Valley symposium at Shepherd College will inspire creative minds in other sections of West Virginia to examine their communities as candidates for new high-technology enterprises.

Anyone wishing further information on this Software Valley symposium may obtain it by contacting my office in Washington, at (202) 224-3954.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal's Future

Recently, I was named "Coal Man of the Year" by *Coal* magazine, and honored for my contributions to the coal industry by the National Coal Association at a dinner in Washington.

Being singled out for these honors caused me to reflect on the continuing importance of coal and on the future directions that I believe coal needs to take.

Today, more than 50 percent of America's electric energy is generated from coal, and coal is now supplying nearly one-quarter of all of our country's energy needs.

Indeed, experts predict that the demand for coal as an energy source will continue to increase through the end of this century.

However, we can no longer take coal's future for granted.

Two factors, primarily, will decide coal's future. One is the growing worldwide concern for the environment. The other factor helping to shape coal's destiny is economics.

Environmentally, I believe that we are on the right track. In 1984, I established the Clean Coal Technology program to promote the use of coal in an environmentally acceptable manner.

As a result of my legislation and my efforts in

the Senate Appropriations Committee, Congress has already budgeted more than \$1.5 billion in the demonstration of clean coal technologies.

These clean coal technologies have proved capable of reducing sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions by 95 to 99 percent, at significantly lower costs, and with significantly greater success than conventional anti-pollution technologies such as scrubbers.

In addition to the further development of clean coal technologies, I also believe that continued coal research is the answer to the other factor that will help decide coal's future -- the economic factor.

Currently, coal is price-competitive with other energy sources. But coal's future attraction may be based on its cost-effective conversion into other forms for use in transportation and industry.

Coal is versatile. Through continued research, coal may become a cost-attractive key to multiple products of which some scientists only dream today.

For coal's future -- and above all, for West Virginia's future -- I shall continue working for improved coal technologies and more coal research.





Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate

On January 3rd, after serving twelve years as both Majority and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, I was elected President pro tempore of the Senate.

In assuming that title, I shall be the 86th Senator since 1789 to occupy that office, and the first West Virginian so selected.

The President pro tempore is the only Senate officer specified in the Constitution.

The term "pro tempore" comes from the Latin, and means "for the time being; temporarily."

According to the Constitution, the Vice President is the designated presiding officer of the Senate. In his absence, however, the Senate is directed to choose from among its members a substitute presiding officer--the President pro tempore.

In theory, any Senator might be chosen as President pro tempore. In recent decades, however, the selection normally has fallen upon the Senator of the majority party in the Senate who has the most seniority in years of Senate service.

In addition to presiding over the Senate or designating another Senator to preside, the

President pro tempore or the Vice President (or another Senator acting as President pro tempore) must sign all legislation passed by the Senate before it can become law.

Another feature of this position is that the President pro tempore is third in line of Presidential succession, behind only the Vice President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

With this election, I will have held all of the Senate leadership positions available, including Secretary of the Democratic Conference; Democratic Whip; Majority Leader; Minority Leader; Chairman of the Democratic Steering Committee; Chairman of the Democratic Policy Committee; and, finally, President pro tempore. This is more Senate leadership positions than have been held by any Senator of any party from any other state since the First Congress convened in 1789.

My colleagues having elected me President pro tempore, I shall continue to serve in the Senate leadership, and I will continue to try to bring West Virginia values--hard work, patriotism, and dedication to duty--to the leadership.

January 4, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Should the Electoral College Be Abolished?

On January 4, Vice President Bush was formally declared the winner of last year's Presidential election.

President-elect Bush's victory was not directly, however, the millions of votes that he won in November's popular vote.

Instead, the deciding election was the electoral college vote officially tallied in December.

According to the electoral college vote, Vice President Bush received 426 votes, Governor Dukakis received 111 votes, and Senator Lloyd Bentsen received one vote.

Interestingly, that one vote for Bentsen was cast by a West Virginia elector, who voted as she did, reportedly, as a protest against the electoral college system, under which, technically, voters choose state electors who, in turn, elect the President.

This West Virginia elector makes an interesting point.

Though electoral college candidates normally pledge themselves to vote for the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates offered by their respective parties, they are not constitutionally or legally required to do so.

In fact, nowhere in the

U.S. Constitution is provision made for the direct, popular election of the President or Vice President.

Moreover, in the Presidential election of 1876, Samuel Tilden won the popular vote, but Rutherford B. Hayes was chosen President by the electoral college.

Again, in 1888, Grover Cleveland was re-elected by popular vote, but lost the Presidency to Benjamin Harrison on the electoral vote.

Those most opposed to the electoral college system point out that this arrangement was put in place because some of the framers of the Constitution distrusted their fellow citizens to choose the Chief Executive wisely.

Indeed, until the 17th Amendment was ratified in 1913, the Constitution made no provision for the direct election of U.S. Senators.

Perhaps the lone West Virginia elector who voiced her opinion on the electoral college with her vote for Lloyd Bentsen has a point. Perhaps the time has come to rethink the practice of allowing the electoral college to decide the final outcome of Presidential elections.

January 11, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Essential Air Service Program Is Vital to West Virginia

A keystone important to building a more prosperous future for West Virginia is good transportation.

One element in ensuring good, modern transportation is access to safe, reliable, and reasonable air transportation.

For that reason, over a decade ago, I joined in winning passage of the nation's Essential Air Service (EAS) program, at a time when airline deregulation ended air service to many small and moderate-sized communities.

Under the EAS program, the federal Department of Transportation (DOT) subsidizes basic air service to airports that cannot guarantee ridership adequate to attract air carriers without such subsidies, and that are more than an hour's drive from a major "hub" airport, such as those at Washington, Pittsburgh, or Charlotte, North Carolina.

In 1987, Senator Rockefeller and I co-sponsored legislation to extend the EAS program for another ten years.

Currently, five West Virginia air centers--Morgantown, Clarksburg/Fairmont, Elkins, Beckley, and Bluefield/Princeton--receive airline service subsidized under the Essential Air Service program.

Recently, however, the DOT proposed eliminating essential air service

to a number of communities nationwide--including most of those in West Virginia--beginning March 1, in an effort to compensate for a \$6.6 million shortfall for the EAS program.

Because of the importance of the EAS program to West Virginia's economic development, I urged the DOT to delay action on its proposal until Congress could address this issue. I am pleased that the DOT has agreed to my request to delay any action that would curtail essential airline service.

Subsequently, I have met with President-elect Bush's Secretary of Transportation-designee, Samuel Skinner, to urge him to delay any action that would terminate this service.

I am encouraged that Mr. Skinner has assured me that, if he is confirmed in his nomination, he will work with Congress on this matter, and will place the dilemma confronting EAS at the top of his agenda.

These developments are good news for our state.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I intend to work to consider every available opportunity, including additional appropriations, to ensure that essential air service continues to be provided to West Virginia communities.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Key Educational Steps for Our Future

According to many historians, the end of World War II marked the zenith of American power in this century.

In the following decades, with superior industrial might and scientific resources, the United States was the world's undisputed economic power. Some writers proudly labeled this century "the American Century."

But compare our situation now with our situation only a few years ago.

Today, the United States is the world's greatest debtor nation.

Today, we import more than we export.

Today, some of America's most prestigious companies are foreign owned.

In the last fifteen years, the total annual share of U.S. patents held by Americans has slid from 73 percent to 54 percent, while Japan's annual share of U.S. patents has risen from 4 percent to 19 percent.

We seem to be losing that inherent American genius and talent for inventiveness and scientific pioneering that so often gave our goods and products an edge over their competition.

We need to take certain far-reaching steps to avoid being reduced to a second-rate economic power.

One such step would be to strengthen our national educational system.

For example, most Japanese youngsters, often with fewer actual years in class, have up to four more years of exposure to math and science when they graduate from secondary school, than do their American counterparts.

Again, students in China, the Soviet Union, West Germany, and East Germany, spend up to one-half to two-thirds more time learning science in their classrooms than do their American peers.

And, while Japanese students are in school 240 days a year, American students are required to attend on an average only about 180 days, and overall absenteeism cuts that average to about 160 days.

Adding urgency to the need to examine and improve our educational system is the prediction that more than half of the new jobs created between now and the year 2000 will require some education beyond high school, and almost one-third of those new jobs will be filled by college graduates.

Our schools are the cutting-edge of our future. The key to regaining some of our lost economic momentum in West Virginia and America will be to enhance the pursuit of excellence in our schools now.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Saving the Appalachian Regional Commission

Since 1965, the federally funded Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has helped to build modern highways in West Virginia, fund scores of community development projects in our state, and improve basic services.

Again and again in the past eight years, the past Administration sought, fortunately without success, to eliminate the ARC.

Concerned at the outset of a new Administration to extend the life of a program so beneficial to West Virginia, Senator Rockefeller and I met recently with President Bush at the White House to ask his support for reauthorizing ARC and increasing its funding, especially funds for the ARC corridor highway construction.

Senator Rockefeller and I explained to the President the importance of the ARC corridors to West Virginia and the other Appalachian states, adding that, at current levels of funding, the remaining 948 miles of projected ARC highways in the 13-state region still awaiting construction--including 145 miles in West Virginia--would not be completed until the year 2065!

We thus proposed to the President a speedup of construction on the remaining ARC corridor

highways, pointing out how important these highways are to West Virginia's future growth and prosperity.

Although President Bush was not in a position to make an immediate commitment on ARC reauthorization and funding, he showed great interest in the ARC program and the corridor highways, and indicated that he would seriously consider our ARC appeal.

That is good news for West Virginia.

Reauthorization of ARC and completion of the ARC corridor highways are at the top of my priority list.

In the past, in addition to improving life for thousands of West Virginians, ARC programs have generated hundreds of jobs in our state. Completion of the corridor highways would open up East Coast markets and ports to more West Virginia products, help diversify our economy, enhance tourism, help our state's wood products industry, create more job opportunities for West Virginians, and bolster national security.

The Appalachian Regional Commission has unfinished business in West Virginia, as well as a vital role to play in building West Virginia's future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Campaign Financing Reform: Renewing the Struggle

Our democratic system of government is based on public trust.

Nothing alienates that trust faster and more completely than the taint -- or the suggestion of taint -- connected with big money.

Unfortunately, the spiraling costs of Congressional campaigns, and the influx of money into the political process to pay for those campaigns, are creating among millions of Americans the impression of such tainting.

Where once individual election campaigns for the Senate cost hundreds or a few thousands of dollars, such campaigns currently cost millions.

As a result, candidates must spend inordinate time soliciting campaign contributions from wealthy individuals all over the country and, more particularly, from the myriad political action committees (PAC's) that have sprung up to funnel money into campaigns.

Paradoxically, even candidates who deplore current campaign financing tactics must participate in the money scramble, or face insufficient funds to mount the costly media campaigns demanded by today's political situations.

The result of this money chase has been to create a growing cynicism among voters -- the perception that money buys influence, privilege, and power -- as well as a sense of disillusionment that

where once achievement, integrity, and hard work were the prime prerequisites for winning a seat in Congress, now the size of one's bank account and campaign war chests is too often the deciding factor in becoming a U.S. Senator or Congressman.

In the last Congress, I attempted eight times to end debate and get the Senate to vote up or down on a bill that I had cosponsored to bring about campaign finance reform for Senate elections.

And eight times the Senate failed to act on the issue of Senate campaign finance reform.

Again, at the beginning of the 101st Congress, I have joined two other Senate colleagues in cosponsoring a bill to place a cap on contributions from PAC's to all Senate candidates and a limitation on campaign expenditures, and to provide for other Senate campaign spending reforms.

The ultimate result of the unchecked current system of Congressional campaign financing will be to erode America's and West Virginia's democratic traditions.

As one who cherishes our system of representative democracy, I shall again work in this Congress to win passage of legislation to halt the threat of the political corruption inherent in today's runaway campaign finance system.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Federal Death Penalty Act of 1989

Many years ago, I witnessed an execution--an event so grim as to leave an indelible impression upon my memory.

Immediately following that experience, I would have voted against capital punishment, given the opportunity.

However, over the years, in the light of headlines and accounts of spiraling crime and nationally traumatic incidents and the horrendous atrocities of which some people are capable, I changed my mind on the death penalty. I have long supported it.

In 1972, the Supreme Court ruled Federal death penalty procedures unconstitutional in the case of Furman vs. Georgia.

But in 1976, the Supreme Court refined its earlier ruling, stating in a series of decisions that the death penalty was constitutional under certain conditions.

Complying with those strictures, the 100th Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, for which I voted, providing constitutional procedures for implementing the death penalty in cases involving certain drug-related murders and the killing of law enforcement officers.

In addition, most states, following Supreme Court guidelines, have restored the death penalty for specific categories of

crime.

Recently, I joined several Senate colleagues in cosponsoring the Federal Death Penalty Act of 1989.

Also following Supreme Court guidelines, this bill mandates a two-step court process and multiple safeguards that must be fulfilled in Federal cases before the death penalty could be pronounced.

Equally important, this bill distinctly outlines those crimes for which the death penalty would be authorized. In addition to those previously mentioned, other crimes include: certain acts of murder; assassination of, and certain attempts to assassinate, the President and other high officials; hostage-taking situations resulting in hostage death; certain acts of treason and espionage; and the crime of genocide.

Our judicial system strives to ensure that justice, reason, mercy, and compassion are available to those convicted of criminal acts.

The Federal Death Penalty Act of 1989, however, would ensure that individuals who contemplate committing certain heinous crimes coldly, deliberately, and calculatedly, may have second thoughts if their own executions might be the outcome of their actions.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reaching a Difficult Decision

In our system of checks and balances, Section 2, Clause 2 of Article II of the U.S. Constitution delegates to the President the power of appointing his "public Ministers...and all other officers of the United States..." with the "Advice and Consent of the Senate."

All Cabinet nominees are subject to confirmation by the Senate, and must undergo hearings before an appropriate Senate committee, and if reported by the committee, be forwarded to the full Senate for a vote.

Generally, this process is not arduous, and many believe that, even where questions about a particular nominee exist, doubts about nominees to the Cabinet or Supreme Court should be resolved in favor of the President's preferred choice. But I believe the Senate's primary responsibility must be to resolve any doubts in favor of the American people and their interests.

On January 20, the President submitted nominations for his Cabinet positions, including that of former Senator John Tower to be Secretary of Defense.

The position of Secretary of Defense is particularly unique, sensitive, and important. The Secretary is in the military chain of command, and his decisions--made often on the basis of unforeseen de-

velopments, partial information, and excruciating time pressures in the middle of the night or at any hour of the day--affect the lives of our fighting men and women and the credibility of this country, and could affect the fate of this nation and others.

Consequently, the Secretary of Defense must be a person of unfailingly sound judgment, and precise, careful, unimpaired, cogent reasoning powers at all times.

For these reasons, and because of his recent close associations with defense contractors, after a careful examination of FBI reports on his fitness, I concluded that Senator Tower falls short of those important benchmarks of fitness for the office of Secretary of Defense, and I have opposed his confirmation.

This has not been an easy decision for me to make. Senator Tower is capable and knowledgeable in a number of areas, and has an extensive background in defense matters.

However, I cannot support a nomination that sends a message to the American people and to our friends and allies that repeated serious errors in judgment, lapses of self-discipline and propriety, and appearances of lucrative intimacy with defense contractors, can be overlooked, in the hope that such failings will not be repeated.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In Celebration of the U.S. Senate's 200th Anniversary

March 4, 1989, marked the 200th anniversary of the Senate of the United States of America.

In timely commemoration of that event, the first volume of an effort on which I have worked since 1980--a book entitled *The Senate: 1789-1989*--was unveiled recently at a reception marking its publication.

This seven-pound, 800-page chronological history of the U.S. Senate is a compilation and editing of a series of speeches that I delivered in the Senate over the past eight years.

The purpose of my Senate history is to provide a better knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Senate, its uniqueness, its role under the Constitution, and the degree to which it has fulfilled that role.

Professor William E. Leuchtenburg, University of North Carolina, a nationally recognized historian, has described this work as a "magisterial enterprise--the most ambitious study of the United States Senate in all our history."

Certainly, this book's origins were less grandly intended.

In 1980, when my younger granddaughter's elementary school class was seated in the Senate visitors' gallery, I decided to make some impromptu remarks concerning the Senate's history. The following week, my older granddaughter was in the gallery with her class, and I made another impromptu speech on Senate history.

The response to those informal narratives was so favorable that I conceived the idea of making a series of history speeches before the Senate, in preparation for the Senate's bicentennial.

Over the subsequent eight years, I made approximately 100 Senate history speeches, of which 42 form the basis for this book's 39 chapters.

The publication of these edited speeches resulted from a resolution graciously offered by my Republican colleague Senator Ted Stevens from Alaska, and passed by the Senate.

A second volume in this Senate history project is heading for publication later this year, and will focus on the organization and various offices of the Senate.

Copies of the first volume of my Senate history may be purchased by check, money order, VISA, or Mastercard, from the Superintendent of Documents at a cost of \$55, which includes postage, and covers printing costs. I receive no royalties or other remuneration from the sale of this book. Please include Senate Document Number 100-20 and Stock Number 052-071-00823-3 when ordering. Credit card orders may be phoned to (202) 783-3238. Mail orders should be sent, and checks made payable, to: Superintendent of Documents, The Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Software Valley VIII At Wheeling's Oglebay Park

Later this month--March 22 and 23--I will be hosting the eighth Software Valley conference in West Virginia.

This conference will be held at Oglebay Park's Wilson Lodge in Wheeling.

Software Valley is a non-profit initiative that promotes research, education, and the development of a computer software industry and related high-technology businesses in West Virginia.

Since 1985, I have sponsored seven Software Valley conferences throughout West Virginia to explain to state leaders in business, government, industry, and academia the potential economic opportunities posed for West Virginia by computer technology, and to enlist growing numbers of our state's citizens in developing those opportunities.

Currently, eight Software Valley chapters are functioning across West Virginia, with members in 47 of our 55 counties.

Featured at this conference will be procurement officers from several major high-technology manufacturers--McDonnell-Douglas, Boeing, Rockwell, General Dynamics, Grumman, and Martin-Marietta, among them--to discuss with potential West Virginia vendors subcontracting opportunities for America's projected space-station effort and other projects of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The space station is already on engineering drawing boards, and is planned to be built in the next decade.

Spokesmen for these corporations point out that NASA needs everything from nuts and bolts to shipping containers, to fabricated and extremely sophisticated high-technology products. West Virginia companies may discover new marketing opportunities at Software Valley VIII about which they have been previously uninformed.

Also scheduled for this conference is an all-day seminar on March 22 for state manufacturers, dealing with computer-integrated manufacturing and how such technology can be merged into the manufacturing processes of existing and new businesses.

Representatives of West Virginia companies attending this conference are urged to prepare marketing presentations that include descriptions of their products, samples of product lines if possible, the size of their companies, number of employees, outlines of their capabilities, statistics about their plants, and histories of successful past contracts.

Additional information concerning this conference can be obtained from the Software Valley Corporation in Morgantown, telephone number (304) 296-0110.

March 8, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Working to Replace The Green Bank Radio Telescope

Last November, the 300-foot radio telescope at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, Pocahontas County, collapsed.

One of the largest radio telescopes in the world, the Green Bank instrument had long been used by the scientific community to monitor naturally emitted radio signals from outer space, able to detect radio beams from distances as great as 10 billion light years away.

The radio telescope was an important resource at the Observatory, a major national center dedicated to the study of space by the radio telescope, radio antennae, receivers, and other electronic instruments that detect and measure radio waves from outer space.

Recognizing the importance of the collapsed radio telescope to our country and to West Virginia, Senator Rockefeller and I have held discussions with representatives of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to urge a timely replacement of this vital scientific tool.

The loss of the Green Bank radio telescope will have a severe, adverse impact on radio astronomy. Currently, our ongoing astronomical explorations and probes of outer space are suffering from the loss of a significant research

resource.

The radio telescope should be replaced. Green Bank is a unique research site--and an ideal place for a radio telescope, located in a national radio quiet zone, away from the interference of nearby radio transmitters.

Paradoxically, the collapse of the former radio telescope has given us an opportunity to explore the latest new technology in order that we can invest in state-of-the-art equipment to meet our scientific observation needs well into the future.

In addition, replacement of the Green Bank radio telescope will preserve jobs in that area, as well as the advantages that that facility has meant for our state in scientific prestige, educational potential, and tourism.

Replacing an asset of the magnitude of the Green Bank radio telescope requires planning, design, and construction--all time-consuming processes. Even with a sense of urgency, putting in place an operational replacement at Green Bank will require several years.

For those reasons, even with the tight budget constraints under which we are working, I shall continue aggressively pursuing the goal of a replacement for the Green Bank radio telescope.

March 15, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Longtime West Virginia Industry Shows New Vigor

In earlier decades, the timber and wood products industries were among West Virginia's economic mainstays.

Following World War I, however, with West Virginia's forests largely reduced, our state's timber and wood-related industries became secondary performers to other manufacturing and extractive enterprises.

Subsequent to my entering the U.S. Senate, I saw the potential for renewing West Virginia's forestry products industry. Consequently, I obtained federal funds to establish the Forestry Sciences Laboratories in Mercer County and at Morgantown, and in 1987, I obtained an appropriation of \$600,000 to launch the Advanced Hardwood Resource Center at the Mercer County laboratory, to research and develop hardwoods for greater commercial use.

Last year, I also obtained an appropriation of \$3.3 million to establish the Timber Bridge Resource Center at the Morgantown laboratory, to open an important new market for West Virginia's renewable hardwood potential.

Currently, an estimated 240,000 bridges serving rural and secondary roads across the United States need to be repaired or replaced. Research into timber bridge design, wood treatment, and fabrication techniques has demonstrated that timber bridges

can enjoy lifespans of more than 70 years.

As a result of my initiative, the U.S. Forest Service has developed a \$1.8 million program -- \$1 million in federal funds and the rest in state money -- to replace or rehabilitate 33 bridges in West Virginia using modern timber design, processing, and construction.

The 33 bridges are located in 24 West Virginia counties: Mason, Wayne, Logan, Mingo, Wood, Jackson, Wirt, Ritchie, Marion, Grant, Jefferson, Hancock, Wetzel, Brooke, Gilmer, Lewis, Webster, Upshur, Pendleton, Randolph, Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, and Wyoming.

At least three spans are to be placed in each of the ten West Virginia Department of Highways districts.

I am pleased to see my Timber Bridge Initiative start so well. As well as developing new markets for West Virginia's fine hardwoods and upgrading our rural highways, this new industry promises to create jobs through increased timber demand and production, bridge fabrication, and construction.

State officials recently announced that, for the second year running, West Virginia's 1988 timber industry accounted for more than \$1 billion in sales.

Certainly, West Virginia's timber and wood products industry is on a promising trajectory!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The First Line of Defense Against Flood Disasters

More than a decade ago, the Tug Fork River rampaged through southwestern West Virginia, causing millions of dollars in property damage.

Again, in late 1985, floods swept through northern, northeastern, and southeastern West Virginia, taking lives and smashing property in record proportions.

Those nightmare floods are evidence of the chronic danger that rapid storm development, flash flooding, and other severe weather conditions can bring without warning to countless West Virginia communities.

I have long been concerned about West Virginia's flood potential. I was among those who spearheaded building the R.D. Bailey dam on the Guyandotte River and the Stonewall Jackson dam on the West Fork River. One of my ongoing efforts is that of advancing flood control along the Tug Fork. Following the 1985 floods, in addition to helping to obtain funds for reconstruction and flood clean-up, I was able to incorporate into that effort projects to enhance flood protection in many areas.

I also believe that fast, accurate weather forecasting is one of the best defenses West Virginians can have in order to prepare for floods and severe weather.

For that reason, I

have strengthened and expanded the system of weather stations in West Virginia and obtained a flood-warning system covering 46 counties. The National Weather Service (NWS) currently maintains five stations in West Virginia, in Beckley, Charleston, Elkins, Huntington, and Parkersburg.

Earlier this year, however, the final Reagan Administration budget for Fiscal Year 1990 proposed closing more than 100 weather stations across the country, including four of the five West Virginia stations.

Realizing the dangerous effect that such closings could mean for our state, I urged the Commerce Department to direct the NWS to maintain its current level of personnel and programs in West Virginia. In addition, I won commitments from Senate colleagues to support maintaining the West Virginia weather stations.

In response to my efforts, the Commerce Department decided to keep open all five weather stations in West Virginia.

That is good news for West Virginia.

In the future, I shall continue working to ensure that West Virginia is served by modern, dependable weather observation and flood-warning systems that save lives and protect property.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Are We Heading Toward Another Energy Shock?

Twice in the 1970's, America discovered the economic and security costs that dependence on foreign energy sources carries.

Currently, few people are concerned about the gasoline panics and energy worries of a decade ago. For most Americans, lines at the filling station and drastically lowered thermostats are bad memories.

But in 1988 alone, U.S. energy consumption jumped by 6 quadrillion British thermal units (Btu's) -- the international standard for energy measurement -- higher than in any year since 1973.

Currently, 43 percent of our domestic oil consumption comes from imported sources, with over half of that from the Persian Gulf.

The evidence is clear: the United States must forge a national energy policy, and West Virginia coal, teamed with the Clean Coal Technology Program, should be the centerpiece of that energy policy.

We cannot afford, as we did in 1973 and 1979, to allow world events to catch us unprepared. Our economic well-being and our national security far into the next century depend upon our country's laying the groundwork now to meet America's future energy needs.

Logic decrees that such a national energy policy should revolve around the development of environmentally compatible ways to exploit our

most abundant energy resource: coal.

America's coal reserves -- 82 percent of our total national fossil-fuel energy resources -- are estimated to be the equivalent of 2 trillion barrels of oil, or more than triple the world's known petroleum reserves.

Fortunately, technology is coming on line to allow the environmentally safe consumption of our coal resources.

In recent years, I have secured more than \$1.5 billion in federal funds to develop and demonstrate clean coal technologies. One of those technologies -- the pressurized fluidized-bed combustion system, currently being installed in one American Electric Power Company (AEP) plant in Ohio -- significantly reduces both sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions more effectively and cheaply than old-fashioned, costly "scrubber" systems, and produces electricity more economically than conventional steam-powered electric generating technologies. Another AEP facility -- the Sporn plant in Mason County -- has been selected as the possible site for a larger fluidized-bed operation.

Capitalizing on clean coal technology, then, offers us a sound way to ensure America's energy readiness and environmental health, and to create more jobs in West Virginia's abundant coal fields, as well.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia: An Especially Safe Place to Live and Work

Too often in West Virginia, our news is negative -- unemployment, plant closings, and layoffs -- giving many the impression that we have little about which to be positive in West Virginia, particularly in comparison with other places.

That is a mistake.

For example, Washington, D.C., has been called "the Capital of the Free World" -- annually drawing millions of visitors who come to glimpse the beauty and sample the atmosphere of this world-class city.

But at night, parts of Washington assume a character that makes it one of the world's most sinister and dangerous metropolises, so that the city is now being called "the Murder Capital of the Free World."

Already in 1989, more than 130 people have been murdered in Washington.

In spite of the rhetoric of city officials and highly publicized strikes against suspected drug dealers, the crime and drug situation in Washington is growing worse, not better.

In 1987, for example, 227 people were murdered in Washington.

In 1988, that figure had climbed to 372 murders.

As of the end of March, the current murder rate projects to be more than 500 murders in 1989!

Washington is not alone in its high crime rate. Most large American

cities -- Los Angeles, New York, Atlanta, Chicago, and San Francisco, to name but a few -- face nightly and daily clashes with drug lords, pushers, and addicts that are driving up the statistics of murders, robberies, burglaries, and muggings.

We in West Virginia, on the other hand, can take a special satisfaction that, year after year, West Virginia continues to have the lowest all-round crime rate in the United States.

In part, that is attributable to West Virginia's inherently moral and spiritual culture. Reared in religious homes and with family loyalty, most West Virginians possess an ingrained value system that includes respect for other people, a strong sense of self-respect, a strong family ethic, and a regard for the property of neighbors and strangers alike.

West Virginia can also boast many resources and advantages to attract visitors and new enterprises -- natural beauty, wilderness recreation, colorful arts and crafts, and an excellent workforce, to name some.

But one of our State's most outstanding assets is the moral, stable, and law-abiding way of life common throughout West Virginia communities -- all of which combine to make West Virginia an ideal place in which to live, work, and rear one's family.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Line-Item Veto: A Weapon For Political Extortion

The President has asked Congress to amend the Constitution to grant him the power of the "line-item veto."

In fact, the line-item veto would give a President powers never intended by the Constitution or the Founding Fathers, making him the "Chief Legislator," as well as the Chief Executive, thus crippling the checks-and-balances system that has proved itself over the past two centuries.

The line-item veto would give the Executive Branch dominance over the Legislative Branch by placing in the President's hands a weapon of coercion unprecedented in American Constitutional experience.

For example, in recent years, I have been able to continue federal support for a number of programs vital to West Virginia -- Amtrak, essential air service to a number of State airports, the Appalachian Regional Commission and corridor highways, and the Economic Development Administration, to name a few--in spite of White House efforts to eliminate them. Year after year, Congress rejected White House efforts to zero out these programs and voted funds to continue these important priorities.

If the White House were to be given the line-item veto, however, and a piece of legislation came through the Senate on which the White House wanted my vote, the President could threaten to veto one or all of these programs for West Virginia unless I voted as the White House wanted--regardless of the merits of the legislation in question.

With a line-item veto, then, the White House would have a tool with which to try to extort a vote in its favor from any Senator or Congressman.

In their wisdom, the Founding Fathers placed the power of the purse in the hands of the Legislative Branch--the directly elected representatives of the people.

The Executive Branch already has the power to veto spending and tax measures sent to it. To add to that authority the power of the line-item veto would mean giving the President and his advisors -- primarily unelected bureaucrats -- a virtual tyranny over the final legislative work of Congress never intended by the Constitution, as well as an instrument to deny to rural states like West Virginia programs vital to future development.

April 19, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Military Bases Closing Around the Country

Recently, the House of Representatives gave the go-ahead to close all or parts of 91 military bases nationwide to help control our record \$2.8 trillion national debt and triple-digit federal deficits.

Most of the military bases in the U.S. were constructed decades ago, and were located for strategic or geographic reasons.

The Defense Department has also declared its intention not to open any new bases to replace those that are closing.

Unfortunately, this strategy will make the obtaining of any new military facilities for West Virginia extremely difficult, if not impossible.

But paradoxically, in this period of budget restraints and military base closings, West Virginia's role in defense and national security is growing.

In the past, rugged, landlocked West Virginia was at a disadvantage as a site for bases in comparison with states with long coastlines and flat, empty spaces.

But in West Virginia, we have one active-duty military facility--the Naval Radio Receiving Station at Sugar Grove, Pendleton County--and an active-duty Army student training facility at Camp Dawson in Preston County, both of which I obtained for West Virginia.

Also in our state is the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory (ABL) in Mineral

County, producing rocket propulsion units and warheads for a variety of defense weapons and missiles, for which I have obtained nearly \$18 million for expansion and improvements.

In addition, through my efforts, the U.S. Coast Guard last year announced plans to relocate its National Operations Center to Martinsburg, bringing with it 51 full-time employees and an annual infusion of nearly \$2 million into the economy of the Eastern Panhandle.

Further, West Virginia has approximately 70 National Guard and Reserve facilities throughout our state, encompassing more than 10,000 mostly part-time military and civilian personnel. As a result of my efforts, nine new Army and Air Force Reserve units will be activated in West Virginia in coming months, bringing with them a combined annual economic impact on West Virginia's economy of roughly \$13 million.

That will be in addition to an ongoing \$110 million military construction program for West Virginia on which I have been working, involving 54 projects, most of which have already been authorized and funded by Congress.

West Virginia's economy will be bolstered by these increased military opportunities in our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The 1989 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships

Based on legislation I authored in the U.S. Senate in 1985, this year Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships will be awarded to 41 graduating West Virginia high school students.

These "Byrd Scholars" were selected to receive \$1,500 first-year college scholarships by the State Department of Education, based on nominations received from high schools across West Virginia.

Awarded solely for academic performance, the 1989 West Virginia Byrd Honors Scholarships are among 4,905 being awarded to high school graduates nationwide.

Under the provisions of the legislation, the number of scholarships allotted for each state is based on that state's student population.

Since the inception of the Byrd Honors Scholarships Program, a total of 130 West Virginians have been selected to receive this award.

As I originally conceived this program, these scholarships are intended to encourage excellence in education by giving motivated and able students a boost in pursuing college educations.

I have always been interested in education and scholastic achievement, believing that education can open doors of opportunity to young people that might

otherwise be closed to them. Likewise, I have felt a lifelong indebtedness to those dedicated, selfless teachers and others who encouraged me to strive to reach the highest goals of which I was capable.

In that attitude, since 1969, under the Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Awards program funded from a private trust that I established, I have presented U.S. Savings Bonds to approximately 5,200 valedictorians graduating from West Virginia public, parochial, private, and Schools for the Deaf and Blind.

The success of the Scholastic Recognition Awards prompted me to initiate the national Honors Scholarships program, which the Senate voted to name in my honor at the suggestion of my colleague Republican Senator Ted Stevens from Alaska.

The young West Virginians and Americans winning this year's Byrd Honors Scholarships are exceptional, and they deserve our support and encouragement.

Indeed, these students represent an important resource for, and investment in, West Virginia's and America's future, and I am especially gratified to have had a role in advancing their educations and encouraging them toward the fulfillment of their own promise.

May 3, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Welcome Economic Signals in West Virginia

Recently, West Virginians have received some uplifting economic news.

A recent U.S. Census Bureau annual report states that West Virginia's per capita share in federal procurement has increased from 50th among the states in 1987 to 46th in 1988.

In prime defense procurement -- not including subcontracts -- West Virginia moved from 49th to 45th among the states -- a welcome advance for a state until recently not oriented toward defense prime-contracting.

Although these rankings are still not good enough, they reflect an encouraging trend, especially in view of our state's traditional base of heavy domestic manufacturing and raw minerals extraction and processing, coupled with the overall decline of federal procurement under federal budget constraints from 1987 to 1988.

Indeed, West Virginia was one of only 16 states enjoying an increase in federal procurement spending.

Again, as a result of the Software Valley movement -- a non-profit movement that I launched to promote research, education, and the development of a computer software industry and related high-technology businesses in West Virginia -- more and more out-of-state high-tech companies have heard

about West Virginia and are doing business in our state.

Recently, for instance, I had a meeting in my Capitol office with the President of McDonnell Douglas Space Systems, a subsidiary of the giant aerospace corporation. He had attended the Software Valley space symposium that I held in Shepherdstown earlier this year, and had sent a representative to the March Software Valley conference I sponsored in Wheeling. This corporate president said that those meetings had spotlighted a capability in West Virginia of which he had been previously unaware, and that he was now compiling a list of West Virginia companies interested in competing for subcontracts for the projected U.S. space station.

In addition, West Virginia is showing increased promise in timber, hardwood products, and tourism -- areas that state business leaders in a recent survey pinpointed as industries in the state offering the greatest growth potential.

I am gratified that the efforts I and others are making appear to be winning the attention of industries and enterprises that can create more job opportunities for talented and eager men and women in West Virginia.

May 10, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The New Industrial Revolution Comes To West Virginia

Eli Whitney, the inventor of the cotton gin, was also a father of modern industry.

In the late 1790's, in an era when firearms were fashioned by hand, one at a time, the United States Army awarded Whitney a contract for ten thousand muskets.

Whitney, however, built machines to produce identical parts of the musket in the hundreds and thousands, each piece interchangeable with the same piece on every other musket of that model.

That procedure became one of the most revolutionary aspects of the Industrial Revolution -- mass production.

That willingness to innovate, to adapt, to change, or to revolutionize, became a hallmark of American business and industry.

Currently, the United States and West Virginia are racing to meet the competition for domestic and international markets.

To flourish and succeed in today's heated competition, West Virginians and other Americans need the innovative spirit and attitude of Eli Whitney and others who built our state's and nation's earlier industrial might.

In short, we need a new Industrial Revolution.

Currently, the most promising avenue open to us is to modernize American industry by mov-

ing to "flexible computer integrated manufacturing" -- retooling our factories with computerized manufacturing -- versatile machines that are capable of performing several tasks, and that can be reprogrammed in minutes to produce a variety of goods.

Last year, I helped to obtain an agreement from the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency -- DARPA -- and General Electric to conduct research and develop high-tech manufacturing techniques at both West Virginia University (WVU) and Marshall University.

The purpose of these programs will be to develop prototype "factories of tomorrow" to give West Virginia businesses an opportunity to see firsthand how computer-driven manufacturing techniques can help us diversify and produce our products more competitively.

West Virginians justly have a reputation as skilled and industrious workers. The high-technology programs at WVU and Marshall University promise to put our state in the front lines of the emerging "high-tech" Industrial Revolution by giving West Virginians ready access to mastering new manufacturing skills, and by creating new industrial and job opportunities in West Virginia.

May 17, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Flood Control on West Virginia Rivers

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Stonewall Jackson Dam has already, this year, saved Weston and the Lower West Fork River Basin more than \$11 million in flood damages -- only one example of benefits that West Virginians are reaping this year from flood-control projects across the State.

This spring has been particularly rainy in many sections of West Virginia.

Heavy rainfall in West Virginia has often meant devastating, life-taking floods -- as the terrible 1985 floods remind us.

West Virginians know too well how placid streams can turn into raging, smashing killers in minutes.

For that reason, one of my ongoing Senate priorities has been to advance flood control in our state.

Besides the Stonewall Jackson Dam, among flood control projects that I initiated, and for which I obtained federal funding, are the Tug Fork Valley project in Southern West Virginia, the R.D. Bailey Dam in Wyoming County, and the Burnsville and Sutton Dams in Braxton County.

In addition to this year's figures, the Army Corps estimates that, since 1985, the Stonewall Jackson Dam has saved area communities roughly \$39.9 million in flood

damage.

Further, a recent report estimates that the R.D. Bailey Dam saved Guyandotte Valley residents approximately \$24 million during 1984 rains, while the Army Corps estimates that Burnsville Dam has, this year, prevented estimated damage valued at approximately \$3.8 million to Braxton County property.

Currently, other West Virginia flood control efforts on which I am working are moving toward completion.

In the Tug Fork Valley flood control project, the West Williamson floodwall will be dedicated this summer, and the Downtown Williamson floodwall is progressing.

In addition, the Upper Mud River Watershed project in Lincoln, Boone, and Cabell Counties, and the Soak Creek Watershed project in Raleigh County, are also advancing toward completion.

Further, at my request, flood control studies are currently being conducted at Moorefield and Petersburg on the South Branch of the Potomac River, on the Greenbrier River, and in the Cheat-Monongahela Rivers Basin.

Flood control is paying precious dividends that are repaying us with more secure lives and property for countless West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Watching Out for America's Own Interests

In an effort to encourage Japan to shoulder more of its own defense burdens, the White House has negotiated a proposed \$7 billion deal between the United States and Japan to build jointly a new, ultra-modern FSX jet fighter.

Substantial evidence suggests, however, that some factions in Japan see the FSX deal primarily as a means of furthering Japan's stated goal of establishing a world-class aerospace industry within a decade.

The agreement with Japan -- which would see the FSX fighter produced in Japan using mostly American technology -- was apparently negotiated without concern about the effect that such a transfer of technology might have on America's economic and industrial future.

In recent decades, one by one, the Japanese government has unhesitatingly targeted key industries -- computers, semiconductors, televisions, and VCR's, to name a few -- and deliberately cut prices below costs to take over crucial foreign markets. The primary impact of such competition has been an unparalleled loss of jobs in industrial states such as West Virginia.

Moreover, the Jap-

anese tend to view economic power in terms of national security and influence.

The U.S. government needs to take a page out of the Japanese success book. If we do this, we will not lose sight of the fact that economic security is a key element of America's national security.

An effort in the Senate -- which I supported -- to disapprove of the FSX deal with Japan narrowly failed.

However, I succeeded in adding an amendment to the final resolution to help protect our national security and economic interests in this project.

My amendment requires that at least 40 percent of the work involved in producing the FSX and in supplying its future spare parts be given to U.S. companies, and that Japan be prohibited from sale of the FSX or its major components to third countries.

Most important, my amendment bars transfer of sensitive engine technology to Japan.

As this legislation goes to a Senate-House conference committee and then to the White House, I hope that the concerns in my amendment will be retained.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Happy 126th Birthday, West Virginia!

On June 20, 1989, the State of West Virginia celebrates its 126th birthday.

In the early 1860's, as West Virginia's founding fathers met and debated statehood in Wheeling, America was torn by a bloody Civil War.

In those Virginia counties that were projected to form a new state, guerrilla warfare did not portend well for West Virginia's future.

In fact, in 1863 when West Virginia became the Thirty-Fifth State of the Union, much of the current state still lay inside Confederate territory.

And had those men who led the West Virginia statehood movement fallen into Confederate hands, they would have been liable for trial for treason.

The faith and character of those men and of their fellow West Virginians held firm, however, and out of that era of struggle emerged our great state, which became a participant in the most vibrant age of industrial expansion in human history.

Our own era, however, is a time of industrial and economic change.

Unfortunately, much of that change has disrupted the lives of many West Virginians and their communities.

But throughout West Virginia, citizens are uniting in efforts to promote our state and to create new opportunities for

its future.

Through individual and group efforts, the tourism industry is becoming one of West Virginia's most promising enterprises.

Through the Software Valley movement and other high-tech ventures, West Virginians are laying foundations for expanding software and high-tech possibilities in the future.

Through a combination of advancing forest husbandry and woodworking technology, West Virginia's wood products industry is expanding in several locales.

Both West Virginia University and Marshall University, as well as many of our state and private colleges, are aggressively reaching out to lend technical and academic assistance to local and regional businesses and industries oriented toward growth and vision.

And communities throughout West Virginia are at work on improvements and campaigns to attract new enterprises.

I have great faith in West Virginia and West Virginians. Once again, through the faith, character, and hard work that have always distinguished the people of our state, a new era is dawning in West Virginia.

Happy Birthday, West Virginia! You can be justly proud of yourself.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Step Forward in Opening More Markets to Our Exports

In recent years as trade between nations grew, many countries joined the chorus calling for "freer trade."

In practice, however, some of those countries have wanted freer trade for their goods to enter the United States, but have retained barriers that keep American goods out of their markets.

Realizing that duplicity, last year I sponsored a "world market-opening initiative" trade amendment to enable our government to pressure such countries into correcting inequities that block our goods from their markets, or face U.S. retaliation against their products in our markets.

Last month, the White House, using the amendment that I cosponsored, officially targeted Japan, Brazil, and India as countries that have erected or retained unfair trading barriers against U.S. exports.

Under the provisions of my amendment, our official U.S. Trade Representative now has 18 months to investigate these unfair practices and to negotiate

their removal with the targeted countries; otherwise, our government will retaliate.

I commend the Administration for taking this great first step forward in initiating action against foreign discrimination toward American exports.

For too long, workers and companies in West Virginia and other states have faced obstacles in getting their products into overseas markets, while foreign goods have entered our domestic markets with increased freedom.

In crafting this "market-opening initiative," I had, and continue to have, high hopes that this amendment will give our government a stronger weapon by which to inspire greater fairness in the international marketplace.

The ultimate goal of my amendment is to open markets abroad, not to close them here at home. To have genuinely free world trade, the market pipeline must be equally and fairly open to traffic at both ends.

June 14, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Fourth of July: More Significant Than Ever

On the back of a one-dollar bill are found the two sides of "The Great Seal of the United States" -- our country's official seal.

Under the pyramid on the left is inscribed the Latin motto, "Novus Ordo Seclorum"-- in English, "A New Order of the Ages."

That motto refers to the belief of the Founding Fathers that, with their Declaration of Independence from the English Crown in 1776, a new era in human history had opened--a new era in which no longer would arbitrary rule and despotism have the final authority in the affairs of mankind. From that day forward--July 4, 1776--free men and women had the right to take responsibility for their own destinies under a covenant of self-government and laws that they themselves had forged.

We are on the threshold of the 213th celebration of that momentous first Fourth of July--the birthdate not only of our Nation, but also of a revolutionary form of representative government and enhanced citizenship alike.

This year, perhaps more poignantly and gratefully than in many years past, West Virginians and other Americans can

understand more fully the significance of the Fourth of July.

For months we have witnessed the gradual steps that the Polish people have achieved in their struggle to pry out of their country's Communist regime some of the basic rights with which every West Virginian is endowed at birth.

For weeks we have witnessed the horrors wrought upon the Chinese people by a government that understands itself as no way limited either by constitutional restraints or by the constraints of civil decency, in response to mass calls for a fraction of the democracy that those people know that Americans enjoy.

And in the Soviet Union, we have witnessed a universal yearning for liberty that even seven decades of grinding tyranny have not extinguished.

Who would have guessed thirty years ago that the forces of freedom would still be so strong in what seemed to be the impregnable Communist world after decades of oppression?

The signers of the Declaration of Independence would not have been surprised.

They knew that the first Fourth of July was indeed the beginning of "A New Order of the Ages."

June 21, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Emergency Funds for West Virginia

Congress has passed and sent to the White House the Dire Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill of 1989, a measure to supply funding to federal programs facing shortfalls before the end of the current fiscal year, in which I won funds for a number of important West Virginia projects.

This bill, for example, contains \$75 million that I added to replace the 300-foot radio telescope that collapsed last November at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, Pocahontas County.

Under this bill, the \$75 million will be split into two installments--half appropriated immediately and half to become available October 1 of this year.

Other emergency funding included in this bill earmarks \$6.6 million that I requested to provide continued subsidies under the Essential Air Service program for basic air service to West Virginia airports that cannot guarantee ridership adequate to attract air carriers without such subsidies.

The West Virginia airports that will continue receiving these subsidies are Beckley, Bluefield/Princeton, Elkins, Clarksburg/Fairmont, and Morgantown.

Other provisions for which I obtained funding

are:

-- a directive requiring that \$8.9 million in emergency grants be distributed this year to rural, nonprofit hospitals throughout the country, for assisting in providing quality health care. Nine West Virginia hospitals --in Wetzell, Braxton, Wood, Preston, Lewis, Tyler, Logan, Pocahontas, and Webster counties -- have applied for funds under this program;

--\$1 million to build a community center at the Naval Radio Receiving Station at Sugar Grove, Pendleton County;

--a directive clearing the way for awarding an additional \$900,000 for completion of the Logan County airport; and

--\$250,000 in matching funds for an early warning signal in Kanawha County to alert residents of serious chemical leaks or spills.

Of importance to West Virginia veterans was \$1.2 billion included in this bill for emergency funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, of which nearly \$350 million is targeted for health care issues.

This legislation meets the emergency needs of many programs, and will ensure that programs and services vital to West Virginians and other Americans can continue on schedule.

June 28, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In Loving Defense of "Old Glory"

During the 1984 Republican National Convention, a self-avowed young Communist burned a U.S. flag on a Dallas street and was convicted under Texas law of "desecration of a venerated object."

A series of appeals took the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, which recently ruled 5-4 that the First Amendment of the Constitution protects protesters who burn American flags in political demonstrations.

The First Amendment to the Constitution declares that, "Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech . . ."

On that basis, the Court ruled unconstitutional the Texas law protecting the flag. However, as one dissenting Justice stated, rather than an act of speech, "Flag-burning is the equivalent of an inarticulate grunt . . . most likely to be indulged in not to express any particular idea, but to antagonize others."

I respect the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech.

But the Supreme Court's decision in this instance irrationally stretches every concept of "freedom

of speech" envisioned by the authors of the First Amendment to our Constitution, and the American people who ratified that Amendment.

Therefore, I am introducing in the Senate a Constitutional amendment that would allow Congress and the States "to prohibit and punish the desecrating, mutilating, defacing, defiling, or burning of any flag of the United States." The U.S. flag is a symbol of our Nation, of our aspirations as a people, and of the sacrifices that thousands of Americans have made on behalf of our country.

I believe that our flag deserves full protection under the Constitution. A Constitutional amendment outlawing desecration of the flag would in no way infringe upon First Amendment rights.

Burning or desecrating the American flag does not constitute free "speech." Flag-burning is a deplorable action that should not be condoned under our Constitution.

At some point, any freedom can cross the line into unbridled license, and the desecration of the American flag crosses that line reprehensibly.

July 5, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Dropping the Ball on the Environment, the Economy, and Energy

Like most Americans, I am concerned about our environment.

Currently, roughly 57 percent of America's electric energy generating capacity is coal-based, and coal is now supplying nearly one-quarter of all of our country's energy needs.

Environmentalists, however, have long pointed to coal-generated electric power plants as major sources of acid rain.

In an effort to remedy much of that problem, and to ensure the continued health and growth of West Virginia's economy and coal industry, I authored legislation in 1984 establishing the national Clean Coal Technology program to promote the use of coal in an environmentally acceptable manner.

Recently developed clean coal technologies have proved capable of reducing over 95 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions. Moreover, they will also reduce a high percentage of nitrogen oxide emissions. They are more cost-effective than conventional anti-pollution scrubber technologies.

Recently, the Administration issued proposals to curb acid rain.

Although I compliment the President for striving to reach a consensus on this important subject, I fear that his Administration dropped the ball on this issue. The proposals do not make good environmental, economic, or energy sense.

Unfortunately, the Administration's proposals, rather than encouraging the employment of clean coal technologies, invite utilities merely to switch fuels -- for example, moving from high-sulfur to low-sulfur coal -- without affording the greater emissions reductions that clean coal technology is proving achievable.

In addition, since 40 percent of our Nation's coal reserves are high-sulfur, the Administration's proposals threaten the loss of up to 10,000 mining jobs in Eastern coal-producing states -- an unfair burden to place on the economies of states like West Virginia.

Given America's rising energy demands in an energy-short world, an approach that would serve to discourage the development of technologies that would render vast high-sulfur coal reserves environmentally safer is shortsighted.

Certainly, we must curb acid rain. But we need also to protect the economies of coal-producing states like West Virginia.

With those goals in mind, I shall work for an acid rain control program that is environmentally effective, economically equitable, and energy wise, and that provides genuine incentives to encourage clean-burning technologies to capitalize on West Virginia's vast coal reserves.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A West Virginia Contribution to America's Scientific Leadership

Surveys in recent years have shown American junior- and senior-high school students performing alarmingly below their counterparts in many other countries--notably Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan--in scientific and mathematical skills and knowledge.

In an age in which widespread scientific, technological, and mathematical abilities are often decisive for national economic progress and competitiveness, such poor performances by young Americans should be a cause for concern by all citizens interested in our country's future.

Certainly, inspiring greater scientific and mathematical aptitude among our youth should be a national priority.

One ongoing program in our state has pioneered in that effort.

This July, West Virginia again played host to the National Youth Science Camp.

Initiated in 1963 as a feature of West Virginia's centennial celebration, for the 26th year, the Camp drew 100 brilliant and promising students nationwide to the Pocahontas County 4-H camp at Bartow.

The Youth Science Camp is composed of two students from each state, selected on the bases of academic achievement, leadership abilities, and interest in a science-oriented

career.

For three weeks annually, these outstanding students take part in lectures and discussions on biology, physics, astrophysics, botany, zoology, geology, and other sciences; hike, camp, and explore caves in West Virginia's forests and mountains; and enjoy personal contact with some of the leading scientists, technical experts, and research pioneers of our era.

Over the past few years, I have been privileged to host the National Youth Science campers on a special visit to Washington, during which they can meet their Senators and Congressmen, hear outstanding speakers at a Senate luncheon, and tour such significant Washington sites as the National Air and Space Museum.

West Virginia's own delegates to the Camp this year are Joel Alexander Brown of South Charleston, and Tony Donguang Shan of Fairmont.

In the immediate years ahead, America must encourage more of its young people to accept the discipline and challenge of careers in science, research, and technology.

But all West Virginians can take pride in the pioneering advances in that direction that our own National Youth Science Camp has been making for more than a quarter-century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Important Funds for West Virginia's Wood-Products Industries

Since entering the U.S. Senate, I have worked to promote the growth of West Virginia's forest-related and wood-products industries -- growth to bring increased employment, new factories, and a greater prosperity for West Virginia.

Thus, some years ago, I secured appropriations to establish the Forestry Sciences Laboratories in Morgantown and Princeton, and to provide an addition to the Forest Service Timber and Watershed Laboratory at Parsons, and I have worked consistently to ensure continued funds to improve the forests in our State.

More recently, I have developed new wood-products initiatives to help broaden and diversify West Virginia's economy.

For example, last year, I also obtained a \$3.3 million appropriation to establish the Timber Bridge Initiative, including a \$1 million appropriation to replace or rehabilitate 33 bridges in West Virginia as demonstration projects, in a program that could bring about replacement of up to 271,000 obsolete and unsound bridges nationwide with treated hardwood materials.

Recently, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I won Senate approval of funds for a number of West Virginia forestry-related programs.

For example, I obtained \$2.4 million for the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Princeton, for physical improvements, for a feasibility study aimed at establishing a flexible manufacturing facility for hardwoods processing in Mercer County, and for the Advanced Hardwood Processing and Technical Center that I obtained for the lab in 1987. Last year, I secured appropriations to study the establishment of a state-of-the-art technology hardwoods-processing training center at Princeton.

Further, among this year's appropriations, I got \$3.6 million to enlarge the Timber Bridge program that I initiated last year, including another \$1 million to build timber bridges in West Virginia in 1990.

Also, I obtained \$1.1 million for the Parsons laboratory to fund continued research in forest improvement and management, and \$13 million for the Monongahela National Forest, to fund forest maintenance, and improvements to roads and sites such as the Seneca Rocks and Spruce Knob recreation areas.

Final approval of these appropriations will be an important step in the progress of West Virginia's expanding hardwoods industry -- an enterprise holding great promise for our state's economic future.

July 26, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Federal Funds for Appalachian Corridor Highways in West Virginia

In 1965, I was an author of legislation creating the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), an agency charged with promoting progress and economic growth throughout the 13-state Appalachian Region.

One of ARC's most important contributions to West Virginia has been construction of the Appalachian corridor highways in our state.

The Appalachian corridor highway system is an important part of West Virginia's total highway system. Currently, approximately 266.1 miles of the originally planned Appalachian corridors in West Virginia have been completed or are under construction.

Among these completed or mostly completed highways are: Corridor D--U.S. 50 from Parkersburg to Clarksburg; Corridor E--U.S. 48 from Morgantown east through Preston County to the Maryland line; Corridor L--U.S. 19 from Braxton County to Beckley; and Corridor Q--U.S. 460 through Mercer County.

With 18 miles of crucial links to be completed is Corridor G--U.S. 119 from Charleston to the Kentucky line.

Another Appalachian corridor highway on which work has begun but which remains largely unfinished is Corridor H--projected to pass through Lewis, Upshur, and Randolph Counties, and then east

into Virginia by one of two yet undetermined routes.

In spite of the previous Administration's efforts over eight years to terminate the ARC program, I and other Appropriations Committee members succeeded in keeping it alive, and the completion of the ARC highway network in West Virginia is among my foremost priorities.

To that end, I have won Senate approval of a \$40 million appropriation specifically targeted for construction work on West Virginia Corridors G and H next year--more than triple the funding allocated through ARC to West Virginia corridor highways last year.

Historically, West Virginia's economic progress has been retarded by inadequate transportation through its rugged terrain.

Construction of the Interstate and Appalachian corridor highways has opened new areas of our state for development and investment, and completion of the corridor highways is a key to West Virginia's future growth and economic strength.

Funding for ARC continues to be an uphill battle, and this appropriation must be agreed to in a Senate-House conference committee, but Senate approval of these highway funds was an important step toward speeding the completion of Corridors G and H.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Federal Funds to Enhance West Virginia's Tourism Appeal

Thomas Jefferson wrote that the view overlooking Harpers Ferry was "one of the most stupendous scenes in nature."

In recent years, increased numbers of visitors to our state have made similar comments about other sites in West Virginia.

Annually, more and more visitors are coming into West Virginia for vacations, fishing, hunting, camping, skiing, and whitewater rafting and canoeing.

Currently, tourism is one of West Virginia's fastest growing industries.

To increase West Virginia's appeal to tourists, I have been working on several initiatives to improve facilities and broaden the attraction of a number of locations.

For example, I recently added a \$10.5 million appropriation for construction and land acquisition at the New River Gorge National River in Southern West Virginia.

The New River Gorge has the potential to become one of the premier tourist and whitewater-rafting attractions of the eastern United States, and this funding will move the Gorge further toward that goal.

Moreover, I have also added a \$2.5 million appropriation for construction and further restoration

of historic buildings at the popular Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

Another appropriation that I got is \$13 million for land acquisition, improvements, and maintenance for the Monongahela National Forest.

Located within easy reach of the major population centers of the East, the Monongahela National Forest is drawing growing numbers of tourists each year.

Included in the appropriations that I obtained for the forest is funding for an auditorium and exhibit area at Seneca Rocks, campground improvements at Spruce Knob, overlooks along the Highland Scenic Highway/Byway, construction of the Falls of Hills Creek Trail, the federal share of building the Cass-Snowshoe road, and right-of-way purchase along CSX rail track for the proposed Blackwater Canyon Scenic Railroad.

Further, I added \$850,000 to an appropriations bill to acquire 13 Ohio River islands to establish West Virginia's first national wildlife refuge.

These appropriations will enhance our state's emerging tourism appeal, with the added jobs and opportunities that that advantage can mean.

August 9, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Needs to Bolster Our Steel Industry Further

Recently, the President extended quotas on foreign steel imported into our country for only another two-and-one-half years.

While I am pleased that the President extended the quotas, I do not believe that two-and-one-half years is adequate.

In the early 1970's, heavily subsidized foreign steel companies began dumping steel on the U.S. market at below-cost prices, resulting in unprecedented layoffs in the U.S. steel industry and in related industries such as metallurgical coal.

In 1983, the administration announced that it would negotiate a series of bilateral voluntary restraint agreements (VRA's) with steel-exporting nations, to reduce the imported steel penetration of the U.S. market.

The 1983 VRA's, scheduled to expire this September, allowed American steel companies to modernize their technologies and improve their competitiveness.

By 1987, domestic steel production costs were down by 35 percent, productivity was up by 40 percent, and domestic steel quality had greatly improved.

For example, Weirton Steel and Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel in West Virginia, through modernization, are currently emerging as strong competitors in the world market.

But these two West

Virginia steel companies and other domestic steel producers need more time to put into place even newer technologies to help them gain a market edge over subsidized foreign steel operations.

To that end, Senator Rockefeller and I had sought a five-year extension of the VRA's, and I regret that the President gave the steel industry only half that long.

However, in my Interior Appropriations bill, there is an appropriation of \$15.9 million for a steel initiative to help American producers develop more technologies to reduce costs and increase efficiency.

We have reached a breakthrough point on a number of new steel technologies, but we need to continue to cushion our domestic steel industry from the impact of foreign imports while we bring these new technologies into production.

Steel is not just another enterprise in our country.

America's domestic steel industry is a cornerstone of our national security, industrial base, and economic infrastructure.

In World Wars I and II, our steel industry was one of our greatest assets in achieving final victory.

Strengthening our domestic steel-production capability is essential for our national economic health and our future industrial and military might.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Curbing Lobbying Abuses and Influence-Peddling in Washington

In recent months, reports have streamed out of Washington about insiders and lobbyists who have reaped financial wind-falls at taxpayers' expense.

Reportedly, exorbitant sums have been siphoned off by individuals working outside the prescribed merit-based, decision-making processes, relying instead on political connections in dealing with the government.

Certain programs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in recent months have earned particular notoriety.

For example, a recent audit by HUD's Inspector General revealed that only 204 of more than 3,000 public housing authorities nationwide, eligible to receive HUD funding for moderate housing rehabilitation, were selected during a five-year period, with 10 states winning more than half of the allocations for that program.

During that period, West Virginia and many other states were rejected for rehabilitation applications, while political cronies had no difficulty in getting HUD projects approved by bypassing regulations.

In reaction to such abuses, the Senate recently approved my legislation to curb lobbying abuse and influence-peddling by prohibiting the use of federal

funds to pay lobbyists; and requiring federal grant, loan, and contract applicants to disclose the names of all lobbyists paid with non-federal funds, what non-federal funds they were paid, and the services they performed in obtaining federal grants, loans, and other services.

The heads of Federal agencies, in turn, would be required to report such information to Congress. This measure provides penalties of \$100,000 for each violation in which lobbyists were paid federal funds, and \$100,000 for each failure to report required information when lobbyists were paid non-federal funds.

Notably, failure to comply with these reporting regulations would subject the federally funded programs in question to cancellation.

West Virginians and other Americans are fed up with the dishonest awarding of federal contracts, grants, and services.

In this era of budget constraints and deficit reduction, tax money should not be frittered away on questionable projects, selected simply because they were being promoted by well-connected lobbyists.

The awarding of federal contracts on any basis other than merit is not in the best interests of our country, and should not be tolerated.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Update on Free Federal Information Hotlines

West Virginians often have questions about Federal programs and services, and about regulations and opportunities that may affect them directly. From experience, I have found that the following list of toll-free Federal hotlines can help West Virginians find answers to some of their questions.

Retired Army Pay Problems.....1-800-428-2290
Cancer Information, Department of
Health and Human Services.....1-800-638-6694
National Runaway Switchboard.....1-800-621-4000
(for parents and runaways to leave messages)
Parents Anonymous (child abuse)....1-800-421-0353
Consumer Product Safety Commission.1-800-638-2772
(product recall, complaints, fact sheets)
Environmental Protection Agency.....1-800-424-9346
(hazardous waste information)
Scholarship Information (National), Department of
Health and Human Services.....1-800-638-0824
Air Force Recruitment Information...1-800-423-USAF
Army Recruitment Information.....1-800-872-2769
Marine Corps Recruitment Information.1-800-423-2600
Navy Recruitment Information1-800-327-6289
Pesticide Emergency Information
Clearinghouse 1-800-858-7378
Federal Emergency Management Agency.1-800-638-6620
(flood insurance information)
National Health Information
Clearinghouse 1-800-336-4797
Small Business Administration.....1-800-368-5855
(answer desk)
Social Security Administration.....1-800-848-0106
(Medicare questions)
Veterans' Benefits Counseling.....1-800-642-3520
Transportation Department.....1-800-424-9393
(auto safety information and complaints)
Washington, D.C., Central
Reservation Center.....1-800-554-2220
(information on lodging in the Nation's Capital)

August 30, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Key Space Age Listening Post

Recently, millions watched in fascination the pictures the spacecraft *Voyager 2* transmitted back to earth from the planet Neptune.

Launched in 1977, *Voyager 2* has travelled 4.43 billion miles into space, progressively sending back invaluable information about Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and now Neptune.

While people have fantasized about space travel for generations, since the late 1950's, positive space achievements have portended that mankind has a realistic future among the planets of our solar system and beyond.

In that ongoing effort, a West Virginia facility will be playing a significant role.

Last November, the National Radio Telescope at Green Bank, Pocahontas County, collapsed. As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added \$75 million to an appropriation bill three months ago to replace the destroyed instrument. Preliminary design studies costing \$500,000 are now underway.

Currently, the National Science Foundation's plans call for the replacement telescope's engineering drawings to be completed in late 1990.

The contract for construction of the new telescope is scheduled for

March 1991, with completion of construction by late 1994, and initial telescope operation to begin in 1995.

To be 330 feet in diameter--the equivalent of the length of a football field--the new Green Bank radio telescope will be the world's largest. A state-of-the-art instrument, complete with super-accurate laser-aiming capacities, this new radio telescope will ensure America's leadership in this aspect of space research for decades into the twenty-first century, and could be an important spur to continuing technological development in West Virginia.

Built originally at a cost of roughly \$850,000 in the early 1960's, the old radio telescope, reduced by the November collapse to a 600-ton jumble of twisted steel girders, had been used during 26 years by some one thousand university and research astronomers, 120 of those in 1988 alone.

Understandably, the collapse brought a cry of dismay from the Nation's scientific community, with calls for an early replacement.

Solid efforts toward that replacement are on course, with West Virginia to reap the distinction of becoming the home of one of America's most important space-explorational tools and host to some of the world's leading scientists.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's War Against Drug Abuse

Recently, President Bush, responding to the requirements of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 that Congress passed last year, presented his drug-war proposals in a nationwide telecast.

I applaud the President's commitment to galvanizing our country in the drug-abuse battle.

Drug abuse has ballooned into a threat to America's well-being, security, and national character. It is costing lives, undermining the safety and peace of countless communities across the country -- including many in West Virginia--and giving birth to thousands of drug-addicted babies born to drug-abusing mothers, a legacy the social costs of which we will be paying long into the future.

Unfortunately, the Administration's proposal suggests meager means by which to finance a serious assault on drug abuse.

Even though West Virginia continues to enjoy the lowest crime rates in the country, drug lords are active in our state and will likely increase their efforts to sell their poison in states like West Virginia.

Small rural states like West Virginia will be hard pressed to underwrite new drug-fighting campaigns without federal help.

Further, the Administration's proposal

calls for siphoning off funds from federal programs on which West Virginia and other states depend to solve other problems and to create economic opportunities, a robbing-Peter-to-pay-Paul approach at best.

Another problem with the current proposal is a lack of vision and freshness in attacking the problem of demand.

Cocaine is an old drug, and South American peasants have been harvesting coca leaves for centuries.

In recent years, however, the soaring demand for cocaine and crack in the United States has turned coca cultivation into the top cash crop in some Latin American nations.

American demand for illicit drugs is our greatest problem.

Reversing that demand will require continuing education--a coordinated national effort to erase the demand that has made drugs a multi-billion dollar annual enterprise enriching "narco-traffickers" here and abroad.

In spite of these caveats, I look forward to working with the Administration to develop realistic strategies that will enable us to banish the drug plague from America and West Virginia!

September 13, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Targeting Excellence In West Virginia Schools

Recently, the College Board released the results of the 1989 Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) -- the nation's largest college admissions examination and a widely cited barometer of high school performance.

The comparative U.S. and West Virginia results for the past two years were:

U.S.	Verbal	Math
1988:	428	476
1989:	427	476
West Virginia	Verbal	Math
1988:	451	496
1989:	448	491

Unfortunately, for the third straight year, the national verbal-test point average dropped.

And though we can take some satisfaction in West Virginia's above-average performance two years running, we should be concerned about the drop between 1988 and 1989.

Moreover, we should be concerned that, on a test with a possible combined top score of 1600 points, some of the brightest students in West Virginia averaged only about 58 or 59 percent in correct answers both years.

Education is an important key to America's and West Virginia's future economic prosperity and world commercial position.

We owe to our teachers and school administrators a special debt of appreciation. In their

hands we have placed a major responsibility for preparing our children to earn livings and to assume the leadership of our country.

But the schools cannot be expected to carry those burdens alone. Concerned parents and all others who influence young people can underline for them the paramount importance of pursuing excellence in one's school career.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I recently obtained Committee approval of \$9 million for fourth-year funding of the national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships, a program providing \$1,500 college stipends to students who have excelled in high school academics.

Since its inception in 1985, 130 West Virginians have been selected to receive the Byrd Honors Scholarship.

I believe that young people take seriously those endeavors in which their families, their neighbors, and adults whom they admire show interest.

In the first month of a new school year, I hope all those concerned about the future of our country and our state will encourage young people throughout West Virginia to set higher learning goals for themselves and to excel in the matchless educational opportunities that are theirs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Defense Dollars for West Virginia

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I recently won Committee approval of new funds for West Virginia in the Defense and Military Construction Appropriations bills.

Most notably, I obtained approval of \$30 million for a high-tech research program being conducted in conjunction with West Virginia University by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

In this program -- the Concurrent Engineering Initiative -- West Virginia University (WVU), in cooperation with several other academic institutions and major defense-related corporations, will coordinate research and technology transfer programs to harness information and knowledge -processing technologies to improve American manufacturing productivity, allowing us to update our products to meet market demands more efficiently.

Additionally, the DARPA-WVU program could help West Virginia diversify its economy, bringing new jobs and challenging opportunities for West Virginians.

The Committee also approved my requests for \$2.9 million for a Navy high-tech teaching factory for which Marshall University is competing, and \$7 million for a model factory to produce advanced defense materials for which Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing's plant in Jefferson County is competing.

Further, I won

Committee approval of \$4.5 million for renovations at Allegany Ballistics Laboratory in Mineral County, one of only 64 federally owned, contractor-operated defense plants in the country.

In the military construction bill, I obtained approval of \$5.3 million for a National Guard aviation-support facility and armory in Wheeling, \$1.5 million for an addition and renovation at the Guard's property and fiscal office in Buckhannon, \$3.8 million for a jet-fuel storage complex and training facility at Martinsburg, \$546,000 for a Guard armory addition at Huntington, and \$245,000 for a Guard security police operations addition at Charleston.

Also approved were my requests for Army Reserve construction for centers and maintenance shops in each of the following places: \$3.2 million for Beckley, \$2.2 million at Rainelle, \$1.9 million at Morgantown, \$1.4 million for Elkins, and \$1.4 million for Kingwood.

The military construction bill also includes my requests for \$900,000 to purchase land for a new Army Reserve Center in Charleston and \$300,000 for the Air National Guard to purchase added land at Yeager Airport in Charleston.

Cumulatively, these construction projects would mean \$27.2 million in new military facilities for West Virginia, bringing more jobs and federal funds into our state's economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The New *U.S.S. West Virginia* Goes to Sea

On October 14, my wife, Erma, and I will be participants in the christening and launching at Groton, Connecticut, of the U.S. Navy's new Trident submarine named in honor of the State of West Virginia.

More than two years ago, at my request, the Navy agreed to name one of its four new advanced, high-tech Trident submarines, then under construction, in honor of West Virginia.

Because this vessel will honor West Virginia's military veterans, and because my wife has been named a sponsor of this new submarine, I am particularly gratified by this launching.

The *U.S.S. West Virginia* will be an element -- the 11th -- in the fleet ballistic missile submarine contingent, the mission of which is to deter a nuclear strike against the United States.

Carrying a crew of 150, the *U.S.S. West Virginia* is nearly the length of two football fields, with a diameter of 42 feet. It will carry 24 submarine-launched ballistic missiles, the most advanced currently in Navy use.

This vessel will be the third in U.S. Navy history to bear West Virginia's

name.

The first was an armored cruiser launched in 1903.

The second *U.S.S. West Virginia* was christened in 1921 at Newport News, Virginia, and commissioned in 1923. A battleship in length 624 feet and in breadth more than 97 feet, she was badly damaged and sunk in the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, but was raised in 1942 and rebuilt. She went on to participate in the invasions of Mindoro, Lingayen Gulf, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Nicknamed the "*Wee Vee*," she was present in Tokyo Bay to witness Japan's World War II surrender in August 1945.

Later, the "*Wee Vee*" was decommissioned and in 1961 was scrapped.

Today, the mast of the battleship *U.S.S. West Virginia* stands on the campus of West Virginia University.

I know that all West Virginians join me in congratulating the crew and officers of the new *U.S.S. West Virginia* upon the launching of their vessel and in wishing them every success as they add their skill and the strength of their submarine to maintaining America's peace and security on the world's oceans and waterways.

October 4, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Increased Weaponry for the War on Drugs

With other concerned West Virginians, I was pleased last month when the President, in response to the mandates of the 1988 omnibus drug bill passed by the 100th Congress, declared war on drug abuse.

I am convinced that the illicit drugs flooding our country, and the epidemic of drug abuse and the crimes attending that vice, are currently America's No. 1 national security threat.

However, I became concerned that funding proposals for the Administration's drug war did not include enough for education, abuse prevention, and rehabilitation.

Consequently, I initiated and spearheaded passage, by the Senate, of legislation that made possible a total \$9.4 billion drug-bill compromise with the Administration that substantially strengthens the drug war, specifies funding from current federal budget sources without tax increases, and provides an additional \$800 million for education, prevention, and rehabilitation programs.

I fully support the President's requests for increased law enforcement against drug traffickers and abusers, and the compromise that I helped forge will fully fund his requests,

plus an additional \$100 million for local law-enforcement grants.

Likewise, I believe that we must not only punish drug criminals, but we must also battle growing drug use and attempt to rehabilitate some of the current victims of the drug scourge. I am particularly concerned about the thousands of babies born to drug-abusing mothers. These infants enter life with crippling addictions that promise to condemn them and us to ongoing health and social problems well into the future.

In addition, we must teach our children from infancy that taking illicit drugs is not a high but a low, and not "cool" but sick and deadly.

To ensure that states like West Virginia not be neglected in the mounting drug war, I cosponsored in another bill passed by the Senate a directive to the Administration that appropriate emphasis be given, and adequate resources committed, to drug enforcement programs in rural states and smaller towns such as many in West Virginia.

This drug war is a struggle for the future of America and West Virginia, and we owe to that struggle the best resources that we can muster.

October 11, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's First National Wildlife Refuge

One of the crown jewels in West Virginia's treasury of natural wonders is the magnificent Ohio River.

A number of islands dot the West Virginia stretch of that stream -- islands rich in history, wildlife significance, and cultural importance.

Recently, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I obtained \$850,000 in federal funds to purchase thirteen of the Ohio River islands as the initial acquisitions for the "Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge" -- the first national wildlife refuge in our state.

Through the farsightedness of a number of West Virginia citizens, corporations, conservationists, and foundations, the Ohio River islands were made available for federal purchase.

The thirteen islands that will compose the core of this refuge -- Witten Towhead, Crab, Wells, Mill Creek, Grandview, Grape Island, Muskingum, Phillis, Georgetown, Baker, Williamson, Broadback, and Paden -- offer generous wetlands, floodplain forests, and riverbottoms.

These special features provide the natural habitat for an abundance of rare fish, plants, and wildlife populations.

Particularly, these islands serve as important feeding and resting areas

for migratory birds native to Eastern Canada and the Northeastern United States, among them Canada geese, mallards, black ducks, and wood ducks.

Recently, great blue heron rookeries were discovered on two of the islands. Additionally, ospreys, green-backed herons, red-tailed hawks, great horned owls, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons are frequent visitors to the islands.

Roughly 55 species of fish -- including large- and small-mouth bass, spotted bass, channel and flathead catfish, sauger, and freshwater drum -- find cover among the stumps, logs, and aquatic beds surrounding the islands.

Preserved on these islands will also be historical data and artifacts from America's and West Virginia's past, not the least of which will be the sites of numerous prehistoric Indian encampments.

The creation of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, as well as providing sanctuary for countless varieties of plant and animal life, will afford West Virginians and visitors to our state precious opportunities to observe and appreciate vital facets of West Virginia's natural and historical heritage -- a heritage of which future West Virginians will be proud.

October 18, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Recent Efforts to Improve Rural Health Care

Although millions of Americans now live in major metropolitan areas, many other millions of Americans still prefer life in largely rural states such as West Virginia.

I have become increasingly concerned that West Virginians and others living in mostly rural states have been receiving lower-quality services than their counterparts in large urban areas.

Such reduced quality has been especially evident in health care.

Across America, hospitals in many small towns have been forced to close because of a lack of funds. In addition, small towns and rural communities find attracting doctors to be increasingly difficult.

A health problem that is particularly evident in West Virginia is our cervical cancer death rate --the third highest in the nation.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I recently helped obtain approval by Congress of funding to improve health care in West Virginia and in rural areas of other states.

As a result of my efforts in winning these funds for health care, four West Virginia hospitals were each able to obtain \$50,000 awards under the Rural Health Care Transition Grants program:

Pocahontas Memorial in Marlinton, Pocahontas County; Preston Memorial in Kingwood, Preston County; Sistersville General in Tyler County; and Stonewall Jackson Memorial in Weston, Lewis County.

To recruit and place more doctors in rural communities, I also helped to secure passage of \$55 million for the National Health Services Corps, providing loans and scholarships to medical students agreeing to serve in medically underserved areas such as West Virginia.

In an effort to attack our state's cervical cancer crisis, I secured \$5 million for a cancer detection and screening initiative that will include West Virginia. Annually, large numbers of rural West Virginia women die because of inadequate or unavailable diagnosis of cervical cancer. I believe that this new program will help to reverse that tragedy.

I grew up in rural West Virginia communities. I know firsthand the health problems that confront many people in our state. These health-care measures can mean improved health services for thousands of West Virginians in rural areas and small towns.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Than \$100 Million in New Federal Funds for West Virginia in One Bill

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I was successful in winning approval of more than \$100 million in federal funding for a variety of West Virginia projects and programs in the Fiscal Year 1990 Interior Appropriation Bill recently signed into law.

The Interior bill is one of 13 appropriation bills that will determine federal spending for FY 1990.

This bill also includes nearly \$1.8 billion over a three-year period for my Clean Coal Technology Program, which I initiated primarily to develop new technologies to promote the use of West Virginia coal in environmentally acceptable ways.

Included in the funding that I obtained for West Virginia in the Interior bill are:

--\$28 million for research, staffing, and completion of a new administrative wing at the Morgantown Energy Technology Center;

--\$8.6 million for land acquisition and improvements for the New River Gorge National River in southern West Virginia;

--\$6.8 million for improvements at the Leetown National Fisheries Research Center in Jefferson County and the Bowden National Fish Hatchery in Randolph County;

--\$4.9 million to ac-

quire land and begin planning for a new National Fish and Wildlife Training Center near Harpers Ferry;

--\$2.4 million for the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Princeton, including a study of the feasibility of developing a high-tech wood manufacturing center in Mercer County;

--\$2.6 million for the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Morgantown to research gypsy-moth infestation control;

--\$1.1 million for the Forest Service Timber and Watershed Laboratory in Parsons to purchase new lab equipment for water protection and watershed management;

--\$2.5 million for construction and continued restoration at the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park;

--\$650,000 for research on timber bridge construction; and

--\$1 million to continue building and replacing West Virginia bridges, using our state's hardwoods under my Timber Bridge Initiative program.

These and other West Virginia appropriations that I secured in the Interior bill will help to increase job opportunities and promote increased growth across a broad economic spectrum in our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Takes Another Step Into the Space Age

In the midst of changes in the national and world economic scenes, I am involved in ongoing efforts to broaden West Virginia's economy--to create new jobs for West Virginians and new opportunities for West Virginia's future.

Last month, for example, another of my initiatives took shape in Morgantown.

At my request, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) sent high-ranking officials to West Virginia University (WVU) for a first-time, two-day seminar with representatives of West Virginia businesses, colleges, and universities.

In response to my urgings, NASA has agreed to study and assess West Virginia's capabilities for contributing to NASA's multiple research and space-related programs.

The purpose of the WVU seminar was to enhance the possibilities for West Virginia businesses and academic institutions to compete for an increased share of those aspects of NASA's total program.

Approximately eighty West Virginia business people and academicians participated in this first seminar. These participants are currently cooperating in a two-month study, out of which they will submit a report recommending possibilities to pursue in competing for NASA contracts.

At a later date, another such NASA seminar will be convened at Marshall University in Huntington.

Among my other con-

tinuing efforts to expand West Virginia's economy are:

--the Software Valley movement, the goal of which is promoting the growth of a computer software industry and related high-technology businesses in West Virginia;

--programs to encourage greater development of hardwood timber and wood-processing industries in West Virginia;

--my Clean Coal Technology program, which aims primarily at developing new techniques for using West Virginia coal in environmentally acceptable, more efficient ways;

--continuing services in assisting West Virginia companies to compete for Defense Department contracts; and

--long-term programs to expand our state's tourist appeal through projects such as the New River Gorge National River, improvements at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and acquisition of thirteen Ohio River islands to create West Virginia's first national wildlife refuge.

Across West Virginia, these efforts and initiatives are laying foundations for economic renewal, new jobs, and new businesses -- keystones in building a bright future for our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Effort to Restore Good Airline Service in West Virginia

Because of reduced and deteriorating airline service to West Virginia airports over the past decade, I am cosponsoring the Airline Reregulation Act of 1989—a bill aimed at correcting many of the shortcomings that have arisen in our country's domestic air service since the institution of airline deregulation in the late 1970's.

At that time, Congress heeded claims that airline deregulation would lead to increased competition between airlines, lower ticket fares, and better service for local airports and air travelers, and passed the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978.

In states like West Virginia, time has proved those much-touted benefits to be an illusion.

Instead, at one West Virginia airport after another, deregulation has meant less or no competition, curtailed or discontinued flights, soaring ticket prices, deteriorating service, and increased concerns about air safety.

Fortunately, in the face of losing air-passenger service at several West Virginia airports, I have been able to put money into the Essential Air Service program to maintain subsidized service into the Beckley, Bluefield/Princeton,

Elkins, Clarksburg/Fairmont, and Morgantown airports.

Deregulation may also have reduced air safety, as well as air service.

Nationwide, chronic reports reveal cost-conscious airlines attempting to increase profits by reducing aircraft maintenance budgets, hiring less-experienced and lower-wage cockpit and cabin crews, and keeping old aircraft longer in service.

The federal government cannot abdicate its duty to protect the American people from safety corner-cutters in the airline industry, and the federal government should act to ensure that rural states like West Virginia not be victims of second-class air service.

The legislation that I am cosponsoring would create an Aviation Policy Board, which could regulate air routes and air fares, and also address growing safety concerns.

I hope that the Airline Reregulation Act of 1989 will set the airlines on the road toward undoing some of the damage that deregulation has fostered, and especially toward restoring quality air-passenger service, safety, and more reasonable fares for West Virginia's flying public.

November 15, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Added Funds for Corridors H and G and Other West Virginia Transportation Needs

Since pioneer days, good roads and transportation have been among West Virginia's foremost needs.

For that reason, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have recently secured funding for two vital highway construction projects in our state, and continued rail and air service to a number of communities.

In the Fiscal Year 1990 Transportation Appropriation Bill, I obtained approval of \$42 million for continued construction along Appalachian Corridors H and G--\$32 million for Corridor H construction from Elkins to Norton in Randolph County, and \$10 million for further construction of Corridor G near Williamson in Mingo County.

This \$42 million, combined with the \$31 million that I secured for Corridors H and G in the FY 1990 Energy and Water Appropriation Bill, brings to \$73 million the federal funds that I have secured for construction of those two highways in 1990.

As in 1965 when I supported legislation creating the Appalachian Corridor Highway program, I am committed to the completion of Corridor H eastward into Virginia and Corridor G into Kentucky.

Among other West Virginia highways already or mostly completed under the 1965 Appalachian Cor-

ridor Highway legislation are: Corridor D--U.S. 50 from Parkersburg to Clarksburg; Corridor E--U.S. 48 from Morgantown east through Preston County to the Maryland line; Corridor L--U.S. 19 from Braxton County to Beckley; and Corridor Q -- U.S. 460 through Mercer County.

In the Transportation Bill, I also secured funding to maintain the Essential Air Service program that subsidizes continued air passenger service into the Beckley, Bluefield/Princeton, Elkins, Clarksburg/Fairmont, and Morgantown airports.

Further, I secured funds for airport surveillance radar equipment for the Wood County Airport at Parkersburg to permit safer flights at that facility.

Additionally, funding that I secured for Amtrak will allow the Cardinal passenger train, which currently offers stops in Huntington, Charleston, Montgomery, Thurmond, Prince, Hinton, and Alderson three times a week, to expand its schedule to daily service in those southern West Virginia cities and towns.

These efforts promote tourism and facilitate travel to West Virginia. If West Virginia is to prosper economically, good road, rail, and air facilities are basic ingredients toward that end.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The End of the Cold War?

In recent weeks, Americans have marveled at television images coming out of Berlin: young Berliners dancing on top of the Berlin Wall and others chipping away at it with chisels and hammers.

In fact, Americans can be proud that our national courage and perseverance are in no small part responsible for those images and for the changes sweeping over the Soviet empire in Eastern Europe.

At the end of World War II, with the Marshall plan, we rebuilt Western Europe as a bulwark against Communist expansion.

Moreover, our creation of, and commitment to, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) demonstrated that the United States was unwilling to abandon Western Europe to Soviet tyranny.

In short, American economic and military strength gave Western Europe time to develop vibrant new democratic traditions, and Eastern Europe time for democratic yearnings to develop the voice and strength that are today emerging.

As exhilarating as the changes in Eastern Europe are, however, now is the time for more than just celebration.

If America is to make the most of the currents

sweeping Eastern Europe, we need to reflect maturely and lay concrete plans so that these historic events do not sweep by us, leaving America in their wake.

Certainly, we cannot afford a wholesale stripping of our military strength, lest reactionary Stalinist elements in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe regain power and again threaten the freedom of their neighbors.

However, decreased tensions between the U.S. and the Soviets should free up some of our economic resources to reduce our national debt, accelerate research and technology development, upgrade our transportation network and waste-treatment and water facilities, and invest in new competitive ventures here and overseas, even in Eastern Europe itself.

In addition, the United States and its allies need to hammer out a consensus on our long-range goals so that we continue to present a united front toward an evolving Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

As in the past half century, freedom-loving peoples still look to America for strength and leadership, and we cannot ignore our continuing responsibilities or our current opportunities.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Successful Federal Appropriations Year for West Virginia

Upon becoming Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee one year ago, one of my top priorities was to obtain increased federal funds for projects and programs vital to West Virginia's growth and development.

From that standpoint, especially in the face of needs to cut federal spending elsewhere and reduce the budget deficit, I can say that this has been a successful year for West Virginia.

For example, I more than doubled the federal funds obtained this year for West Virginia's Appalachian Corridor Highways G and H over last year's total--\$73 million this year opposed to \$28 million last year.

This funding is particularly significant because completion of the Appalachian corridor highway system is essential to our state's economic future, and yet, the Administration had requested zero funding for these highway projects.

I was also able to secure \$75 million to rebuild the collapsed radio telescope at Green Bank in Pocahontas County, which is a national scientific asset.

In addition, I obtained continued funding for

projects to stimulate tourism at Harpers Ferry and in the New River Gorge, and I succeeded in getting funds to establish West Virginia's first National Wildlife Refuge on the Ohio River Islands near Parkersburg and Wheeling.

Further, I obtained \$21.5 million for military construction in our state and approximately \$11.7 million to build new facilities for the Fish and Wildlife Service, including funds for initial planning for a federal employee training center for the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Eastern Panhandle.

Additionally, I obtained continued federal funds for several of my other economic-development initiatives for West Virginia, including a hardwood-products industry, my timber-bridge initiative, and the Clean Coal Technology program.

Against the constraints of current federal deficit problems, I am committed to doing all that I possibly can in my role as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee to help improve West Virginia's economy and lay foundations for increased job opportunities in our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Drug Kingpin Death Penalty Act

Increased numbers of Americans are recognizing the illicit drug crisis as our country's greatest current problem.

Estimates of annual gross illegal drug sales are about \$110 billion -- more than America's gross agricultural income, and more than double the profits of the Fortune 500 companies combined.

Against that background, rates of drug-related crimes -- homicide, robbery, assaults, and burglaries -- are rising all across the country.

Pitiably, as many as 100,000 babies are born each year to drug-abusing mothers -- innocent babies, most of whom enter life themselves addicted, mentally retarded, physically deformed, or neurologically crippled.

Compounding the horrors of the drug crisis, intravenous drug use is now America's single largest source of AIDS virus infection. In the battle against the drug problem, without a tax increase, Congress this year passed legislation that I initiated, which earmarks \$9.4 billion for our war against the drug underworld, and which provides additional law-enforcement personnel at all levels of government, expanded drug-treatment programs,

and increased drug-education and abuse-prevention efforts.

These are important steps in stemming the growth of the drug problem.

I recently joined in cosponsoring the Drug Kingpin Death Penalty Act -- legislation that will make undeniably clear how serious our country is in its dedication to eradicating the illicit drug scourge from our land.

Because of the horrendous, even deadly, effects of the drug scourge, this bill would make available the death penalty for major drug dealers or drug traffickers, even if their crimes do not involve killing.

Current law provides a life sentence for such drug traffickers -- "drug kingpins" -- individuals found to be principal administrators, organizers, or leaders of continuing group enterprises involving the exchange of large quantities of drugs and money.

To forestall the further advance of the drug epidemic and to send a clear signal that we are truly committed to cleansing our society of drug abuse, the punishment attached to major drug racketeering and promotion should equal that meted out to other first-degree criminals.

December 13, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tourism Workshop To Spotlight Appalachian Region

Development of West Virginia's tourism industry is one of the initiatives on which I am working to expand the state's economy and to create new job opportunities in West Virginia.

For example, as a result of language that I, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, included in the Fiscal Year 1990 Energy and Water Appropriation Bill, the Appalachian Regional Commission and Concord College in Mercer County will be sponsoring a workshop at Pipestem State Park next spring to promote tourism in West Virginia and the thirteen-state Appalachian Region.

The purpose of this workshop is to address the needs of the tourism industry in West Virginia and neighboring states; to provide a forum for sharing information on tourism development strategies, techniques, and innovations; and to review options for promoting future tourism growth in our state and throughout the region.

Tourism continues to offer West Virginia a wide range of opportunities for expanding its economic base.

For that reason, I obtained nearly \$8.7 million this year to boost recreational and tourist possibilities along the New River Gorge National River;

\$850,000 for the purchase of thirteen Ohio River islands between Wheeling and Parkersburg for the establishment of West Virginia's first national wildlife refuge; \$2.5 million for continued construction and restoration at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park; and an additional \$73 million for continued construction of Appalachian Corridor Highways G and H in West Virginia, which will link our state highway system more adequately to some of our country's greatest population centers.

Since its settlement in pioneer days, West Virginia has been acclaimed a mecca for those who enjoy mountains and outdoor recreation. In our era, increased numbers of visitors escape regularly to our state for camping, hiking, skiing, fishing, white water rafting, and mountain climbing.

In coming years, a growing tourist industry will require more motels, restaurants, equipment centers, and other services catering to outdoor sports enthusiasts and travelers.

West Virginians can be profoundly proud of our state's natural assets. Working together, we can build upon those assets to develop a first-class tourist industry and new economic opportunities for West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Thoughts for the New Year of 1990

The dawning of a New Year offers time for reflection on serious questions.

Currently, a pressing concern on the minds of many Americans and West Virginians is how to restore our leading economic position in the world marketplace.

Needless to say, technologies across the industrial spectrum have been revolutionized in recent years, but new manufacturing processes do not hold the complete answer to regaining America's international trading status.

More important than technology alone are certain values that in years past were inherent in American workers -- values that helped to determine the economic and industrial policies that made our domestically produced goods sought the world over.

As we celebrate the dawn of a new decade, we would do well to renew our commitment to those values that helped make West Virginia and the rest of our nation the industrial powerhouse it once was.

One of those values was patience -- particularly the willingness to postpone rewards, often for many years, while working diligently to reach far-sighted, far-reaching goals.

Again, but a couple of

generations ago, saving and reinvesting money was a national virtue. Out of such savings and reinvestments rose great industries in our country and state that were envied internationally. Out of such fiscal policies, likewise, new technologies and the retooling of old industries were made possible, enabling our domestic companies to stay ahead of their competitors at nearly every turn.

And in our schools, young Americans and young West Virginians were encouraged to strive for excellence in whatever they attempted, learning not to accept less from themselves than continued improvement -- an attitude that carried well into the workplace, the office, or any chosen profession.

Such a philosophy created national and state workforces dedicated to quality, persistence, self-discipline, and unyielding hard work.

Early pioneers in West Virginia relied on these same values to carve our state out of the wilderness and to survive against unimaginable obstacles and privations.

They are enduring values, and they will serve our nation well as we prepare to meet the global economic challenges of the 1990's.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Improvements Ahead for Amtrak Service in West Virginia

One of my continuing priorities is that of working to improve federally assisted transportation systems in West Virginia.

Such transportation systems are essential foundation blocks for our state's economic future.

As a result of my efforts on the Senate Appropriations Committee, in spite of federal budget cut-backs in recent years, Amtrak has maintained regular tri-weekly service of the Cardinal passenger train through southern West Virginia.

On a Chicago-to-Washington route, the Cardinal makes regular stops, going both east and west, in Huntington, Charleston, Montgomery, Thurmond, Prince, Hinton, Alderson, and White Sulphur Springs.

Believing in the importance of this vital passenger rail service to West Virginia, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I won a commitment this past year from Amtrak to use the \$85 million capital improvement funds that I included in the Fiscal Year 1990 Transportation Appropriation Bill to upgrade its service by purchasing new equipment and by expanding the Cardinal to a daily West Virginia schedule in the future.

Already, large numbers of business and leisure travelers have discovered the Cardinal to be an

efficient and comfortable means of traveling into and through West Virginia.

The addition of new equipment--in this instance, "Viewliner" sleeper cars--and daily service should assure increased passenger use of Amtrak through West Virginia and will be a decided asset in West Virginia's appeal to new businesses and industries.

Likewise, as the development of the New River Gorge National River park project takes shape, tourists will find Amtrak an attractive method of reaching and traveling through this scenic wonder.

In addition to these planned improvements to Amtrak service in West Virginia, in 1989 I added another \$73 million in construction funds for Appalachian corridor highways G and H, and secured federal funds to continue air passenger service into the Beckley, Bluefield/Princeton, Elkins, Clarksburg/Fairmont, and Morgantown airports.

Good transportation is crucial to economic growth and increased tourism and job opportunities.

These efforts to maintain, expand, and improve transportation in West Virginia will be vital in promoting such growth and opportunities for the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Rebuilding the Foundations

In West Virginia and across the country, signs of wear on such facilities as dams, highways, bridges, water and sewer systems, city streets, barge locks, and other important public facilities are becoming commonplace.

Thousands of miles of the national Interstate Highway System, begun in the 1950's, need repair and upgrading.

Roughly half of the nation's more than 500,000 road and highway bridges are classified as unsafe or obsolete.

An estimated one-fifth of America's dams and reservoirs are reportedly in need of safety improvements.

In large cities and small towns alike, water and sewer systems are breaking down or proving inadequate to meet today's demands.

Some estimates set the national cost of rebuilding our public services at several trillion dollars.

Before the crumbling of these public works becomes a national crisis, we need to undertake the necessary reconstruction and replacement required to keep our country and state running smoothly and efficiently.

For that reason, one of my priorities for West Virginia has been to appropriate federal monies to rebuild certain outmoded or decaying public projects.

For example, I have helped to secure funds to replace a number of locks and dams on the Ohio River, including current work to replace the

Gallipolis locks and dam near Point Pleasant, which is estimated to cost \$336 million; to rebuild the Winfield locks and dam on the Kanawha in Putnam County, estimated at \$195 million; and to rebuild Locks 7 and 8 on the Monongahela River north of Morgantown, estimated at \$256.8 million.

Additionally, I have obtained approximately \$2 million to replace or rehabilitate roughly 60 primarily rural bridges in West Virginia, using native hardwoods and modern timber design, processing, and construction.

Moreover, I helped to obtain funds to replace the Wheeling-Steubenville bridge, the Marietta-Williamstown bridge near Parkersburg, and the Sixth Street bridge in Huntington.

Within the last two years, I have also been able to add more than \$100 million in funding for Appalachian Corridor Highways G and H in West Virginia. Although this is new construction, these roads will provide modern alternates to currently outmoded routes. *

Further, I have assisted scores of communities in our state to obtain funds to upgrade, expand, or modernize existing public water and sewerage systems.

As we move into the 1990's and face the dawning of the twenty-first century, repairing or replacing our public support systems will become increasingly vital to America's and West Virginia's economic futures.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

For the Future of Coal

Coal remains America's most abundant energy source and a pillar of West Virginia's economic future.

For example, while the United States is currently importing nearly 50 percent of the oil that it uses, and proven U.S. natural gas supplies are projected to last only about 35 more years, recoverable U.S. coal deposits are estimated to be sufficient for another three centuries.

However, given growing concerns about the environment and increased needs for the more efficient use of all energy resources, the simple burning of raw coal is no longer the most practical course of action.

For that reason, I established the Clean Coal Technology Program, for which I have obtained nearly \$2.8 billion in federal appropriations through 1992 to develop and demonstrate ways to use coal in a more environmentally acceptable manner.

The appropriations that I have secured -- which are to be matched by private-sector funding -- will allow progress in efforts that are key to the future of West Virginia's coal industry by encouraging the development of new technologies for using our state's (and America's) most available energy

resource cleanly and efficiently.

In addition to my Clean Coal Technology Program, I am also working on a number of other fronts to advance the coal industry in West Virginia. For instance, last year I added \$4 million to the Interior Appropriation Bill to complete a wing of the Morgantown Energy Technology Center, plus another \$15 million to maintain research and employment levels there; \$2.5 million for research at West Virginia University (WVU) into the mining-health respirable dust problem; and \$1.5 million for the National Mine Land Reclamation Center at WVU.

Thousands of West Virginians and many West Virginia communities depend on coal for their livelihoods. If coal is to continue as a vibrant player in our current and future economies, however, advanced technologies must be developed and applied that will help coal to retain its energy appeal.

My Clean Coal Technology Program, in tandem with related coal research programs, will enable coal to fulfill its economic and energy potential in generations to come.

January 17, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Continuing Education Crisis

Good schools and a good education are the finest gifts that one generation can give its children and the finest investments that we can make in West Virginia's future.

Unfortunately, in spite of recent efforts to improve our schools, results have not been universally satisfying.

For instance, a recent study issued by the U.S. Secretary of Education states that in 1988 one out of seven U.S. 17-year-olds had failed to reach an intermediate reading level, and that 9-year-olds could not read as well as their 1980 counterparts.

Such statistics are alarming enough in themselves. But they also portend a significant adverse impact on our future economic health.

A recent Labor Department report estimates that illiteracy costs America \$225 billion annually in lost productivity, unrealized tax revenues, welfare and unemployment payments, and law enforcement and prison expenses.

Jobs are also at stake.

According to another recent study, more than half of the new jobs created between now and the year 2000 will require some education beyond high school.

Further, by the year 2000, roughly one-third of all U.S. jobs will require a college degree.

I am a committed believer in the importance of a good education as essential to winning good jobs, achieving career success, and being able to reach one's goals in life.

An educated citizenry is also a key to our nation's and West Virginia's economic progress.

In that belief, beginning in 1969, from a private trust that I established, I have presented U.S. Savings Bonds to approximately 5,500 graduating valedictorians of West Virginia public, parochial, and private schools, and the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

In addition, 130 West Virginia students planning to attend college have received scholarships under the national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship program that Congress established under my legislation in 1985. Each year, this program provides \$1,500 college stipends to students throughout the nation who have excelled in high school academics.

The quality of education that our sons and daughters receive will help to determine the quality of their futures.

Let us work to ensure that our children have available to them the best educational opportunities possible to prepare them for the challenges of the twenty-first century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Balanced Approach to a Cleaner Environment

Currently, the Senate is debating legislation to promote cleaner air.

I support that goal. Improving the quality of the air on which we and future generations depend is our civic responsibility.

As clean air programs are considered, however, we must keep in mind that far more is involved than just establishing more rigid air-quality controls.

Efforts to improve the environment must also be balanced with reasonable economic and energy policies, as well.

Unfortunately, many of the clean-air proposals currently being advanced pit various regions of the country against one another, and one industry against another, and are inadequate, unworkable, and unfair.

The acid-rain control portion of the legislation pending before the Senate threatens the high-sulfur coal industry; could seriously disrupt the economies of many Northern West Virginia coal-producing communities, where as many as one of every four jobs is coal-mining related; and would increase electric bills by billions of dollars annually, thus pricing many American industries and products out of world markets.

Additionally, crippling prohibitions on coal

would discourage the use of our country's most abundant, dependable energy source, rendering us increasingly addicted to foreign energy supplies.

Fortunately, an environmentally sound, energy-secure alternative exists to the draconian proposals advanced so often to promote clean air and reduce atmospheric pollution.

That alternative is the continued development of clean coal technologies.

Currently, as a result of the Clean Coal Technology Program that I established and for which I have secured a total of nearly \$2.8 billion in federal funds through 1992 to promote new technologies that use coal in an environmentally acceptable and economical manner are coming on line.

Time and incentives are now needed to allow these new clean coal technologies to be harnessed commercially so that they can reach their full potential in producing cleaner air and a more energy-secure, expanding economy.

Through clean coal technologies, we can enjoy both cleaner air and economic stability, and toward those mutual goals our clean air policies and controls should aim.

January 31, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Roles for National Guard and Reserves

The primary lesson taught by the Second World War was the price of military weakness and unpreparedness.

Fortunately, when the aggressive intents of the Soviet Union became apparent at the end of that war, the continued strength of America's Armed Forces preserved the peace and liberty of millions of people.

Currently, the easing of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union coupled with rising democracy in Eastern Europe points toward a hopeful future.

The euphoria of peace and improved East-West relations should not, however, blind us to the lessons of the past.

As we adjust to an era of eased tensions, NATO-Warsaw Pact negotiations should allow us to reduce our conventional force strength in Europe and here at home, but those reductions must be balanced against potential future national security needs.

The responsibilities and functions of such reduced active forces should not, for example, be simply ignored, but rather they should be transferred to Reserve and National Guard units stationed here at home. The security of our country in times of reduced threat must

be cared for, and the training and preparedness of conventional forces experienced and skilled in modern technology and tactics cannot be foresaken.

For those purposes, the Reserves and National Guard are ideally suited.

Throughout my career in Congress, one of my priorities has been to work for the construction, expansion, and maintenance of up-to-date Reserve and National Guard facilities throughout West Virginia. In recent years, I have secured nearly \$125 million in federal funds for these facilities.

Currently, across our state, thousands of West Virginians are participating regularly in military and defense training at local armories and reserve centers.

That training is an investment in America's continued peace and security.

As I stated recently when I was presented the Reserve Officers Association's "Minute Man of the Year Award" in Washington, we can rejoice that the Iron Curtain is lifting in Eastern Europe, but we must likewise keep our Reserves and National Guard strong so that we can ensure America's liberty and security should new threats to peace and international stability arise in the years ahead.

February 7, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The President's Budget and West Virginia

President Bush recently sent to Capitol Hill his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 1991.

On the positive side, the President's budget contains several items of benefit to West Virginia, but, unfortunately, it shortchanges or eliminates funds for some other programs vital to our state.

Encouragingly, \$50 million is included in this proposed budget for reauthorizing and funding the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), of which \$30 million is targeted for ARC highways.

For eight years, proposed administration budgets attempted again and again to zero out ARC by not funding it. During that period, the Senate and House appropriations committees kept ARC alive. Last year, for example, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I succeeded in adding \$73 million in federal appropriations for continued construction of Appalachian Corridor Highways G and H in West Virginia.

Although the President's proposal is a welcome gesture of support for ARC, I shall again be seeking a higher level of funding this year for further construction of Corridors G and H, highways whose completion is vital to West Virginia's economic future and

development.

Of additional interest to our state, the proposed budget requests continued funding for several important flood-control and navigation projects in West Virginia, including \$46.3 million for the Gallipolis Locks and Dam, \$16.2 million for Winfield Lock and Dam, and \$28.3 million for the Point Marion Lock and Dam.

I am also pleased that the Administration's budget again calls for \$8.6 million in funding for the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program.

Unfortunately, the President is calling for the elimination of funding for the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the highway demonstration program, and Amtrak, and for deep cuts in a number of other programs, including Essential Air Service subsidies on which several airports in West Virginia depend.

Additionally, the proposed budget funds coal research at less than half of the level appropriated by Congress last year.

To reduce federal deficits, constraints must be put on spending. But many of the programs that the President has proposed to be reduced or eliminated are imperative to our state's future, and I shall do my best to protect and enhance programs so important to West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening Our Schools

Nations whose people are well educated tend to be free, strong, stable, prosperous, and capable of defending and preserving their ways of life.

Indeed, historians assert that America's rise as a world economic power was largely a dividend of having, at that time, the world's best educated workforce.

I strongly believe in the value and necessity of acquiring the best education and training that a person can attain.

Throughout my public career, I have worked to improve the quality of schools for the children and young people of West Virginia.

Currently, the United States ranks 14th among 16 industrialized nations for public spending for grades K-12, with Japan, West Germany, Britain, Canada, Italy, and France, to name a few, all spending more than we do on elementary and secondary education.

In the decades ahead, to compete successfully in the world marketplace, the workforce of any nation will need a better quality of education than ever before.

Increased skills in computers, foreign languages, mathematics, physics, chemistry, engineering, and numerous other disciplines will be required of those men and women, states, and countries hop-

ing to make economic gains in the future.

Fortunately, we are becoming increasingly concerned about improving the quality of education in America.

Recently, for example, the Senate passed, with my support, The Educational Excellence Act, aimed at improving our national educational system.

In addition, I am cosponsoring The Excellence in Math, Science, and Engineering Education Act, whose purpose is to increase proficiency in those studies in our schools.

Likewise, I have joined in cosponsoring legislation to launch a national study of the merits of lengthening the school day and school year, which currently runs 180 days in the United States, but 243 days in Japan, 215 in Italy, 191 in Canada, and 185 in France.

Our children and young people are West Virginia's most precious resources.

To ensure that they will continue to enjoy the standard of living that they deserve, and that our country continues to be strong, free, and prosperous, let us commit ourselves to equipping the schools of America and the schools of West Virginia to meet the challenges that will face us in the 21st century.

February 21, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Advancing into West Virginia's Hardwood-Products Future

One of my top priorities is that of working to create new economic and job opportunities in West Virginia.

Toward that goal, I am spearheading an initiative to expand West Virginia's active role in hardwoods manufacturing.

Roughly a century ago, West Virginia was a center of massive timbering operations. West Virginia trees were shipped out of state to build homes across the country, and to produce high-quality furniture and other wood products in distant factories.

Unfortunately, during that period, few such factories, if any, were located in West Virginia.

Today, West Virginia's forests still boast some of the world's finest hardwood timber.

Realizing the great potential that this renewable resource offers West Virginia, I have worked to lay foundations for an advanced hardwood-products manufacturing industry in West Virginia.

In the past, I have obtained federal funds to build forestry sciences laboratories at Morgantown and near Princeton in Mercer County -- laboratories to promote and foster the growth of sturdy, healthy trees in West Virginia's forests.

On the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have recently obtained a total of \$1.9 million in federal funds to establish and operate the Advanced

Hardwood Processing and Technical Resource Center near Princeton to stimulate manufacturing opportunities for finished wood products.

Recently, two feasibility studies that I had requested by Concord College and Marshall University recommended the establishment of two high-tech, wood-products facilities -- a flexible- or computerized-manufacturing unit and a state-of-the-art training center -- on land owned by the U.S. Forestry Service adjacent to the Advanced Hardwood Processing and Technical Resource Center in Mercer County.

These two proposed facilities would help bridge the gap between the hardwood-products industry's current manufacturing practices and developing technologies, and provide on-site manufacturing experience and training for West Virginia woodworkers on the most advanced wood-products manufacturing equipment available.

My vision in this ongoing effort is to develop in West Virginia the trained workforce and potential for a growing new hardwood-processing industry -- an industry that would manufacture furniture, build homes, and create new products from West Virginia hardwoods, and, at the same time, provide jobs for talented, hardworking West Virginians for decades to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Working to Promote Jobs and Economic Growth in West Virginia

In coming months, West Virginia will be the site of three conferences focusing on enterprises that I am pursuing to create new jobs in our state.

Software Valley Conference

On April 11-12, the Software Valley movement in West Virginia--a non-profit initiative that I helped launch to promote research, education, and the development of a computer software industry and related high-technology businesses in West Virginia--will hold its ninth statewide conference at the Civic Center in Charleston. To date, Software Valley has established chapters in every section of West Virginia, and boasts approximately 3,500 members.

The theme of this conference will be "Information Management Opportunities for West Virginia: 1990's and Beyond." It will feature speakers from major aerospace corporations, the Department of Defense, and NASA. Anyone wishing to attend this conference should contact Software Valley headquarters in Morgantown (Phone: 296-0110).

Tourism Conference

On May 1, 2, and 3, under the sponsorship of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Concord College, and West Virginia University, a "Regional Workshop on Tourism Development" will be conducted at Pipestem Resort State Park

near Hinton. At my initiation as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, ARC is underwriting this workshop and the development of a strategy to encourage tourism in Appalachia, and in West Virginia in particular.

I have long been aware of West Virginia's tourism potential, and I am actively working to promote tourism in our state through the development of the New River National River project, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the completion of Appalachian Corridor Highways, and other efforts across our state. Those wishing to take part in the Pipestem workshop should contact Concord College for registration information and program details (Phone: 384-5317).

Hardwood Industry Conference

On May 17, 18, and 19--again at the Charleston Civic Center--a "Hardwood Industry in the '90's" conference will be held. One of my top priorities for West Virginia is the development of a thriving hardwood products industry. Speakers from the federal, private, and academic sectors will present the latest information relevant to wood-products manufacturing and world marketing. Those interested in the hardwood industry conference should contact the Institute for Trade Development at Marshall University in Huntington (Phone: 696-6271).



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bringing New Federal Facilities And Jobs to West Virginia

Recently, I won the selection of West Virginia for three proposed federal facilities that have the potential to bring thousands of new jobs and millions of federal dollars into our state.

First, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) -- after surveying West Virginia at my request -- has tentatively selected Clarksburg for the relocation of its renowned Identification Division.

With an annual estimated payroll of \$75 million, this new FBI facility would employ approximately 2,500 persons, with an estimated eighty percent of those being West Virginians hired locally.

This project is contingent upon the outcome of the FBI's feasibility study and upon my ability to squeeze appropriations for the move out of a tightly restricted federal budget.

Second, at my urging, the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has announced plans to build a world-class laboratory for occupational safety and health in West Virginia. I have already obtained the necessary appropriations for preliminary work on this project, which is to be located in Morgantown.

This new 150,000 square-foot facility will cost an estimated \$25-\$30 million to build and will

employ more than 300 new personnel when completed in 1995.

Third, also at my urging, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons has selected West Virginia as the site for a new 750-inmate medium-security federal prison. This facility will cost an estimated \$50 million to build and will employ about 250 people -- 60 percent of whom would be hired locally -- with an estimated annual payroll of \$8-\$10 million.

The Bureau of Prisons has selected Beckley as the site for this prison, which could be completed by the end of 1992. I have already obtained the necessary appropriations in the federal prison budget for this project to go forward, subject to the completion of technical and environmental studies.

This federal prison would not house hard-core, violent criminals and has no connection with the much-discussed proposal to relocate the District of Columbia's prison from Lorton, Virginia, to West Virginia.

Although federal budget constraints are very severe, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I shall do all that I can to secure the necessary funds to build these new federal facilities in West Virginia.

March 14, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Progress Report on the National Radio Telescope at Green Bank

In November 1988, the National Radio Telescope at Green Bank, Pocahontas County, collapsed.

Built originally at a cost of roughly \$850,000 in the early 1960's, the aging but world-famous old radio telescope was reduced to a 600-ton jumble of twisted steel girders in a matter of seconds.

Understandably, the collapse brought a cry of dismay from the nation's scientific community, and there arose a debate about whether or not to replace the giant instrument. I insisted that the fallen telescope had to be replaced in West Virginia, and officials of the National Science Foundation (NSF) came around to my position and agreed to build a new radio telescope in West Virginia.

Last year, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I succeeded in adding \$75 million to an appropriation bill to construct the new, state-of-the-art radio telescope at Green Bank in Pocahontas County.

Recently, I received a progress report from NSF indicating that 22 firms have shown interest in submitting bids for the project.

The official bidding process is scheduled to begin in early June, with awarding of the construction contract to be announced early in 1991.

Subsequently, site preparation and excavation for the new radio telescope should take place in the summer or fall of 1991.

In 1992, construction of the radio telescope antenna would begin, with completion and the final installation and testing of related instruments and equipment targeted for 1994.

Official operation of the new, technologically advanced National Radio Telescope is anticipated to begin in 1995.

In the decades ahead, the United States will continue to be a pioneer on mankind's advancing frontier into outer space. Currently, important future space exploration missions are being planned and projected.

By dint of its state-of-the-art quality, the new National Radio Telescope at Green Bank not only will keep West Virginia in the front ranks of radio-telescope technology but also will be a brilliant star in our state's scientific future.

March 21, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Completing the Appalachian Corridor Highways

In 1965, in legislation that I cosponsored creating the Appalachian Regional Commission, the federal government committed itself to building a system of modern, four-lane highways in West Virginia and twelve other Appalachian states.

That legislation was one of the most important federal laws passed in West Virginia's transportation history.

Today, the Appalachian corridor highway system is a vital part of West Virginia's total highway mileage. Currently, approximately 266 miles of the originally planned Appalachian corridors in West Virginia have been completed or are under construction, with roughly 145 miles of Appalachian corridor highways left to be constructed in our state.

Last year, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I secured \$73 million for construction along Corridor H in Randolph County and Corridor G in Mingo County, which are among the final Appalachian corridor highway miles left to be completed in West Virginia.

Completion of the Appalachian corridor highway system in West Virginia is one of my top

priorities. That is why I was so disappointed when the Administration recently announced a proposal to shift the bulk of federally subsidized highway construction from the federal government to the states.

That proposal is flawed.

First, it ignores the unique needs of economically strapped rural states such as West Virginia that require federal assistance to build highways adequate to meet national highway-quality standards.

Second, it fails to meet a 25-year-old commitment to finish the Appalachian corridor highway system to help spur economic growth and development in a chronically depressed, job-hungry, rural region of America.

Any national transportation policy that does not include the completion of the Appalachian corridor highway system as an essential element of the country's overall highway network is shortsighted, inequitable, and unrealistic.

I will continue to do whatever I can to secure the federal dollars needed to build the remaining Appalachian corridor highway miles so vital to West Virginia's future economic growth.

March 28, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Funding West Virginia's War Against Illegal Drugs

Consistently, West Virginia records the nation's lowest annual crime rate.

That does not mean, however, that our state is immune from crime. Of great concern to me are periodic reports of increased drug-trafficking arrests from across West Virginia.

I am convinced that the illicit drugs flooding our country, and the epidemic of drug abuse and the crimes attending that vice, are the most serious problems facing America today.

Consequently, last year, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I initiated and spearheaded passage of legislation that added \$1.1 billion in funding to the Administration's anti-drug package for increased law enforcement, education, prevention, and treatment.

I also included in the anti-drug appropriation increased funding for federal prison construction. As a result of the funding I provided, a new 750-inmate medium security federal prison to be built in Raleigh County is in the planning stages.

Further, to ensure that states like West Virginia not be neglected in the war against drugs, I cosponsored a directive to the Administration that appropriate emphasis be given, and adequate resources committed, to drug-enforcement pro-

grams in rural states and smaller towns such as many in West Virginia.

As a result of these efforts, West Virginia this year will receive \$3.6 million in federal anti-drug funds -- an increase of 194 percent over the previous year's funding -- for local drug enforcement efforts.

In accordance with the provisions of my legislation, West Virginia is to use these Justice Department funds to enhance and improve its narcotics task-force programs, drug law-enforcement efforts, community crime-watch programs, crime-analysis techniques, street-sales crackdowns, and regional jail and correctional facilities.

Drug abuse and illegal drug use are not "victimless crimes," as some have asserted. Illegal drug trafficking promotes other crimes to help users obtain money to support their habits -- burglaries, robberies, theft, murder, and prostitution, among others. More tragically, thousands of innocent babies -- many themselves drug-dependent or drug-scarred at birth -- are being born annually to drug-abusing mothers.

West Virginia enjoys a heritage of robust family life and ingrained moral strength. I shall continue doing whatever I can to ensure that the drug menace does not erode that enviable heritage.

April 4, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Environment And West Virginia's Coal Miners

The Senate recently passed the Clean Air Amendments Act of 1989, the most comprehensive clean air legislation in our nation's history.

I had hoped to vote for this legislation, but in the end I voted against it, because I cannot support legislation that could destroy the livelihoods of many hundreds of West Virginia coal miners, and that could spell economic ruin to many communities in our state.

Recognizing from the outset the crucial impact that this bill could have on West Virginia's economy and its coal industry, I led a bipartisan coalition of Appalachian and Midwestern coal-state Senators in an effort to develop a plan to lessen the adverse impact of this legislation.

Some of the provisions sought by our coalition were incorporated into the bill that the Senate passed -- including clean-coal incentives.

However, I was especially concerned about the unfair burden that the bill will impose on coal miners, many of them West Virginians. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 3,000 to 5,000 high-sulfur coal miners will be thrown out of work by 1995 as a result of this legislation.

Therefore, I offered

an amendment that would have provided a portion of their salary and benefits for up to three years to coal miners who lose their jobs as a direct result of enactment of this legislation, plus job-training benefits.

My amendment would also have provided an extra 52 weeks of unemployment benefits, plus additional job training, for non-miners who lose their jobs as a result of this legislation. Unfortunately, on a 49-50 vote, with heavy pressure against it from the Administration and the joint Senate leadership, my amendment was defeated.

Prior to that vote, I had volunteered to go even further and offer an amendment that would have provided the same benefits -- the same 70-60-50 percentage of their compensation for up to three years, with a cap on the total amount that could be spent -- to workers in all industries, coal and non-coal alike, displaced by the clean air bill. However, the Senate leadership would not support that proposal either.

But the struggle over this clean air legislation is not finished. I can only hope that when this bill comes back to the Senate from the House and conference committee, it will be an improved bill that I can support.

April 11, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Software Valley Businesses Awarded Nearly \$60 Million in Contracts

Recently, approximately 300 participants in the West Virginia Software Valley movement assembled in Charleston to attend the Software Valley IX Conference.

One of my goals in launching the Software Valley movement in 1985 was to broaden our state's economic base and help West Virginia companies compete more successfully for high-tech contracts and subcontracts.

That goal is being realized.

In recent months, various Software Valley member enterprises in West Virginia have been awarded contracts--federal and private together--worth a potential total value of nearly \$60 million.

Included in that sum are a \$15 million, five-year award from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to a firm currently relocating its headquarters to the Eastern Panhandle, with subcontracts going to seven other widely distributed West Virginia companies; and an award that could total up to \$42 million from the Internal Revenue Service to a firm planning to open a data-processing facility in Raleigh County that ultimately projects employing 320 people.

In the five years since its inception, Software Valley has been helping to create a positive environment in West Virginia for high-tech research and

development.

Along with my other efforts to bring new jobs and new federal facilities to West Virginia--such as the FBI Identification Division, tentatively scheduled for the Clarksburg-Fairmont area; the Centers for Disease Control Occupational Safety and Health Laboratory, to be located in Morgantown; and the federal prison being located at Beckley--we are laying foundations that promise to make important contributions to West Virginia's future.

In assessing Software Valley's efforts and prospects, an official of the U.S. Department of Commerce has said, "West Virginia is a living laboratory environment for advanced software and factory automation applications and development, a model state on a containable scale with very accessible key players and strategic partners."

Across our state, Software Valley participants are putting increasing numbers of West Virginians on the cutting edge of technology development and progress.

As the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I shall continue to do all that I can to promote and support advanced-technology programs that will mean new jobs and a growing economy in our state.

April 18, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Promoting Math and Science In West Virginia

Recently, I joined in sponsoring a new bill in the Senate--the "Excellence in Math, Science, and Engineering Education Act of 1990"--that is aimed at making American students first in the world in engineering, math, and science achievement by the year 2000.

For West Virginia, this bill has the potential to bring a new infusion of funds for math and science education.

Throughout most of the 20th century, the United States was the world leader in developing new technologies.

In recent years, however, much American technology has been adopted and improved by our foreign trade competitors, and we have lost markets for our goods and products worldwide.

To recapture technological and manufacturing leadership, we must have a growing pool of men and women capable of creating new and improved products and capable of bringing those products on to the market.

Unfortunately, however, experts predict that by the year 2020, the United States will suffer a shortfall of roughly 560,000 scientists, engineers, and related technicians.

In part, that shortfall will result from inade-

quate, underfunded educational programs that are failing the young people of West Virginia and our country in science, math, and engineering.

The major purposes of this bill are to reverse our national decline in technological leadership and to encourage more young Americans to pursue scientific and technological careers.

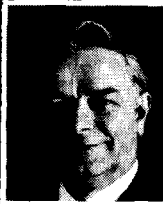
Besides establishing a national agency to assist local governments and educators to improve elementary and secondary schools in West Virginia and her sister states, this legislation would also provide for grants to upgrade college science departments, for which West Virginia colleges and universities could qualify.

This education act further includes incentives for students to enter the teaching field, and it encourages them to seek careers in advanced science and technology.

The future will offer almost unlimited opportunities for those persons who are educated and trained in the sciences and technology.

Through this bill and other efforts, I am working to help ensure that West Virginia plays an important role in the scientific and technological decades ahead.

April 25, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Timber Bridges Planned for West Virginia

The development of a world-class hardwood industry in West Virginia continues to be one of my top priorities.

Among my efforts to promote West Virginia hardwoods, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am seeking to expand the Timber Bridge Initiative that I launched two years ago.

Across our country, experts estimate that roughly 238,000 deficient, obsolete, and unsafe bridges need to be replaced. In West Virginia, 61 percent of the 6,513 bridges in the federal highway inventory are classified as deficient and obsolete.

Conventional concrete and steel bridges have proved to be vulnerable to the sometimes rapid, corrosive, and rusting effects of storms, freezing temperatures, salt treatment, and heavy use.

With a life expectancy more than three times that of concrete and steel, however, technologically treated hardwood timbers could be used to replace as much as 80 percent of these dangerous or obsolete bridges.

To help create a growing market for West Virginia hardwood products in bridge replacement, over the past two years I have secured approximately \$6.6

million in federal appropriations for timber bridge demonstration projects, research and development, and technical information programs.

In the first year of this program, I obtained funding to build 33 timber bridges in West Virginia.

This year, preliminary work will begin on at least 20 more of these timber bridges in West Virginia, bringing the number of bridges to be built in our state under my initiative to more than 50 out of a total of approximately 150 demonstration timber bridges to be built nationally.

Thus far, the use of hardwood-timber for construction of these bridges has saved more than \$4 million over the cost of using concrete and steel.

Additionally, I have proposed the building of a major job-training center for hardwood processing and a high-tech manufacturing center in Mercer County.

These centers would serve as the nucleus for an expanding hardwood industry throughout our state and region. The development of a hardwood-products industry in our state promises to give West Virginia a more stable and prosperous economy, and to offer growing job opportunities for West Virginians in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New National Training Center For West Virginia

Last year, I obtained \$4.9 million in federal appropriations to establish a National Fish and Wildlife Service Training Center in West Virginia.

When completed, this center will be another star in West Virginia's growing roster of major federal facilities that I am working to obtain. Already on the drawing board at this time are a new medium-security federal prison for Beckley, the FBI Identification Division for Clarksburg, and a Centers for Disease Control Occupational Safety and Health Laboratory for Morgantown.

The primary function of the Fish and Wildlife facility--which is to be located near Harpers Ferry in Jefferson County--will be to provide a coordinated, efficient training program for federal and other fish and wildlife professionals from all across the country.

The Fish and Wildlife Service hopes to begin planning and design work on the project in 1991, and complete construction of this facility by fall 1994.

This training center will be a state-of-the-art facility that will house classrooms, laboratories, exhibits, field-site educational resources, and a visi-

tor center, all in one complex.

Already West Virginia enjoys a generous population of wildlife and an increased appreciation for its wilderness heritage among campers and outdoors adventurers.

Having the primary center for Fish and Wildlife Service training in Jefferson County will further enhance West Virginia's image as an exciting wilderness mecca for tourists.

In a related effort, last year I obtained \$850,000 to acquire 13 Ohio River islands, which will be part of West Virginia's first National Wildlife Refuge. At my urging, the Fish and Wildlife Service has requested another \$1.25 million to acquire additional Ohio River islands to enlarge the refuge.

My top priority is to do all that I can to create new jobs and economic opportunities in West Virginia.

The new Fish and Wildlife Service Training Center in Jefferson County and the acquisition of the Ohio River islands as a National Wildlife Refuge promise to bring new jobs, more visitors, and more federal and private dollars into West Virginia.

May 9, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Faster, Fairer Way To Complete the ARC Highway System

The completion of West Virginia's Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) corridor highway system is essential to the economic future and the creation of new job opportunities in our state.

In the past two years, through the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have added more than \$100 million in federal funds for continuing construction on Corridors G and H -- nearly \$30 million in 1988 and \$73 million in 1989.

In spite of the construction progress that those appropriations will afford on these highway routes, more rapid federal funding is needed to push these projects forward in order that they may reach earlier completion and thus contribute more quickly to improving West Virginia's economy.

Toward that goal, in a White House meeting just a few days ago, I urged the President to include the Appalachian regional highway system in the upcoming national highway bill, thus making West Virginia's Appalachian corridors eligible for federal highway funds.

I also urged the President to use the unspent

balance that will accrue over the next two years in the national Highway Trust Fund to finance completion of the 938-mile, 13-state Appalachian regional highway system, which includes 143.6 miles remaining to be built in West Virginia. This proposal builds on ARC legislation offered by Senator Rockefeller last year and cosponsored by me.

One more advantage of my proposal for speeded funding of West Virginia's Appalachian corridor construction in this era of federal budget constraints is that it would not require increased taxes, and it would not divert federal funding from other needed highway projects, such as bridge repair and replacement.

The Appalachian corridor highway system in West Virginia promises to be an important asset to America's regional and national transportation system, as well as to the people of our state. The Federal government now has an opportunity to complete these highways more rapidly and to realize an earlier economic and transportation harvest of the benefits that they will bring to our national economy.

May 16, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Market Opens For West Virginia Exports

While the revolutionary democratic changes taking place in Eastern Europe are being applauded by all freedom-loving West Virginians, the new openness in the former Soviet satellite states promises another advantage for enterprising business people and manufacturers in our state.

Last year, with my support, Congress passed the Support for Eastern European Democracy Act, for which I voted. The goal of this legislation is to stimulate private-sector investment in the Eastern European nations of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, East Germany, Bulgaria, and Romania. This new market presents an opportunity for a major expansion by American businesses, including West Virginia enterprises.

The opening of Eastern Europe to Western trade and commerce is a development for which the United States has been laboring for more than four decades. However, if U.S. companies do not take advantage of this opportunity, they could find themselves shut out of this vast new market by their overseas rivals.

To help U.S. firms to penetrate Eastern Europe, the Support for Eastern European Democracy Act mandated the U.S. Department of Commerce to establish a new Eastern

European Business Information Center.

The goal of the Business Center is to generate American business possibilities in Eastern Europe by responding to inquiries from small- and medium-sized companies interested in exporting or investments; firms with questions about financing, export licensing, or trade-promotion opportunities; and organizations and individuals wanting to lend various types of assistance to the region.

Exporting has long been an important avenue by which a number of West Virginia companies and corporations have enlarged their world market share.

West Virginia boasts a number of traditional industries--coal, timber products, steel, and chemicals, for example--as well as increasing numbers of high-tech enterprises involved in the Software Valley movement, all offering superior-quality goods and services that would be welcome in Eastern Europe.

Any West Virginians wanting information on trade opportunities or procedures should contact: Eastern European Business Information Center; Room 6043; U.S. Department of Commerce; 14th and Constitution, N.W.; Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone number: (202) 377-2645; Fax number: (202) 377-4473.

May 23, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's 1990 Byrd Scholars

Again this year, a number of academically outstanding West Virginia high school seniors are the recipients of a scholastic award that I initiated to reward notable academic performance and to encourage the pursuit of excellence in education.

Based on legislation that I authored in the U.S. Senate in 1985, but which was named in my honor at the suggestion of Republican Senator Ted Stevens from Alaska, national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships this year will be awarded to another 41 graduating West Virginia high school students, bringing to 171 the number from our state thus far so honored.

On the basis of academic achievement and scholastic merit, these "Byrd Scholars" were selected to receive \$1,500 first-year college scholarships by the State Department of Education, on the

recommendation of high schools across West Virginia.

Under the provisions of my legislation, these national scholarships are allotted for each state according to student population.

Especially in this era of increased international technological and trade competition, we in West Virginia and across our country need to encourage talented young men and women to pursue advanced education and training.

The young West Virginians winning this year's Byrd Scholarships are exceptional, and they deserve our recognition.

Indeed, these students represent an important resource for, and investment in, West Virginia's future, and I am especially gratified to have had a role in advancing their educations and encouraging them toward the fulfillment of their own promise.

May 30, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building the Tourism Industry In West Virginia

Over the years, West Virginia's coal-rich hills and hollows have contributed to our state's economic prosperity.

Today, as we search for ways to broaden and diversify West Virginia's economy, those rugged hills and hollows may hold the promise of a new economic bounty: tourism.

Recently, as a result of my efforts to promote tourism in West Virginia, representatives from the 13-state Appalachian Region met at Pipestem State Park in Mercer County for a three-day workshop on tourism development.

Hosted by Concord College and the Appalachian Regional Commission, the purpose of this workshop was to foster tourism throughout the Appalachian area.

During this workshop, I encouraged the Appalachian Regional Commission to establish an Appalachian Tourism Development Center at Concord College, to be coordinated with West Virginia University.

Although this center would serve the entire Appalachian region, its location in West Virginia would enhance other efforts on

which I am currently working to promote tourism in our state.

Toward that goal, last year I obtained nearly \$8.7 million to develop recreational and tourism possibilities along the New River Gorge National River; \$850,000 for the purchase of thirteen Ohio River islands for the establishment of West Virginia's first national wildlife refuge; and \$2.5 million for continued construction and restoration at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Additionally, I obtained \$73 million for continued construction of Appalachian Corridor Highways G and H in West Virginia, which will link our state highway system more adequately to some of our country's greatest population centers and increase West Virginia's appeal as a vacation destination for added millions of Americans.

The wise and coordinated development of West Virginia's tourism potential --through the establishment of an Appalachian Tourism Development Center-- can lay a new economic foundation for our state, bringing new hope and prosperity to Appalachia.

June 6, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Moving the FBI's Identification Division to West Virginia

Throughout my career as a United States Senator, I have continually looked for ways to pump more federal dollars into West Virginia.

Consequently, when I learned last year that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) needed to upgrade and modernize its fingerprint Identification Division, I saw an opportunity for West Virginia.

Last fall, I added report language to an appropriations bill directing the FBI to consider relocating the Identification Division to a new site within the Mid-Atlantic region.

Subsequently, I met personally with FBI Director William Sessions to voice my strong interest in West Virginia's being considered for that Mid-Atlantic relocation.

Using its own criteria, after looking at communities throughout West Virginia, the FBI informed me that, tentatively, the Clarksburg area best met its needs for the relocation.

Just recently, I added \$185 million to the supplemental appropriation bill to automate, design, and build the relocated new Identification Division facility.

The FBI has now signed a \$4 million contract calling for a prominent consulting firm to conduct

a feasibility study regarding the proposed relocation of the Identification Division to the Clarksburg area.

Preliminary estimates set the payroll for the new Identification Division at \$75 million annually, with peak employment projected at approximately 2,500 persons, of whom about 80 percent would be hired in West Virginia.

The FBI's Identification Division is the nation's sole central repository for fingerprint records. The Division compiles criminal-history records for, and disseminates them to, more than 62,000 authorized users -- virtually our country's entire criminal-justice community, including the FBI itself, the police forces of all 50 states, the major metropolitan centers across the country, and local and county police operations nationwide.

A new automated fingerprint-identification system is urgently needed by the FBI and by law-enforcement professionals across the country. My efforts to date have put this project on the fast track for West Virginia, enabling the FBI to go forward with the feasibility study, which will determine the exact site of, and the estimated cost of building and equipping, the new facility.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Economic Interests: A New Approach to Foreign Aid

In recent years, I have voted against most foreign aid, much of which has been ill-conceived and ineffective.

But with the rapid changes in Eastern Europe, foreign aid has taken on an enhanced importance, giving the United States a tool for promoting freedom and channeling events in Eastern Europe.

Equally, Eastern Europe's urgent need for economic assistance offers a rare opportunity by which businesses in this country and in West Virginia might benefit significantly.

In the past, a substantial portion of America's economic aid has been in the form of direct, one-way cash transfers.

To ensure that future American foreign aid helps our economy and boosts our competitive position in world trade, I am co-sponsoring legislation mandating that much of American foreign aid be tied to requirements that such aid--whether in the form of credits or loans--be used only to buy American products, materials, services, and technologies.

For some years, other major aid-donating nations --Japan, Germany, England, and France, particularly--have been giving large amounts of their aid,

not in the form of cash but of credits that can be used only to buy certain goods from certain enterprises in the donor country. Japan and Germany both cast more than 80 percent of their aid in this form.

This method of giving foreign assistance allows a donor country to penetrate new markets quickly and to cultivate customers for the future.

Eastern Europe represents a market with a population of roughly 120 million, and a potential market of billions of dollars annually.

Already, Western Europe and Japan are plunging into this new and hungry market with their credit-oriented aid approach. Unless we act fast, American companies may find themselves frozen out of one of the most promising markets in the world today.

Particularly in the fields of coal and chemicals, West Virginia offers products, equipment, and technologies that would be in high demand in Eastern Europe. Credit-based and loan aid in these areas would offer West Virginia companies important new markets that could create jobs and increased prosperity in our state.

June 20, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taking Firepower Away from Cop Killers, Drug Pushers, and Mass Murderers

Across America, drug traffickers, cop killers, and maniacs are using high-powered, semi-automatic assault weapons to slaughter innocent victims in city streets, back alleys, and school yards.

Policemen in the line of duty, children on school playgrounds, and countless innocent men and women at work in their offices or workshops have been victims of the cold-blooded criminals wielding these assault weapons.

Recently, the U.S. Senate has been debating a comprehensive crime bill aimed at giving our police greater help in the war against violent crime.

At the recommendation of police experts, this bill includes a provision to ban nine of these semi-automatic weapons, known by such names as "Street-Sweepers" and "Commandos."

These are not hunting rifles or sports weapons.

Such assault weapons account for just one-half of one percent of the roughly 200 million privately owned firearms in the United States; yet, they are now used in one out of every ten felonies involving the use of a firearm.

Consistent with my anti-crime record, I voted to ban these assault weapons.

In reaction, however, the Washington-based leadership of the National

Rifle Association (NRA) has charged that I was trying to take firearms away from law-abiding West Virginians.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Through the years, I have been generally supportive of causes and issues promoted by the NRA, which has a commendable record of promoting marksmanship and weapons safety across our country.

But regarding the comprehensive crime bill's ban on semi-automatic assault weapons, the Washington leadership of the NRA has misrepresented the purpose and impact of my vote.

To set the record straight, I did not vote to take away the guns of law-abiding West Virginians.

But I did vote to take away "Street-Sweepers" and "Commandos" from drug traffickers, cop killers, and mass murderers.

I am not against guns. I am against criminals.

The Washington leadership of the NRA should abandon its efforts to scare law-abiding West Virginia gun owners with scurrilous misrepresentations of facts concerning this vote, and instead direct its energies toward the fight against drug thugs, cop killers, and the mass murderers of innocent school children.

June 27, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Plan to Complete West Virginia's Appalachian Corridor Highways

In the past two years, through the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have added \$80 million in federal funds for continuing construction on Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Highway Corridors G and H in West Virginia--\$18 million in 1988 and \$62 million in 1989.

Although the massive federal budget deficit and the record national debt are making it more and more difficult to find federal funds, I shall continue my efforts to add more funding to appropriation bills this year to speed ARC highway construction.

But West Virginia cannot wait another twenty years or more for the completion of these vital transportation routes.

Therefore, to accelerate construction progress, I have introduced legislation, cosponsored by Senator Rockefeller, that would authorize the spending of \$2.360 billion from the federal highway trust fund for the completion of the approximately 940 miles of remaining unconstructed ARC corridor highways in the 13-state Appalachian Region.

Of that amount, \$462 million would be earmarked for the completion of the final 144 miles of

ARC corridor highways in West Virginia--including Corridor H east from the vicinity of Elkins into Virginia, Corridor G from Charleston southwest into Kentucky, and Corridor D in the Parkersburg area.

In addition to the \$2.360 billion, which is a one-time funding shot-in-the-arm, the bill that I have introduced would incorporate the ARC corridor highways into the federal-aid primary highway system, ensuring that the ARC highways would be funded in the future as part of our national highway network.

The ARC corridor highways are the linchpins of new jobs and economic expansion for our state, and the infusion of these proposed new funds will provide a means for bringing faster economic renewal to more areas of West Virginia by creating new job opportunities, added tourism possibilities, and expanded business and industrial development.

This legislation to provide \$462 million for new ARC corridor highway construction in West Virginia would supply a steady and reliable source of money, and would "jump-start" the completion of the remaining corridor highway miles in our state.

July 4, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Timber Bridges: A New Use For West Virginia Hardwoods

West Virginia has long been known for its quality hardwoods, but today our state is also gaining a nationwide reputation for a product of those hardwoods: timber bridges.

Through my Timber Bridge Initiative, I have added \$4 million to appropriation bills over two years to build timber bridges throughout the country, with half the money--\$2 million--earmarked for timber-bridge construction in West Virginia.

The goal of my initiative is twofold: to promote West Virginia hardwoods, and to improve transportation safety in rural West Virginia.

Last year, the U.S. Forest Service selected 33 West Virginia bridges for repair or replacement under the timber-bridge project, and this year, the Forest Service added 11 more bridges to the list, for a total of 44 hardwood bridges in West Virginia.

These projects--including the new round of 11 bridges to be built in Boone, Clay, Cabell, Roane, Marion, Harrison, Jefferson, Lewis, Pendleton, Fayette, and McDowell Counties--are demonstrating that West Virginia hardwoods can be used to build safe and durable bridges throughout

West Virginia and the nation.

As part of my initiative, I also established the Timber Bridge Resource Center at the U.S. Forestry Sciences Laboratory at Morgantown, from which the national timber-bridge construction program is administered.

Tests have shown that treated timber bridges have a lifespan of roughly 70 years, which is more than that of conventional concrete and steel structures, whose exposure to salt, freezing, and wear renders them extremely susceptible to deterioration and costly to maintain.

My initiative has made West Virginia the leading state in developing a coordinated timber-bridge program.

To date, 10 of the West Virginia bridges originally selected for replacement under my program have been completed, with another 23 of those bridges scheduled for completion this fall.

When all 44 spans have been completed, these new timber bridges will serve as excellent examples of the durability, economy, and versatility of an important West Virginia product, and will afford long years of safe transportation to countless West Virginia travelers.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

National Youth Science Camp 1990

Throughout my career, I have been committed to improving educational opportunities for young West Virginians, encouraging them to develop their talents through continued schooling and training.

My efforts include the Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Award program, through which I have presented U.S. Savings Bonds to nearly 6,000 West Virginia valedictorians since 1969; and the national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship program, which has awarded \$256,500 worth of federally funded, merit-based college scholarships to 171 West Virginians since 1987.

In another program to encourage talented young people, I was again privileged this year to welcome delegates from the National Youth Science Camp in West Virginia to Washington.

For the 27th year, the National Youth Science Camp this summer drew 102 promising students from across the nation to the Pocahontas County 4-H camp at Bartow.

The Youth Science Camp is composed of two students from each state and the District of Columbia, selected on the bases of academic achievement, leadership abilities, and interest in a science-oriented career.

For three weeks each summer, these outstanding

students take part in lectures and discussions on biology, physics, astrophysics, botany, zoology, geology, and other sciences; they hike, camp, and explore caves in West Virginia's forests and mountains; and they meet some of the leading scientists, technical experts, and research pioneers of our era.

As an annual feature, the Youth Science campers make a visit to Washington to meet their Senators and Representatives, hear outstanding speakers at a Senate luncheon, and tour significant Washington institutions.

West Virginia's own delegates to the Camp this year are Grant Stewart Bromhal of Keyser, Mineral County; and Bart Owen McCoy of Eleanor, Putnam County.

In recent years, other countries have challenged the scientific and technological leadership that was once unquestionably America's.

To regain our international leadership in these areas, America's young people must be encouraged to consider careers in science, research, and technology.

I am proud of my association with West Virginia's National Youth Science Camp, and of the scientific and technological inspiration that it has provided for more than a quarter-century.

July 18, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Funds for West Virginia's ARC Highways

Recently, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added \$30 million for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) highway construction in West Virginia to a Senate funding bill, and succeeded in earmarking \$45 million of ARC highway construction funds specifically for a 5.3 mile segment of ARC Corridor G between Nolan and Williamson in Mingo County.

Completing the ARC corridor highways in West Virginia is one of my top priorities.

In addition to adding these funds for Corridor G, I will seek additional funds for Corridors H and D in another appropriation bill.

Two years ago, I added \$18 million for the Buckhannon Bypass on Corridor H. Last year, I pushed through \$62 million for continued construction on both Corridors H and G, of which \$10 million was for Williamson's notorious "rock wall" segment of Corridor G.

Several weeks ago, I introduced legislation, cosponsored by Senator Rockefeller, to include the completion of the ARC corridor highways in the next federal highway authorization bill, and to

allocate construction funds--including \$462 million for West Virginia's ARC routes--out of the federal highway trust fund surplus. However, I do not intend to await final action on that bill, which may be months away. I am going ahead now with funding action in my Appropriations Committee for West Virginia's corridor highways.

Since the Colonial era, West Virginia's growth and development have been hindered by bad or nonexistent roads. Throughout our state's history, the creation of jobs and the attraction of new businesses and industries have depended on ready access to progressively more modern highways.

Completing the ARC corridor highways will increase West Virginia's appeal to outside investors and will allow West Virginia business people to reach new markets and new customers more easily with their goods and services.

My ARC corridor highway appropriations are important for West Virginia's future growth and economic prosperity, and I shall continue my efforts to push completion of these vital commercial and travel links in our state.

July 25, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Lifesaving Suggestion

As the summer draws to a close, many young men and women across West Virginia are preparing to take major steps in their lives.

Many will be leaving home for the first time, some to enter college and others to take a job or launch a career in a strange city.

On the other hand, many young West Virginians will return to college or to high school nearby.

In any case, all young West Virginians should think seriously about a devastating problem that is confronting our entire country so that they can make the sanest possible decision about their personal responses to that problem.

That problem is the continuing menace of drug and alcohol abuse in our society.

For the past quarter century, irresponsible people have glamorized drug use and surrounded it with glitter and sparkle.

Popular youth icons--"rock stars," movie and television celebrities, and international "superstars"--have been hailed as "hip" and smart for their drug use. Alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, crack, and a number of other mind-altering poisons have been heralded as supreme experiences.

Nothing could be further from the truth, and to-

day, wandering among the "homeless" on the streets of America's cities are thousands of zombies who are proof of that fact.

Some of those drug victims probably were once bright, alert, involved, and excited about life.

But drugs ended all that. Drugs burned away their talents. In many cases, drugs ended their sanity.

In some tragic instances, alcohol cut short the lives of their friends in automobile wrecks.

In other instances, drugs drove their friends to suicide.

Drugs and alcohol are not candy and cola. They can be deadly.

One often hears the admonition, "If you drink, don't drive."

I would go one step more: "Don't drink--period."

I hope that young West Virginians will not play Russian roulette with their lives or gamble with their minds by using alcohol and drugs.

As they launch into new opportunities, at home or far away, I wish our young men and women every success, hoping for them the fullest and most successful lives possible, free of substances that can ruin and cut short the pursuit of happiness that is their birthright as West Virginians.

August 1, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ringling Up More Federal Dollars For West Virginia Highways

New highways are a key to jobs and economic development in West Virginia, and as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added \$161.5 million to the Fiscal Year 1991 Transportation Appropriation bill for highway construction in West Virginia.

This brings to \$206.5 million the total amount that I added to Senate appropriation bills for West Virginia highway construction in slightly more than one week.

That total includes \$45 million that I earmarked in another appropriation bill for construction of a 5.3 mile segment of Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor G between Nolan and Williamson in Mingo County.

Broken down into particular projects, the \$161.5 million that I added to the Transportation Bill includes:

--\$50 million that I put in for construction of the Weirton Bypass of U.S. 22, which will entail four-laning Route 22 to handle increased local and interstate traffic caused by the completion of the Veterans Memorial Bridge across the Ohio River to Steubenville, Ohio;

--\$51.5 million that I added to continue construction of Corridor H between Buckhannon and Elkins;

--\$10 million that I put in for engineering and

right-of-way acquisition for the Corridor D Parkersburg Bypass;

--and \$50 million that I got for additional work on Corridor G between Williamson and Mt. Gay.

The transportation appropriation bill reported by my Senate Appropriations Committee and approved by the Senate also includes language that I added directing the Secretary of Transportation to give priority to using discretionary bridge funds to replace the Chelyan Bridge east of Charleston.

The ARC corridor highway money that I have added to appropriation bills this year brings to \$236.5 million the total funding that I have pushed through for ARC highways in West Virginia the past three years, including \$18 million that I got for the Corridor H Buckhannon Bypass two years ago, and \$62 million that I added for Corridors G and H last year.

I believe that a keystone to future economic growth and new job opportunities in West Virginia is the completion of the ARC highway system.

I am committed to doing all that I can through the Senate Appropriations Committee to accelerate completion of the ARC corridor highway system, thus helping West Virginia to enjoy a new era of development and prosperity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FBI Identification Division Definitely Moving to West Virginia

Just recently, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) made the final decision to move its 2,500-employee Identification Division to West Virginia. The decision to build new quarters for this facility on an 850-acre site near Clarksburg is a major economic triumph for all of West Virginia, since this will be the largest federal facility ever to locate in our state.

More than a year ago, I began my efforts to secure this important law enforcement operation for West Virginia. I had learned that the Identification Division needed to automate and update its fingerprint-identification operations, and wanted to relocate the facility outside the Washington, D.C., area.

Last fall, I added report language to an appropriation bill directing the FBI to consider relocating the Identification Division to a new site within the Mid-Atlantic region.

I met personally with FBI Director William Sessions several times to voice my strong interest in West Virginia's being considered for that relocation. At my request, the FBI sent two teams into West Virginia to look at communities throughout the state.

In the month of May, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added \$185 million to

a supplemental appropriation bill to automate, design, and build the relocated new Identification Division facility.

Using its own criteria, the FBI chose the Harrison County site, thus ending all speculation concerning the Identification Division's new location.

The FBI's Identification Division will bring into north-central West Virginia an estimated annual payroll of approximately \$75 million.

Just as significant, the FBI expects to hire 80 percent of the Identification Division's 2,500 employees from the local area.

The FBI has cited among the advantages of relocating the Identification Division to the Clarksburg area the availability of space and the stability of the potential workforce, as well as proximity to a major university and smaller colleges.

I am particularly gratified to have gotten this important federal facility for West Virginia. The Identification Division not only offers West Virginia a large source of new job opportunities, but this new, automated fingerprint-identification facility, staffed primarily by dedicated West Virginians, will also be an immeasurable asset in the war against crime for our whole country.

August 15, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

1990 Update on Free Federal Information Hotlines

The following list of toll-free Federal hotlines can help West Virginians obtain information about Federal programs and services, and about regulations and opportunities that may affect them directly.

Retired Army Pay Problems	1-800-428-2290
Cancer Hotline, Department of Health and Human Services	1-800-4-CANCER
National Runaway Switchboard	1-800-621-4000
(For parents and runaways to leave messages)	
Parents Anonymous (child abuse)	1-800-421-0353
Consumer Product Safety Commission	1-800-638-CPSC
(Product recall, complaints, fact sheets)	
Environmental Protection Agency	1-800-424-9346
(Hazardous-waste information)	
Financial Aid for College Students (National) Department of Education	1-800-333-INFO
AIDS Hotline (National)	1-800-342-AIDS
(Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)	
Pesticide Emergency Information Clearinghouse	1-800-858-PEST
Federal Emergency Management Agency	1-800-638-6620
(Flood-insurance information)	
National Health Information Clearinghouse	1-800-336-4797
Hill-Burton Free Hospital Care Hotline	1-800-638-0742
Small Business Administration	1-800-368-5855
(Answer Desk)	
Social Security Administration	1-800-848-0106
(Medicare questions)	
Veterans Benefits Counseling	1-800-642-3520
Transportation Department	1-800-424-9393
(Auto-safety information and complaints)	
Washington, D.C., Central Reservation Center	1-800-554-2220
(Information on lodging in the Nation's Capital)	

August 22, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Unleashing a New Weapon In West Virginia's War Against Cancer

According to the American Cancer Society, West Virginia ranks 13th in the nation in the number of deaths from cancer.

In spite of that troubling statistic, West Virginians have long been forced to go to out-of-state facilities to obtain specialized cancer treatment.

That was because West Virginia had no major in-state cancer research and treatment center.

That deficiency has now been corrected.

Recently, I participated in the dedication of the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center and the Robert C. Byrd Cancer Research Laboratory at the West Virginia University Medical Center in Morgantown.

I have long been concerned about the threat of cancer to the people of West Virginia, and some years ago, I began working to establish a major cancer research facility in West Virginia.

Beginning with the Fiscal Year 1986 appropriations bill, and following up with the appropriations bills in Fiscal Years 1987 and 1988, I added a total of approximately \$13.5 million in federal funds to build the Mary Babb

Randolph Cancer Center, named for Senator Randolph's late wife, herself a cancer victim.

The completion of this new cancer center, and the related statewide cancer program that it will coordinate, will give West Virginia a first-rate research and treatment facility, dedicated to the fight against cancer in our state.

On another front in the war on cancer, I secured federal funds last year for the Centers for Disease Control to implement a new program for early screening and detection of cervical and breast cancer. West Virginia, which has the nation's third highest cervical cancer rate, was one of only three states selected to participate in this program and was recently awarded a \$400,000 grant by the Centers for Disease Control.

Traditionally, rural states like West Virginia have struggled to provide adequate health services to their citizens. I believe that the new Cancer Center at West Virginia University will correct some of those inadequacies in our state, and will afford West Virginians valuable resources in the battle against a cruel disease.

August 29, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bringing New High Technology Resources to West Virginia

High technology touches the lives of all of us, from the supermarket checkout line to the classroom to the factory or office. And new technological advances are coming on line virtually every day. In order to be competitive in the 21st century, Americans will have to be better versed in science, mathematics, engineering, and other building blocks of the high-tech revolution.

To that end, I have been working to bring space-age mathematics and science education to West Virginia, and to make high-technology advances more available to private business and industry in our state.

For example, Congressman Alan Mollohan and I secured \$1.4 million in a Fiscal Year 1990 appropriation bill to establish at Wheeling Jesuit College, in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), an initiative called "The Classroom of the Future" to develop software and programs for space-science education.

In addition, I added \$4 million to an appropriation bill to establish at Wheeling Jesuit a National Technology Transfer Center to make available to the private sector the various technologies developed by NASA in more than three decades of space exploration and research.

The Classroom of the Future at Wheeling Jesuit

College will feature on-campus training opportunities for teachers from throughout West Virginia and surrounding areas to study space-age mathematics and science. The facility will also allow satellite broadcasts to and from participating colleges, afford simulated space-shuttle and mission-control experiences, and make available for training a "21st century classroom," complete with 30 computer work stations surrounding a large video screen to allow computerized interaction among students and teachers.

The Technology Transfer Center is intended to stimulate economic development in West Virginia and the rest of the country and promote our ability to compete in world markets by providing a technology-transfer link now missing between federal delivery systems and potential technology-users in the private sector.

Wheeling Jesuit College recently inaugurated these NASA initiatives with the launching of a new Teacher Resource Center, the first element of the Classroom of the Future. I am pleased that I was able to play a role in bringing to West Virginia these initiatives, which will help our students and businesses step into the high-tech workplace of the 21st century with competence and confidence.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Still No National Security Without Energy Security

Iraq's invasion and seizure of tiny oil-rich Kuwait once again underlines America's energy weaknesses.

Though little of America's recent petroleum needs have been met from Iraqi or Kuwaiti sources, Iraq's aggression has resulted in an increase in U.S. energy prices.

In the late 1970's, as Senate Majority Leader, I spearheaded Congressional efforts to put into place federal programs to encourage the full development of our national energy resources, with a special emphasis on abundant coal supplies such as we possess in West Virginia, and to forge national energy policies that would make America virtually energy independent.

Unfortunately, in 1981 the Reagan administration, claiming the superiority of uninhibited market forces, systematically dismantled the domestic energy policies that had been created to promote synthetic fuels from coal and oil shale, energy conservation, and alternative energy research. In so doing, the Reagan administration effectively emasculated the Department of Energy's fossil-fuels and renewable-energy programs.

In 1973, at the beginning of the Arab oil embargo, America was importing about 35 percent of its annual oil consumption.

Largely as a result of shortsightedness over the

past decade, we are today importing nearly 50 percent of our annual oil consumption from South American, African, Middle Eastern, and other foreign oil fields.

After considerable effort, I won administration support in recent years for my Clean Coal Technology Program, for which I have added \$2.7 billion to appropriation bills through 1992 to develop technologies to use coal more cleanly and efficiently.

My Clean Coal Technology Program is an important step toward reducing our dependence on foreign oil. But this is only one step.

As I have urged since the energy crises of the 1970's, America must have an overall energy policy -- a comprehensive national plan that will fully develop our massive coal reserves, as well as our oil, natural gas, and other resources. Through both private and public commitments, a national energy policy could free us from our vulnerabilities to the whims of foreign despots and to the political instabilities inherent in the Middle East.

America already possesses the energy resources and the technological potential to develop energy security. Needed are the will and leadership to put into place long-term, comprehensive, and coordinated energy policies.

In today's world, genuine national security depends on genuine energy security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Planning for the Future

Currently, the United States is experiencing extremely difficult budget constraints.

To solve our national fiscal problems, some painful choices will have to be made.

In making those choices, priority consideration must be given to investing in the building and rebuilding of our nation's highways, bridges, railroads, airports, locks and dams, public water-supply and waste-disposal systems, and other facilities that make possible economic growth and development.

Such facilities are critical to increasing our national productivity, meeting the challenges of foreign economic competition, and maintaining America's standard of living.

Without efficient, modern, well-maintained highways, for example, goods cannot be moved economically and expeditiously to markets.

The Federal highway system is particularly important. Federally supported highways currently comprise only 22 percent of our national road system, but log roughly 81 percent of all motor vehicle miles traveled per year.

Realizing the importance of a modern transportation infrastructure to economic growth and prosperity, I am continuing to work for the completion of the remaining Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) cor-

ridor highways in our state --Corridor H from Buckhannon east, Corridor G between Charleston and the Kentucky line, and Corridor D near Parkersburg.

Recently, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added a total of \$206.5 million to Senate appropriation bills in slightly more than one week for West Virginia highway construction, including ARC Corridors G, H, and D, and the Weirton Bypass of Route 22 in the Northern Panhandle.

Likewise, I have helped to push through funds to replace a number of locks and dams on the Ohio River, including the Gallipolis locks and dam near Point Pleasant, which is estimated to cost \$345 million; to rebuild the Winfield locks and dam on the Kanawha River in Putnam County, estimated at \$203 million; and to rebuild Locks 7 and 8 on the Monongahela River north of Morgantown, estimated at \$266.6 million.

Moreover, I helped to secure federal funds to replace the Weirton-Steuenville bridge, the Marietta-Williamstown bridge near Parkersburg, and the Sixth Street Bridge in Huntington.

My aim in channeling these federal funds into West Virginia is to put in place a vital transportation infrastructure on which to create new economic and job opportunities in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Clean Up Television Programs!

Television is a marvel. Through television, a viewer in West Virginia can watch pictures almost instantly sent from Washington, London, Tokyo, or Moscow.

Television is probably the most powerful means of swaying public opinion ever invented.

I am increasingly disturbed, however, by the language used on so many television shows, and by the violence and lack of morality evident in too many programs.

Currently, the average American family is being treated to televised dialogue that is universally considered offensive in polite company.

Television also doles out a never-ending array of stabbings, muggings, murders, assaults, and rapes.

I am concerned about the impact of this level of programming on America's young people.

The crudeness, profanity, vice, and violence that are broadcast today on our television screens will be the behavior that we will be forced to endure in communities throughout West Virginia and America in the years ahead. Worse, such television pro-

gramming is teaching our children that this kind of speech and behavior is acceptable.

In fact, such television programming is like taking arsenic to build up immunity against its normally deadly effect. With each dose of television profanity, pornography, promiscuity, murder, and other violence, a person becomes less uncomfortable with those moral poisons, until at last his conscience loses the ability to object to them.

I know from my mail that many West Virginians share my concern about such corruption on television.

The best recourse for those concerned about profanity and violence on television is to make their objections known directly to the networks, local stations, and sponsors responsible for television programs.

The airwaves over which television is beamed belong to the people, and citizens who object to profanity, violence, and immorality on television have the right to make their objections known to those controlling the programming.

September 26, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Warding Off Urban Violence

Just recently, a 12-year-old Brooklyn girl was killed by a stray bullet--the sixth New York City child to die in such a senseless crime since June.

So far this year, 352 people have been murdered in Washington, D.C.

Currently, Los Angeles is enduring deadly street warfare as youth gangs battle one another.

Again in New York, three young thugs were recently convicted in the incredible attack, rape, and near-murder of a young female jogger in Central Park. And just a few weeks ago, a young Utah man was stabbed to death on a New York City subway platform as he fought to protect his mother and father during a mugging.

These incidents are but the surface evidence of the crime, violence, and lawlessness that grip a growing number of large urban communities in our country. Beset by drug addicts and violent gangs who support themselves largely by theft, robbery, and burglary, residents of many American cities fear for their safety even behind locked doors.

More significantly, the tides of crime and violence rising in many large cities demonstrate the callous

disregard for human life and the rights of one's neighbors when basic and traditional values are ignored or deliberately flouted.

We in West Virginia are more fortunate than most of our fellow Americans.

As annual crime statistics regularly show, West Virginians continue to enjoy an increasingly rare security. Perhaps the secret of West Virginia's perennially low crime rate is the insistence by West Virginians that individuals must answer to themselves, their families, their communities, and a Higher Power for their conduct and their misconduct.

Much that is lacking in many crime-plagued urban areas can be found in West Virginia: respect for the law, self-discipline, a strong sense of responsibility, and a high regard for the rights of others.

These values help West Virginia ward off the violence that is sweeping some areas of our country.

In the years ahead, as we work for progress and new opportunities in West Virginia, I hope that we will preserve these traditional assets that most define us as West Virginians.

October 3, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Investing in America's Future

Since 1981, under the Reagan and Bush Administrations, America's national debt has rocketed from slightly under \$1 trillion -- accumulated by thirty-nine presidents over nearly two centuries -- to more than \$3.3 trillion.

Few would argue that we need to reduce this staggering debt load. At the same time, however, we have a duty to invest in the foundations on which tomorrow's economic strength and national security will depend.

Throughout the past decade, federal investment in roads, bridges, airports, educational systems, community health-care programs, and non-defense research and development has been neglected.

Currently, the United States spends a smaller percentage of its annual wealth on these programs and efforts than do Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Canada, or Italy.

As a result, real U.S. economic growth is stagnating.

Two decades ago, U.S.-produced automobiles and consumer electronics were nearly unchallenged in our domestic markets.

Today, however, foreign manufacturers have captured one third of America's domestic automobile market and 95 percent of our consumer electronics market.

Average U.S. wages, adjusted for inflation, have been falling since the early 1970's, with today's U.S. worker enjoying less real buying power than in 1972.

The long-term solution to America's deficit problems will require investing in those assets and resources -- such as physical infrastructure, technology, and education -- that will make America more productive and more competitive in world markets.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am doing all that I can to obtain federal funds to invest in West Virginia's future economic foundations--Appalachian corridor highways, public water and sewerage systems, bridges, the FBI's 2,500-employee Identification Division, the replacement radio telescope at Greenbank, hardwoods-industry research and development, tourism development, flood control, airport improvements, small-business and defense-industry contracting, coal and energy research, and high-technology research and expertise development, to name some investment efforts.

My commitment is to put into place the kind of improved infrastructure that will prepare West Virginia to compete and prosper in the twenty-first century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Promoting Greater Worker Safety In West Virginia

Throughout my career in the Senate, I have been committed to improving the health and safety of the men and women who work in West Virginia's mines, factories, mills, and other enterprises.

To that end, some years ago I launched--and won federal funds to build--the Mine Safety and Health Academies at Beckley and at Dallas Pike near Wheeling, as well as the Appalachian Laboratory for Occupational Safety and Health (ALOSH) at Morgantown.

Against that background of interest in promoting greater worker safety and health, I got \$5 million last year for the planning and design of a national "state-of-the-art" occupational safety and health laboratory at Morgantown.

Recently, I added \$30 million to a Senate appropriation bill for the construction of this laboratory. This item has to go to a conference with the House of Representatives, and I hope that the House conferees will agree to it.

This proposed world-class research facility would be operated by the national Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in

Atlanta, in conjunction with ALOSH in Morgantown. Plans call for this facility to be completed in 1995, and to employ more than 300 new personnel--chemists, engineers, radiologists, microbiologists, toxicologists, researchers, and staff included.

The purpose of the new Morgantown CDC laboratory would be to keep the United States in the forefront of research into workplace health and safety. The location of this facility in our state would give West Virginians further advantages in developing safer, more healthful work situations.

In a related effort, I have put \$1.5 million into an appropriation bill in order to establish and staff a new mine emergency and firefighting training program at the National Mine Safety and Health Academy at Beckley.

Coal mining and a number of other heavy industrial jobs in West Virginia are among the most dangerous and potentially life-threatening of all work possibilities, and I shall continue my efforts to promote and improve the safety and health of our West Virginia workers in their workplaces.

October 17, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Civil War Sidelights in West Virginia

With millions of other Americans, I viewed with interest the recent presentation of *The Civil War* by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

Unfortunately, time limits permitted little treatment of the Civil War battles that occurred in West Virginia.

In fact, West Virginia was a major theater of Civil War activity, and boasts an often unrecognized Civil War heritage.

In recognition of the importance of John Brown's Raid as a herald of the Civil War, I have made the preservation and restoration of Harpers Ferry one of my ongoing priorities. Today, the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park draws hundreds of thousands of visitors annually to West Virginia.

Stonewall Jackson is one of the world's most famous military figures; yet, few Americans realize that he was born in what is now West Virginia and spent his formative youth in the Clarksburg area.

The first land battle of the War was fought at Philippi in Barbour County.

Furthermore, Union General George B. McClellan and Confederate General Robert E. Lee conducted their initial Civil War campaigns in West Virginia.

During the War, two men who later served as President of the United States--Rutherford B. Hayes and William

McKinley--saw action as Union soldiers in West Virginia.

Also, Federal General Lew Wallace, author of the 19th century bestseller *Ben Hur*, distinguished himself in one of the battles in the Romney area of Hampshire County, and General John C. Fremont -- the Republican Party's first presidential candidate--commanded Union troops in West Virginia.

Colonel George Smith Patton, a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and the son of a former Virginia governor, was a Charleston-area attorney who, in 1859, organized some of his Kanawha County neighbors into the "Kanawha Rifles" for military-training purposes. At the outbreak of the War, Patton's Rifles became a company of the Confederate Army's 22nd Virginia Infantry, which Patton commanded until his death in 1864.

Colonel Patton's grandson, General George S. Patton, Jr., won world renown in World War II as commander of the U.S. Third Army in Europe.

After the Civil War, several former Confederate officials held important positions in West Virginia, including West Virginia's U.S. Senator Allen T. Caperton in 1875-76, who had formerly served as one of Virginia's Senators in the Confederate Congress.

West Virginia has a vivid history, of which the Civil War years comprise a fascinating chapter.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More ARC Highway Funds For West Virginia

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I recently added \$175 million for construction of West Virginia highways.

This brings to \$255.5 million the total federal funds that I have added for West Virginia highway construction over the past two years.

These most recent appropriations that I got for West Virginia include:

--\$51.5 million to continue construction on Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor H between Buckhannon and Elkins;

--\$10 million for engineering and design work on the Parkersburg Bypass of Corridor D;

--\$33 million for work on a 1.3 mile segment of Corridor G around Williamson;

--\$38 million for a 5.3 mile segment of Corridor G between Williamson and Nolan; and

--\$42.5 million for the Weirton Bypass of U.S. Route 22.

The \$51.5 million that I got for Corridor H will allow construction of 8.94 miles, including the Tygart Valley River Bridge, and

will complete four-laning of Corridor H from Buckhannon to a point just west of Elkins.

The funds for the Weirton Bypass will allow four-laning of Route 22 in West Virginia, tying in with the new Veterans Memorial Bridge across the Ohio River.

In addition, I have won approval of a provision that I had added to a committee report directing the Secretary of Transportation to give priority status to the replacement of the Chelyan Bridge east of Charleston in using federal discretionary bridge funds.

Even in this era of federal budget constraints, I am working to accelerate the completion of the ARC corridor highway system in West Virginia and the improvement of vital highway segments such as the Weirton Bypass.

I believe that investing in modern, four-lane highways will bring new job opportunities to our state and promote the essential economic development that West Virginia must experience to attract new enterprises to our state and ensure our future.

October 31, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Federal Funds For West Virginia's Hardwood Industry

In my efforts to promote a world-class wood-products industry in West Virginia, I recently added \$8.1 million to an appropriation bill to advance wood-products technology and training and hardwood-product usage in West Virginia.

As Chairman of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, I added \$4.5 million to a funding bill to begin construction of a wood-products training center and high-tech manufacturing complex in Mercer County, and \$3.6 million to continue my Timber Bridge Initiative.

Feasibility studies that I had requested earlier this year recommended establishing the training and manufacturing complex in Mercer County, near the U.S. Forest Service Advanced Hardwood Resource Center, located at Gardner.

My aim is to develop the nucleus of a hardwood-manufacturing industry that can make full use of West Virginia's hardwood-forest growth potential, and to create job opportunities in the years ahead in a growing wood-products industry in our state.

The wood-products training and manufacturing complex would include a facility to train workers on state-of-the-art equipment, as well as a facility to provide on-site, computerized flexible-manufacturing services to wood-

products enterprises.

The center would be operated jointly by the Forest Service and the private sector, and is expected itself to employ 50 to 60 people.

My Timber Bridge Initiative is geared to promote the use of West Virginia hardwoods through the nationwide replacement of small bridges that are deficient and obsolete, utilizing treated hardwoods as long-lasting, lower cost alternatives to conventional materials.

To date, I have gotten \$6 million for timber-bridge construction nationwide, of which \$2 million has gone toward construction of 44 timber bridges in West Virginia, selected by the Forest Service and the State Highway Department in the first two years of my initiative.

Of the recent \$3.6 million added to my Timber Bridge Initiative, \$2 million is earmarked for construction, \$700,000 is slated to operate the Hardwood Timber Bridge Information Resource Center in Morgantown, and \$900,000 is intended for further timber-bridge research.

Based on the intelligent management of a renewable resource, the hardwood-products industry offers West Virginia new opportunities, new jobs, and new economic possibilities long into the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Expanding West Virginia's Only National Wildlife Refuge

Throughout my life, I have appreciated West Virginia's natural beauty and wild resources.

Consequently, I have long worked to improve our two great national forests -- the Monongahela and the George Washington, to bolster and expand the national fish hatcheries in our state, to reclaim abandoned mine land, and to develop the tourism possibilities of such natural assets as the New River Gorge and Harpers Ferry.

In the past two years, I have been working to enhance another of West Virginia's natural riches that I recognized as important to our state's ecological well-being.

Last year, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added \$850,000 to an appropriation bill to establish a group of ecologically sensitive Ohio River islands along West Virginia's boundary as our state's first National Wildlife Refuge.

The islands in this refuge -- stretching from the Northern Panhandle County of Hancock to south of Point Pleasant in Mason County -- comprise one of West Virginia's and America's richest and most diverse habitats for fish, plants, birds, and other

wildlife populations.

The funding that I added last year has provided for the purchase of twelve of the islands -- Phillis, Georgetown, Paden, Broadback, Grape, Bat, Witten-Towhead, Grandview, Mill Creek, Wells, Williamson, and Muskingum.

This year, I succeeded in adding \$1.25 million to the 1991 Interior Appropriation Bill to include another nine islands in the wildlife refuge -- Captina, Fish Creek, Eureka, Marietta, Newberry, Mustapha, Buffington, Eight Mile, and Gallipolis.

Since long before mankind's arrival in North America, the Ohio River islands have been central facets in Nature's ecological system of renewal and recreation.

The inclusion of these 21 Ohio River islands in West Virginia's only National Wildlife Refuge ensures that they will play an increasingly efficient and productive role in undergirding the environmental health of the Ohio Valley and its surrounding territory.

In addition, the Ohio River islands will contribute to West Virginia's expanding tourism industry, one of our state's important sources of future jobs and prosperity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia: A "State-of-the-Art" State

West Virginia has long been known as a great coal-producing and manufacturing state. These basic industries still form the core of West Virginia's economy, but today, as a result of initiatives I have undertaken as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, West Virginia is becoming a national showcase for a growing array of high-tech, state-of-the-art projects and facilities.

For example:

* The Federal Bureau of Investigation is relocating its Fingerprint Identification Division to West Virginia and, with \$185 million which I added to an appropriation bill, is establishing a new, state-of-the-art fingerprint identification facility in the Clarksburg area that will employ approximately 2,500 persons.

* The Federal Centers for Disease Control plans to build a 200,000 square-foot state-of-the-art Occupational Safety and Health Laboratory at Morgantown. This facility, for which I recently got \$25 million to begin construction, will be an international resource for safety and health research.

* In the Eastern Panhandle, I added \$24.9 million to a recent appropriation bill to establish a world-class National Training Center for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

* In Wheeling, with \$8 million in appropriations that I got and \$1.4 million obtained by Rep. Alan Mollohan, the National

Aeronautics and Space Administration is establishing a Classroom of the Future and a National Technology Transfer Center at Wheeling Jesuit College to help West Virginians apply NASA's space age advances to their classrooms, offices, and factories.

* With a \$75 million appropriation I got last year, the National Science Foundation is building a state-of-the-art replacement radiotelescope at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, Pocahontas County.

* In Mercer County, with \$4.5 million I added to a recent funding bill, construction is to begin on a high-tech wood products training and manufacturing complex that is intended to bring the latest in advanced techniques to West Virginia's wood products industry.

* With \$5.8 million that I got in appropriations, the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing Systems has been established at Marshall University in Huntington under an Air Force program to develop new computerized manufacturing processes to make American industry more competitive.

Through these efforts, and other high-tech initiatives I am pursuing, I am working to make West Virginia a "state-of-the-art" state that will have a strong and diversified economy offering expanding job opportunities for West Virginians well into the 21st century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Another New Federal Facility For West Virginia

One of my long-term priorities has been to increase the presence of federal facilities in West Virginia.

Historically, West Virginia's mountain streams, lakes, and ponds have been famous for quality sports fishing and for drawing significant numbers of tourists annually. In addition, West Virginia boasts an abundance of wildlife and wildlife habitats that are of interest to tourists, sportsmen, and naturalists.

Against that background, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added \$24.9 million to an Interior Department appropriation bill this year for planning, engineering, design, and other pre-construction costs requisite to building a state-of-the-art U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Education and Training Center in West Virginia.

These funds are in addition to \$4.9 million that I got last year for the preliminary design of this facility.

To be located in the Harpers Ferry area of Jefferson County, the Training Center will be a world-class institution that will bring fish and wildlife professionals from throughout the country to West Virginia for training and education in wildlife management and other ecological concerns.

In addition to the Fish and Wildlife Service, other agencies that will use the facility include the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. military.

Currently, the Fish and Wildlife Service's training operations are fragmented nationwide and are too limited in scope to meet the agency's expanding responsibilities.

The new Training Center will permit the Fish and Wildlife Service to gather all of its training operations into one facility in which efficient, coordinated training programs will be offered to federal and other fish and wildlife professionals.

Combined in the Harpers Ferry complex will be classrooms, laboratories, exhibits, and field-site training opportunities.

Scheduled for completion in 1994, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Education and Training Center will be an important asset for ensuring the continued health of a vital element of America's natural legacy, as well as a significant addition to the growing number of federal facilities locating in West Virginia.

November 28, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Expanding Tourism in West Virginia

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am continually working on initiatives to strengthen West Virginia's economy and to create new job opportunities in our state.

Tourism is one enterprise offering West Virginia real promise.

To enhance West Virginia's tourism potential, I have long made the establishment and development of national park facilities in our state a top priority. In the Eastern Panhandle, for example, the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, for which I have added more than \$5 million over the past two years to improve facilities, draws hundreds of thousands of tourists to West Virginia every year.

In Southern West Virginia, the development of the New River Gorge National River in Fayette County, for which I have added \$12 million to appropriation bills over two years for a variety of construction projects, is also one of my ongoing efforts.

In addition to these initiatives, I am also exploring the possibility of new national park developments in our state.

For example, this year I got \$325,000 in an appropriation bill to continue

a feasibility study for a new national park unit in Wheeling. This is in addition to the \$175,000 I got last year to initiate the Wheeling Heritage Project. Wheeling has played a unique role in the pioneering, commercial, and industrial expansion of our country, and offers great historical and educational value as a park unit.

Moreover, I added \$150,000 in funding to study the feasibility of developing a national park unit in Bramwell; \$100,000 for a coal-heritage study in Southern West Virginia; and \$310,000 to acquire 61 miles of abandoned rail line between Wood County and Harrison County for the Park Service.

In other tourism-related appropriation action, I got \$350,000 to continue development of an Appalachian Tourism Center at Concord College in Mercer County and \$2 million to establish West Virginia's only National Wildlife Refuge, the Ohio River Islands.

Creating new jobs and broadening our state's economic base are vital to West Virginia's future. These further initiatives that I am promoting in tourism promise to pay valuable dividends in the years ahead.

December 5, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Investing for West Virginia's Future

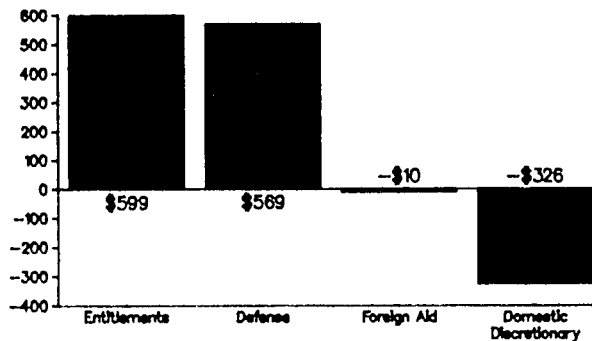
Since becoming Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee in January 1989, I have added nearly \$1 billion to appropriations bills for West Virginia.

My efforts include funding I have gotten for Appalachian Corridor highways G, H, and D, and the Weirton Bypass of Route 22; flood-control projects, such as the Tug Fork; a new National Training Center for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; my Timber Bridge Initiative, military construction for the National Guard and Reserve, the

increased \$599 billion over inflation. By contrast, domestic discretionary spending -- which funds roads, bridges, airports, mass transit, water and sewer facilities and other physical and human infrastructure investments -- decreased by a total of \$326 billion below the rate of inflation.

As a result of these budget distortions, our roads, bridges, airports, and other public facilities are deteriorating. Additionally, education, law enforcement, medical research, economic development, housing, and water

Fiscal Years 1981 - 1990 (Outlays in Billions)



FBI's Identification Division facility, coal-related energy programs, and tourism-boosting efforts, such as the New River Gorge National River.

My purpose in bringing these new facilities and improvements to West Virginia is to lay foundations to create new jobs and opportunities for our state in the years ahead.

Unfortunately, in recent years, our country has failed to invest in the future as it should.

The current budget-deficit and national-debt crises are largely the product of massive increases over the past ten years in defense spending and entitlement programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, and other mandatory spending.

The accompanying graph illustrates the dramatic increase in defense spending, which, during the 10-year period between 1981 and 1990, grew \$569 billion over inflation. Also during that same period, entitlements

and sewage treatment facilities have been increasingly neglected or ignored.

Conversely, other industrial nations -- Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Canada, and Italy -- have been investing increasing amounts in the same infrastructures and services that America has neglected.

Any corporation that does not invest in its plant, equipment, and workers is courting failure and collapse. Likewise, any country that does not invest in its infrastructure and in the training and education of its people is facing economic defeat and disaster.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I shall continue working to bring new jobs to West Virginia and to prepare for our state's future, as well as fighting for those programs and projects that will strengthen America competitively for future challenges.

December 12, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Have a Happy and Safe New Year's Holiday!

For most Americans, this New Year's Weekend will pass without drama--the usual football bowl games, family and friends enjoying warm fellowship, and then back to work on January 2.

But, unfortunately, again this year, a regrettable number of Americans will never be able to forget the tragedy that New Year's 1991 will become.

Those people will forever remember this New Year's holiday as the weekend on which they lost some loved one in a traffic death.

During New Year's Weekend 1990, 289 Americans lost their lives in traffic accidents.

New Year's Weekend 1989 tallied 317 automobile deaths. The four-day New Year's Weekend in 1988 accounted for 375 automobile deaths. New Year's 1991 brings another four-day holiday.

As in past years, alcohol will again be involved in more than 50 percent of this New Year's automobile accident

deaths.

The National Safety Council estimates that in the past ten years, more than a quarter-million Americans have lost their lives as a result of alcohol- and drug-related automobile accidents.

I hope that everyone will be increasingly aware this year of the need for automobile and highway safety.

On the road, drive carefully and defensively against the threat of drunken drivers in other automobiles.

Remember that an automobile, in the hands of a drunken driver, is a lethal weapon.

Last year, West Virginia reported only one New Year's automobile fatality.

The vigilance and responsibility that statistic connotes are commendable.

Would it not be wonderful if this New Year's Weekend, West Virginia reported zero automobile fatalities?

December 19, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hope for Peace in the New Year

Buoyed by the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, the emergence of new freedoms in Eastern Europe, and eased tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, the year 1990 began on one of the most hopeful notes for world peace in recent decades.

Unfortunately, the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq's Saddam Hussein brought a bitter close to the year's promising beginning, with the United States involved in a massive military buildup in Saudi Arabia and the threat of war once again looming on the horizon.

The invasion of Kuwait was an indefensible act of aggression. More than maintaining the flow of Persian Gulf oil is at stake in the current crisis. Saddam Hussein harbors grandiose designs for ruling and controlling the entire Middle East. More ominously, Saddam is reportedly within a few years--perhaps months--of developing his own nuclear weapons, as well.

With my support, the Senate last August approved a measure urging international sanctions against Iraq as a means of driving it out of Kuwait.

Subsequently, the United Nations Security Council voted to condemn the invasion and apply a sweeping economic embargo against Iraq.

Over recent months, the President has also ordered a buildup of roughly 430,000 American service personnel into the Persian Gulf to thwart and

reverse Saddam's occupation of his neighbor.

A number of young West Virginia men and women are currently serving in that force. Their spirit and their willingness to fulfill their duties in a harsh, pitiless environment are commendable and inspiring. I know that these young service people have the prayers and admiration of all West Virginians, as well as our hopes that they will all return safely from this mission.

Indeed, I do not believe that war is inevitable. Experts--including former generals and two former Pentagon Chiefs of Staff--have testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee that the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq are having an effect. Further, these experts agree that, if given time, these sanctions will weaken Iraq's economy and Saddam's military establishment.

The former Chiefs of Staff who testified before the Armed Services Committee agree that time is on our side in the Persian Gulf crisis.

At the beginning of another new year, let us hope that using the U.S. and allied troops deployed to Saudi Arabia will not be necessary--that diplomacy, economic pressure, and international patience will prevail, and that bloodshed can be avoided.

And let us hope that the year 1991 will be another year in which peace is strengthened and justice served around the world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Jobs and Economic Growth For West Virginia

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am committed to investing our nation's scarce federal dollars in infrastructure programs and projects where the need is greatest and the investment will yield the highest dividends.

Since January 1989, during my first term as Chairman of the Committee, I have brought nearly \$1 billion in federal investment to West Virginia, which over the coming years will translate into thousands of new jobs and renewed economic growth.

For example, highways are a lifeline of economic development, and I have gotten more than \$255 million for highway construction in West Virginia, including Appalachian Corridors H, G, and D, and the Weirton Bypass of U.S. Route 22.

In another effort to bring new jobs to West Virginia, and to improve law enforcement nationwide, I got \$185 million for the FBI to relocate its fingerprint identification facility to our state, creating an estimated 2,500 jobs and an annual payroll of \$75 million.

I also got \$50 million to locate a new 750-bed medium security federal prison in Beckley, which will employ 250 persons; and \$17.5 million to locate a new Coast Guard Operations Computer Center in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, which will enhance the Coast Guard's marine rescue and drug en-

forcement capabilities.

In the area of research and development, I added \$75 million to replace the collapsed radio telescope at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, Pocahontas County; \$32 million to build a world-class Occupational Safety and Health Laboratory in Morgantown; and \$30 million for a new state-of-the-art National Education and Training Center in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

To promote West Virginia's growing tourism industry, I have added millions of dollars in federal funds to advance development of the New River Gorge National River and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park; to acquire 21 Ohio River Islands to establish West Virginia's first National Wildlife Refuge; and to improve recreational facilities in the Monongahela National Forest.

It is impossible to predict what the future holds -- the Persian Gulf crisis, the Savings and Loan crisis, and the potential for natural disasters such as Hurricane Hugo or the San Francisco earthquake are among the many unknowns that could affect future federal budgets -- but within the constraints of other budget demands, I will continue my efforts to promote jobs and economic growth in West Virginia and throughout our nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Financial Aid for West Virginia College Students

At this time of year, many young West Virginians are laying plans to enter college next fall and are calculating the financial resources available to them.

In recent years, the cost of college tuition and living expenses has soared, discouraging many promising young men and women from pursuing higher education.

In fact, however, much financial assistance is available through a variety of college scholarships, grants, and loans.

Many West Virginia high school vocational and educational counselors can provide information on general resources available to all applicants, as well as funds offered by a specific institution to which a student might be applying.

Another important source of such information is the financial aid office at almost every college or university. Inquiries of these offices should be made as early in advance of deciding on a college or university as possible.

Also, information regarding scholarships can often be found through professional organizations in one's field of interest, as well as through local churches, businesses, and community organizations.

West Virginians can contact the West Virginia Higher Education Central Office regarding assistance available through the West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program. Communications should be ad-

dressed to the Higher Education Central Office, P.O. Box 4007, Charleston, West Virginia 25364, telephone 347-1211.

Information concerning direct assistance through Guaranteed Student Loan programs may be obtained by contacting West Virginia Education Loan Services, P.O. Box 591, Charleston, West Virginia 25322, telephone 345-7211. Included among these programs are Stafford Loans, Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS), and Supplemental Loans for Students.

To foster excellence in education among young West Virginians and young Americans, I won passage of a national honors scholarship program in 1985. Named in my honor by my Senate colleagues, the "Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program" makes available in every state a number of federally underwritten college scholarships. These scholarships, worth \$1,500 each, are based solely on scholastic merit, and are for the first year of study only.

To date, 171 Byrd Scholarships worth \$256,500 have been awarded in West Virginia.

Byrd Scholars in West Virginia are selected by the West Virginia Department of Education and the West Virginia Board of Regents. In our state, the Program is administered through the Higher Education Central Office, listed above.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Grave Decision for Our Country's Future

A few days ago, I cast perhaps the most important vote, up to now, in my political career.

I voted to delay the military option for the time being, and to continue the policy of sanctions against Iraq because of its savage, unprovoked, and cynical invasion of tiny Kuwait.

But let Saddam Hussein make no mistake: Now that the President has been authorized to use military force to drive Iraq from Kuwait, Congress will stand united behind our forces in the Middle East.

Since Iraq's seizure of Kuwait, I have been a strong supporter of the President's actions to defend Saudi Arabia and to punish Iraq's aggression through sanctions.

So far, our actions have achieved those twin goals.

Any intentions by Saddam Hussein to invade Saudi Arabia have been thwarted, and Iraq's economy is being progressively strangled. The sanctions are working. We should stay the course for the time being and give peace a further chance to prevail.

In fact, as I told the President, I would be prepared to vote for a declaration of war if, after another six months of sanctions, Iraq has not

withdrawn from Kuwait.

I hope that the President, now that he has Congressional approval for the use of force, will exercise patience, take his time, and not be provoked prematurely into attacking Iraq.

Time is on our side. Saddam cannot obtain additional spare parts for his war machine. In time, without oil sales, Iraq will face bankruptcy.

Time and again, the lessons of history have shown that patience is the wisest course of action, and that impatience can bring disaster.

As a world superpower, the United States has military claws and teeth and can afford to be patient for a while longer in dealing with a Third World power such as Iraq. This would allow the embargo to further erode the Iraqi military machine and weaken Iraq's economy.

But whatever the future brings, Saddam must understand that, if he chooses war over withdrawal from Kuwait, America will stand united against him. Above all, let Iraq know that we will not let down our men and women--many of them from West Virginia--standing guard in the Middle East.

January 16, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Time for National Unity and Prayer

On January 17, war came to Iraq--the old land of Mesopotamia--a land that has witnessed the carnage of countless battles through the centuries since before the time of Cyrus the Great (559 B.C.) and Alexander the Great (336 B.C.).

Through the ambition and miscalculation of Saddam Hussein, the spotlight of history has once again focused on this fabled land, and the war that we all had hoped to avoid, but feared would come, has come.

For those of us who counseled a more cautious strategy in the weeks before the United Nations deadline, now that our country has opted for military action "sooner rather than later," all Americans should unite in supporting the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who will do the fighting.

Saddam Hussein will exploit deep divisions here in America to his advantage. Saddam is a product of a different culture. He has no concept of the open debate that characterizes our representative democracy.

While early reports on our progress in this conflict have been encouraging, there should be no euphoria over our initial success. Rather, this should be a time for prayer--prayer for our brave men and women in the Gulf, for the allied forces, and for the innocents who unavoidably will be part of this conflict.

War leaves no nation as it found it, and Iraq will never be the same again.

America, too, will pay a price--in all likelihood, a heavy price.

War loves to seek its victims among the young, and my heart goes out to the mothers and fathers and grandparents and wives and children who wait, and watch, and worry over their loved ones.

All Americans hope for a speedy end to hostilities and for the safety of the men and women serving our country in the Persian Gulf. I fear that the end will not come quickly. Meanwhile, for the duration of this war, we must stand together in our support of the men and women on the front line.

January 23, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's VA Hospitals During the Persian Gulf Crisis

West Virginia's four veterans hospitals -- located in Huntington, Martinsburg, Beckley, and Clarksburg -- are participants in a vital network of medical care and treatment standing ready to serve military personnel wounded in the Persian Gulf conflict.

These four hospitals are funded and administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) -- the former Veterans Administration -- and have long served the veterans who have been members of our country's defense forces.

In World War II, West Virginia ranked fifth among the states in the percentage of its eligible male population participating; first among the states in the percentage of eligible male population participating in the Korean War; and second among the states in the percentage of its eligible male population participating in the Vietnam War.

And West Virginia ranked first among the states in the percentage of deaths its eligible male population suffered during both the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

As West Virginians, we can be proud of the sacrifices that West Virginians have made, and are making, for America's national security.

I have always been a

firm supporter of our VA hospitals. In little more than the past decade, I have helped to secure appropriations of roughly \$170 million to expand, modernize, and upgrade West Virginia's four VA hospitals. In the current Persian Gulf crisis, these improvements and expansions will prove valuable.

In this conflict, West Virginia's VA hospitals will serve as support hospitals to treat wounded military personnel after their initial treatment by larger VA hospitals. In addition, the Huntington VA Medical Center has been designated to receive telephone calls nationwide from the relatives of personnel wounded in "Operation Desert Storm," and to provide information on their condition and their hospital assignment.

At the Martinsburg VA Medical Center, an Emergency Facilities Operation Center will be charged with compiling a daily national report on the availability of beds for wounded military personnel at all VA hospitals.

West Virginians should take genuine satisfaction that these four outstanding healing institutions will be assisting America in fulfilling its responsibilities to the men and women who are serving the military efforts in the Persian Gulf.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Special Help for Special Men and Women

As the Persian Gulf war progresses, I think often of West Virginia's men and women serving there. Currently, more than 2,000 West Virginia Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Reservists and members of the West Virginia National Guard have been activated for service in "Operation Desert Storm."

In addition, hundreds more West Virginians are serving in the Persian Gulf theater as members of the regular Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines.

This is not surprising. A strong sense of patriotism is one element of West Virginia's character and our state's history. As in past wars, by overwhelming numbers, West Virginians give their unqualified support to the men and women serving in the Persian Gulf.

But many lives have been disrupted by this crisis. In one small way, some relief is on the way.

On January 24, a bill to provide tax relief for our troops in the Persian Gulf was unanimously passed by the Senate. H.R. 4, which I cosponsored, will permit our troops and their families to defer (1) filing

tax returns; (2) paying estimated taxes; (3) filing a claim for tax credits or refunds; and (4) other actions associated with income tax requirements. These deferrals will be permitted during service or associated hospitalization, and for an additional 180 days.

This bill, unanimously passed by the House of Representatives on January 15, makes the provisions of the President's Executive Order 12744, signed on January 21, retroactive to the date on which service began in the deployment area. (That Executive Order designated the Persian Gulf region a combat zone, thus activating certain current law provisions concerning tax deferrals for those in combat.) H.R. 4 also applies to those hospitalized inside the United States, up to five years from the date of return. H.R. 4 also requires the Internal Revenue Service to pay interest on income tax refunds issued more than forty-five days after April 15, 1991.

Let this act be one measure of our appreciation for the job being done by our men and women in the Persian Gulf region.

February 6, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Funds for West Virginia's Corridor Highways

Recently, the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) released to West Virginia a total of \$137.2 million that I added to an appropriation bill last year for continued work on Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor Highways G, H, and D and the Weirton Bypass of Route 22.

The funding for Corridor G includes \$33.2 million for construction of a 1.3 mile segment of the highway around Williamson, while the funding for Corridor H will underwrite \$51.5 million in construction for an 8.94 mile segment from Buckhannon to a point just west of Elkins, including the Tygart Valley River Bridge. A particularly advantageous feature of the appropriation for these two projects is that it is 100 percent federal funding, with no state matching money required.

Further, the FHA released \$10 million that I added last year for engineering and design of the Parkersburg Bypass of ARC Corridor D.

In addition, \$42.5 million was released by the FHA from funds that I

added last year for construction of the Weirton Bypass of Route 22, a highway needed to complete the approaches to the Veterans Memorial Bridge crossing the Ohio River at Weirton.

This funding will be used for a 2.8 mile segment of Route 22 around Weirton, which will complete the four-laning of this highway in West Virginia.

In the past two years, I have added a total of \$255 million to appropriation bills for highway construction in West Virginia. However, funding the mounting costs of the American effort in the Persian Gulf War, as well as the need to curb the national debt and to allocate scarce Federal resources, will increase the difficulty of continuing to add federal funds for highway construction.

Nevertheless, completing the ARC corridor highways in West Virginia is my top priority and, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I shall do everything that I can to move these vital West Virginia projects forward.

February 13, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Wanted: A Better Federal Highway Bill For West Virginia

Recently, the Administration unveiled a new national highway construction proposal.

Unfortunately, this proposal appears to give rural and mountainous states like West Virginia short shrift in funding, and, for that reason, I am opposed to the bill as currently drafted.

One of the major drawbacks of this proposal is that it provides no special category for regional highway systems such as the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor Highway System, and it makes no allowance in funding for the difficulties associated with road building in West Virginia, where highways often must be blasted through forbidding mountainous terrain.

In addition to slighting West Virginia's ARC corridor highways and ignoring the difficulties and additional costs of highway construction in states like West Virginia, this highway bill would increase the costs that states must share for federally aided highway construction.

For example, the Federal share for urban and rural roads would decrease from 75 percent to 60 percent. For bridges, the Federal share would drop from 80 percent to 75 percent.

Under provisions of

legislation that I originally co-sponsored authorizing construction of the ARC corridor highway system in our state, 275.5 miles of ARC corridor highways have been finished in West Virginia or are currently under construction.

That leaves another 135.2 miles of ARC corridor highways to be completed in West Virginia.

Over the past two years, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have added more than \$255 million to appropriations bills to advance the remaining ARC corridor highways in our state--Corridors H, G, and D--and to build the Weirton Bypass of Route 22 in the Northern Panhandle.

All of these added funds were over and above the sums proposed by the Administration for West Virginia highway construction.

Completing the ARC corridor highways in our state is my Number One priority for West Virginia. The Administration's highway proposals notwithstanding, I shall do everything that I can, within current Federal budget constraints and limitations imposed by fiscal demands of our efforts in the Persian Gulf War, to add Federal funds to advance ARC corridor highway construction in West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia and the Proposed 1992 Federal Budget

The Administration's proposed 1992 Federal budget has been made public, and although it does not go far enough, it includes several features that will be beneficial for West Virginia.

For example, the budget proposes specific funding that will build up America's vital "infrastructure"--programs and projects essential to our country's and West Virginia's future well-being and progress. Among these are public health, education, and research and development.

The budget also includes funding for a number of projects on which I have been working for some time. These include: \$38 million for continued construction of the Gallipolis Locks and Dam on the Ohio River; \$5 million for the Tug Fork flood control project in Southwestern West Virginia; \$15 million for the Winfield Lock and Dam on the Kanawha River; \$30 million for the Point Marion Lock and Dam below Morgantown on the Monongahela River; and \$34.5 million for the Gray's Landing Lock and Dam No. 7 above Morgantown on the Monongahela.

Additionally, the \$38.6 million proposal for

the Essential Air Service program would assure continued passenger air service to five West Virginia airports--Clarksburg/Fairmont, Elkins, Beckley, Morgantown, and Bluefield/Princeton.

Although this budget proposes \$100 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), extending ARC's economic development programs, this amount is not sufficient to meet the ARC corridor highway system's construction requirements. As I have in the past, I plan to continue doing everything that I can, as Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman, to add funding for ARC corridor highway construction in West Virginia.

Nationally, the United States is undergoing a stressful period. The current economic slowdown and the Persian Gulf War are taking their toll on our Nation's resources.

Nevertheless, I am concerned that we meet vital domestic needs that represent the backbone of future economic development and progress in West Virginia, and that will help to expand job opportunities and growing prosperity in our state in the years ahead.

February 27, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Shoring Up the Nation's Banking System

In his State of the Union message, President Bush announced that his Administration would send to Congress "a banking reform plan to bring America's financial system into the 21st century." As we are all painfully aware, the savings and loan crisis has already cost American taxpayers billions of dollars, and will cost billions more before being fully resolved. Now, the strains which led to the collapse of so many savings and loans have begun to take a toll on our nation's banks.

According to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), more than 1,000 FDIC-insured banks failed during the 1980's. The banks that failed during this period account for over one-half of the total number of insured banks that have failed since the FDIC was created in 1934. In 1989 alone, 206 banks failed, the largest one-year total since the Great Depression. Even though the number of failures slowed to 160 banks last year, more than 1,000 insured banks remained on the FDIC's "problem list" at year's end, and it is expected that about 10 percent of all such banks will eventually fail.

As alarming as these statistics may seem, most of our nation's banks are

financially sound. The banks that failed during the past decade represented fewer than 10 percent of all insured banks in the United States. Although the reserves of the Bank Insurance Fund, which is used by the FDIC to insure accounts in member banks, have been drawn down in recent years, falling from \$18.7 billion at the end of 1987 to \$8.5 billion at the end of 1990, Federal regulators and banking industry officials are working to find a way to shore up the insurance fund without any cost to taxpayers.

The problems facing our banking system are not insurmountable. Although the failures that have occurred in the past 10 years have been disproportionately concentrated in a small number of states (more than one-half of the 1,200 banks that failed between 1980 and 1990 were located in three states -- Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma -- while only three banks failed in West Virginia during the same period of time), addressing the problems confronting our banking system is a matter of national concern. As a result, I am confident that the 102nd Congress will work to restore and revitalize our banking system.

March 6, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Education Bargain For West Virginians

According to a recent report, more than half of the new jobs created by the year 2000 will require some education beyond high school, and roughly one-third of all U.S. jobs will require a college degree.

Ironically, however, the tuition costs are soaring out of sight at many of America's most prestigious private colleges and universities.

By comparison, West Virginia offers some genuine bargains in higher education.

For this current academic year, tuition and other costs at Harvard are an estimated \$22,160; at Yale, \$22,520; at Princeton, \$22,400; and at MIT, \$22,994.

And the 1990-91 estimated tuition cost alone at Georgetown University in Washington is \$14,440.

Even at some state-supported universities, prices are climbing, with Maryland's basic in-state tuition this year at \$2,269, while Virginia residents face tuition of \$2,966 at Charlottesville.

In effect, the costs of one year of college at America's premier institutions of higher education are being priced out of the reach of many middle- and moderate-income American families.

Fortunately, within commuting distance of most West Virginians, West Virginia's state-supported universities, four-year colleges, and community colleges offer among the best educational values available anywhere to West Virginians of all

ages.

Annual in-state tuition for the 1990-91 school year at West Virginia and Marshall Universities is under \$1,800; and for the two-year West Virginia University programs at Parkersburg and Potomac State, the annual tuition averages \$1,250 or less. In-state tuition for our State's four-year programs at Bluefield, Concord, Fairmont, Glenville, Shepherd, West Liberty, West Virginia Tech and West Virginia State averages under \$1,500 a year. Annual in-state tuition for two-year programs at Southern West Virginia and West Virginia Northern Community Colleges is under \$1,000.

Likewise, West Virginia boasts several excellent private universities (University of Charleston and Salem-Teikyo University) and colleges that are endeavoring both to keep tuitions reasonable and to offer up-to-date academic and job-oriented programs.

West Virginia's economy is changing, with new business enterprises and job opportunities on the horizon.

But most of those enterprises and jobs will demand increased levels of education, training, and skill.

I hope that West Virginians young and old will avail themselves of the advantages presented by the excellent education possibilities that are open to them, and of the preparation for the coming job market that can be ours in West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Battling the Recession

The current recession has hit West Virginia and a number of other states particularly hard.

According to the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs, January-February 1991 unemployment claims in our state have increased by 30 percent and unemployment payments by 40 percent when compared with the first two months of last year.

As a result of the increased demand for unemployment assistance, West Virginia has been forced to curtail unemployment services, and, nationwide, the federal unemployment insurance program is reporting increased errors, longer waiting lines, and processing backlogs.

Against that background, I recently won Senate Appropriations Committee approval of a \$150 million emergency appropriation to speed the processing of unemployment claims throughout the nation -- which, of course, will be helpful to West Virginia.

Many economists have predicted that this recession will not be as long or as deep as some past slumps.

Nonetheless, to men and women out of work, or to communities beset by economic slowdowns, that prediction is of little solace.

Historically, West Virginia has been harder hit and slower to recover from depressions, recessions, and other economic slides.

To alleviate such chronic problems, I am

working on a number of long-term projects and initiatives to lay broader economic foundations in West Virginia -- foundations that will create more jobs and opportunities to help our state weather the course of national and international economic downturns.

Among these efforts are: the relocation of the FBI's Identification Division to West Virginia, which will bring with it an estimated annual payroll of \$75 million and employment for approximately 2,500 people, 80 percent of whom will be hired locally; completion of Appalachian Corridor Highways G, H, and D, for which I have added \$212 million to appropriations bills over the past two years as a means of speeding construction, so that more of our state will be linked directly to national markets; rebuilding of several locks and dams along the Ohio, Kanawha, and Monongahela rivers to move West Virginia products more efficiently and competitively to market; and the replacement of the National Radio Telescope at Green Bank in Pocahontas County, for which I added \$75 million in appropriations to help enhance West Virginia's role in science and high-technology research.

The twenty-first century is less than ten years away. My vision is to lay new foundations of enterprise and job opportunities that will free West Virginia from chronic unemployment and recession in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Benefits From the New FBI Identification Division

The relocation to West Virginia of the FBI's Identification Division will be a vital boost to our state's economy.

With an estimated annual payroll of \$75 million, and a projected workforce of approximately 2,500, the new Identification Division center is the largest Federal facility ever to be built in West Virginia.

But also important for West Virginia, as well as for the whole United States, are the crime-fighting and personnel-identification advantages that the new facility will afford.

Since its inception, the FBI's Identification Division has earned a legendary reputation for fighting crime. Today, however, the FBI's identification technology is antiquated and inefficient.

For example, the FBI regularly experiences a backlog of up to 500,000 fingerprint requests, and delays up to five or six weeks in responding to state and local police inquiries.

Moreover, tens of thousands of new fingerprint sets are left unfiled every year because the FBI lacks the means to receive them from state and local law-enforcement units.

Currently, more than 62,000 agencies--including police departments, Federal agencies, and licensing

agencies overseeing employment in such businesses as day-care centers, banks, and stock exchanges --use the FBI's Identification Division to run criminal background checks on potential employees.

The new Identification Division will feature a state-of-the-art system for fingerprints and other means of identification that will link the state systems, expand the national fingerprint files, allow the processing of as many as 600,000 inquiries per day, and slash identification time from weeks to hours or even minutes.

FBI authorities have stated that the move of the Identification Division to West Virginia will rejuvenate a national system that is close to collapse. Further, West Virginia's lower cost of living, strong work ethic, low crime rates, scenic beauty, and strong family values promise to provide the FBI with a more cost-effective operation, a more stable workforce, and an improved quality of life for its Identification Division employees.

We are involved in a massive national war against crime, and West Virginia's new FBI Identification Division will be an immense resource toward helping to win that war.

March 27, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Federal Agency Consolidates Operations In West Virginia

Approximately 20 years ago, I helped to obtain Federal funding to enable the Bureau of Public Debt--the agency responsible for the sale and redemption of U.S. Bonds and for administering all regulations pertaining to the public debt--to consolidate its Chicago operations in Parkersburg.

More recently, I have been urging the Bureau of Public Debt to examine the feasibility of taking similar action with regard to its Washington, D.C., operations.

Now, following a meeting I had with Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady in my U.S. Capitol office, I am able to report the good news that the Bureau of Public Debt plans to consolidate most of its Washington operations--including 700 employees--in Parkersburg.

This action stems from language that I, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, added to reports accompanying appropriations bills, urging the Bureau of Public Debt to review the relationship between the operations of the Parkersburg and Washington facilities with a view toward locating more Washington-based functions in Parkersburg.

This new consolidation will begin next year

and is projected to be complete in 1995.

With 1,187 employees in Parkersburg, the current budget at the Bureau's Parkersburg facility is \$39 million annually.

The added employees will bring the number of the Bureau's full-time Parkersburg employees to nearly 1,900, with a total Parkersburg budget of \$71 million annually, including approximately \$63 million for salaries and benefits, and the remainder for local purchases, utilities, and other overhead costs.

Included among those employees to be relocated to Parkersburg will be data processing specialists, computer analysts and programmers, accountants and accounting technicians, securities examiners and analysts, administrative service personnel, and general managers.

The Bureau of Public Debt has determined that this consolidation of services and operations from Washington to Parkersburg is a sound and cost-effective move, and will provide productivity savings and improved customer service.

The consolidation of further operations of the Bureau of Public Debt in Parkersburg is another step forward in my efforts to open our state to increased high-technology challenges and opportunities.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia: An Attractive Alternative for Federal Agencies

In recent months, I have been working with the FBI to update and relocate its Identification Division to the Clarksburg area; with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a training center in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle; and with the Treasury Department to consolidate most of its Washington, D.C., operations of the Bureau of Public Debt at that agency's Parkersburg location.

Just a few weeks ago, I participated in swearing-in ceremonies for three new employees of the FBI's Identification Division--the first of the 2,500 workers who will eventually staff that facility.

Only days prior to that event, I announced, following a conversation in my office with Treasury Secretary James Brady, that the Bureau of Public Debt plans to relocate 700 employees from its Washington facility to Parkersburg.

Throughout my negotiations with these various agencies, I have been able to point out that West Virginia enjoys a number of advantages that make our state particularly attractive to Federal agencies looking toward upgrading

or relocating.

For example, West Virginia's lower cost of living, competitive and skilled workforce, low crime rate, low-density traffic, scenic beauty, and strong family values offer agencies such as the FBI a more cost-effective operation, a lower rate of employee turnover, and an improved quality of life for their employees.

A paramount advantage important to Federal agencies is the availability in West Virginia of one of the most comprehensive high-technology fiber optics telecommunications systems anywhere in the nation.

This communications technology means that a Federal agency can maintain headquarters in Washington and communicate instantaneously with so-called "back office" operations in West Virginia--and as easily as if they were next door.

West Virginia offers everything that an employer could want, and is an ideal option for Federal agencies contemplating relocation or diversification of their operations outside the congested Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

April 10, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

1991 National Teacher of the Year

West Virginia recently shared the national spotlight that fell on Mrs. Rae McKee, a reading disabilities teacher at the Slanesville Elementary School in Hampshire County, who has been named America's 1991 National Teacher of the Year.

Ceremonies at which Mrs. McKee was formally presented her award were held at the Slanesville School, with both President Bush and Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander in attendance.

A graduate of Shepherd College with a master's degree from West Virginia University, Mrs. McKee was at one point accepted to attend law school. Fortunately for West Virginia, however, her love of teaching prevailed over her inclinations toward the law.

I know that I speak for all West Virginians in congratulating Mrs. McKee on this exceptional honor, and in expressing to her an admiration for her accomplishments and an appreciation for the dedication and sacrifice that she has brought to her chosen vocation.

Author and historian Henry Adams wrote, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

For generations, thoughtful people have recognized the imperative

role of the teacher to the intellectual, emotional, and moral growth and development of our children and to the progress and prosperity of our country.

In this era of increasing technological and commercial competition among the world's trading and manufacturing powers, the quality of our schools and the teachers who staff them are perhaps more crucial to America's future economic strength and national security than at any previous time in our history.

To compete effectively in the world market and to maintain America's competitive technological edge, our country must have an increasingly skilled, experienced, disciplined, and knowledgeable workforce.

The best means for ensuring such a workforce is to provide our children with good schools and with dedicated, capable teachers equipped to educate and train students in the skills and disciplines demanded by our changing world.

West Virginia can be justly proud that one of its own teachers has earned such a high distinction in her chosen career.

We are grateful to Mrs. McKee and all of her colleagues for the efforts they are making to prepare West Virginia's young people to forge their futures against the challenges that lie ahead.

April 17, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Jobs of the Future

According to a survey conducted by a commission of business leaders and educators, about 1.7 million American manufacturing jobs--so-called "blue-collar jobs"--disappeared between 1979 and 1985.

Economists predict that this trend will continue, with a parallel growth in jobs requiring high-technology and computer-related training even at the entry level.

A Library of Congress study indicates that, by the year 2000, more than half of all U.S. jobs will require some education beyond the secondary level, including completion of college, vocational school, and/or computer school.

Recognizing the changes sweeping our nation's economy, and the implications for job preparation, I have been working to lay foundations to broaden and diversify West Virginia's economy, and to create more opportunities for West Virginians in this changing economic and job world.

For example, to help West Virginia develop computer-related businesses, I was instrumental in launching the Software Valley movement in Morgantown in 1985. Today, Software Valley has grown into a statewide movement with active chapters throughout West Virginia.

More recently, I appropriated monies to bring the FBI's new Identifica-

tion Division to West Virginia. This facility, to be located in Harrison County, will offer high-tech job opportunities to about 2,500 men and women, and will link our state to a nationwide high-technology network of unparalleled scope and sophistication.

The Bureau of Public Debt will also consolidate its Washington activities in Parkersburg, bringing with it approximately 700 employees.

To prepare more West Virginians to take advantage of the opportunities opening in high-technology careers and industries, I have added federal funding to appropriations bills for a variety of initiatives at West Virginia colleges and universities, including NASA's National Technology Transfer Center at Wheeling Jesuit College and the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Flexible Manufacturing at Marshall University.

Sophisticated communications networks have removed the barriers to locating high-tech jobs outside of major metropolitan areas, and West Virginia is ideally positioned to attract such jobs. My efforts are designed to ensure that West Virginians are able to compete in the dawning high-technology industrial world and to share in the new opportunities for jobs and prosperity, which that world will offer.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Proposed Federal Highway Plan Inadequate for West Virginia's Needs

The Administration recently proposed a highway plan that would designate 150,000 miles of U.S. roads as "highways of national significance."

Unfortunately, under this program, only 1,307 miles of West Virginia highways would be covered. By contrast, the West Virginia Division of Highways has recommended that approximately 2,200 miles of West Virginia highways be included in the "highways of national significance" program.

Also under the Administration's plan, West Virginia would face a 48 percent increase in state matching funds to gain only about 2 percent more in federal funds than the current federal-state fund-sharing formula provides.

West Virginia cannot hope to meet its basic road-building needs under the Administration's proposal, which shortchanges our state in mileage and would prohibitively raise West Virginia's matching-fund share.

This program is supposed to be a national highway plan, but by requiring the states to bear such an increased heavy financial burden for fun-

ding road building and repair, the Administration proposal will create a "rich man-poor man" nightmare.

Wealthier states that can afford the increased matching fund requirements will build their roads and bridges; states that cannot afford the match--states like West Virginia--will be forced to watch their roads and bridges deteriorate.

Thus, the United States will end up with a patchwork highway system that flies in the face of our national need to repair and rebuild our vital transportation infrastructure.

Historically, one of West Virginia's most pressing problems has always been the need for better roads.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I intend to do everything that I can to increase the highway mileage under the Administration's proposal, and to improve the federal-state matching fund formula in order that West Virginia will be better able to build the highways that our state needs for increased economic growth and development and the creation of new job opportunities in the years ahead.

May 1, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Space Age Groundbreaking in West Virginia

In November 1988, the National Radio Telescope at Green Bank, Pocahontas County, suddenly collapsed.

One of the largest radio telescopes in the world, that instrument had been used by the scientific community for 26 years to monitor naturally emitted radio signals from outer space -- providing astronomers with information that could not be gleaned from optical astronomy alone -- and was able to detect radio beams from distances as great as 10 billion light years away.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and recognizing the importance of the collapsed radio telescope to our country and to West Virginia, I added \$75 million to the 1989 supplemental appropriations bill to replace the destroyed instrument with a new, state-of-the-art radio telescope. Just recently, I participated in groundbreaking ceremonies at Green Bank for the construction of the replacement telescope.

When finished, this new telescope will be the largest fully steerable radio telescope in the world. The giant dish, which can be pointed anywhere in the sky, will be bigger than two football fields, yet it will be so precise that deviations in shape will average less than the thickness of a piece of

paper anywhere over the telescope's two-and-one-third-acre surface. This capability will allow us to look farther into space than ever before.

The new telescope will have 7,000 individual structural elements, and will stand more than 475 feet high.

Further, this one-of-a-kind radio telescope will be complete with super-accurate laser-aiming capacities, and will ensure America's leadership in this aspect of space research for decades into the twenty-first century.

The telescope will be located in the midst of the National Radio Quiet Zone, an area uniquely protected from the radio emissions that might interfere with the operation of a radio telescope.

Not only will this telescope reaffirm West Virginia's place as one of the world's foremost research centers for radio astronomy, but it will also serve to attract and stimulate the interest of young people in science.

In addition to its benefits for America and the world, I look forward to the stimulus that this telescope can provide in West Virginia for developing science and technology -- fields that promise to create new opportunities for economic growth throughout our state.

May 8, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Memorial Day 1991

Following the Civil War, patriotic citizens North and South began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers.

In 1868, U.S. General John A. Logan, then president of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Union veterans' organization, declared May 30 the Union day of remembrance, a precedent for today's Memorial Day placement.

On May 27 this year, we will again honor the memories of deceased loved ones, but most particularly of those Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in defense of our country's liberties and of our way of life.

In that defense, West Virginia has played a role far outweighing its proportions among the states.

In the recent Persian Gulf conflict, West Virginians again took a significant part in defending our national interests.

Thousands of West Virginia military personnel were active in the Gulf war theater, including approximately 2,500 West Virginia National Guardsmen and reservists from all services.

Appropriate to West

Virginia's defense heritage, in 1867, one of our country's first national cemeteries was opened at Grafton.

Long West Virginia's only national veterans' cemetery, the Grafton National Cemetery was closed to new interments in 1961.

Realizing the inordinate contribution of West Virginia's veterans to our national security and defense, in 1985 I earmarked funding for the establishment of a new national veterans' cemetery at Pruntytown--the West Virginia National Cemetery.

When fully developed, this new cemetery will provide approximately 6,400 gravesites. As part of an improvement of the Pruntytown cemetery, I will dedicate a \$1.1 million administrative/maintenance building and committal service shelter complex in early June.

On this Memorial Day, as we honor our revered dead, I find comfort in knowing that, once again, West Virginia veterans, their spouses, and their dependents can be laid to rest in a national veterans' cemetery in our state.

May 15, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The 1991 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships

As a result of legislation that I authored in the U.S. Senate in 1985, Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships for 1991 were awarded to 43 graduating West Virginia high school students at a recent ceremony in Charleston.

Based on nominations received from high schools across West Virginia, these "Byrd Scholars" were selected by state education officials to receive \$1,500 first-year college scholarships.

Awarded solely for outstanding academic performance, the 1991 West Virginia Byrd Honors Scholarships are among 5,561 being awarded to high school graduates nationwide.

Under the provisions of the legislation establishing the program, the number of scholarships allotted for each state is based on that state's student population.

Since the inception of the program, \$321,000 worth of Byrd Honors Scholarships have been awarded to a total of 214 West Virginians.

As I conceived this program, these scholarships are intended to encourage excellence in education by giving motivated students assistance in pursuing their college educations.

Believing that educa-

tion can open doors of opportunity to young people that might otherwise be closed to them, I have always been interested in education and scholastic achievement.

For that reason, since 1969, under the Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Awards program funded from a private trust that I established, I have provided U.S. Savings Bonds to more than 5,730 valedictorians of West Virginia public, parochial, private, and Schools for the Deaf and Blind graduating classes, with approximately 290 more Scholastic Recognition Awards to be presented to this year's valedictorians.

The success of the Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Awards prompted me to initiate the national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program.

The young West Virginians and other Americans winning the Byrd Honors Scholarships are exceptional students, and they deserve our admiration and encouragement.

Indeed, these students represent great promise for West Virginia's and America's future, and I hope that my interest in them will help them realize challenging and fulfilling careers in the years ahead.

May 22, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

High-Technology Enterprise Growing in West Virginia

Recently, I participated in dedicating the Robert C. Byrd Technology Center at Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, West Virginia.

Launched with a \$432,000 Economic Development Administration grant that I helped secure -- and as a cooperative venture of the statewide Software Valley movement, Alderson-Broaddus College, and private industry -- the new Technology Center will house private firms oriented toward establishing West Virginia as a national center for computerized data conversion.

Currently, the Technology Center hosts one enterprise employing 55 people under contracts with two out-of-state companies.

Some years ago, I realized that the changing global marketplace and the worldwide high-technology revolution would have a drastic impact on West Virginia and that, if we were to provide real job options for young West Virginians, West Virginia's economy would have to diversify.

As a step toward that diversification, I launched the nonprofit Software Valley movement in 1985.

Hundreds of West Virginians from business and industry, academia, and government participating in the Software Valley network statewide have helped to create a

positive environment in West Virginia for high-tech research and development. Across our state, software companies are enjoying successes and creating opportunities that had not been dreamt of even ten years ago.

Just recently, for example, the giant Boeing Company recognized a 27-employee Huntington firm and Software Valley member as one of its outstanding suppliers of 1990.

Another West Virginia software company located in Wheeling has just been awarded a three-month Martin Marietta Corporation defense sub-contract to design computer software for the U.S. Air Force's robotics and flexible manufacturing program.

Private enterprise endeavors such as these are economic engines that can help to power West Virginia's future growth and development and provide increased job opportunities in our state.

The future is an open door for West Virginians willing to pioneer in the advanced high-technology era that we are entering.

Through our state's human and natural resources and through developments already underway or in the planning, West Virginia has the potential to become more prosperous than at any time in its history.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Special Considerations For West Virginia Highways

Currently, several new approaches are being examined toward meeting America's surface transportation construction needs as a prelude to reauthorizing the federal highway program.

In this legislative process, to meet our state's unique terrain and use demands, I have proposed that West Virginia and other mountainous states be given special consideration in the funding of federal highway construction programs.

The combination of West Virginia's rugged mountains, drainage problems, unstable highway-site foundations, and short construction season conditioned by severe weather, makes road building in our state extraordinarily difficult. This difficulty factor needs to be considered in the distribution of federal highway construction funds.

For example, while the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) estimates that corridor construction per mile in the other twelve states of the Appalachian region is about \$11 million, the cost of building corridors in West Virginia averages \$18.5 million per mile.

Another factor that should qualify West Virginia for a higher pro-

portion of federal highway funds is the impact of the Clean Air Act of 1990 on our state's highway system, particularly in southern West Virginia.

While expected to hurt the demand for high-sulfur coal, the Clean Air Act will have a counter effect of increasing the demand for low-sulfur coal, the quality most prevalent in our state's southern counties. The expanded coal truck use in those counties will mean additional heavy truck traffic, new traffic patterns, and greater wear and tear on existing highways, many of which were constructed decades ago for lighter vehicles and a smaller volume of traffic.

One of the keystones to West Virginia's future development and prosperity is an improved, modern highway network, especially the completion of the ARC corridor highway system, of which 135 miles remain to be finished in our state.

The apportionment of funds under any new federal highway program should take into account new factors that reflect the contemporary needs of our national highway system in general, but that particularly recognize the unique circumstances confronting highway needs in West Virginia.

June 5, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Filling the Energy Policy Vacuum

The recent Persian Gulf conflict again underlined America's energy weaknesses.

Though less than eleven percent of our country's oil was coming from the Persian Gulf at the time, Iraq's aggression temporarily forced American gasoline prices up in some cases by twenty-five percent.

At one time, America took energy abundance for granted.

But twice during the 1970's--first, during the Yom Kippur War and, later, during the Iranian Revolution--Americans learned how fragile our energy lifelines are.

When I was Senate Majority Leader in the late 1970's, I spearheaded Congressional efforts to put into place federal programs to promote energy independence by encouraging the full development of our national energy resources, especially emphasizing abundant coal supplies such as we possess in West Virginia.

Unfortunately, the Reagan administration dismantled those programs.

The fruits of the subsequent energy-policy vacuum have become all too clear.

Where, in 1973, America was importing about 35 percent of its annual oil consumption, we are today importing nearly

50 percent of our national oil supplies.

World and domestic energy demands and prices are likely to keep rising, and energy shortages could recur.

Here in America--and particularly in West Virginia--we are sitting on mountains of recoverable coal reserves. The United States is the Saudi Arabia of coal.

Fortunately, I have won broad support for my own Clean Coal Technology Program--an effort to develop technologies to utilize our massive coal reserves in technologically advanced and environmentally compatible ways.

But, as I have urged since the energy crises of the 1970's, America must have a comprehensive national energy policy that fully capitalizes on our coal reserves, as well as our oil, natural gas, and other energy resources. Through both private and public commitments, such an energy policy could free us from our vulnerabilities to the political instabilities inherent in the Middle East.

With visionary leadership, America possesses the scientific and technological expertise to achieve energy self-sufficiency. I urge that we mobilize our energy potential before another energy crisis wreaks its toll in economic distress and hardship on our country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Funding for Vital West Virginia Projects

I recently added \$68 million in federal funding to a Senate appropriation bill for continued construction of West Virginia's Appalachian Corridor Highways G and H.

Specifically, my funding includes \$47 million for construction of Corridor H, which will link Central West Virginia to western Virginia and to East Coast markets.

Additionally, I earmarked \$21 million for work on Corridor G, a 79-mile route running through Mingo, Logan, Boone, and Kanawha Counties, and connecting Charleston more directly to eastern Kentucky.

A dearth of modern highways has historically been one of the factors most seriously hindering the economic growth and development of our state. In the past, poor transportation in, out of, and across our state has been a major obstacle to our goods' reaching their markets and our state's attaining the prosperity that it deserves.

Completion of Corridors G and H is essential to the realization of West Virginia's economic potential, and as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue doing all that I can to ac-

celerate the further construction of these highways.

Over the past three years, I have added \$255 million in federal funds for construction of Corridors G, H, and D and the Weirton Bypass, and the additional \$68 million that I put into the 1992 Energy and Water Appropriation bill will be another significant boost to West Virginia highway construction.

Additionally, the Energy and Water bill includes an extra \$22.6 million that I added to further the work on the Tug Fork flood control project in southwestern West Virginia.

The Energy and Water bill also provides funding for a number of other flood control and navigation projects in West Virginia, including the following: \$38 million for the Gallipolis Locks and Dam on the Ohio River; \$15 million for the Winfield Lock and Dam on the Kanawha River; \$34.5 million for Monongahela Lock and Dam No. 7, and \$30 million for Monongahela Lock and Dam No. 8; \$550,000 for the Petersburg flood protection project in Grant County; and \$950,000 for the Moorefield flood protection project in Hardy County.

June 19, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Federal Highway Bonus For West Virginia

Recently, I won U.S. Senate approval of my amendment to the new federal highway bill that would provide West Virginia with approximately \$222 million in additional federal highway funds over a four-year period.

This funding is money over and above the total five-year funding of \$915 million that West Virginia is due to receive under the regular provisions of the federal highway bill as approved by the Senate.

With the Byrd Amendment, West Virginia stands to receive a total of \$1.137 billion in federal highway funds over five years.

Specifically, my amendment provides bonus highway funds to all states that impose a state gasoline tax that is above the national average.

In addition, if states that impose a gasoline tax above the national average also have a per capita disposable income below the national average--as in West Virginia--those states would be eligible for an additional bonus.

The purpose of my amendment is to encourage and reward states like West Virginia that are doing all that they can to come up with the tax revenues necessary to make vital infrastructure improvements and repairs within their own boundaries.

My amendment infuses an extra \$8.2 billion into our nation's transportation system--an invest-

ment in America's infrastructure that is essential if we are to strengthen our national economy and become more competitive and productive against our trade rivals.

This money will not be taken from education or other compelling domestic programs, but from funds already collected from American taxpayers specifically for the Highway Trust Fund. Indeed, unless we build up our national infrastructure, we are not going to be able to compete internationally, to accelerate our national growth, to improve our productivity, or to afford to upgrade our educational system or solve other domestic problems facing us.

West Virginia has a great need for improved roads and bridges. As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have been able to add \$323 million to federal funding bills over the past three years to accelerate construction on Appalachian Corridors G, H, and D, and the Weirton Bypass of Route 22. This funding has been in addition to West Virginia's allocations under the Highway Trust Fund.

My amendment to the highway bill, earmarking bonus Highway Trust Fund monies for West Virginia, is another way that I am working to bring new roads, and new economic vitality, to our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Two More Federal Agencies Plan Relocations to West Virginia

Recently, I have been successful in persuading two more federal agencies -- the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms -- to relocate facilities and employees to West Virginia.

At my urging, the CIA proposes to move between 2,000 and 3,000 employees -- involved primarily in a variety of light-industrial functions, such as printing, storage, and possibly data-processing activities -- to a new office compound to be built in Jefferson County.

This action would be a partial consolidation of facilities currently located at 21 different sites in the suburban Washington, D.C., area, and would result in a net savings of millions in taxpayers' dollars by the early part of the next century.

This projected action must now be reviewed by the Intelligence Oversight Committees and the Appropriations Committees of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Further, when the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms learned that it would be forced to relinquish its computer operations quarters in Washington because of planned renovations to the building, I added a pro-

vision to a Senate appropriations report authorizing the Bureau to study the feasibility of relocating its computer center outside of Washington, and I encouraged the agency to look at West Virginia.

As a result, the Bureau has announced plans to relocate a number of its computer operations and as many as 90 employees to West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, with an annual estimated impact of \$5 million to \$6 million on the area's economy.

In the past two years, I have brought a number of federal agencies to West Virginia, including the FBI's new Identification Division, which will bring 2,500 jobs to the Clarksburg area, and an expansion of the Bureau of Public Debt's Parkersburg facility, which will result in 700 additional employees at that site.

As the CIA; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; the FBI; and the Bureau of Public Debt have discovered, West Virginia -- which has lower land and construction costs, a competitive workforce, and attractive working and living conditions -- is an ideal location for many federal agency operations.

July 3, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Senate, 1789-1989, Volume II

In early 1989, the first volume of my comprehensive history of the United States Senate, The Senate, 1789-1989, was published.

Just recently, the second volume of this work was published.

When I was sworn in as a new Senator in January 1959, I gradually became aware that the Senate is more than just four walls of brick and marble, handsome mahogany desks, luxurious draperies and carpets, an ornate chamber in which elevated rhetoric is rendered and laws are made.

It became something far more majestic; something that had a life of its own, larger than the totality of all its members. There was something about the Senate that was far nobler than these mundane and tangible things -- something imperishable. It had a soul!

Therefore, composing these volumes of history has been a labor of love.

Volume I of my Senate history was received positively by the public as a work of both popular history and serious scholarship. I appreciate that reception, and have been touched by such a response.

Volume II takes a closer look at the Senate as an institution than does Volume I.

From my standpoint, the primary purpose of this new volume is to instill into current and future members of the Senate a greater sense of institutional memory.

Similarly, I hope that general readers of my latest volume will gain a greater insight into the unique role that the Senate fulfills in our constitutional system of government.

Volume II will be available to the public after mid-July through the Government Printing Office. I receive no royalties, or any other income, from the sale of this book or the previous volume.

July 10, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Appropriations for High Technology Development in West Virginia

To advance high-technology frontiers in West Virginia, and to help broaden our state's economic base, I recently added \$29.5 million to a Senate appropriation bill.

The purpose of these funds is to build three facilities in West Virginia sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), including \$10 million to establish a center in Fairmont, Marion County, to test computer software used by NASA aerospace programs.

This center, to be built for NASA by West Virginia University, would be used by contractors to consolidate testing and verification of vital software used by NASA.

The work to be conducted at this new facility, called an Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) center, would help to ensure that the software produced for NASA by contractors will function accurately on the ground and in flight, with the goal of improving the efficiency of the national aerospace program.

When completed, the proposed 41,000-square-foot NASA facility would house up to 200 contractor employees.

In addition, I have

added \$19.5 million for two ongoing NASA projects at Wheeling Jesuit College.

This sum includes \$13.5 million to construct and equip the National Technology Transfer Center and \$6 million to construct, equip, and link students at Wheeling Jesuit College to the NASA Classroom of the Future.

These two projects are designed "to bring NASA technology down to earth."

The Technology Transfer Center is intended to improve the competitive capabilities of U.S. and West Virginia businesses by affording them access to the latest developments in high technology, while the purpose of the Classroom of the Future is to use NASA technology and development to promote and teach mathematics, science, and engineering.

These three NASA-related programs advance my goal of promoting high-technology opportunities in West Virginia--opportunities that can put our state on the cutting edge of twenty-first century economic growth and create broad new job and career possibilities for young West Virginians in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Funds for West Virginia FBI Identification Division Facility

Recently, I added \$48 million to a Senate appropriation bill to develop a prototype automation system for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Fingerprint Identification Division to be located in West Virginia.

I also added \$12.5 million to that bill to enable the FBI to hire additional employees to reduce backlogs in the FBI's current fingerprint identification records. Some of those jobs will be in West Virginia, where the FBI expects to hire 200 employees by the end of this year, and another 200 or more employees next year.

These appropriations follow up the \$185 million that I added to an appropriation bill last year to finance the automation and relocation to West Virginia of the FBI's Fingerprint Identification Division, which will bring approximately 2,500 jobs to the Clarksburg area.

My \$48 million appropriation, with \$40 million provided to develop an Automated Fingerprint Identification System and \$8 million to develop a pilot Image Transmission Network System, will keep

the Fingerprint Identification Division's relocation to West Virginia on schedule.

This is essential because, according to the FBI, each one-year delay in the automation and relocation project would increase costs by \$12 million due to inflation and other factors, add to the existing backlog of fingerprint files, and push back the implementation of the automated system beyond the target date of June 1995.

Particularly against the background of the drug-related crime crisis facing our country, this new automated fingerprint identification system will provide law enforcement officers nationwide with a powerful and effective new tool in their struggle against crime, and as such, we need to get this high-technology system into operation without delay.

The FBI's automated fingerprint identification system is urgently needed for America's war against crime. Therefore, the new Fingerprint Identification Division's headquarters in West Virginia must be completed and made operational as quickly as possible.

July 24, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Math Scores: A Chilling Portent for America's Future

Recently, the results of a national study of the mathematics skills of American students were made public, carrying chilling portents for America's future technological superiority.

According to the congressionally mandated National Assessment of Educational Progress tests, most American students in those grades tested have not mastered more than basic mathematics in this age of computers and expanding high technology.

Worse, this study indicates that, on average, no state's students met the levels of performance expected of their grade levels.

Out of a possible top score of 500, 54 percent of the twelfth graders scored below 300--the acceptable level for eighth graders--and only 5 percent scored 350 or better.

For eighth graders, the average nationwide score was 265, while fourth graders nationwide scored 216.

For more than a century, Americans have prided themselves on this nation's technological superiority and achievement.

But without qualified future engineers, scientists, and technicians, how do we maintain our space pro-

gram, our innovations in industry and manufacturing, our complex defense systems, or our vast technology-dependent health-care sector?

Among my continuing efforts is enhancement of mathematics and science education in our state so that young West Virginians will be better able to compete for twenty-first century jobs.

To promote that goal, I have added \$10 million in federal appropriations to funding bills over the past two years to construct and equip, in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, a 'Classroom of the Future' at Wheeling Jesuit College. This model program will provide on-campus training opportunities for teachers and students from throughout West Virginia and surrounding areas to study space-age mathematics and science, and to enhance technological education across our state.

Adequate education in mathematics and science is vital to West Virginia's economic development and America's national security. We cannot afford to skimp in providing our young people with these invaluable keys to their futures.

July 31, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening the Hand of an Important Environmental Ally

In the effort to protect some of America's most precious natural resources, one of our strongest allies is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This federal agency has broad responsibilities to protect and conserve an array of fish and wildlife and their habitats, including migratory birds, endangered species, inland sport fish, and wild animals.

As growth and development have exerted more and more pressure over the years on America's fish and wildlife resources, the mission of the Fish and Wildlife Service has likewise increased in importance.

For this reason, I have been working with the Fish and Wildlife Service over the past several years to establish a new, state-of-the-art National Education and Training Center in West Virginia.

Recently, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added \$15.7 million to the 1992 Interior Appropriation Bill to keep this important project on track. This is in addition to monies that I have added to appropriation bills over the past three years for planning, design, initial construction, and related expenses for the training center.

This facility, to be located at Harpers Ferry, will be a national asset that will provide com-

prehensive environmental education and training for employees of the Fish and Wildlife Service as well as fish and wildlife professionals from a number of other federal agencies, including the Armed Services, the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Currently, the Fish and Wildlife Service has no up-to-date central training facility. Yet, the agency, through internal management studies, has documented the need for such a facility time and again over the past decade. The Service currently conducts its training activities in a piecemeal fashion at locations scattered throughout the country, and the result is a training program that is too fragmented and too limited in scope to meet the agency's growing responsibilities.

The Education and Training Center is needed by the federal government to better protect our environment and our natural resources. And West Virginia, with its proximity to the nation's capital, its abundance of fish and wildlife species and habitats, and its cost-saving advantages for the American taxpayers, is the ideal location for such a facility.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

1991 Update on Free Federal Information Hotlines

The following list of toll-free Federal hotlines can help West Virginians obtain information about Federal programs and services, and about regulations and opportunities that may affect them directly.

Retired Army Pay Problems	1-800-428-2290
Cancer Hotline, Department of Health and Human Services	1-800-4-CANCER
National Runaway Switchboard	1-800-621-4000
(For parents and runaways to leave messages)	
Parents Anonymous (child abuse)	1-800-421-0353
Consumer Product Safety Commission	1-800-638-CPSC
(Product recall, complaints, fact sheets)	
Financial Aid for College Students (National) Department of Education	1-800-638-0824
AIDS Hotline (National)	1-800-342-AIDS
(HIV and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)	
Pesticide Emergency Information Clearinghouse	1-800-858-PEST
Federal Emergency Management Agency	1-800-638-6620
(Flood-insurance information)	
National Health Information Center	1-800-336-4797
Hill-Burton Free Hospital Care Hotline	1-800-638-0742
Small Business Administration	1-800-827-5722
Social Security Administration	1-800-848-0106
(Medicare questions)	
West Virginia Veterans Affairs Office	1-800-827-2052
Transportation Department	1-800-424-9393
(Auto-safety information and complaints)	
Washington, D.C., Central Reservation Center	1-800-554-2220
(Information on lodging in the Nation's Capital)	

August 14, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening West Virginia's Guard and Reserve Resources

West Virginians are known for their patriotism and dedication to America's national security. Consequently, West Virginians are strong supporters of, and participants in, the National Guard and Reserves.

In an effort to strengthen Guard and Reserve facilities in West Virginia, I recently won authorization of several new military construction projects in West Virginia, including \$25.1 million for construction of a new Navy Reserve facility in the Eastern Panhandle.

The Navy Reserve facility, which is to be located in Martinsburg, is a major new defense initiative for West Virginia where the Navy could house C-130 aircraft, the workhorse aircraft of the military capable of transporting large numbers of troop and oversize cargo.

Other new military construction projects for which I won authorization include \$9.6 million for a Combined Armed Forces Reserve Center and Organizational Maintenance Shop in Huntington to serve five Guard and Reserve units; \$4 million for new facilities for the Air National Guard in Martinsburg; and \$650,000 for an Air National Guard security police facility in Charleston.

These projects are among my on-going efforts to increase the presence of

the military in West Virginia.

Of equal importance to the military construction projects is the Senate's approval of language that I added to the Defense Authorization Bill to prevent the Pentagon-sponsored wholesale reduction of Army National Guard personnel.

I have repeatedly urged the Administration not to cut National Guard forces in West Virginia and elsewhere because of the increased importance of the Guard and Reserves at a time when proposals are being made for significant reductions in the active duty military forces.

My provision calls for maintaining Army National Guard forces at an end-strength of 425,450 nationwide for Fiscal Year 1993, instead of the Administration-recommended target of 366,300. The figures I have recommended would force the Pentagon to revise its blueprint for cutting Army National Guard forces, and, I hope, would convince the Defense Department to abandon its plans to eliminate certain West Virginia units.

The Guard and Reserves are important to America's national security, and they are a vital part of West Virginia's heritage. They deserve our continued support and encouragement.

August 21, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Expanding Tourism Opportunities In West Virginia

To capitalize more aggressively on West Virginia's developing tourism potential, I have added more than \$15 million to a 1992 appropriation bill for an array of Fish and Wildlife Service, national parks, and forest-related projects in our state.

West Virginia's long-time motto, "Wild, Wonderful West Virginia," has struck a chord among an increasing number of vacationing Americans who have visited our state in recent years.

My amendments to the 1992 Interior Appropriation Bill will enhance West Virginia's tourism potential by building on the National Park Service presence in the state, by financing the expansion of the West Virginia Wildlife Refuge, and by providing better facilities for visitors to the Monongahela National Forest, one of West Virginia's premier natural assets.

As Chairman of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, I added \$5.6 million for planning and construction projects at the New River Gorge National River; \$5.6 million for planning and construction at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, including a conservation laboratory for park service artifacts; and nearly \$2 million for planning and design of the Wheeling National Heritage Area,

which will be the newest National Park unit in West Virginia, launched in the past two years through my initiative.

Also, my amendments included \$1.24 million for construction of tourist-related improvements in the Monongahela National Forest. Further, I added \$1 million to this bill to purchase additional Ohio River Islands to expand West Virginia's only National Wildlife Refuge. This is in addition to the \$2.1 million in federal funds that I have secured over the past two years to establish the Wildlife Refuge and acquire approximately 21 islands.

In a separate appropriation bill, which has already been approved by Congress and signed into law by the President, I added \$400,000 to the Appalachian Regional Commission budget to continue operations of the Appalachian Tourism Development Center at Concord College in Mercer County.

West Virginia is America's sleeping tourism giant. I believe that the improvements and projects contemplated by my amendments and related efforts that I am working on to make our state more appealing for tourism, will go far toward creating more jobs for West Virginians and developing a more viable and prosperous tourism industry in scenic West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FBI Identification Division Groundbreaking

Recently, I participated in formal groundbreaking ceremonies for construction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) new Fingerprint Identification Division facility at Clarksburg.

Scheduled to be completed by late 1994, the initial construction includes the first phase of a facility that will eventually accommodate approximately 2,500 employees -- of whom 80 percent are expected to be West Virginians hired locally -- with an annual payroll of approximately \$75 million.

The relocation of the FBI's Fingerprint Identification Division to West Virginia is a major development for our state's economy and for West Virginia's future participation in the expanding high-technology revolution.

More importantly, the new automated fingerprint identification system to be headquartered at this facility will offer a quantum leap forward in law enforcement nationwide by slashing criminal identification time from the current three to five weeks down to hours or even minutes.

When completed, the new Identification Division will feature a state-of-the-art system for fingerprint and other types of iden-

tification. Through high-technology electronics and equipment, this system will link state criminal-records systems nationwide, expand the FBI's national fingerprint files, allow the processing of as many as 600,000 inquiries per day, and permit a positive fingerprint identification within a matter of hours.

Recognizing the urgency of this initiative, I have added a total of \$245.5 million to federal funding bills over the past two years to revitalize the FBI's antiquated fingerprint identification system and relocate the Fingerprint Identification Division to West Virginia.

Earlier this year, I took part in a swearing-in ceremony for the first of 200 new employees the FBI plans to hire this year for its Clarksburg facility. These employees will begin work to process a backlog of nearly 2.9 million arrest dispositions and to convert 8.8 million manual criminal history records to an automated data base.

With all West Virginians, I welcome the FBI's Fingerprint Identification Division to our state. I look forward to the benefits that this new facility will bring to West Virginia, and to our entire country in the war against crime.

September 4, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Latest Report Card on American Schools

Recently, American education received more bad news.

Results of the Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) for the Class of 1991 were issued by the College Board in Princeton, New Jersey.

The SAT exam is the primary yardstick used by more than 2,800 colleges and universities to measure the academic promise of applicants for admission.

Unfortunately, according to the SAT scores, the English language skills of the 1991 high school seniors tested sank to an all-time low, while math scores took their first dip since 1980.

Nationally, on the verbal portion of the test, the students averaged only 419 out of a possible 800 points, 7 points lower than the 1990 average.

The 1991 math average was 473, compared with 476 last year.

To their credit, West Virginia students outperformed the national averages on both sections, but dropped below the scores of last year's West Virginia examinees.

With 17 percent of its high school graduates taking the 1991 SAT examination, West Virginia's average verbal score was 441 versus 443 last year, with a 1991 math score of 485 against 490 for the 1990 average.

Significantly, College Board officials attributed the lower scores to the in-

creasingly widespread use of television and video tapes in the classroom, tools that have reduced the amount of time students spend reading and analyzing and solving problems.

In addition, the College Board found that schools are demanding less homework of their students.

Other education analysts also attribute declining academic performance to too much home television viewing.

Over the past decade, more and more attention has been focused on the need for solid improvements in our schools. Ad hoc commissions have been convened to study the problems of primary and secondary education in our country, and impressive reports and recommendations have been published.

In spite of those efforts, as the 1991 SAT scores demonstrate, the math and verbal skills of our high school graduates are still a disappointment.

Our youth are the future of our state and our country.

Learning is not easy, and few shortcuts have ever been found to achieving genuine knowledge and mastery of the basic skills that classical schooling should provide.

Let us hope that the 1991 SAT scores will spur a greater commitment to solid and disciplined learning in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Vital Highway Appropriations For West Virginia

In accordance with my commitment to advance completion of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) corridor highway system in West Virginia, I recently added \$165 million to a transportation appropriation bill to construct a crucial stretch of ARC Corridor G.

This funding will finance the northern 9.1 miles of Corridor G from Chapmanville to Holden, in Logan County.

One of the most congested strips of highway in West Virginia, this heavily traveled segment of the Corridor G route is narrow, twisting, and treacherous, as well as being an important transportation link in the highway network in the southwestern part of our state.

The funding in this bill will be particularly helpful to West Virginia because it is 100 percent federal funding, requiring no state matching funds.

Construction of this stretch of highway will bring Corridor G within 2.89 miles of final completion.

In addition to the \$165 million appropriation for Corridor G, I added \$12.9 million for design and environmental studies and for

construction of a new interchange and access road on Interstate 79 at Clarksburg to serve the new FBI Identification Division complex.

Further, I also added funding for location and design studies, and environmental assessments, for several major highway projects in West Virginia, including \$1.3 million for West Virginia Route 9 in the Eastern Panhandle; \$2.6 million for Route 2 in the Huntington area; and \$1 million for U.S. Route 52 in southern West Virginia.

In an appropriation bill already signed into law earlier this year, I added \$58 million to provide the 80-percent federal share of funding for construction of the Logan Connector on Corridor G and the Elkins Bypass of Corridor H.

These and other highway construction projects for the funding of which I am working are vital to West Virginia's future economic development and progress. As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I shall continue doing all that I can, within federal budget constraints, to make their completion possible.

September 18, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Maintaining and Improving Air Transportation in West Virginia

Particularly in a largely rural state like West Virginia, modern, safe, and reliable air transportation is a vital component of future economic growth and progress.

For that reason, I supported funding in a recent transportation appropriation bill to assure continued service at a number of airports in our state under the Essential Air Service (EAS) program. This bill contains \$38.6 million for the nationwide EAS program, which ensures continued air service to the Beckley, Bluefield/Princeton, Clarksburg/Fairmont, Elkins, and Morgantown areas.

I also added \$14 million to complete the installation of a new regional radar system at the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport at Martinsburg, making a total of \$21 million for the system. I included initial funding of \$7 million in an appropriation bill last year.

In addition, I included language in the report accompanying this bill urging the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to give priority consideration in the allocation of airport improvement grant funds to several other West Virginia airports, including paving and lights at the Logan County Airport; funding initial costs related to

the establishment of a new Pocahontas County airport at Marlinton; and funds for a proposed new airport in Roane County at Spencer to stimulate economic development in the area.

Further, I added report language urging the FAA to work with the National Guard and Reserve to facilitate an airport runway extension project at Benedum Airport in Harrison County, and directing the FAA to give priority to the application of Benedum Airport for discretionary airport improvement program funds.

West Virginia enterprises and industries are seeking trade opportunities in distant markets and around the world. Finding new domestic and foreign customers and clients, as well as attracting new businesses, industries, and jobs to our state, requires that we continue to ensure and improve air transportation into and out of West Virginia's cities and communities.

My amendments to this recent transportation appropriation bill will help to provide continued and improved air service to West Virginians seeking to find new opportunities abroad and to non-West Virginians contemplating launching new economic projects in West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Perspective on Christopher Columbus

"In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue."

For generations, that epigram has been used to assist American school children to remember one of the watershed events in human history, and to help them celebrate an adventure that opened for untold millions an abundance of freedom and plenty unparalleled in mankind's prior experience.

Once again this year, October 12 will be observed as Columbus Day.

Interestingly, however, some self-styled historians are currently attempting to rewrite long chapters of American history, and to them, Christopher Columbus has become a target of vilification.

The historical revisionism to which Columbus and much more in American history are being subjected is not an attempt at greater truth or factuality, but an effort to denigrate and besmirch the American saga itself.

These current attacks on Christopher Columbus illustrate a dangerous and irresponsible effort by some historians to rewrite history to suit their own personal ideological and sociological biases.

How ironic that, while the Soviet Union is currently attempting to render their history books more

accurate and to cleanse historical accounts of that nation to eradicate the warpings introduced by Communist ideologists, some historical revisionists in the United States are attempting to make American history texts serve the cause of narrow and eccentric sociological viewpoints.

Whatever failings Columbus may have suffered, his feats in 1492 and later were the achievements of a brave, even heroic man. His stumbling onto the New World, moreover, opened vast, underpopulated territories to settlement and development by many people burdened by centuries of feudal privilege, serfdom, and tyranny.

In turn, the freedoms and opportunities that those liberty-seeking pioneers established in this hemisphere released the most creative, energetic, and idealistic forces for good and progress in recorded history.

As Americans, we are partners in the legacy that Christopher Columbus bequeathed to history.

With the 500th anniversary of Columbus' 1492 expedition approaching next year, I salute Christopher Columbus as one of history's indisputable heroes.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Congress Acts to Extend Unemployment Benefits

Recently, the United States Senate passed legislation, which I cosponsored, to extend emergency benefits to long-term unemployed workers in West Virginia and other high-unemployment states by an additional 20 weeks.

As a result of the current recession, unemployment in our country has climbed to the highest levels in the past five years. And yet, West Virginia, which has the highest unemployment rate in the nation, has not been eligible for extended unemployment benefits.

Consequently, three out of four jobless workers in our state are not receiving any unemployment benefits, and are being left to fend for themselves and their families on the brink of impending winter weather.

In spite of optimistic predictions of an early end to the current recession, millions of Americans are today suffering, and will continue to suffer, hardships brought on by lost jobs, reduced market demands, foreign competition, layoffs, and production cutbacks.

In West Virginia and across the country, these jobless workers and their families are living from day

to day in an ongoing, seemingly endless crisis and nightmare, with their homes and very health often at stake.

Traditionally, wherever in the world a disaster has struck, our country has extended its aid and resources to the victims.

For example, in recent months, Congress was called on by the Bush administration to pass emergency legislation to provide economic assistance to Kurdish refugees in Iraq and Turkey, and to needy people in such disparate locations as the Sudan, Angola, Bangladesh, and Ethiopia.

I believe that our jobless neighbors in West Virginia and unemployed fellow Americans throughout the nation deserve at least the same helping hand as people living halfway around the world.

Despite the President's pledge to veto this legislation, I believe that Congress acted responsibly, wisely, and compassionately in voting to extend emergency unemployment benefits to the long-term jobless in West Virginia, and in providing assistance to Americans grappling with economic setbacks and job losses.

October 9, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Clean Up Television Programs!

Television is today probably the single most pervasive and powerful influence affecting our children.

Experts estimate that, by the time children reach age 18, they have individually watched, on average, 15,000 hours of television programming.

For many children, the television screen has displaced the authority of mothers and fathers, ministers and priests, school teachers, and other positive authority figures on whom our society has long depended to impart values and create conscientious attitudes in the young.

Alarming, a study issued last year by the Universities of Pennsylvania and Delaware revealed that the average hour of children's programming -- cartoons, adventure shows, and such -- contains 26 acts of violence. That is up from 18 acts of violence per hour in 1980.

One particularly troubling television influence on increasing numbers of children is "music video" programming.

Currently occupying as many as three exclusive channels on some cable systems, music videos are

aimed directly at teenagers and pre-teens, but are watched by children as young as four and five.

In such videos, schools, jobs, home life, traditional families, marriage, patriotism, religion, fathers and mothers, self-discipline, policemen, and other conventional figures -- most of the people, values, and institutions on whom we depend daily for the smooth, just, and orderly conduct of affairs -- are portrayed as oppressive, square, boring, fascist, hypocritical, outdated, and "uncool."

The central message of these music videos is clear: Human happiness and fulfillment are experienced by rejecting responsibility and authority.

As the poet William Blake wrote, "Degrade first the arts if you'd mankind degrade."

The quality and content of television programming being aimed at children and young people are too important to be ignored by parents, teachers, clergymen, and others concerned about the values and future of our society.

The time has come to clean up television programming!

October 16, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Continuing U.S. Education Crisis

In spite of a growing concern nationally in recent years, achievement test scores, graduation statistics, and America's comparative international ratings continue to underscore our country's crisis in education.

For example, according to the U.S. Department of Education, as much as 13 percent of our country's population is functionally illiterate, with even 8 percent of those who graduate from high school falling into that category.

The Department of Education notes further that an average of up to 30 percent of those entering high school nationally do not graduate with their entering class, with dropout rates in some urban areas running as high as 50 percent.

Additionally, while more than half of U.S. high school graduates do not go on to college immediately after graduation, and significant numbers of college entrants drop out before graduation, little effort is focused on equipping these students for jobs that do not require college degrees.

Even in this high-technology era, fewer than one-quarter of one percent of American high school students go on to earn degrees in advanced science or engineering.

Sadly, U.S. students at all grade levels continue to score well below their counterparts in Europe and Japan in math and science proficiency, a recognized key to future research and development dominance in

world technology and product development.

For example, the Department of Education asserts that the average Japanese high school senior scores higher on college preparatory mathematics examinations than do the top 5 percent of U.S. high school seniors.

This may be explained in part by the fact that the average Japanese high school senior has, during his or her school experience, spent as many hours in class as has an American college graduate.

Education is an indivisible element of our country's economic and security infrastructure.

Around the world, millions are working to elevate their nations to higher statuses of economic prosperity and international importance. Never before has world market competition been so fierce -- or promised to become more fierce.

In West Virginia and across America, our schools are the training grounds in which our children and grandchildren must prepare themselves for that competition, or be brushed aside as inadequate or unproductive.

Education is the key to the futures of West Virginia and America. We owe to our children and grandchildren a renewed commitment to excellence in education that will solve many of the problems that I have noted and that will give our country the educational quality needed to compete effectively in the world marketplace.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Technology to Advance West Virginia's Steel Industry

In an effort to strengthen our domestic steel industry, I recently added \$3 million to an appropriation bill to assist Weirton Steel in developing a model computerized management information system.

The Weirton Integrated Management Information System program -- also known as IMIS -- is being developed to tackle the day-to-day challenges of steel production, by using an automated system to monitor the steelmaking process and manage inventory.

The IMIS program, which is to be jointly financed by the public and private sectors, is being designed to be transferable upon successful development to other domestic steel manufacturers. IMIS is expected to enhance efficiency, cut costs, and save energy, rendering steel produced by Weirton and other companies more competitive in the world steel market.

Indeed, Weirton Steel estimates that IMIS will save its company \$15 million annually, and could ultimately generate industry-wide savings of approximately \$400 million per year.

In the past decade, foreign competition has

severely impacted the steel industry in West Virginia and other heavy-industrial states. Such competition has cost jobs, not only in the steel industry, but also in related industries such as metallurgical coal.

According to Weirton Steel, since 1982, more than 200,000 jobs have been lost as U.S. steel production fell by 40 million tons of steelmaking capacity per year.

Through the development and application of new steelmaking technologies and wise management-worker decisions, companies like Weirton Steel have been able to survive and prosper.

Technology, however, is not static, and even the most progressive manufacturers cannot rest on current success if they are to remain competitive in the years ahead.

The long-range goal of the IMIS initiative, for which I have won a total of \$6 million in federal funds over the past two years, is to further enhance the production capabilities of West Virginia's and America's steel industry, helping this vital part of our economy to meet foreign competition and to save jobs in our steel and coal industries.

October 30, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Disturbing Trend In School Textbooks

Americans are increasingly concerned about the quality of education in our country, and are searching for explanations for poor student performance in some of our schools.

One problem might be some of the schoolbooks that are used today.

In an earlier time, for example, reading textbooks taught a love of literature as well as reading.

Thus, the famous McGuffey's Eclectic Readers offered selections from the best classic literature and poetry to tantalize children into mastering basic reading skills and wanting to read more.

According to a noted historian of education, the McGuffey readers were the most popular series ever used in America, introducing students to the best authors and poets, and challenging them with high ideals and patriotic values.

Some years ago, however, certain experts decided that reading speed and easiness should be the goal of the schools, not teaching appreciation of good literature, inculcating values and patriotism, or preparing young people for citizenship.

In attempts to make textbooks easier, "readability" displaced quality, with the result that -- according to The Washington Post -- one popular history book of-

fered in the early 1980's carried six pages on Marilyn Monroe but only three brief references to George Washington. Current literature anthologies regularly feature vapid tales of contemporary teenagers wrestling with problems concerning dating, their parents, or their automobiles, in preference to the Gettysburg Address, Irving's Rip Van Winkle, or Robert Frost's poems. Too often, when classic stories are used, they are rewritten in dull vocabulary and choppy, childish sentences.

In defense of these practices, textbook editors claim that serious literature is too difficult for many children and teenagers, that students might lose interest in school or sink in their own self-esteem if the books are too advanced, and that various special interest groups might be offended by classic writings.

Growing up in southern West Virginia, I was fortunate to have dedicated teachers and challenging textbooks that awakened in me a love of learning that has never been quenched.

I cherish the hope of that same experience for the children of West Virginia today. Perhaps the McGuffey readers and other classic anthologies and textbooks are models by which we can promote excellence in education even today.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Third Deficit

In recent years, in addition to Federal budget deficits and America's growing trade deficit, another deficit has been developing that is potentially more dangerous than either of the other deficits.

This is the "infrastructure deficit" -- an increasing failure to invest in those assets and resources on which our future national wealth, security, and competitiveness will depend -- highways, bridges, rail systems, schools and education, and health care, to name a few examples.

At the same time that such investments were not being made, Americans were borrowing from foreign countries and running up massive debts to pay for short-term consumption.

As just one example, at the beginning of 1980, the Federal government had an outstanding debt of \$852 billion.

Ten years later, the Federal debt had more than tripled, to \$2.97 trillion, an increase of more than \$2.1 trillion.

Prior to World War I, America was a debtor nation, but that debt had been mounted to finance an infrastructure that eventually made our economy the world's envy.

Unfortunately, neither on the public nor private levels were such long-term investments made in the 1980's. Instead, they were drastically reduced.

According to a recent government report, of 41 major airports in our country, 23 are suffering ground congestion and 16 are operating at or near airspace capacity. The Federal Aviation Administration reports that each of 21 airports already experiences 20,000 hours or more of delay annually, and that the number of airports experiencing such delays is expected to climb to 33 by 1997.

The Federal Highway Administration reports that 238,000 of the 578,000 bridges in the country eligible for Federal assistance are either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, and that 40 percent of the total pavement in the Federal highway system is in "fair" to "poor" condition.

The budgetary policies of the 1980's have left us with a mountain of debt and a molehill of productive investment.

West Virginia and her sister states are facing international competition in the marketplace unknown in prior eras.

The vital challenge for our entire nation in the 1990's will be to restore fiscal responsibility across the board, while at the same time generating a new surge of public and private investment in the infrastructure necessary for renewed economic growth and prosperity in our country and state.

November 13, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Independent Endorsement of the Clarksburg FBI Project

Recently, an independent report was issued, confirming my original reasons for urging the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to consider West Virginia as a location for its planned high-technology Fingerprint Identification Division.

A study undertaken by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) underscores the urgent need for a nationwide automated fingerprint identification system, and endorses the soundness of the FBI's plan to automate its Fingerprint Identification Division and to locate the division in West Virginia.

According to the OTA, the new system is a top priority among the nation's law enforcement personnel, and is vitally needed for a successful national crackdown on crime.

With specific reference to the Identification Division's move to Clarksburg, the OTA cites the advantages of a stable, high-quality workforce in West Virginia, the state's lower cost of living, and the shorter commutes that will be possible in the area of the Identification Division's headquarters.

The OTA also contrasts the advantages of locating the fingerprint identification operation in West Virginia with the disadvantages of the FBI's

current location in Washington, D.C., including the inadequacy of space for the needed updating of technology and services at the J. Edgar Hoover Building, the high employee turnover rate in Washington, the inability of the FBI to match competitive salaries in the national capital area, and the long commutes and increasing traffic into and out of the District of Columbia.

Since early September, more than 7,000 persons have applied for the initial 200 positions to be filled at the FBI Identification Division's satellite office opening in Clarksburg. Based on FBI projections, by the year 2000 as many as 3,000 or more employees may be needed at the new facility.

Ground has already been broken for the FBI's new Clarksburg Identification Division facility, and the Bureau recently awarded the first of six construction contracts -- an \$18 million award for site preparation and utilities construction -- for the new complex. The remaining construction contracts are expected to be awarded next year.

With all West Virginians, I look forward to the completion and full staffing of the FBI's Fingerprint Identification Division, and to the wider benefits that it will mean for our state and for the nation.

November 20, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balancing Economic Development and Conservation

As West Virginians, we are particularly blessed with some of our country's most beautiful terrain, abundant wildlife and forests, and free-flowing streams and rivers. West Virginia is indeed a natural wonderland worthy of conserving.

At the same time, West Virginia needs development and growth that will produce income and job opportunities.

According to some, economic development and the conservation of natural assets are mutually exclusive; they believe that the promotion of development necessarily means the destruction and loss of the beauties and riches of nature.

Throughout my career in Washington, I have supported programs and policies that endeavor to strike a balance between the requirements of economic development and the goals of conservation.

I believe that mankind and nature can and must live in harmony, and that intelligent people can properly husband nature's resources wisely, responsibly, and prudently, for the benefit of this and future generations.

For those reasons, I am working to improve the economy of West Virginia and to open up for development increased areas of our state through the completion of the Appalachian Regional Commission corridor highway system.

At the same time, I am working to establish facilities in West Virginia that

will promote sound conservation of our natural resources, not only in our state but also across the nation.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have added a total of \$44.5 million for the planning, designing, and initial construction of the proposed \$125 million U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Education and Training Center, which is to be located at Harpers Ferry. The Center will provide our country with a state-of-the-art facility in which federal and state agencies, as well as private groups on a reimbursement basis, can meet environmental-training needs for their personnel.

Similarly, over the past three years, I have obtained \$3.1 million to acquire approximately 25 Ohio River islands to establish West Virginia's first National Wildlife Refuge, a promising boon both for wildlife and tourism in our state.

Too often, economic development and environmental stewardship are presented as an either/or dilemma.

However, there is an alternative path.

I am convinced that in West Virginia we can serve as a model to our sister states, charting a middle course that, at the same time, wisely uses and intelligently conserves our natural resources.

That course bodes well for both West Virginia's natural heritage and the future economic progress of our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

CIA Consolidation Proposal Advances Through Congress

Recently, Congress approved funds that I had added to a defense appropriation bill to implement the consolidation of 21 scattered offices of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) into two locations, one of which is in Jefferson County, West Virginia.

This appropriation bill provides an initial \$10 million -- and up to a total of \$30 million -- to acquire land for the consolidation of 21 CIA leased offices into two sites, once the CIA has satisfied requirements for land acquisition and other procedures prescribed in the bill at my request.

I am confident that the required certifications will be met, that the consolidation will go forward, and that the selection of the West Virginia site for one of the office complexes will be confirmed.

In 1987, the CIA recognized the economic and security drawbacks to having leased office space scattered across the Washington area. In an attempt to address concerns about costs, security, and greater efficiency, the CIA initiated efforts to consolidate these offices and to meet future Agency needs.

As a result of those efforts, a site in Jefferson

County was identified as being suitable for consolidation and relocation.

According to current plans, the CIA estimates that approximately 2,200 employees would ultimately be consolidated into the proposed West Virginia facility.

In addition to the benefits that this move of employees to West Virginia will afford the CIA, including improved security, greater operating efficiency, and enhanced intelligence-gathering abilities, the consolidation will provide significant savings to American taxpayers.

Moreover, West Virginia offers a great deal to CIA employees who choose to move with their jobs, such as a lower cost of living, one of the lowest crime rates in the nation, affordable housing, and attractive real estate prices.

Further, West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle is a rapidly growing area of our state that offers significant opportunities of education, employment, and recreation for its residents.

Above all, West Virginians are renowned for their friendliness and solid values, and those qualities make West Virginia an ideal location for living and for rearing a family.

December 4, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Welcome Tonic For Highways and Jobs in West Virginia

West Virginia recently received a much-needed economic boost in the form of a federal allocation of \$1.323 billion over six years for highway construction in the state.

This funding, which was provided for in the national transportation authorization bill, will help to expand the growing network of modern highways in West Virginia, as well as create more jobs in the construction industry.

At my request, this bill provides \$160 million for two projects in West Virginia -- \$110 million for upgrading and four-laning Route 9 between Martinsburg and Charles Town and to the Virginia state line in the Eastern Panhandle; and \$50 million to begin work on the proposed Coalfields Expressway from Beckley southwest to the Virginia line.

Of equal importance, I was able to win authorization for the first time for funding needed to complete construction of the Appalachian corridor highways and for upgrading and four-laning U.S. Route 52 between Bluefield and Huntington.

The transportation bill brings a double dose of good news to West Virginia regarding highway construction because, earlier in the year, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations

Committee, I was able to add \$221 million in appropriation bills for highway projects in West Virginia.

My amendments to the appropriation bills include \$206.5 million for construction on Appalachian corridor highways G and H in West Virginia; \$10.32 million for construction of a new Interstate-79 interchange to accommodate the FBI Fingerprint Identification Division facility at Clarksburg; \$1.04 million for location and design studies for Route 9; \$2.08 million for similar studies for Route 2 in the Huntington area; and \$800,000 for environmental studies on Route 52.

The six-year transportation authorization bill not only emphasizes the importance of investing in our nation's roads, bridges, and transportation network, but it also creates needed jobs. In fact, this legislation may be just the tonic needed to begin to pull our economy out of the nosedive it has taken.

A modern, efficient highway network is one of West Virginia's most pressing needs for promoting economic development and job creation in our state, and the funds that I have added to transportation appropriation and authorization bills this year will go far toward achieving that goal.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Improving Health Care in West Virginia

The cost and availability of health care are becoming major concerns for increasing numbers of West Virginians.

According to a recent insurance company study, West Virginia ranks 49th among the states in access to health care. The American Cancer Society estimates that cancer deaths in West Virginia run roughly 6 percent higher than the national average.

To the extent that the federal government provides health care services and resources to the states, I have succeeded in obtaining funding for a number of health care programs to give West Virginians readier access to important health care services. My efforts include the establishment and upgrading of Veterans Medical Centers in Beckley, Clarksburg, Huntington, and Martinsburg; funding for black lung clinics and community health centers in West Virginia; and enhanced federal funding for rural health care grants.

In addition, to provide West Virginians with state-of-the-art cancer treatment, I obtained a total of \$13.3 million a few years ago to establish West Virginia's first statewide cancer research and treatment center, located in Morgantown. Prior to the establishment of this center, many seriously ill cancer patients were forced to go out of state to seek treatment.

Further, I have se-

cured approximately \$4 million annually to fund a statewide program in West Virginia for screening, education, and early detection of cervical and breast cancer.

In addition, I added \$14.2 million to appropriations bills last year for Alzheimer's disease research and services in West Virginia to be conducted by the West Virginia University and Marshall University medical schools. This year, I added \$700,000 for an Alzheimer's disease center in Parkersburg and \$500,000 for a rural health care clinic in McDowell County.

Moreover, I added report language to an appropriation bill requesting up to \$1 million annually for five years to establish a trauma treatment demonstration program at WVU, and \$800,000 to establish a statewide telecommunications system linking the WVU Health Sciences Center and rural hospitals across West Virginia. In the area of occupational health, I have obtained a total of \$49.6 million to establish a national occupational safety and health laboratory in Morgantown that is intended to research ways to improve health and safety in the workplace.

Rural states like West Virginia deserve the best health care possible, and I shall continue working to improve health care in our state in every way that I can.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preserving West Virginia Values

One of my top priorities in the U.S. Senate is to bring improvements and opportunities to West Virginia that will create jobs and promote new businesses and industries in the years ahead.

For example, I have succeeded in attracting a number of federal operations and thousands of new jobs to West Virginia, including the FBI Fingerprint Identification Division and approximately 2,500 jobs to Clarksburg, the Bureau of Public Debt expansion in Parkersburg with 700 new jobs, and the proposed CIA facility that will bring 2,200 jobs to Jefferson County.

My goal is to lay the foundations for an era of economic expansion in which our state's standard of living will rise, and that will offer West Virginia's young people job opportunities and the promise of rewarding, fulfilling futures that will enable them to stay in our state and rear their families here.

As this new era takes shape, however, I hope that West Virginians will maintain and promote the values and the heritage that make our state unique.

West Virginia continues to enjoy one of the lowest crime rates in the country. Incidents of drug trafficking and AIDS cases are well below national averages. The work ethic, family life, religious faith, patriotism, a personal sense of responsibility, and neighborhood and community pride are inherent in the West Virginia way of life.

In sharp contrast to West Virginia's lifestyle are the murder rates, drug addictions, conflicts, and breakdowns in personal and public life that characterize so many of our large metropolitan centers.

In the years ahead, I hope that concerned West Virginians, their families, churches, civic and fraternal organizations, and educators will reflect on the challenges that may be presented by numbers of new residents moving into our state.

Our goal should be to preserve our values and heritage, and to celebrate and promote the qualities that make West Virginia the finest place in the country in which to live, work, and rear children.

December 25, 1991



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Term Limits: An Infringement Of Voters' Rights

Recently, discussion has mounted concerning limiting the terms of members of Congress.

However, a close look at Congressional term limits raises a number of serious reservations.

Experience and skill are prerequisites for effective and judicious government. I am concerned that with term limits, long-staying bureaucrats in the Executive Branch would have an advantage over the people's elected representatives in Congress. Members of the bureaucracy are necessary to our system of government, but under mandated term limits, these bureaucrats -- who never have to answer to the voters at the polls for their actions or decisions -- would become the most powerful and influential group in Washington.

By forcing seasoned lawmakers out of office, term limits would also result in a shift of power and influence to unelected Congressional staff people, whose expertise and institutional memory would be in high demand due to the constant turnover of novice officeholders.

As in the Federal bureaucracy, these staff people -- who would be unaccountable to the voters of any state or district -- would then have a much greater opportunity and ability to influence the

legislative agenda, mold the laws, and guide inexperienced and unwary new members of Congress toward priorities that the staff most favored.

One of the most frequently heard arguments for limiting Congressional terms is that the current members of Congress have become entrenched in office. However, the fact is that over half the current members of the U.S. Senate have served less than two full terms, and over one-fourth of these have served less than one full term. Instead of advocating Congressional term limits, thoughtful citizens should remember that Americans already have the most effective possible means of limiting Congressional terms, simply by exercising their right to vote on election day.

It is a sad commentary on the American political system that the national voter turnout in the 1990 Congressional elections was only 36 percent.

An informed American public can be trusted to make the right judgment if citizens will only go to the polls on election day and exercise their privilege to vote. As Pericles said, in his eulogy to the Athenians who had fallen in the Peloponnesian War, "Our ordinary citizens, though occupied with the pursuits of industry, are still fair judges of public matters."

January 8, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Investing in America's Future

Since the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, America has been in an almost continuous state of defense and military alert.

The collapse of communism and the sweeping changes taking place in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have, however, drastically altered the conditions that made America's massive defense posture necessary.

While recognizing the continuing need to maintain an adequate national defense in a changed world, the time has come for America to adjust to the new challenges to our national security and standard of living posed by our trade competitors overseas.

Above all, we must begin shifting our limited financial resources from the defense budget to the domestic budget so that we can restore, repair, reconstruct, and modernize our long-neglected and crumbling national infrastructure -- our highways, bridges, rail networks, manufacturing plants, water and sewer systems, airports, and other civic facilities, as well as our schools, research and technology programs, and health care services -- on which America's productivity and competitive ability depend.

One reason that some of our foreign trade competitors have enjoyed so much economic success has been their ability to invest more money in research,

technological development, transportation improvements, modernization, and domestic public services while depending on the U.S. defense shield to protect them against foreign attack.

By contrast, American investments in our own vital infrastructure have dwindled in recent years to less than 1 percent per year of our gross national product, compared to 3 percent for Germany and 5 percent for Japan.

In part, that explains the lost jobs, closed factories, and declining populations that have beset so many West Virginia communities, and that have forced so many of West Virginia's young people to leave our state to look for opportunities elsewhere.

Good transportation and highways, technological development, product research, a well-trained workforce, updated plants and machinery, a good educational system, and adequate health care boost productivity, cut costs, and make countries more competitive in world markets.

America met and faced down the threat of foreign military aggression.

The time has come to meet the challenge of foreign economic aggression by shifting our spending priorities, strengthening our own country, and investing more in our own future and the future of our children.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Directions for Television

In the 1950's, television became America's mass media of choice, with viewers transfixed by every image that crossed the screen, no matter how inconsequential or banal. But, in the main, the mass of television programming has become, as commentators often reflect, "bubble gum for the mind." Hour after hour,

Notwithstanding, a few optimists predicted a television-spawned cultural renaissance, with the best of our culture flooding millions of living rooms nightly, and a revolution in education as school children nationwide daily audited the nation's best teachers and scholars. one of the marvels of human invention has been reduced to a purveyor of violence, bad taste, and locker-room humor.

Certainly, some of those rosier predictions have been borne out. For those interested, public television and certain cable channels provide for millions some of the world's best drama, musical performances, documentaries, and public affairs programming. Last year's Public Broadcasting System's (PBS) monumental *Civil War* series drew record PBS audiences and quickly earned plaudits as an example of the quality programming to which all television should aspire. I am particularly concerned about the impact of this continuing diet of inarties and violence on the minds and imaginations of children and young people.

Unfortunately, prime opportunities are being lost for introducing our youth to exciting and challenging dramatizations of the best of our cultural and national classics -- classics that convey our highest values and ideals.

As it has so often proved, television's potential for broadening human understanding and for showcasing the best of our cultural heritage is nearly limitless.

Quality programming does not have to be boring, elitist, or stuffy.

No one can contest that television at its best -- the American astronauts' walk on the Moon, the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, and the coverage of the Persian Gulf War, to name a few instances -- can be compelling, vital, and life-and history-viewers will challenge the television industry to explore positive new directions in programming and content, and that responsible television producers will help their medium to live up to its promise in our culture and society.

January 15, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Gun Violence in Our Schools

Last year, homicides accounted for roughly 487 deaths in Washington, D.C.; 1,006 in Los Angeles; and more than 2,080 in New York City -- most of these gun-related.

Unfortunately, such violence is not limited to the streets.

Increasingly, thoughtful Americans are alarmed by the rising rate of violence in our schools, and the growing number of gun-related incidents being reported there.

A recent report from the federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, entitled *1990 Youth Risk Behavior Study*, revealed that, at some time during the preceding year, one in 20 of today's youth in grades 9-12 carried a firearm, usually a handgun, for self-protection or use in a fight.

This same study reported that nearly 24 percent of West Virginia students, grades 9-12, carried a gun, knife, or other weapon on some occasion for the same reasons.

During the 1990-91 school year, the Kanawha County School Board expelled 14 students in gun-related incidents -- brandishing, displaying, selling, passing, or possessing guns -- on school property. In just the first two months of the 1991-92 school year, the Kanawha Board expelled 10 students in gun-

related incidents on school property.

Fortunately, Kanawha County school officials acted expeditiously in these cases. Unfortunately, throughout the country, news reports of disturbed youngsters who use guns at school to take out their grievances against others are becoming more common.

Violence at school reflects violence and unhappiness at home, in the workplace, and in the streets -- and certainly, television murders that desensitize children to the value of human life.

Schools are no place for guns. Teachers and students should not have to fear for their lives and safety.

Schools officials can, of course, confiscate guns brought onto school premises.

But a surer approach might begin at home, with parents keeping firearms and ammunition locked away from children, emphasizing to children the potential consequences of gun-carrying, and imbuing our children with a respect for law and the rights of other people, and a sense of responsibility and duty as American citizens.

Our schools are vital and precious institutions. Let us keep them safe for our children and those who teach them.

January 22, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping the FBI and CIA On Track for West Virginia

To keep on schedule the relocation of the FBI's Fingerprint Identification Division to Harrison County and a number of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) offices to Jefferson County, I have urged the President to earmark \$117 million in the 1993 Federal budget.

The relocation of these facilities to West Virginia is important to the future of our state and nation, and must be kept on schedule to save money for American taxpayers and to increase the efficiency of both the FBI and the CIA.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have added a total of \$245.5 million in appropriations over the past two years to initiate the relocation to West Virginia, and the automation, of the FBI's Fingerprint Division.

The Automated Fingerprint Identification System being planned and developed for the Harrison County facility is a major step forward in our national war against crime and drugs, and is urgently needed to permit the FBI to provide law enforcement personnel throughout the nation with state-of-the-art technology.

To keep this automation project on course, the

FBI needs \$100 million in Fiscal Year 1993 -- \$50 million to acquire the computer hardware and software needed to start production of this advanced system, and another \$50 million to convert the FBI's existing fingerprint cards from the current manual format to an electronic image format. Any delay in this process -- by even as little as one year -- could mean higher costs to the taxpayer.

Last year, to acquire land for the CIA's plan to consolidate 21 leased offices in the Washington, D.C., area into two new compounds, including one in Jefferson County, I added \$30 million to a defense appropriation bill.

The \$17 million for the CIA project that I am now urging for the new Federal budget includes second-year funding for architectural and engineering studies, and for community and environmental impact assessments.

Together, the FBI and CIA facilities being relocated to West Virginia are projected to bring an estimated 4,700 jobs to our state. Maintaining their planned construction schedules will benefit our country as well as the economy of West Virginia.

January 29, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Excellence: The Key To America's Competitiveness

Recently, a ranking Japanese government official raised hackles in this country by criticizing American workers as lazy and illiterate.

Conversely, on our shores a lament has risen nationwide that, by taking advantage of America's freer trade policies without allowing American products to compete fairly in their own markets, Japan and some other countries have stolen American jobs and markets and have reduced our standard of living.

These examples underline the tension that the chronic trade deficit has caused between the U.S. and some of her trading partners.

Though accusing American workers of laziness and illiteracy is unfair and simplistic, and though there is much truth in the charge of unfair practices on the part of Japan, there is another factor behind the popularity of some foreign-made products.

At one time, "Made in America" meant the highest quality possible. Around the world, American exports to other countries, including numerous products manufactured or mined in West Virginia, outstripped our imports from overseas by billions of dollars.

But, in time, a number of foreign companies learned that consistent quality is a potent weapon

in trade competition, while some American companies became complacent about our success and prosperity.

Somewhere along the line, America's priorities seem to have gotten turned upside down. For example, last year, 34 major league baseball players were paid salaries of \$1 million or more. Some American rock and movie stars are estimated to have amassed fortunes ranging up to \$100 million or more.

Compare those figures with the salaries paid to teachers, scientists, shop foremen, miners, steelworkers, chemists, engineers, or inventors.

Historically, American greatness has rested on American excellence. West Virginians, for example, are still noted for their "work ethic," pride of workmanship, ingenuity, inventiveness, and spirit of achievement.

Some critics have recommended that, to regain competitive power, Americans should imitate Japanese labor and management policies.

Instead, perhaps America needs to reorder its priorities and recapture the values embodied by West Virginia workers, whose pride of craft and dedication represent standards that helped to make America the greatest nation in the world.

Excellence -- not imitation -- is the key to success in the marketplace or in life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Survival as a World Economic Power

Having won the Cold War, America currently finds itself embroiled in a struggle to maintain its position as a world economic power.

Across our country and throughout West Virginia, one sees the casualties in this new struggle, struck down in the longest recession since the 1930's: 8.9 million unemployed, 6.3 million working only part-time for economic reasons, and 1.1 million so discouraged that they have simply dropped out of the labor force -- 16.3 million in all -- 13 percent of the national work force.

Other marks of this recession are closed mines, factories, and mills in West Virginia and elsewhere; nearly 1 in 10 Americans now enrolled in the Food Stamp Program; more than 73,000 business bankruptcies and nearly 919,000 personal bankruptcies filed in Fiscal Year 1991; and massive layoffs, including 74,000 announced by General Motors and 29,000 by IBM.

For many of our neighbors and fellow citizens, the American Dream is fading out of reach.

Although the inflexibility of some of our trading partners is partially to blame for the current economic crisis, much of that blame lies here at home.

Over the past decade, deliberate political decisions by White House policymakers starved our national infrastructure -- those projects and programs, physical and human, that are

the backbone and foundation of economic growth and expansion: highways, bridges, airports, water and sewer facilities, education and vocational training, health care, nonmilitary research and development, ports and waterways, anti-crime and antidrug programs, and environmental cleanup. Such investments were cut \$395 billion below inflation for the decade.

At the same time, \$624 billion above inflation was pumped into the defense budget, and mandatory and entitlement programs were increased \$776 billion above inflation.

But as we are so painfully learning today, a nation that does not invest adequately in its human and physical infrastructure will lose its ability to compete economically. In addition, its standard of living will drop in comparison to those more competitive nations that have kept their transportation systems, production facilities, schools and training programs, health-care systems, and research and development up to date and relevant to world market challenges.

Starting immediately, we need to invest more in our neglected infrastructure to make us more competitive in the long run, and to create new jobs for millions of unemployed and underemployed Americans and for the young Americans who will want to enjoy the American Dream for themselves in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The President's Budget: Mixed News for West Virginia

The President's recently proposed 1993 Federal budget contains a mixture of good and bad news for West Virginia.

On the plus side, the budget proposes funding of a number of important West Virginia projects, including several that I initiated and for which I requested funding.

For example, the budget contains \$100 million that I requested to continue work on the FBI's Fingerprint Identification Division facility in Harrison County, and \$17 million in second-year funding for the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) consolidation, which includes a proposed facility in Jefferson County.

Inclusion of these funds in the budget signifies important Presidential endorsement of my initiatives.

Other funds in this proposed budget for ongoing West Virginia projects and programs on which I am working are: \$25 million for the Gallipolis Locks and Dam on the Ohio River; \$23.6 million for West Virginia segments of the Tug Fork flood-control project; \$38.5 million for the Winfield Lock and Dam on the Kanawha River; \$26 million for the Point Marion Lock and Dam below Morgantown on the Monongahela River; \$30 million for the Grays Landing Lock and Dam on the Monongahela; \$900,000 for the Petersburg local flood protection project along the South Branch of the Potomac River in Grant

County; \$32 million for Environmental Protection Agency sewerage treatment programs in our state; and \$38.6 million for continuation of the Essential Air Service program in West Virginia, which provides air transportation to the Clarksburg/Fairmont, Elkins, Beckley, Morgantown, and Bluefield/Princeton areas.

On the negative side, however, the President proposes cutting funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) from the \$190 million appropriated in the current fiscal year to \$100 million next year; reducing funding for the Community Development Block Grant program from \$3.4 billion to \$2.9 billion; and slashing funding for Amtrak from \$651 million to \$243 million.

Worse yet, the proposed budget calls for completely eliminating the Economic Development Administration, an essential tool for economic progress in financially strapped rural states such as West Virginia.

All of these projects and programs promise to create new job opportunities and expand West Virginia's economic base, and they deserve strong Federal support. For my part, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I shall continue doing all that I can, within Federal budget constraints, to safeguard these programs and to protect the jobs and investments that I am bringing into our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Confronting the New Threats To America's National Security

Throughout the course of roughly four decades of the Cold War, I have been a "national defense superhawk" -- a supporter of the strongest military forces that America could afford against the threat of world communism.

However, since 1990, the world has changed drastically. The Soviet Union is no more. America won the Cold War. The Soviet threat is gone.

Unfortunately, current Administration policy makers seem to be behind the times, continuing to push Cold War military budgets to protect against a U.S.S.R. threat that no longer exists and ignoring the economic threats to our security that exist now.

I believe that we should be using this opportunity to boost the confidence of the American people by proposing substantial cuts in defense spending and using the savings to increase spending in those domestic areas in which it is most needed -- for physical infrastructure such as bridges, highways, rail systems, airports, public water and sewerage systems, and river and harbor improvements, as well as for human infrastructure, such as education, job training, child and health care, and nutrition.

In past decades, against the threat of Soviet might and fanaticism, we

were correct to invest substantially in sophisticated weapons systems as a deterrent to communist aggression.

But now, the Soviet military threat has collapsed, while millions of Americans, including thousands of West Virginians, are jobless as a result of our faltering domestic economy.

Instead of new superweapons and megabombs to blast open military bunkers, we need "economic smartbombs" to open new world markets. Instead of sustaining a massive standing army of Cold War proportions, we should reduce our active duty forces to a size that is sufficient to effectively function in a post-Cold War environment, while at the same time strengthening and upgrading our National Guard and Reserve units for flexibility in future crises. We also need to pour additional resources into training brigades of skilled, disciplined working men and women for new industries and enterprises.

Now is the time to renew our investments in our nation's physical and human infrastructure and to regain our stature as the world's mightiest economic and industrial power. We cannot afford to remain a military superpower at the price of becoming an economic superpauper.

February 26, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Latest International Report Card In Science and Mathematics

In a clear portent of continued difficulty in competing in future world markets and high-technology development, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) of Princeton, New Jersey -- the nation's premier standardized testing organization -- recently released the results of an international mathematics and science test.

Despite several years of growing concern about the relative ability of American school children to compete against their foreign counterparts, the ETS examination results demonstrate that U.S. students are still performing below the international average in mathematics and science.

On the examinations administered internationally to roughly 175,000 students aged 9 years and 13 years, American students averaged well behind students in such countries as Korea, Taiwan, Switzerland, the former Soviet Union, Hungary, Canada, and even Slovenia. Japan and Germany declined to participate in this effort.

The American students tested were a cross section of their age groups, representing middle-class and suburban children as well as inner-city and lower-income examinees.

Throughout my career, I have strongly supported programs and efforts to improve and expand educational opportunities for our young

people. Investments in developing the minds and intellects of future generations are among the wisest, most farseeing that we can make. Indeed, affording our children the best education possible is one of the most important contributions that we can make to the future security, strength, and prosperity of West Virginia and the nation, and I shall continue my efforts to promote better schools and improved education.

Interestingly, ETS officials emphasized that those students watching the most television daily on average performed worse than those who watched only moderately or not at all.

Also, while most competing countries abroad honor bright students and celebrate academic achievement, ETS officials said that a national American attitude that holds bright students in popular contempt as "nerds" or "dweebs," while lionizing athletic prowess and winning beauty contests, discourages better scholastic achievement by many American students.

The destiny of our state and nation rests on the quality of our schools and the education that they offer. Our schools are our front line in the ongoing battle for future success in the world economy, and the struggle for continued American economic power and international political influence begins at the door of our schoolhouses.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships Expanded to Four-Year Awards

Recently, as part of the passage of the 1992 Higher Education Act, I won approval by the United States Senate of my request to expand awards conferred under the national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships Program from the current one year to four years.

In 1991, Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships were awarded to 43 graduating West Virginia high school students. That brought to 214 the total number of graduating, college-bound West Virginia high school students who have been awarded these one-year, \$1,500 first-year college scholarships, for a total value of \$321,000, since the beginning of this national program in 1987.

Awarded by state education officials solely for outstanding academic performance, the 43 West Virginia Byrd Honors Scholarships were among 5,561 awarded in 1991 to high school graduates across the country, bringing to more than 25,000 the number of these scholarships granted nationally since this program's inception.

Unfortunately, the soaring cost of a college education is straining the finances of increasing numbers of families.

If our country is to retain its position as a world leader in science, engineering, marketing, economic, and research and develop-

ment, we must encourage our best young minds to make the sacrifices necessary to achieve that goal.

My aim in expanding the Byrd Honors Scholarships from one-year to four-year awards is to provide added incentives for advancement for academically promising, hard-working young men and women to pursue college and university degrees.

The expansion of the Byrd Honors Scholarships will provide scholarship payments of \$1,500 annually for four years per student, or a total of \$6,000, applicable only toward costs associated with attendance at a college or university.

Believing that education can open doors of opportunity to young people that might otherwise be closed to them, I have always been a strong advocate of education and scholastic achievement.

The young West Virginians and other Americans who have won the Byrd Honors Scholarships are exceptional students, and they deserve our admiration and encouragement.

Indeed, these students represent great promise for West Virginia's and America's future, and I hope that the Byrd Honors Scholarships will help them to realize fulfilling, rewarding careers in the years ahead.

March 11, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Television: A New Medium for Child Abuse?

Since the early 1950's, our society has treated television as a friendly, electronic baby sitter that can be depended upon to benignly amuse and even educate the millions of children who watch it daily.

Current findings suggest, however, that the television industry has betrayed the trust once placed in it.

A recent report released by the American Psychological Association (APA) calls into question television's benign influence on children, suggesting even that television may be a malignant force in the development of young children, exposing them to a gratuitous violence, while teaching them antisocial attitudes toward others.

In particular, the APA charges, television is bombarding children with images of death, injury, and human destruction at rates unparalleled in previous generations.

For instance, by the time an American child watching the average of three hours of commercial television programming per day has attained the seventh-grade level, he or she has already witnessed on average 8,000 television murders and been exposed to more than 100,000 other assorted acts of violence.

Any parent or teacher

feeding children a similar intellectual diet should be found guilty of child abuse.

Worse than such abuse, the nine professional psychologists who conducted the study concluded that the average child's viewing menu influences children to use violence to resolve conflicts in real life and to be more acceptive of sexual violence and rape.

Our society is enduring a plague of violence.

Last year, seventeen major U.S. cities set new homicide records. Between them, New York and Los Angeles alone -- our two largest metropolitan centers -- chalked up more than 3,000 murders.

Though West Virginia still enjoys crime rates generally lower than most other states, one wonders how long such a luxury can continue even in West Virginia when examples of violence as a resolution to conflicts are being imported from beyond our borders, day after day, by television.

Television is now a major factor in shaping the values of children growing up in this culture.

The time has come for the television industry to take seriously its responsibility to our country and to cease poisoning the minds and consciences of our children.

March 18, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Line-Item Veto Is No Solution For the National Deficit

Reducing the national debt and cutting federal deficits are among my major concerns.

Unfortunately, one remedy suggested most often -- a **Presidential line-item veto** -- would do little or nothing to solve either problem.

For example, in 1988, President Reagan published a list of federal spending items whose termination by a line-item veto, he claimed, would have allowed him to cut the deficit and reduce the national debt, which, by then, was nearly \$2.68 trillion.

However, the sum of those vetoed items would have amounted only to two-tenths of 1 percent of 1988's total discretionary federal appropriations.

If the White House were given a line-item veto over **domestic discretionary appropriations**, the President could, for example, threaten to veto programs or projects for West Virginia unless I and other members of the West Virginia delegation would agree to vote as the White House wanted on some other piece of legislation (or nomination or treaty), regardless of the merits of the legislation in question. Therefore, West Virginia projects for which I have been able to secure appropriations -- such as Appalachian Corridors G, H, and D; Route 9 in the Eastern Panhandle; the Coalfields Expressway; the FBI Identification Division; the New River Gorge National River project, etc. -- would be vulnerable targets for Presidential line-item vetoes.

In fact, the budget items most often mentioned by line-item veto proponents -- domestic discretionary items, such as highways, bridges, water and sewer projects, health services, etc. -- are not themselves the cause of the national debt

(currently standing at \$3.694 trillion) or of the federal budget deficits.

In reality, most disbursements of federal funds are made through mandatory spending allocations or "entitlements" -- i.e., backdoor spending. These programs, created in years gone by, and their funding -- which do not require action by the Appropriations Committees of Congress -- are determined by formulas established in the laws that created them. Such mandatory and entitlement programs have become the main cause contributing to the deficits and the debt.

The entitlement and mandatory programs which have been put into place in years past must still continue annually to be automatically funded, and no Presidential line-item veto can touch them. They can only be ended or reduced by repealing or amending the original laws that created them.

Achieving those ends would require the unified will of Congress, the President, and the millions of citizens who benefit most from those backdoor spending programs. It would require national courage to reduce the rate of growth of such entitlements and mandatory programs for the sake of the country's economic health.

Certainly, the national debt must be reduced and budget deficits cut. But the line-item veto argument should come under the heading of political gimmickry. A line-item veto would destroy the Separation of Powers doctrine enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, thus resulting in an all-powerful Chief Executive. Moreover, its impact on reducing the debt and cutting deficits would be infinitesimal.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Need for Maintaining A Strong National Guard and Reserves

Against the background of the collapse of the old Soviet Union and lessened threats to America's national security, I favor many of the efforts suggested by the Department of Defense to shift our military priorities and to cut defense costs.

However, at a time when we are making significant reductions in our active-duty forces, the policy of cutting deeply the numbers of our National Guardsmen and Reservists seems shortsighted.

I am opposed to these massive cuts, particularly to National Guard and Reserve units in West Virginia, where we have a strong tradition of service in our nation's Armed Forces. Moreover, I have repeatedly called upon Defense Secretary Richard Cheney to reconsider these ill-advised proposals.

In West Virginia and across the country, our National Guard and Reserve units fulfill an important mission in our national defense efforts, as the efficient and effective participation of many of these units in Operation Desert Storm proved.

Instead of disbanding Guard and Reserve units, a more enlightened and realistic approach might be to concentrate more specialized training at the local level to

create even more capable and expert military forces ready to convert from civilian life to active military service with even greater speed and dispatch.

Moreover, the National Guard also has vital state missions, particularly in response to domestic emergencies, that must not be ignored.

For example, in the past six years, the West Virginia National Guard has served 26 times during periods of state disasters or emergencies. Most recently, last year the West Virginia National Guard was called out to suppress the devastating forest fires that, between October and December, burned more than 350,000 acres of West Virginia timberland.

I am concerned about the cost to public and national safety that could result from severe cuts in Guard and Reserve forces and closures of armories.

I have urged the Department of Defense to take a better look at the impacts such cuts will have on the National Guard and the Reserves, and the effect that these cuts might have in reducing the ability of these vital military resources to fulfill their duties to our domestic safety and national security.

April 1, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More New Rural Bridges For West Virginia

Nearly four years ago, I initiated a national program to use one of West Virginia's most abundant natural resources -- hardwood timber -- to replace rapidly deteriorating bridges on important but less-travelled highways and roads.

Highway engineers have discovered that treated hardwood timber bridges have a life span of roughly 70 years, which is more than that of conventional concrete and steel structures, whose exposure to salt, freezing, and wear renders them extremely susceptible to deterioration and costly to maintain.

Specifically for this program, I added \$2.6 million in federal funds over the past four years for timber bridge construction in West Virginia, on a shared federal-state funding agreement.

Recently, I succeeded in earmarking an additional \$190,000 in an appropriations bill to build four more of these unique timber bridges in West Virginia, bringing to 56 the number of bridges in our state being built under this program.

The four bridges to be built under this funding will be located in rural areas of Harrison, Lewis, Pleasants, and Webster Counties.

Of particular interest is the Webster County bridge,

in the Town of Addison, which will serve pedestrian and light truck traffic, and which suggests an entirely new market for West Virginia hardwoods in building such durable, attractive bridges in cities, suburbs, and parks.

As with the previous 52 West Virginia bridges selected for timber bridge replacement, the construction of these four bridges will improve commercial, school bus, and emergency vehicle service available to the communities dependent on these bridges for their transportation needs.

I am gratified to report that officials of the Timber Bridge Program maintain that national enthusiasm for this effort is spreading, and that West Virginia's leadership role in providing demonstration examples and technology is widely recognized.

The benefits of the Timber Bridge Initiative promise to be multiple for West Virginia. In addition to obvious advantages for rural transportation in our state, a growing new industry is rising on West Virginia's economic horizon, with the promise of expanding markets, a renewable resource as its raw material, and new job opportunities for young West Virginians in the years ahead.

April 8, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Congress-Bashing

Recently, newspapers and news broadcasts nationwide have overflowed with complaints against Congress, with special emphasis on the sensationalizing of "perks," while ignoring the real problems facing our country.

From my experience, I know of few institutions that are beyond criticism or that cannot benefit from sincere reform efforts.

Throughout my career in the United States Senate, I have worked continuously for reform to streamline the committee system, to open the Senate to public scrutiny through radio and television broadcasts, and to bring about greater public accountability.

Insofar as perks may stand between the members of Congress and the people they are elected to represent, such perks should be done away with. White House perks should go, too.

But simply doing away with perks is a far cry from addressing the serious challenges that face this nation.

Currently, we are faced with a \$3.8 trillion national debt, continuing federal deficits, the foreign trade gap, the decline of our schools, the crumbling of our highways and transpor-

tation systems, the prodigious cost of health care, and chronic unemployment.

In the next few weeks, the Senate will again be considering, for final passage, campaign finance reform legislation.

I have long advocated the need for campaign finance reform, and I have repeatedly cosponsored legislation to address needed changes in the campaign financing system. Members of Congress devote too much attention to the "money chase" -- the raising of funds to conduct political campaigns. There is too much pandering to the special interest groups that pour money into political campaigns. Members of Congress spend too much time away from Capitol Hill and out on the fundraising circuit.

I hope that sincere efforts will be made by both the White House and Congress to institute this and other substantive reforms so that needed attention can be turned to finding ways to reduce the deficit and the national debt, rebuild the nation's crumbling infrastructure, educate our children, and put our unemployed people to work.

April 15, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Dawning Economic Light in West Virginia

My top priorities are creating new job opportunities in West Virginia and laying lasting economic foundations that will produce greater prosperity throughout our state.

By continuing to add funds to federal appropriations bills for construction of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) corridor highway system, I hope to open more areas to economic development.

By locating vital new federal facilities and agencies such as the FBI's Fingerprint Identification Division's headquarters in Harrison County and the consolidation of the Bureau of Public Debt in Parkersburg, and by developing an expanding high-technology base statewide, and helping to lay foundations for new hardwood products enterprises, I am working to make our state more attractive to outside investors and to set the stage for increased economic and manufacturing growth in West Virginia.

In addition, I am seeking to create new jobs by enhancing and promoting West Virginia's tourism potential, assisting West Virginia companies to learn how to take greater advantage of federal contracting opportunities, and upgrading our airports

as the twenty first century approaches.

Statistics released on April 6 by a leading business publisher indicate that these efforts are apparently paying off.

According to Harris Publishing Company, a key business and economic monitor of ten Midwestern states including West Virginia, more than 500 new business enterprises have been launched in West Virginia in just the past two years, an increase of more than 17 percent when compared with previous years. Conversely, during that same period, with the exception of only one state, all other states in the group surveyed showed significant declines in business startups.

This is, indeed, good and encouraging news for West Virginians -- particularly for young West Virginians hoping to cast their futures at home.

The word is getting around that West Virginia is a good place to live and work, and a state with an increasingly promising economic future.

I shall continue to do all that I can to attract new facilities and enterprises to our state, and to create a brighter economic future for West Virginia.

April 22, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tourism Industry Developments In West Virginia

I have long believed that West Virginia is a prime site for the development of a viable and productive tourism industry.

In that conviction, I have worked consistently to lay foundations for a growth-oriented tourism industry in West Virginia by adding funds toward completing the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) corridor highway system, for the development of the New River Gorge National River and the Harpers Ferry Historical Park, for tourism-related improvements in the Monogahela National Forest, and for purchase of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

According to recent statistics published by the West Virginia Division of Tourism and Parks, these efforts are paying dividends, and increasing numbers of American vacationers are taking advantage of West Virginia as a tourism mecca.

In March, the Division's hotline registered nearly 106,000 telephone calls from people inquiring about tourism and vacation opportunities in West Virginia, up 139 percent compared to last year.

Incidentally, in 1991, 57 percent of those who called the hotline eventually made reservations at one or more of our state's tourist facilities.

These statistics are encouraging endorsements of West Virginia's tourism-industry potential.

But to take fuller advantage of that potential, and to expand the tourism industry in West Virginia, I added funds to appropriation bills to establish and operate the Appalachian Tourism Research and Development Center (ATRDC) at Concord College in Mercer County, in cooperation with West Virginia University.

Since success in the tourism and hospitality industries is not automatic, ATRDC offers a range of services to communities and entrepreneurs interested in developing area or individual tourism facilities throughout West Virginia and the other Appalachian states. These services include training workshops for those hoping to launch tourism in their own communities. Persons seeking more information on the scope of ATRDC's services can contact the Center at telephone number (304) 384-6032.

West Virginia is a sleeping tourism industry giant. I shall continue promoting our state's tourism potential as a means of creating new job opportunities and greater prosperity throughout West Virginia.

April 29, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Let Congressional Reform Begin Here!

The Senate, with my support, has just passed a very important piece of legislation -- a Campaign-Finance Reform Bill -- and has sent it to the President for his signature. Unfortunately, the President has repeatedly indicated his intention to veto this bill.

The American people deserve better than such a rejection out of hand. This landmark legislation would begin to address the corrupting influence that the current election process, with its constant pressure to raise political campaign funds, is having on our system of government and political institutions.

As a long-standing leader in the effort to enact meaningful campaign financing reform, I am encouraged that Congress has passed this bill. Escalating campaign costs, special interest group influence, and negative political advertising -- which are all fueled by our current system of financing political campaigns -- are tearing at the heart of the political process. This legislation, I believe, is the most important action that Congress can take to restore leadership, decency, and integrity to the democratic process.

Our democratic system of government is based on public trust.

Nothing alienates that trust faster and more completely than the taint -- or

the suggestion of taint -- connected with big money. Where once, individual election campaigns for the Senate cost a few thousands of dollars, such campaigns currently cost millions.

In 1958, I ran for the first time for a full term as a U.S. Senator from West Virginia, together with now-retired Senator Jennings Randolph, who was running for the Senate to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator M.M. Neely of West Virginia.

The combined costs of that campaign for two U.S. Senate seats amounted to, roughly, \$50,000.

By contrast, winning a Senate seat costs an average of \$4 million today -- and sometimes much more.

The legislation just passed would, among other things, place voluntary caps on campaigns for election to the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, further limit contributions by political action committees (PAC's) and special interest groups, and curb personal spending by wealthy candidates.

The bill passed by Congress is not perfect, but its enactment into law would set our feet on the path of vital Congressional reform and would keep political office open to more than just the wealthiest candidates, thus encouraging more talented men and women to seek public service.

May 6, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's 1992 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Winners

Benjamin Disraeli, Prime Minister of Great Britain in the latter part of the 19th century, in a speech to the British House of Commons, said, "Upon the education of the people of this country, the fate of this country depends."

I firmly believe that Disraeli's statement is as applicable to our own country in the late 20th century as it was to Great Britain in the 19th century.

There is no question but that educational achievement is a key factor in lifetime and career success.

Therefore, to encourage talented young West Virginia high school graduates, as well as those across our country, to further their formal education beyond high school, I authored legislation several years ago to establish \$1,500 first-year college scholarships to academically outstanding college-bound high school graduates.

Subsequently, the United States Senate voted to name these scholarships in my honor: the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded solely on the basis of scholastic achievement to students nationwide, with the number of scholarships awarded in each state based on student population.

This year, Robert C.

Byrd Honors Scholarships are being awarded to 42 graduating West Virginia high school students, bringing to 256 the total number of West Virginians who have been awarded these scholarships since 1987, for a total value of \$384,000.

Also, to assist with the soaring costs of a college education, I recently won approval by the full Senate of my request to expand the program to offer four-year scholarships, in place of the one-year stipends currently awarded.

My legislation, which is now pending in a Senate-House conference committee, would provide scholarship payments of \$1,500 annually for four years per student, or a total of \$6,000, applicable only toward costs associated with attendance at a college or university.

I congratulate all of this year's Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship winners in West Virginia, and I wish them every success in the pursuit of their destinies in the years ahead.

I hope also that these young college-bound students will cast their futures in our state, joining in making West Virginia an ever more prosperous, dynamic place in which to work, rear families, and live in the century ahead

May 13, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Support for the Congressional Pay Raise Amendment

Recently, the 27th Article of Amendment to the U.S. Constitution -- called "the Madison amendment" for its author, James Madison -- was ratified by the requisite number of states to become official.

This amendment, originally submitted more than 200 years ago, would solve the chronic dilemma of requiring Members of Congress to vote on their own salaries by prohibiting a Congressional pay raise from taking effect until after an intervening election for the House of Representatives.

Thus, a pay increase enacted in one Congress could not become effective until the next Congress, thereby giving the American voters a chance to register their opinions on the raise during the intervening national election.

A total of 40 states have ratified the amendment since 1789, including West Virginia in 1988.

Though more than two centuries have elapsed since this Congressional pay raise amendment was introduced, I believe that the amendment itself is sound.

Certain Constitutional experts have, however, questioned the validity of the ratification process when such a lengthy period

of time has elapsed between the proposal of the amendment and the ratification thereof by the requisite number of states.

Indeed, the Supreme Court has stated that, under Article V of the Constitution, ratification of a proposed constitutional amendment should be sufficiently contemporaneous with the proposal of the amendment so as to reflect the will of the people in all sections of the country and in relatively the same time period.

All prior amendments have been ratified in less than four years from the time of proposal. Moreover, in this century, the Congress has seen fit to require amendments to be ratified within a short period, generally of no more than seven years.

But I believe that the 27th Amendment responds to a concern, wisely identified by James Madison, about potential conflict of interest and the appearance of conflict of interest, that remains as valid today as it was the day that Madison drafted it.

Therefore, I authored a resolution -- which was adopted by a 99 to 0 vote of the Senate -- declaring this amendment to be a valid part of the Constitution.

May 20, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Revitalizing America's Cities: Violence is Not the Answer

The Senate recently approved a wide-ranging package of emergency assistance to deal with the problems of poverty, unemployment, and economic deterioration in this nation's urban areas.

There is no question that America's big cities are suffering from economic blight and lack of opportunity, but it is unfortunate that the legislation acted on by the Senate was, in large measure, precipitated by the recent riots in Los Angeles.

Many cities and towns in West Virginia and across this nation have serious economic problems, and yet the people of those communities have not resorted to violence and riots to solve their problems.

Los Angeles needs economic assistance to begin the task of rebuilding after the riots, but there should be no misunderstanding about the intention of Congress: We are addressing a long-standing nationwide problem; we are not attempting to reward criminal behavior. Rioting and violence solve nothing and must not be tolerated.

Like most Americans,

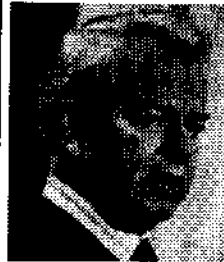
I was shocked and dismayed by the verdict in the Rodney King trial, and like most Americans, I was stunned by the violence that followed that verdict. Just as we as a nation must not tolerate police brutality, we also must not tolerate looting, rioting, murder, and other acts of violence.

In reality, the end result of the violence in Los Angeles has been the deepening of that city's problems. Lives and livelihoods were lost, and homes and businesses were destroyed.

If there is a lesson to be learned from the Los Angeles riots, it is that violence is not the answer. Instead of tearing down our cities, we must work together to build them up.

The goal of the legislation passed by the Senate is to help communities throughout the country by creating jobs and opportunities, combating crime and drug abuse, and providing economic incentives to businesses. These are the measures that we must take if this nation is ever to revitalize its economy, re-energize its cities, and regain its competitive edge.

May 27, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Facility and More Jobs For the FBI in West Virginia

Recently, I announced that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) selected a location in Marion County as the site of the second West Virginia satellite office for the Bureau's Fingerprint Identification Division.

This is another milestone in the establishment of the FBI project, for which I have added a total of \$245.5 million in federal funds to appropriation bills since becoming Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

When completed in 1995, the fingerprint identification facility being constructed in Harrison County will employ approximately 2,500 people -- 80 percent of whom are expected to be West Virginians -- with an annual payroll estimated at \$75 million.

In the meantime, the two satellite offices are bringing immediate employment opportunities to West Virginia, as well as allowing the FBI to move quickly on the vitally important task of updating the nation's fingerprint files.

The FBI expects to have 300 employees on board at the original satellite facility in Clarksburg by year's end. Those jobs, combined with the 1,000 positions to be filled within the next two years at the

second satellite office, will fuel continued economic growth in West Virginia.

These employees will form the core of the workforce that will be consolidated at the developing \$211 million Fingerprint Identification facility.

In addition to the \$30 million annual economic impact to West Virginia from the 1,300 salaries, the increase in staff will enable the FBI to more quickly transfer backlogged criminal history records and fingerprint cards onto computer files for the state-of-the-art automated system expected to be among the nation's most effective pieces of crime-fighting weaponry.

Although law enforcement offices in many states currently have computerized record keeping, for the most part, they are incompatible and, thus, incapable of adequately communicating with each other and with the federal government.

This West Virginia FBI complex and the automated identification system it is intended to house will link all levels of law enforcement with quick, efficient communication and a sharper tool to identify, track, and prosecute criminals.

June 3, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Progress Update on Rebuilding the Green Bank Telescope

In late 1988, the National Radio Telescope, located at Green Bank, Pocahontas County, collapsed.

The loss of this instrument, which was used to study the universe and explore deep reaches of outer space, dealt a severe blow to the international scientific community.

Recognizing the scientific importance of the National Radio Telescope to our country and the overall significance of this Space Age tool to West Virginia, I added \$75 million to a 1989 appropriation bill to replace the destroyed telescope. This was one of the first actions that I took when I became Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Last year, I participated in groundbreaking ceremonies at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank for the construction of the replacement telescope. Work on the new telescope -- which will be the world's largest steerable radio telescope -- is well underway.

The project construction contractor, Radiation Systems, Inc., has completed the foundation for the telescope and has completed the final design for a number of the major components from which the telescope is to be built. Further, the Ob-

servatory staff has completed the design of, and ordered the component parts for, the actual surface of the telescope dish.

In addition, the contractor reports that shipment to Green Bank of vital segments of the telescope reflector are scheduled to begin soon.

The target date for completion and resumption of radio telescope operations at Green Bank is 1995.

To be 330 feet in diameter, the new telescope will have a reflecting surface of 100,000 square feet -- two-and-one-third acres -- which is larger than two football fields. Standing more than 475 feet high, this state-of-the-art instrument will ensure America's leadership in this aspect of space research for decades into the twenty-first century.

In recent years, I have been working to bring new high-technology, computer-oriented industrial and educational initiatives to West Virginia, and to establish new, more competitive enterprises and create jobs. The radio telescope currently under construction at Green Bank is a promising complement to those efforts, and a symbol of a new era in our state's economic development.

West Virginia can be proud to be the home of this vital national resource.

June 10, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's First National Wildlife Refuge

Recently, I participated in dedication ceremonies for West Virginia's first National Wildlife Refuge, a project I initiated in 1989 and for which I have added nearly \$3.4 million over the past three years.

The Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge is planned to encompass the chain of 38 islands stretching from north of Hancock County south to beyond Mason County where the Ohio River turns westward.

Since their formation, these islands, scattered along a river that has been a magnet for industrial activity and urban growth, have remained a relatively undisturbed haven for dozens of species of birds, plants, and wildlife, including many considered to be endangered.

Over 50 species of fish have been found in waters surrounding the islands. The shallow water areas against the islands, especially the back channels, are important nursery areas for game fish such as freshwater drum, channel catfish, bluegill, largemouth bass and spotted bass.

Beaver, cottontail rabbit, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, woodchuck, and whitetail deer are com-

mon inhabitants. Transient bald eagles and peregrine falcons also can be spotted on and around these islands. In addition to lush foliage, trees, and shrubs common to West Virginia and Ohio, several varieties of more unusual plant life appear on the islands.

The preservation of these plants and animals for the enjoyment and education of future generations requires the protection of the unique habitat provided by these islands.

In order that the public may realize the full benefit of the refuge, a delicate balance between human activity and conservation must be maintained. The Fish and Wildlife Service expects to be able to provide opportunities for boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, and other tourism and educational activities for West Virginians and other visitors, while ensuring the protection of the islands and the creatures to which they are home.

The Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge will preserve a part of our natural, biological, environmental, and historical heritages that will enrich the lives of our children and grandchildren.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

1992 Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Awards

Each year since 1969, through the Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Awards program funded from a private trust that I established, I have provided U.S. Savings Bonds to the valedictorians of the graduating classes of West Virginia's public, parochial, and private high schools, and the Schools for the Deaf and Blind at Romney.

This year, another 284 valedictorians from 205 West Virginia high schools have been named Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Award winners, bringing to 6,303 the total number of valedictorians so honored since 1969.

The Scholastic Recognition Award -- currently, a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond -- is a way that I have chosen to emphasize to our state's valedictorians the pride that we have in their academic achievements.

In our society, too much emphasis is often placed on, and recognition given to, less noble accomplishments than good and responsible performance in

school.

For example, many rock musicians and others in the entertainment field are paid individually millions of dollars annually. Unfortunately, society receives little in return for this generosity in terms of diseases cured, real problems solved, new inventions developed, or jobs created.

West Virginia's high school valedictorians are among our state's most valuable assets and finest potential human resources. Through the Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Awards, I hope that these bright young men and women will realize how much we appreciate the records that they carved out in school, that they will be encouraged to go on to higher levels of education and training, and that they will cast their futures in West Virginia.

I congratulate this year's Award winners, and I wish them every success in decades to come.

June 24, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Is America Entering a New Dark Age?

The historical period in Western Europe following the fall of the Roman Empire -- a time in which barbarians overran and destroyed cities and morality seemed to collapse everywhere -- is popularly called the "Dark Ages."

Across this country today, we witness mounting rates of murders and violence in America's major cities; rampant drug abuse; deterioration of educational achievement and civility in our schools; the rise of pornography, obscenity, and vulgarity on television and radio and in music and the movies; and a decline of real patriotism and civic-mindedness among increasing numbers of people.

In this disturbing scenario, we are verging dangerously close to a cultural twilight in our own civilization -- to a New Dark Age.

From the letters written to me by West Virginians, I know that many in our state share my concern.

Though in most West Virginia communities the majority of people are still living by the old values that made this nation strong, in many other places in this country, we are facing a spiritual problem -- a prob-

lem of lost faith in the eternal values on which this country was built; of family life disrupted by an unwillingness of parents to rear their children for self-disciplined, constructive lives, and of children more interested in being "cool" and "hip" than in growing up to become responsible adults; and of too many people of too little moral courage to care about reversing the decline of neighborhoods and whole communities.

Unfortunately, many people seem to have forgotten God.

The time is long past for concerned, decent Americans to take back our streets, our schools, our culture, and our country from those forces and interests bent only on self-promotion and personal fortune with no regard to public well-being and the future.

I hope that conscientious, patriotic men and women will enter the lists of local government and organizations dedicated to building our country up instead of allowing it to decay from neglect or to be destroyed by selfish, irresponsible people.

We owe this to our children and to the future.

July 1, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Nation's Report Card: Reading and Television

More than 30 years ago, Congress mandated a periodic National Assessment of Educational Progress report -- subsequently dubbed "The Nation's Report Card" -- on academic achievement among our nation's school children.

Recently, the reading-achievement portion of the latest National Assessment of Educational Progress, which covers 1990, was published, and showed an intriguing relationship between reading, academic achievement, and television viewing among students.

Interestingly, those 4th-, 8th-, and 12th-grade students who watched less than two hours of television daily earned higher marks in their studies than did those who watched more television daily.

In 1990, 62 percent of 4th graders surveyed admitted that they spent three hours or more daily watching television, down from the 69 percent of this same age group owning up to such viewing times in 1988.

Similarly, 64 percent of 8th graders reported watching three hours or more of television daily compared with 71 percent from this group in 1988. Of the 12th graders, 40 percent watched three hours or more of television daily in 1990, versus 49 percent in 1988.

Alarmingly, however, of the 4th graders surveyed, one-quarter -- 25 percent --

reported watching six or more hours of television daily.

On another front, 63 percent of the 8th graders and 59 percent of the 12th graders said that they read 10 or fewer pages each day for their school work, while one-third of the 8th and 12th graders confessed to reading fewer than five pages per day in preparation for their school work in 1990.

Significantly, this report found that students from homes in which reading material is readily available -- where children see their parents reading, and where parents read to their children and even listen to their children's reading -- performed measurably better at reading than did students from homes in which those activities were not encouraged.

Reading is a key to a good education, and a good education is the key to a more successful economic future for our children in West Virginia and across the country.

Television offers a number of worthwhile programs, but television viewing, per se, is no substitute for reading good literature. Above all, television should never be allowed to interfere with schoolwork, because a good education is a proven key to success in a child's future.

July 8, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Another Revolution on College Campuses

Not long ago, I participated in commencement ceremonies at the University of Charleston.

Of a *graduating* class of approximately 270 students, nearly 200 degree recipients were "nontraditional" or "returning" students — that is, students more than 25 years old, many employed full- or part-time, and many parents or grandparents.

This trend of older men and women going to college to complete their undergraduate degrees, or to pursue degrees for the first time, is not limited to the University of Charleston.

According to West Virginia University officials, 1,068 of the undergraduate students on the University's Morgantown campuses during the 1991-92 academic year — roughly 7 percent of total undergraduate enrollment — were age 25 or more.

Marshall University officials report that of 1,900 undergraduate degrees awarded this spring, nearly one half went to older or returning students.

These West Virginia statistics reflect national trends.

The U.S. Department of Education reports that in 1986 — the latest year fully measured — of 11 million undergraduates registered in U.S. colleges and universities, only 4.8 million, or 43 percent, were "traditional" students — that is, 24 years of age or younger, dependent on their parents for

support, attending class full-time, unmarried, and holders of high school diplomas or equivalents.

The Department of Education projects that the trend toward nontraditional college populations will increase as the year 2000 approaches.

This "graying" of college students suggests that more people are taking advantage of higher education options available to them to upgrade their skills, seek degrees for career advancement, launch later or mid-life careers, finish educations once left uncompleted, or meet increasing competition from others in the work place.

Whatever their motives, I commend these nontraditional college students. As America's and West Virginia's economies continue to change, we will need the best-educated, most skilled work force that we can achieve. Indeed, new enterprises looking at our state for expansion should be impressed by the numbers of older adults pursuing college degrees.

Men and women contemplating such a course for themselves will find significant and vital advice awaiting them on nearby campuses, including information on available financial assistance for loans and grants.

Learning is a lifelong necessity, and it is never too late to take on the challenge of education.

July 15, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Is America Becoming an Atheist Nation?

With millions of other concerned Americans, I was disturbed by a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that nonsectarian invocations and benedictions at public school graduations are unconstitutional.

Since Colonial days, religion has been a vital element in our society, and an important dimension of school life.

The First Amendment states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...."

That passage was explicitly written into our Bill of Rights at the insistence of James Madison, based on direct appeals to Madison by Baptist ministers in Virginia who had been forced to support the official Anglican state church during the Colonial Era.

But from that understandable safeguard in the Bill of Rights, opponents of all religion seem determined today to drive any expression of religious faith out of American public life.

How ironic that, as re-

ligion makes a public resurgence in the long atheistic former Soviet Union, the Supreme Court has succeeded in erecting another pillar of state atheism in the United States!

How ironic, also, that after declaring obscenity, pornography, flag-burning, and the public funding of anti-religious art to be constitutionally protected, the Supreme Court rules that public prayer in schools is harmful and unconstitutional.

Perhaps the Supreme Court should examine its own biases and determine whether or not it is guilty, by its lopsided rulings, of oppressing the free exercise of religion, even in the least offensive cases to come before it.

I hope that the Supreme Court's twisted logic on state-church questions will cease before the United States of America, once founded on principles of religion and by largely religious immigrants, evolves by court order into the world's most intolerant of-
ficially atheistic state.

July 22, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Curbing Indecency On Television and Radio

For many years, I have been concerned about the corrupting effect, particularly on children and young people, of profanity, vulgarity, violence, obscenity, and crudeness on much television and radio programming.

Consequently, I recently succeeded in winning adoption by the Senate of an amendment to expand the already existing power of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ban the airing of television and radio programs that meet the definition of indecency until after midnight, unless a station goes off the air at that time, in which case it could not broadcast such programs before 10 p.m.

Television has been called "bubble gum for the mind." Unfortunately, too much television programming today is nothing but packaged corruption for the soul. If our television programs are a mirror of our society, we are in serious trouble.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, a majority of children and teenagers watch between three to six hours of television per day, and the portability of so many radios allows young people to monitor programs nearly everywhere they go.

Unfortunately, too many examples of adult and children's behavior alike and the lyrics of music and themes of many stories presented on these media too often teach children that sophistication is a matter of being foulmouthed, disrespectful of the rights of others, drug-wise, and cynical. Similarly, exposed to thousands of individual portrayals of murder, rape, robbery, and other violent behaviors, children are vulnerable to becoming insensitive to such heinous conduct.

Personally, I would prefer that the FCC ban indecent programming around the clock. However, in a declared defense of First Amendment freedom of speech and expression, the courts have already overturned a law passed by Congress that had directed the Federal Communications Commission to prohibit indecent broadcasts 24 hours a day.

Nevertheless, my amendment is a small step toward getting corrupting, unfit, mental "junk food" off the air when many of our children are likely to be listening or watching. I hope that this move will inspire entertainment producers to use better judgment in the future in deciding the content of their programming.

July 29, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Update of Free Federal Information Hotlines

The following list of toll-free Federal hotlines can help West Virginians obtain information about Federal programs and services, and about regulations and opportunities that may affect them directly.

- Retired Army Pay Problems 1-800-428-2290
- Cancer Hotline, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) . 1-800-4-CANCER
- National Runaway Switchboard 1-800-621-4000
(For parents and runaways to leave messages)
- Consumer Product Safety Commission .. 1-800-638-CPSC
(Product recall, complaints, fact sheets)
- Financial Aid for College Students (National)
Department of Education 1-800-333-4636
- AIDS Hotline (National) 1-800-342-AIDS
(HIV and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Information)
- Pesticide Emergency Information
Clearinghouse 1-800-858-PEST
- National Health Information Center 1-800-336-4797
- Hill-Burton Free Hospital Care Hotline ... 1-800-638-0742
- Small Business Administration 1-800-827-5722
- Social Security Administration 1-800-848-0106
(Medicare questions)
- West Virginia Veterans Affairs Office 1-800-827-2052
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America 1-800-662-HELP
(Drug-abuse help and information)
- Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791
- Hazardous Waste and
Superfund Information 1-800-424-9346
- Transportation Department 1-800-424-9393
(Auto-safety information and complaints)
- Washington, D.C., Central Reservation
Center 1-800-554-2220
(Information on lodging in the Nation's Capital)

August 5, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Highway Construction Progress in West Virginia

Recently, I added another \$185 million to Senate appropriation bills for continued construction of vital Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) corridor highways in West Virginia.

With this funding, since becoming *Chairman* of the Senate Appropriations Committee in 1989, I have added a total of \$825 million to federal funding bills for construction of ARC corridor routes and other highway projects in West Virginia.

Of the most recent appropriations, \$80 million will go toward the completion of Corridor G, which runs from Charleston southwest to the Kentucky border at Williamson, bringing to \$328.7 million the funding that I have added for Corridor G.

The remaining \$105 million that I added will be used to accelerate the four-laning of ARC Corridor L -- U.S. Route 19 -- a vital connector between Interstates 79 and 77 from near Sutton in Braxton County to Beckley.

In addition, last month I participated in a ceremony near Buckhannon to announce the awarding of a \$10.7 million contract for construction of another 2.43-mile segment of ARC Corridor H, which is planned to run from the Buckhannon area to Elkins and east into Virginia, a route for which I have added federal funds to-

talling \$160.7 million since 1989.

Transportation has always presented special and costly challenges in West Virginia, and a first-rate, modern highway system has been the dream of West Virginians for generations.

The ARC corridor highways represent a fulfillment of that dream. Indeed, coupled with West Virginia's Interstate routes, the ARC corridor highways comprise the framework on which much of our state's future economic development will depend. The establishment of new businesses and industries and creation of new job opportunities in West Virginia require safe, efficient, and accessible highways.

Completing West Virginia's ARC corridor highways is critically important to our state's future and to the future possibilities available to West Virginia's young people -- men and women who hope to live and work in their home state and to provide richer, fuller lives for their own children.

Against the constraints of increasingly limited federal funding, I am committed to doing all that I can to ensure continued progress toward completing West Virginia's ARC corridor highway system.

August 12, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Encouraging Moral Responsibility in The Entertainment Industry

Recently, I co-authored a Senate resolution urging corporations to be more aware of their responsibilities to the public.

This effort was in response to the release by Time-Warner, Inc., of an inflammatory and obscene "rap" music album.

Indeed, last month, during the annual stockholders' meeting of Time-Warner, one of the world's largest and wealthiest media conglomerates, certain stockholders charged the management with releasing the album before weighing the negative influence that it would have, thus placing profits above moral and social responsibility.

Included on the album was one song that encouraged the killing of police officers and other songs with lyrics so obscene and vicious that they could not be printed in reputable publications or uttered in polite company.

In spite of such tastelessness, this album and thousands like it are being sold across the counter and listened to by millions of American children and teenagers.

Under notable pressure, Time-Warner agreed to remove the copkiller song from the album and to recall copies of the album still in stores.

But much of the potential damage of this album has already been done and cannot be undone.

Equally to be deplored, other elements of the record and entertainment industry are daily bombarding young Americans with pornography, vulgarity, violence, promiscuity, drug propaganda, profanity, and barbarism, without any apparent sense of guilt or responsibility.

In this age of instant and all-pervading communication, cultural influences outside the home have largely supplanted the traditional family and church influences for many children, insidiously infecting their consciences and corrupting their values.

When I think about the lyrics I read from this rap album, and when I reflect on the contents of so many television programs and movies, I fear for the quality of life that we are going to bequeath to our children and grandchildren.

The executives and management of the entertainment media have a responsibility to stop degrading our culture and to critically assess the impact of their products on American society, particularly on children and teenagers.

But the flood of filth and garbage polluting our society will only cease when more outraged Americans call the entertainment industry to task by not buying trashy records and books or watching vulgar shows and movies.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Military Construction For West Virginia

With the collapse of the old Soviet Union and the worldwide retreat of communism, the United States should be able to meet its defense and security requirements with a reduced national defense and military budget.

However, we must guard against reducing our defenses so drastically that we render the country vulnerable to unforeseen threats, or tempt tyrants like Iraq's Saddam Hussein to mistake reduced defense spending for weakness or a failure of national will.

Particularly, I believe that, with current cutbacks in our active-duty and reserve military forces, the role of remaining National Guard and Reserve units has become even more crucial to our national security than in the past.

We must ensure that these units have adequate facilities and maintain their defense readiness.

For those reasons, I recently added \$36.3 million to a Senate appropriation bill to fund several Army Reserve and National Guard construction and planning projects across West Virginia.

I also added \$930,000 to the Military Construction Appropriation Bill to build new military housing at West Virginia's only active duty military base, the U.S. Naval Radio Station at Sugar Grove, Pendleton County.

Included in my amendment for funding for Army Reserve Centers are:

- * \$5.4 million for Clarksburg, Harrison County;
- * \$3.5 million for Weirton, Hancock County;
- * \$6.8 million for Wheeling, Ohio County;
- * \$1.6 million for Jane Lew, Lewis County;
- * \$2.8 million for Grantsville, Calhoun County;
- * \$1.9 million for Bluefield, Mercer County; and
- * \$1.6 million for Lewisburg, Greenbrier County.

In addition, I added \$5.3 million to the bill for site development costs associated with planning Army Reserve Centers at Beckley, Elkins, Morgantown, Rainelle, and Kingwood.

Also, I included \$5.5 million to build a hangar facility at Benedum Airport in Harrison County to accommodate the new Army National Guard Fixed Wing Training Detachment locating there, and \$2 million in planning funds for the possible establishment in West Virginia of a proposed National Guard regional maintenance depot and data center.

These military construction projects for which I am working will help our reservists and National Guard personnel to maintain their training edge and contribute to the national security challenges that America might confront in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Update on West Virginia's FBI Fingerprint Identification Facility

Recently, the Senate approved \$103.4 million in funding that I had sought for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Fingerprint Identification Division headquarters in West Virginia.

This funding brings to nearly \$350 million the total amount of money that my Appropriation Committee has appropriated for this project since I put in the first \$185 million in 1990 to automate and relocate the Fingerprint Identification Division from Washington, D.C., to West Virginia.

The latest round of funding includes \$50 million for a prototype system for transmitting fingerprints electronically between the FBI and local law enforcement agencies nationwide, \$50 million to convert from a manual to an electronic fingerprint file, and \$3.4 million to upgrade the FBI's Interstate Identification Index.

This funding is necessary to keep the automation and relocation of the Fingerprint Identification Division to Harrison County on schedule and to avoid needless delays and cost increases.

The automation of the Fingerprint Identification Division is of immense importance to bringing state-of-the-art technology to law enforcement nationally, and keeping this project on track is essential to our country and state in fighting crime throughout the United States.

Last year, a Congressional Office of Technology Assessment study cited the advantages of moving the Fingerprint Identification Division to West Virginia because of the state's stable, high-quality workforce, as well as the lower cost of living, and the shorter commutes that will be possible in North Central West Virginia.

The new Fingerprint Identification facility is projected to be in full operation in 1995 and will bring an estimated 2,500 new jobs to our state.

Most significantly, the Fingerprint Identification Division's new technology will vastly increase the resources available for local law enforcement across America as well as in West Virginia, and will be a revolutionary asset in the battle against crime.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Assisting Tourism and Natural Resource Development In West Virginia

With its splendid scenic beauty and wide range of outdoor activities and resources, West Virginia holds the promise of being a tourist mecca.

As part of my ongoing efforts to spur economic development and create more jobs for West Virginians, I recently added \$48 million to a federal appropriation bill for tourism and natural resources initiatives in our state.

For example, I added \$20 million to initiate construction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) National Education and Training Center at Shepherdstown, Jefferson County.

This brings to \$64.5 million the sum that I have added to appropriation bills for this facility, which the FWS will use to provide training for its workers nationwide, as well as for the staffs of other federal agencies that conduct land management activities.

I also added \$8.4 million to the bill for projects at the New River Gorge National River, one of West Virginia's leading tourist attractions. Included among these projects are additional river access for whitewater rafters, planning and design of the Kaymoor mine site, and trails throughout the park for hikers and campers.

For construction and improvements in the

Monongahela National Forest, I added \$1.3 million, including \$325,000 to design a new visitors center at Seneca Rocks to replace the one destroyed by fire earlier this year.

I also included in this bill \$7.5 million for planning, design, and construction at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and \$2.3 million for further development of the Wheeling Heritage area.

Besides funding for tourism industry initiatives, I added an extra \$2.3 million to continue my Timber Bridge Initiative in West Virginia and to promote the use of hardwoods, such as those found in abundance in West Virginia, in the replacement of deteriorating rural bridges across the country.

I also added \$4.6 million to continue a model automation project at Weirton Steel, which will use computerization to track the entire steelmaking process, including managing the inventory. This system is expected to save the company \$15 million annually, and to save as much as \$400 million annually industry-wide.

In addition, I added \$1.5 million to continue two ongoing alternative fuel programs at West Virginia University.

The funding that I added to this bill will help to strengthen and diversify West Virginia's economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Another Forward Step In Coal Mine Safety

Coal remains America's most abundant fuel source and, based on affordability, supply, source stability, and improved technologies for more efficient and environmentally safe consumption, some coal experts predict rising coal consumption for the foreseeable future.

For example, since 1970, coal-generated electric power has increased from 46 percent to 55 percent of total U.S. electricity production, with Department of Energy projections of further rises in coal-generated electricity production in coming years.

Though such statistics brighten West Virginia's economic future, they similarly underline the need for heightened safety education in the coal industry.

Paralleling firefighting, coal mining continues to be one of the most hazardous occupations in our country.

Throughout my career in public office, mine safety and health have been among my top priorities.

In 1969, I secured the initial funding to establish the National Mine Health and Safety Academy at Beckley in Raleigh County, and in subsequent years, I have added more than \$23.4 million in federal funds to build, equip, and expand the facilities, services, and programs of the Academy.

In early September, I

participated in the dedication of a new mine disaster simulation laboratory at the Academy, an advanced facility for which I had added approximately \$1.5 million to an appropriation bill.

This new disaster simulation laboratory will enable miners and rescue workers to train in realistic conditions simulating actual mine disasters. Mining personnel will be able to practice safety reactions, escapes, and rescue techniques that can save lives in the event of real mine accidents in the field.

In 1968, the year before my initial appropriation establishing the Academy, the United States recorded 311 coal mine deaths.

By 1980 -- just twelve years later -- U.S. coal mine deaths had been cut to 133.

Last year, we suffered 62 coal mine deaths in this country.

So far this year, 27 U.S. coal mine deaths have been reported.

In no small measure, those declining figures are a tribute to the work of the National Mine Health and Safety Academy.

But even one miner's death is one death too many.

I shall not relent in my commitment to work for increased safety and improved health for the miners of America and West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Election Day 1992

Throughout West Virginia and across America, Tuesday, November 3, is Election Day 1992.

In a republic like the United States, every election is vitally important. In a representative democracy, voters help to decide issues of great significance for our nation, state, and local communities through the quality of the individual men and women whom we choose at the polls on election days.

Nationally, this year's election will determine whom we want to lead us for the next four years as our president and, indeed, the man who will guide this nation as we prepare to enter the twenty-first century.

In West Virginia, we will be electing a governor and three Congressmen, as well as hundreds of state and local officials.

Voting is one of the most important responsibilities that our citizenship in this country regularly requires of us.

Unfortunately, among the industrial democracies, the United States suffers a shameful voting record.

Among Presidential election years, for example, in 1960, 62.77 percent of age-eligible Americans voted; in 1964, 61.92 per-

cent; in 1972, 55.21 percent; in 1980, 52.56 percent; and in 1988, only 50.11 percent.

Recent West Virginia turnouts of age-eligible voters provide even more fuel for concern.

In 1982, the number of West Virginians going to the polls represented 39.8 percent of the age-eligible voters in our state; in 1984, 51.7 percent; in 1986, 27.6 percent; in 1988, 46.7 percent; and in 1990, 31.9 percent.

How ironic that, as millions in foreign countries struggled and won the right to choose their own leaders and form of government in stated imitation of America's example, fewer and fewer Americans have counted their right to vote as worthy of being exercised.

West Virginians have until October 4 to register to vote in the upcoming general election.

I hope that all West Virginians of voting age will avail themselves of the opportunity to register for this year's election, and that all registered West Virginians of whatever party or persuasion will take advantage of the blood-bought and sacrifice-paid right to vote in the 1992 elections.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Still One of the Safest Places In Which to Live

Recently, a young suburban Washington, D.C., mother was dragged for nearly two miles along a highway to her death when her automobile was "carjacked" by a couple of young hoodlums.

That brutal murder graphically brings home the alarming rise in, and nature of, crime in our country.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has reported that 1991 was the bloodiest year in U.S. crime history, with nearly 25,000 people murdered nationwide last year. Similarly, more than 100,000 rapes were recorded in 1991.

Conversely, for the nineteenth consecutive year, West Virginia registered one of the lowest crime rates in the nation.

Though West Virginia's crime rate rose slightly last year, our state's crime rate remains less than half the national average.

While being concerned about even a small rise in our state's crime statistics, West Virginians can be justly proud of our state's low-crime tradition.

Indeed, ingrained personal and community values -- long characteristic among West Virginians -- largely explain the law-abiding nature of most of

our state's people.

Those values represent intangible assets that increasing numbers of people and enterprises are weighing in their decisions to live and locate in West Virginia.

My top priority in the Senate has been, and will continue to be, to help to create a favorable economic climate and other circumstances that will attract new industries, businesses, and job opportunities to West Virginia.

As improved transportation and economic momentum produce growth in our state, I hope that native West Virginians will hold firmly to the values and conduct that make West Virginia such an outstanding place in which to live and work.

West Virginia's institutions -- churches, schools, civic clubs, professional groups, fraternal organizations, and, not least, strong family structure -- are the source of the most admirable way of life on earth -- a way of life in which we can take genuine pride, and which is worthy of continued respect and support.

And that may explain why West Virginia deserves a reputation as one of the safest places in America in which to live.

September 30, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Outrageous!

I am outraged that an Administration agency is using taxpayers' money to encourage U.S. companies to close domestic plants and to move their facilities to foreign countries.

This policy is costing jobs in West Virginia and throughout our country, and to help put a stop to this practice, I recently cosponsored an amendment to that effect in Senate legislation.

Laudably, in recent decades, U.S. foreign policy has aimed to bolster the economies of underdeveloped countries as a means to raise the standards of living of the citizens of those countries, and eradicate those economic conditions that have led to instability and communist subversion.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) has been actively pushing investment incentives -- tax write-offs, tariff advantages, lending benefits, and plant construction and worker-training deductions -- to induce American companies to close U.S. factories and operations and to set up new facilities overseas.

The amendment that I cosponsored would prohibit federal agencies from spending any funds to lure U.S.

manufacturers into moving their operations to any foreign country if that move might result in the loss of U.S. jobs.

In too many instances, such operations have proved to be sweatshops that pay as little as 70 cents an hour, observe few if any worker-safety standards, and violate the simplest environmental regulations.

Manufacturing out of such facilities and under such working and pay conditions, the induced companies are able to undercut their own domestic operations in world and American markets, thus costing countless jobs in our state and country.

I find absolutely absurd a policy of spending U.S. tax dollars and using tax incentives to siphon off American investments to improve foreign economies while refusing to offer similar advantages to build or improve factories in this country and to preserve or create jobs for West Virginians and other Americans.

We must put a stop to exporting West Virginia and U.S. jobs and, instead, create policies that will promote American products and produce new jobs for our own people.

October 7, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building Highways for West Virginia's Future

My top priority is -- and will continue to be -- laying foundations for West Virginia's economic renewal and the creation of job opportunities for the people of our state.

Toward that end, I added \$151 million to two federal appropriations bills this year for vital West Virginia highway projects. Those bills have now been signed into law.

The monies I added include \$80 million to complete Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor Highway G from Charleston to Logan and Williamson. Completion of the route is expected in 1995.

In addition, I added a total of \$71 million to the two bills for improvements to ARC Corridor L, including \$47 million for the four-laning of an 11-mile segment of the route between Hico, Fayette County, and Mount Nebo, Nicholas County, and \$24 million to begin upgrading a 25-mile segment of Corridor L between Summersville, Nicholas County, and I-79, near Sutton, Braxton County.

I also added \$400,000 this year to launch a study of the highway and bridge needs of a 10-county area of Central West Virginia -- the area comprising Wirt, Wood, Gilmer, Roane, Clay, Calhoun, Ritchie, Lewis, Braxton, and Jackson counties.

Since becoming Chairman of the Senate Appro-

priations Committee in 1989, I have added millions of dollars to federal appropriation bills to build a safer, more modern highway system in our state.

Included in the funds I have obtained in the past four years are \$160 million to build ARC Corridor H, a route that will run from I-79 near Weston, Lewis County, eastward toward Interstate 81, the Washington metropolitan area, and East Coast markets.

Last year, I secured authorization for the funding of all remaining miles of ARC Corridors in West Virginia and for the four-lane construction of U.S. 52 between Huntington and Bluefield.

Also last year, I added funding to four-lane State Route 9 in the Eastern Panhandle from Martinsburg through Charles Town and to the Virginia line. In addition, I added \$50 million to launch construction of the Coalfields Expressway between Beckley and Grundy, Virginia, and I provided funding for location and design studies to upgrade State Route 2 in the Ohio River Valley. Two years ago, I added \$42.5 million to a federal bill for the four-laning of the Weirton Bypass.

I intend to continue doing all that I can to bring federal dollars to our state for construction of a modern highway system that will serve as a foundation for West Virginia's future economic vitality.

October 14, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Prescription for Better Health

West Virginians deserve a first-rate health care system.

In a state like ours, with cancer rates well above the national average, the need for readily available, top-notch health care is paramount.

For that reason, I have worked to enhance West Virginia's health-care system and to expand the reach of that system so that people in all areas of our state, both urban and rural, can have access to the best possible hospitals, doctors, and care.

My vision for a better health-care system in West Virginia is bearing fruit.

Recently, researchers at the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center located at West Virginia University (WVU) -- West Virginia's first statewide cancer research and treatment facility, which was established in part with \$13.3 million I was able to obtain in federal funding -- were selected to be part of a nationwide study of a promising new drug that may prevent breast cancer.

Researchers from the Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) will also join in that study, which will be conducted over the next five years with 16,000 participants nationwide, including West Virginians.

Another statewide program in which the Cancer Center will participate -- a program for which I have obtained approximately \$8 million in federal funding

since fiscal 1990 -- is West Virginia's breast and cervical cancer prevention, education, and screening project. This project offers breast and cervical cancer screening to West Virginians who otherwise might not have access to such tests.

The importance of early cancer detection and screening cannot be overstated. This year in West Virginia, 1,400 new cases of breast cancer will be detected. Add to that another sobering fact: West Virginia has the fourth highest rate of cervical cancer in the country.

My efforts on behalf of better West Virginia health care have not been focused on cancer alone, however. This year, for instance, I gained funding for a number of initiatives, including continuation of an Alzheimer's outreach program; a satellite network that will link specialists at WVU with rural hospitals throughout the state; a new rural health care clinic in Huntington, which will serve West Virginians in a twelve-county area; and a demonstration project at Wheeling Hospital to promote community health services across West Virginia.

The prescription for better health in West Virginia is a quality health-care system that is available to all West Virginians, and developing such a system will continue to be one of my top goals.

October 21, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Spotlighting West Virginia

West Virginia is gaining a reputation as a haven for "back-office operations."

This type of operation --which includes data processors, computer software and systems developers, researchers, telemarketers, claims processors, customer service representatives, and people who make various types of reservations--means jobs for West Virginians, expansion of the state's economy, and new opportunities for the future.

For some time now, I have promoted West Virginia as the ideal location for companies to establish these telecommunications and computer operations.

A recent study, entitled "West Virginia: The Location for Your Office of the Future," underscores my contention that West Virginia has a great deal to offer the nation's businesses.

The study showcases the many qualities that have made our state a prime location for back-office operations: an able workforce known for high productivity; our low cost of living; and our outstanding quality of life, including a low crime rate, good schools, and the kind of values upon which this country was founded.

What has this meant for West Virginia?

C&P Telephone estimates that in the past two years, almost 5,000 tele-

communications jobs have been attracted to West Virginia.

The growth of this industry in West Virginia has gone hand-in-hand with my efforts to acquaint federal agencies with West Virginia's vast potential.

I have had success in this area.

For instance, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is now in the process of locating its Fingerprint Identification Division headquarters in Harrison County, bringing with it an estimated 2,500 jobs. A new center under construction in Fairmont will serve as a test-site for NASA computer software. The Bureau of Public Debt is expanding by 700 employees its operations in Parkersburg. Through my initiative, Martinsburg is the new home of the U.S. Coast Guard's operations systems center.

I am proud that I was able not only to match West Virginia's attributes with the needs of these operations, but also that I was able to obtain the federal funding to help locate these facilities in our state.

I will keep working to spotlight West Virginia and to make certain that our state's many advantages are well known to federal agencies and private industries that are looking for new locations for their operations and for able employees to run them.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

On the Cutting-Edge of Workplace Safety

Maximizing productivity is key to strengthening U.S. industrial standings in the ever-broadening international economic competition.

Recognizing that maximum productivity depends on a strong, healthy workforce -- industry's most precious resource -- I have worked to steer federal investment to programs for protecting the health and safety of U.S. workers.

From the earliest years of my political career, I have worked for improved working conditions for West Virginia's coal miners. My efforts have brought about programs that have led to fewer coal mine accidents and have lessened miners' risk of developing lung diseases.

Recently, I participated in groundbreaking ceremonies for a new facility in West Virginia, being established with nearly \$60 million I have added to federal appropriations bills, that will house research programs aimed at giving American workers safer, healthier workplaces.

This new National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) facility, to be administered by the Centers for Disease Control in conjunction with

the Appalachian Laboratory on Occupational Safety and Health, will be a world-class laboratory for the study of workplace environments with the goal of reducing the number of work-related injuries and diseases.

In recent years, exposure to cancer-causing agents has become one of the more prevalent concerns of workers. Identifying ways to reduce the risk of exposure that could lead to lung cancer is one of the goals of this laboratory.

The chemists, radiologists, microbiologists, engineers, toxicologists and other specialists who will staff this facility will also study, among other fields, the prevention of diseases and injury in agriculture and construction, methods of respiratory protection, and prevention of chronic occupational diseases.

Location of this laboratory in Morgantown, which is adding 300 jobs to the economy, will make the state the international headquarters for this area of study.

When completed in 1994, this lab will be a one-of-a-kind center for research into improving the health of U.S. workers and, in turn, the health of the U.S. economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Laying Twenty-First Century Foundations in West Virginia

My eyes are on West Virginia's future, and my top priority is laying foundations to help West Virginia take advantage of new business, industrial, and job opportunities in the twenty-first century.

We are living in an era of accelerated change.

New world trade patterns, new technologies, revolutionary political changes worldwide, and heated industrial competition from former Third World countries have wrought unimaginable transformations in our economy.

By helping to modernize West Virginia's physical and human infrastructure -- pushing the completion of the Appalachian Regional Commission corridor highway system; promoting high-technology research, development, and education in our state in both the private sector and in West Virginia's colleges and universities; developing new tourism possibilities; and persuading more federal agencies to take advantage of our state's benefits by moving support facilities into West Virginia -- I am seeking to make West Virginia more attractive to new industries and enterprises and create new jobs in the years ahead for West Virginians.

Recently, for example, I participated in the dedication of a new replacement lock in the Gallipolis locks and dam system on the Ohio River at Hogsett, Mason County.

Last year, the Gallipolis locks and dam system handled 42.7 million tons of commodities.

While coal accounted for the largest segment of that traffic, large quantities of petroleum fuels, stone, chemicals, and iron and steel also were counted in the Gallipolis traffic.

Significantly, roughly one quarter of West Virginia's annual coal production is barged through the Gallipolis system.

Made possible through \$277 million in federal funds that I helped to secure, the modernized Gallipolis Locks and Dam will save shippers millions of dollars in annual shipping delays, contributing to the overall competitive strength of the United States in the emerging global economy.

From West Virginia's perspective, those savings can translate into lower costs and increased demands for goods produced, mined, or manufactured in West Virginia, meaning more jobs and greater economic prosperity for our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Flood Control: Protection For West Virginia's Investments

Recently, I participated in several West Virginia groundbreaking and dedications for a number of projects that will pay big dividends in years ahead.

These projects include dams, streambank stabilization programs, and other flood-prevention projects targeted to protect homes, businesses, and community treasures from the ravages of streams and rivers swollen by rain and snow.

West Virginians know well the dangers of unremitting rains and rampaging waters. I will never forget the devastation I witnessed in West Virginia following the tragic 1985 floods, nor will I forget previous floods in our state that have caused millions of dollars in damage. Following the 1985 floods, I obtained nearly \$325 million in federal funding to help West Virginians recover and rebuild.

West Virginians deserve protection from such flood damage. For that reason, I believe the money I have added to federal appropriations bills for West Virginia flood-prevention projects will be money well invested.

For instance, \$4.25 million I was able to add to a federal funding bill will underwrite the first phase of a project on Howard Creek in Greenbrier County. I recently participated in groundbreaking ceremonies for this project, which will protect more than 450 residences and businesses in the downstream White Sulphur Springs area.

I also participated in

groundbreaking ceremonies for a new dam on Grant County's Mill Creek upstream from Petersburg--made possible by \$10.25 million that I added to another appropriation bill--that will afford flood protection for downtown Petersburg and provide a 50-acre lake for recreational purposes.

And I was touched by the sense of relief exhibited by residents of Hardy, Hampshire, Mineral, Grant, and Pendleton Counties who will be protected from the capricious nature of the Potomac River's South Branch by a series of streambank stabilization projects financed by \$2.5 million I added to a federal spending measure.

From the largest flood-control projects in the state--for example, Southern West Virginia's Tug Fork project, which is being built with millions of dollars in federal funding that I have added to appropriation bills over the years--to the smallest project, thousands of West Virginians have reaped a greater feeling of safety from the threat of flooding.

With every new flood-protection project launched and completed in West Virginia, I rest easier when the rains begin to fall and the rivers and streams begin to rise. Flood protection is vital to West Virginia and, against the constraints of the national debt and the imperative to reduce deficit spending, flood protection in our state will continue to be a focus of my efforts in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Window into Space

In a few short years, West Virginia will be home to America's most sophisticated and scientifically advanced radio telescope--the Green Bank Telescope now under construction at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Pocahontas County.

When it is completed sometime in 1994, the Green Bank Telescope--which will be the nation's most sensitive listening device--will be trained on deep outer space, giving the nation a new window on the universe.

The presence of this sophisticated equipment in West Virginia puts our state on the cutting-edge of space technology, as scientists from across the country and around the world look to Green Bank for the latest in astronomical research.

The new Green Bank Telescope literally is growing out of the rubble of the old Green Bank Telescope, a smaller and less precise instrument that collapsed in November, 1988. Following the loss of the original telescope, I added \$75 million to a supplemental appropriation bill to construct replacement equipment.

The Green Bank Telescope will be mammoth in

size--more than 475 feet tall and 330 feet in diameter--but will have pinpoint accuracy, thanks to its laser-aiming capabilities.

I am encouraged by the progress that has been made on this project to date. Since groundbreaking ceremonies last year, which I attended, the foundation for the new telescope has been completed and the steel superstructure is underway.

Officials at the National Science Foundation (NSF), the funding agency for operations at Green Bank, estimate that the new telescope will begin monitoring the skies as early as 1995.

Space often has been called one of the last frontiers--a mysterious, mostly unknown universe whose vastness can hardly be fathomed by the human mind.

The Green Bank Telescope in Pocahontas County represents a major investment in our country's scientific future, as well as a vital commitment to mankind's future beyond earth.

The scientific work at Green Bank undoubtedly will unlock some of the secrets of space, giving West Virginia a preeminent role in America's exploration of the universe.

November 25, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Give Us Back Our Heroes

Recently, I discovered that one of my heroes was missing.

Glancing through a modern American history textbook for an account of Nathan Hale, I found that the textbook made no mention of him (or many others, such as John Paul Jones).

Nathan Hale, as all American school children used to know, when he was about to be hanged by the British as a spy during the American Revolution, declared that he regretted that he had "but one life to give" for his country.

Over several generations, Nathan Hale has inspired millions of American children, teaching them the sacrifices that many patriots have made for America's liberty.

Unfortunately, the authors of the textbook in question apparently decided that Nathan Hale is not worth remembering.

That is not the only revision affecting some modern history textbooks.

In efforts ostensibly to make reading and learning less difficult, many school textbooks have been "dumbed down" -- that is, details are left out, characters and events excluded, complex ideas ignored, and colorful pictures have been substituted for the time-honored substantive narrative, lest students become bored from trying to read the texts.

In the wake of Thanks-

giving 1992, I suggest that we not lose touch with our incomparable heritage -- the Pilgrim fathers at Plymouth, the landing at Jamestown, or George Washington, for example, whose faith gave inspiration to our tradition of annual late November Thanksgiving Days.

The saga of the founding of the United States is one of the most dramatic accounts in human history. Indeed, America's story has inspired millions of people around the world to seek representative democracy and a better life for themselves.

Our children need to know the story of the founding and development of their country -- the story of the price paid by our forefathers and mothers in carving out of an untamed wilderness the greatest single nation on earth.

Similarly, young West Virginians need to know the dramatic story of the foundation of our state, complete with the names, places, and events that shaped modern West Virginia.

As with Nathan Hale, history can and should be inspiring. Our children need to be challenged by America's history.

Above all, our children need to be taught to love our country.

I hope textbook writers will remember this the next time they are tempted to leave some of our heroes out of a history book.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Directions for Software Valley

West Virginia's Software Valley movement, which began in 1985, has moved past its infancy and into adolescence -- growth that was clearly evident at the Software Valley XI conference held recently in the Eastern Panhandle.

As one of the founders of Software Valley, I take great pride in the steady maturation of this movement. Little more than an idea just seven years ago, Software Valley has developed into a high-tech network of state educational institutions, entrepreneurs, and government officials who are working together to give the state's economy a new dimension.

Software Valley XI was a showcase of the accomplishments of the movement over the past seven years and a preview of Software Valley's future.

At my invitation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Administrator Daniel Goldin addressed the conference, telling the nearly 300 participants that West Virginia is poised to play an enlarged role in the nation's space exploration efforts.

In fact, during the conference I announced a \$1.65 million NASA grant to test new space-related computer

software, a joint project to be undertaken by West Virginia University and the Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) Center in Fairmont.

The IV&V Center -- which is being located in West Virginia with \$12 million I was able to add to a federal appropriations bill -- is one of a number of high-tech-related facilities that have arisen in West Virginia since the birth of the Software Valley movement.

The success of Software Valley goes hand in hand with the development of a modern, responsive infrastructure network in West Virginia, which is the reason I have made it a top priority to initiate and fund such projects: transportation systems that make West Virginia accessible; decent public services that ensure a higher standard of living; and improved public facilities and educational institutions, all of which contribute to making West Virginia an ideal place in which to work and live.

As the Software Valley movement matures, and as more and more pieces of the movement take shape, these high-technology enterprises promise to become increasingly beneficial to West Virginia's economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Joining the Front Lines in Law Enforcement

West Virginians will benefit from a recent realization on the part of Federal Bureau of Prisons officials that sometimes more is less.

More, in this case, is a decision by that agency to increase the capacity of its planned medium security prison in Beckley by an estimated 50 percent. And less represents the savings in federal tax dollars that the Bureau of Prisons will realize by enlarging the Beckley prison instead of building a new facility elsewhere in order to gain the additional prison space that it desperately needs.

Expanding the scope of the Raleigh County federal prison project is an excellent way for federal prison officials to meet the challenge of maintaining or improving the level of service they offer while working under increasingly tight budgetary constraints.

The Beckley prison, being built on land donated by Raleigh County with funds I added to a 1990 appropriation bill as part of a nationwide crime-fighting and anti-drug package, originally was to be staffed by 250 personnel and to accommodate 1,000 inmates.

Prison officials advised me recently that they have revised their plans and will expand the facility to accommodate a total of 1,536 inmates (1,152 medium security and 384 minimum security), with a staff of 325 personnel.

While construction costs will be higher than originally anticipated--an

exact figure has not been released by the Bureau of Prisons--and operating costs will increase, the price tag on enlarging the new Beckley prison is significantly lower than the cost of building a separate facility at another location.

That kind of planning makes sense, and I am pleased that West Virginia will directly benefit from the Bureau of Prison's cost-saving move.

In addition to the new federal prison, West Virginia, with my help, has recently become home to two additional elements of the nation's crime-fighting system: the Clarksburg FBI Fingerprint Identification Division and the U.S. Coast Guard Operations System Center in the Eastern Panhandle.

The Fingerprint Identification Division--with an estimated 2,500 employees and an annual payroll of \$75 million--will give law enforcement personnel throughout the nation state-of-the-art crime solving technology.

And the Coast Guard's new center in Martinsburg--with its staff of 90 civilian and military personnel--will play a crucial role in efforts against drug smuggling into this country, in addition to supporting other Coast Guard law-enforcement activities worldwide.

As never before, these three facilities place West Virginia in the front lines of the fight against crime, and, in so doing, add an extra dimension to our state's economic picture.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Issues Likely to Confront The 103rd Congress

Facing a new year, I am sharpening my focus on the challenges that will confront Congress in the coming months.

The national economy will be our top priority.

Among the many suggestions made for strengthening the U.S. economy, the most frequently mentioned are those aimed at "growing" our way into greater prosperity -- long-term investments in our national infrastructure that promise to create jobs, increase our productivity, and prepare Americans to take advantage of new technologies and careers.

High on the agenda of most Americans is the hope that some solutions can be found to the health-care crisis.

Reportedly, more than 35 million Americans have no health insurance, and millions more are underinsured.

Currently, health care accounts for approximately 13 percent of the gross national product, while health-care prices are rising three times the rate of general inflation, causing widespread hardships for those needing medical care, as countless West Virginia families know from experience.

Another prominent concern facing Congress will be the need for better resources to stem the growing tide of violent crime nationwide.

Further, rapid-pace changes abroad will also demand new assessments of America's role in world affairs, with decisions required on balancing our domestic needs against our international responsibilities, especially as those responsibilities affect our country's global interests.

All of these pressing concerns will be clamoring for attention against the need to bring under control massive deficits and the national debt.

American voters have sent a message to the president-elect and to members of the new Congress that these should be priorities in 1993, and that the gridlock of recent years will not be tolerated further.

That message has been received, and during this period of transition, I am heartened by signs that the new administration and Congress are coming together to tackle the difficult challenges facing our country, and to move forward into a new era of accomplishment and prosperity.

December 23, 1992



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Blending Conservation and Economic Development

One of the challenges facing West Virginians, who are blessed with a state of breathtaking beauty, is preserving West Virginia's natural assets while working to promote economic development -- an age-old struggle that sometimes results in clashes between those competing goals.

From time to time, however, opportunities come along that seem almost custom-made for West Virginia's diverse interests, and, whenever possible, I have worked to take advantage of those situations.

One such opportunity came to my attention in 1989 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency charged with protecting and managing the nation's natural resources, decided to establish a consolidated national training facility.

In seeking a home for this center, agency officials looked for a setting that would allow the new state-of-the-art facility to be a working model for their conservation theories and practices. West Virginia seemed made-to-order.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's \$125 million National Training and Education Center, being built with federal monies I have added to appropriation bills, will be located at a Jefferson County site with open fields, mature hardwood forests, wildlife habitats, and a beautiful view of the Potomac River Valley. This 538-acre site fulfills the agency's desire for a campus-like setting where man-made structures can blend

with nature.

As envisioned, the new complex will feature low-lying buildings tucked into groves of trees with connecting trails in an effort to preserve the site's natural beauty.

Plans call for construction of an administrative and instructional area with classrooms, an auditorium, and biomedical, biology and chemistry laboratories. As a center intended to provide training for land management professionals from several federal agencies across the country, the campus will include large, cabin-style student living quarters, with generous windows, balconies, and courtyards that allow maximum contact with the outdoors.

As part of the agency's mission to educate the public, the new center also will provide facilities for conservation instruction to school groups, environmentalists, and civic organizations.

In view of the constrained federal budget and the desire of the agency to improve services in preparation for future environmental challenges, it makes sense that the Fish and Wildlife Service will be consolidating its many scattered training offices, and I have already added \$59.5 million -- in other words, almost half of the \$125 million price-tag -- for this project.

It also is fitting that the training facility for the nation's leading environmental conservation agency has found a home in West Virginia, a state of nationally renowned natural beauty.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Ill-Advised Plan

The Army Corps of Engineers recently put forth an ill-advised reorganization plan that would spell bad news for West Virginia and the nation--a plan that I intend to fight.

Under the proposal, 2,600 Army Corps employees nationwide would lose their jobs, and district offices in nine states--including West Virginia's district office in Huntington--would see reductions in staff. In Huntington's case, staff would be reduced from 970 to 615, and some of the functions of that office would be transferred to a proposed technical center to be located in Pittsburgh.

It does not make sense to propose staff reductions in Huntington, a district that is responsible for implementing one of the largest civil works programs in the country, including the Tug Fork flood control project and other flood protection projects across the state; port and riverfront development along the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers; environmental protection and wetlands preservation; and clean-up of the hazardous wastes at the Winfield Lock and Dam site.

The Army Corps plan--which requires Congressional approval--is unwise and unwarranted, and I have wasted no time in letting Army Corps officials know that the proposal does not

have my support.

Within 24 hours of learning of the plan, I met with both Deputy Secretary of the Army Donald Atwood and Chief of Engineers Gen. Arthur E. Williams to express my strong opposition to the proposed reorganization.

I have also relayed my concern to President-elect Clinton, advising him that the proposal could have a crippling effect on the Army Corps at a time when it already has a backlog of construction projects.

At the current time, the military services, defense agencies, and reserve components have 1,178 construction projects that have not been started, for which \$6.2 billion in federal funding has been previously appropriated. Army Corps officials estimate that these projects--two-thirds of which would be administered by the Army Corps--would result in 291,000 new jobs and \$43.4 billion in economic activity.

That could provide a much-needed jolt to our struggling economy, and I fear that the Army Corps reorganization plan could severely hinder the execution of the projects now on the drawing board.

The Army Corps needs to rethink its reorganization plans, and I will continue working to see that it does.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Old Values in a New Age

As the twentieth century wanes, and against the background of the sweeping changes worldwide, we hear much about a "New World Order," "New Age" values, "new morality," and new religious insights, to name but a few such novelties.

Like many West Virginians, experience has taught me to beware of the word "new," especially when used to suggest that the novelty in question is superior to all that has preceded it.

Further, any "new world order" that does not operate in the best interests of our country, or that implies that somehow American patriotism or traditional values are outdated or pernicious will never earn my allegiance.

For example, the idea that society should tolerate music whose lyrics promote the murder of policemen or should tolerate increased public displays of pornography on television or in movies is repugnant and debases, rather than improves, our culture.

Most particularly, however, I am concerned that West Virginians not lose touch with the character-shaping values that have made our state unique and that have made West Virginians such remarkable people.

The traditional values of most West Virginians have been forged in the crucible of real life -- a crucible in which faith in God; love of country and state; self-discipline, sobriety, and frugality in personal life; respect for the law; and diligent, committed labor have proved themselves, generation after generation.

Indeed, what will it profit West Virginia to become more prosperous if spiritual poverty is the price exacted for that prosperity?

As new highways, new businesses and industries, and new technologies create new opportunities for West Virginians in the years ahead, I hope that we will continue to hold precious those lasting "old values" that make West Virginians unique.

January 13, ~~1992~~ 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Heeding the Warning Bells

A majority of West Virginians, according to a recent poll, view Japan as this country's greatest economic threat.

That viewpoint mirrors a study recently released by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) that indicates that the United States, though presently in a strong position to compete effectively in the global marketplace, is losing ground to Japan, our nation's foremost competitor in international high-technology trade.

One of the most significant pieces of data in the GAO report indicates that spending in Japan for high-tech research and development, or R&D, as a percentage of gross national product (GNP), has more than doubled over the past three decades. This increase has left the U.S. lagging behind Japan in nonmilitary R&D expenditures.

In other words, Japan's investment in developing products like computers, facsimile machines, and robotics is outpacing U.S. investment.

The study indicates that Japan's practice of investing in private-sector R&D is producing gains in its international market share in several high-tech consumer product categories. In some fields, Japan already leads the U.S.

Although the U.S. can use technology developed by other countries, the GAO study indicates that reliance on second-hand research -- instead of using technology created in our own country --

would put the U.S. at a sharp disadvantage, especially considering that research in one field often provides important innovations that can be used in other fields, leading to new products and processes. Clearly, the ability to be first in developing innovations provides important lead time that can be vital in a highly competitive marketplace.

For a number of years, I have worked to increase federal investment in our national domestic infrastructure -- both physical and human -- to ensure that the U.S. maintains a leadership position in the global marketplace.

As part of those efforts, I have worked to foster high-technology development in West Virginia. By adding monies to federal appropriation bills, I have secured such projects as the National Technology Transfer Center in Wheeling and the Institute for Flexible Manufacturing Systems in Huntington to help ensure that the U.S. can continue to perform research and development in the high-technology arena and that domestic businesses can have ready access to the latest cutting-edge innovations.

I will continue to promote investment in our nation's infrastructure in the belief that the economic leadership of the U.S. is too vital to our domestic well-being and national security to ignore the warning bells now sounding.

January 20, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Growth Trend In West Virginia?

During the recent holiday season, some people may have missed a bit of good news for West Virginia.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, during 1992, for the second year in a row, West Virginia's population grew.

After three decades of consistent population losses, a trend that accelerated during the 1980's, current census figures indicate that both 1991 and 1992 saw population growth in West Virginia, raising West Virginia's population from 1.79 million in 1990 to 1.81 million in 1992.

Significantly, two thirds of that increase represented migration into West Virginia, as opposed to increases in births over deaths.

Further, West Virginia University's Regional Research Institute predicts that, through the mid-1990's, 35 of our state's 55 counties will experience population growth, compared with population growth in only 11 counties during the 1980's.

I am encouraged by these real and projected population increases in West Virginia. As a U.S. Senator from West Virginia and as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Commit-

tee, my primary focus has been to launch and complete programs and infrastructure improvements in West Virginia that will lay foundations for greater progress and prosperity in our state -- to put into place foundations for attracting new businesses and enterprises in West Virginia that will create increased job opportunities for West Virginians and reverse the outmigration that has robbed our state of so many of its bright young people.

I continue to believe that through the completion of a modern highway network, the construction of improved tourism facilities, the promotion of high-technology industries, the expansion of research-oriented programs, the modernization of our state's air and water transportation structures, improved and extended health-care services, and renewed investments in our state's institutions of higher education and in our students, West Virginia will enjoy economic growth and prosperity in the approaching twenty-first century.

That is my vision for West Virginia, and I shall keep working toward a more abundant, more promising future for our state and her people in the years ahead.

January 27, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Agriculture Department Offices Open in West Virginia

One of my continuing tasks is to keep reminding government officials and bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., of the unique needs of West Virginia.

Recently, for example, the outgoing Secretary of Agriculture issued a reorganization plan closing or merging 1,200 Department of Agriculture field offices nationwide, including 48 in West Virginia. Among offices proposed to be closed in our state were 26 Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) offices, 10 Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) offices, and 12 Soil Conservation Service offices.

Given West Virginia's rugged terrain, its mining and timbering industries, and its large rural, agriculturally related population, the closure of 48 field offices in our state could impact thousands of West Virginians negatively and inconveniently.

Currently, all of West Virginia's 55 counties are served by a Department of Agriculture field office. Under the proposed reorganization plan, 22 of our counties would lose their field offices.

Following issuance of the final reorganization plan, I promptly requested

a meeting in my office with incoming Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy.

I informed the new Secretary of Agriculture of my concern that the large number of West Virginians dependent on his department's services not be left without assistance. I further reported that my office was receiving calls from West Virginians throughout our state upset about the loss of vital agriculture services in their areas.

I am glad that Secretary Espy has decided to temporarily shelve the office-closing proposal.

The Secretary wisely determined that any reorganization of the department should begin at the top, in Washington, and that the local communities served by field offices should have a voice in determining the nature of the reorganization.

Further, at my request, Secretary Espy agreed to take particular care to consider West Virginia's special needs in any future reorganization plan.

This is important for the multitudes of West Virginians who depend on Department of Agriculture field offices in their counties for necessary services and assistance in managing their lands, their farms, and their businesses.

February 3, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The End of Another American Tradition

Recently, across the country -- and particularly in rural states like West Virginia -- people were dismayed by the announcement that, after roughly a century, Sears, Roebuck and Company would cease issuing its catalogues.

For generations, West Virginians depended on the Sears catalogue to link them, not only to a wide merchandise distribution network, but also to a national culture of mutual tastes, styles, technologies, and convenience.

Indeed, in the pre-television era, the Sears catalogue, as well as those of other mail-order retailers, served rural residents as a window into the urbane and sophisticated worlds of our big cities.

The story of the 1886 origins of Sears, Roebuck is a legendary element within the mythology of the American Dream -- the story of railroad telegrapher Richard Warren Sears' taking possession of an unclaimed box of watches; marketing the watches through messages sent up and down the railroad telegraph line; bringing in young Alvah Roebuck, a watch repairman, to service the watches when they needed maintenance or

repair; and finally developing a complete line of merchandise to market by mail order.

That was the beginning of the great Sears, Roebuck company.

In the past century, Americans have bought from the Sears catalogue whole houses ready for assembly; a Post-World War II Allstate automobile; their annual union suits; beds and couches; corsets and high-button shoes; tractors and hay wagons; patent medicines and washing machines; toys and bathtubs; their first radios and television sets -- just about anything that could be bought, sold, and shipped, the Sears catalogue carried at one time or another.

Little wonder that people everywhere called the Sears catalogue "the Wish Book."

Next year will see no new Sears catalogue, and with its failure to appear on our doorsteps after a century, another cherished American tradition will have vanished.

Nevertheless, few of us will be able to soon forget the passing of a good and comfortable old friend -- the Sears catalogue.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Revitalizing a Traditional West Virginia Art and Enterprise

I long ago lost patience with the fashion in which some federal agencies seem mindlessly to exploit our country's assets to the advantage of foreign interests.

Recently, I was able, in part, to help alter that process.

Since the Colonial era, quilting has been an American art, particularly in rural states like West Virginia, where quilting skills have been handed down through families for generations.

Last year, the Smithsonian Institution, one of our country's premier cultural agencies, entered into a three-year agreement that led to the production of several thousand quilts -- reproductions of classic American designs -- by Chinese manufacturers.

Under this agreement, the Chinese were to produce between 30,000 to 90,000 quilts for sale in the United States by domestic companies, including retail stores and direct-mail firms such as Land's End.

This contract set off a firestorm of protest among American quilters, and prompted me to contact Smithsonian officials to urge them to identify ways to ensure that American quilts are produced by American quilters.

At my request, representatives from the

Smithsonian and from Land's End met in my Charleston office with representatives from Cabin Creek Quilts Cooperative of Malden, West Virginia, to explore ways for utilizing the talents of West Virginia quilters.

As a result, Cabin Creek Quilts signed a \$40,000 contract to produce 100 reproduction quilts for Land's End. With fifty percent of the quilts sold out ten days after the release of the Land's End catalogue featuring the quilts, Land's End has extended Cabin Creek Quilts' contract for 1993 and has expanded the project to a minimum of five different quilt patterns, plus small-product development.

Further, I have requested the U.S. Department of Commerce to work with Cabin Creek Quilts to explore even more marketing possibilities.

Quilting is a West Virginia art that Cabin Creek Quilts is developing into a "cottage industry."

I commend the quilters of this industrious West Virginia cooperative. West Virginians can be genuinely proud of these neighbors who are helping to recapture American markets for goods created in our state by our own people, and earning a well-deserved remuneration for their efforts.

February 17, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Another New Health Effort For West Virginia.

Throughout my career, I have been concerned about the health problems of the people of our state. To provide state-of-the-art cancer treatment, I added \$13.3 million to federal funding bills for construction of a cancer treatment facility at the West Virginia University (WVU) Medical Center in Morgantown.

Further, I added funding for a statewide program for screening, education, and early detection of cervical and breast cancer; to provide for Alzheimer's disease research at the WVU and Marshall University medical schools; to establish an injury control center at the WVU trauma center; and to establish a statewide telecommunications system linking the WVU Health Sciences Center and rural hospitals across West Virginia.

Recently, I became associated with a private-sector effort to improve the health of West Virginia teenagers.

Privately funded, "Project Hope" is a worldwide multi-dimensional health-education organization currently providing health-education assistance in thirty-six countries.

Project Hope has been asked to establish "peer-

helper" pilot training programs in two West Virginia counties -- Pendleton and Lincoln -- to equip numbers of teenagers to understand the potential health problems of, and offer wise counsel to, other West Virginia teenagers at health risk.

For example, one study has shown that 23 percent of West Virginia high school seniors drive after drinking, and 50 percent have been passengers in vehicles while drinking. Further, our state ranks seventh nationwide in the number of teenagers giving birth. Studies also suggest that increasing numbers of young West Virginians suffer from depression, suicide, anorexia, obesity, bulimia, stress, malnutrition, and hopelessness, denying them satisfying and full lives.

Tied to the schools, and realizing the powerful influence that teenagers exercise on one another, Project Hope aims to educate a corps of teenagers to recognize problems among their peers, to understand and advocate healthy behaviors, and to refer their peers to community-based professionals when necessary.

These are laudable goals.

February 24, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

End the Backlog of Black Lung Claims

For more than a decade, I have worked to help black lung sufferers receive the benefits to which they are entitled in the most expeditious manner possible.

My efforts have required constant vigilance in the face of Administrations that demonstrated little compassion for miners forced to wait years for final decisions on their black lung claims.

That was certainly not the intention of the Black Lung program, which was established in 1969 by legislation that I co-sponsored. By 1984, the backlog of claims had grown to the point that it was not unusual, if a claim was appealed through the Benefits Review Board, for a claimant to wait up to seven years for a final decision.

In past years, I met with Labor Secretary Raymond Donovan and Labor Secretary William Brock to hammer out plans to eliminate the black lung claim backlog. Additionally, over the years, I have added federal funding to appropriations bills to expand the Benefits Review Board and to increase the budget of the Office of Administrative Law Judges, both key links in the processing of black lung claims. Also, since 1981 I have blocked Administration efforts to close West Virginia's six black lung field offices--in Beckley, Bluefield, Elkins, Logan, Madison, and Morgantown--which over the years have

provided vital services to black lung claimants.

As a result of these efforts, backlogs have been reduced, but claimants still face waits of several years before receiving a final decision.

My long-held suspicion that the black lung claims bottleneck is at the Benefits Review Board was confirmed recently by an Inspector General report that found that the current Board is ineffective and suffers from low morale, and that individual board members are not performing the duties for which they were hired.

The change of Administration offers another opportunity to break the logjam of black lung claims and to help the people for whom this program was created. Toward that end, I recently urged Labor Secretary Robert Reich to replace the members of the Black Lung Benefits Review Board with qualified individuals who have experience in the black lung claims judicial process.

Every day that the current Board members continue to sit is another day that black lung claimants are shortchanged, and this situation ought not be allowed to continue.

Black lung victims deserve quick action and effective relief, and I believe the appointment of a responsive, dedicated Benefits Review Board is a step in that direction.

March 3, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Meeting West Virginia's Future High-Technology Career Demands

According to a recent survey, young West Virginians wanting future career success would do well to consider the growing possibilities in high-technology-related enterprises developing in our state.

That is the opinion of 74 West Virginia company executives recently polled.

However, these executives expressed concern that our state's rising workforce might be deficient in high-technology career skills, and urged greater student preparation in computers, mathematics, engineering, chemistry, and other disciplines required by high-tech businesses and industries.

With the goal of creating new job opportunities, I have initiated several efforts to ensure West Virginia's participation in the worldwide, burgeoning high-technology revolution.

For example, among the many high-technology facilities and programs that I have helped bring to West Virginia in recent years are: the FBI's Fingerprint Identification Division headquarters in Harrison County; the national Centers for Disease Control's occupational safety and health laboratory at Morgantown; the Coast Guard Computer Operations Systems Center at Martinsburg; the NASA National Technology Transfer Center at Wheeling Jesuit College; the NASA In-

dependent Verification and Validation Center in Fairmont; and the rebuilt National Radio Telescope at Green Bank in Pocahontas County.

In addition, to help ensure that West Virginia workers are taught the skills needed to fill these high-tech jobs, several of my initiatives include job-training elements.

For example, the Institute for Flexible Manufacturing Systems in Huntington includes a "teaching factory" to train local business representatives and their employees in the use of automated equipment, and the Hardwoods Technology Center being established in Princeton will provide training to West Virginia woodworkers on computerized manufacturing machines.

My aim is to forge new job opportunities for young West Virginians in high-technology-related businesses. But the success of that goal relies on the presence in West Virginia of a skilled and capable workforce.

I hope that increased numbers of young West Virginians will discern the high-technology doorways that are opening for them on the horizon, and prepare themselves to take advantage of 21st century career possibilities that can be theirs in West Virginia in the future.

March 10, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Glimpsing the Future

A recent story in *The New York Times* offered a glimpse at the future -- an examination of a West Virginia resource center that is helping to revolutionize U.S. manufacturing.

Since initiating this project in 1989, I have added \$13.8 million to federal appropriation bills for implementation and operation of this center to train small-business enterprises and manufacturers in the "hands-on" use of state-of-the-art advanced technology.

Operated in conjunction with Marshall University, this facility was subsequently named the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing Systems. This facility is developing computer-designed and computer-aided manufacturing processes to help private industries in West Virginia and neighboring states become more internationally competitive through the use of robotic manufacturing.

Throughout West Virginia and in the surrounding region, for decades skilled employees have been producing excellent goods and finished products, using long-dependable machine tools and trustworthy equipment.

However, around the world, constantly evolving high technologies are rendering older technologies obsolete, cutting into tradi-

tional markets with lower-priced products and inflicting serious injury on industries here in our state that are wedded to outdated methods and processes.

Virtually a model "factory of the future," the Institute at Marshall University places West Virginia in the forefront of flexible computer-integrated manufacturing and related initiatives, and its success serves as an inspiration for the new Administration's announced intention of establishing similar centers in other areas.

In this facility, West Virginia business and industrial leaders are able to see and operate the latest computer-guided machinery, and to learn means of creating new job opportunities through the adaptation of flexible-manufacturing techniques.

I have a vision for West Virginia's future -- a vision in which West Virginians play a broader role in worldwide economic competition; have greater opportunities to pursue lasting, better-paying jobs; and enjoy a rising standard of living.

Not only do I have that vision, which I know is shared by many West Virginians, but by initiating projects such as the Institute for Flexible Manufacturing Systems, I am laying a foundation that will enable us to build the West Virginia that we imagine.

March 17, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Outlet to the Sea

Landlocked West Virginia might seem an unlikely site for a major naval communications facility, but in 1989, in response to my urgings, the U.S. Coast Guard designated our Eastern Panhandle as the site for its Operations Systems Center, a base with worldwide responsibilities.

Subsequently, I added \$4.7 million in federal funds to appropriations bills to construct a new, state-of-the-art facility in Martinsburg for Coast Guard use, which I helped to dedicate in the fall of 1991.

Currently employing 100 military and civilian personnel and funneling approximately \$7 million annually into our state's economy, the Coast Guard Center operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Among its multiple duties, the Center supports the Coast Guard and other organizations in around-the-world oceanic search-and-rescue missions, as well as assisting U.S. and international law-enforcement agencies to combat international drug trafficking and other criminal activities.

Perhaps the most crucial function of this Martinsburg facility is the Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System (AMVER), which tracks thousands of merchant vessels on all of the world's

oceans, and is ready to relay information to rescue teams from any country, friend or foe. Currently, AMVER serves roughly 8,000 merchant vessels in its computerized database, representing 40 percent of world shipping, including some of the most popular cruise liners.

Whenever one of those ships experiences trouble, it radios one of 130 coastal radio stations around the world, which, in turn, relays that information directly to Martinsburg. The Martinsburg Center's computers then pinpoint any tabulated vessels within the vicinity of the stricken ship. In about 20 seconds, the Martinsburg Center dispatches to the nearest ships the distressed vessel's name, call numbers, distance and estimated time of each ship from the stricken carrier, and that carrier's medical capabilities.

Further, the Center can predict ocean currents, help locate drug-transporting craft, and furnish information helpful in tracking smugglers.

The Coast Guard's Operations Systems Center is further evidence of ways in which high technology and state-of-the-art computer science are fostering a career revolution in West Virginia and fulfilling my vision for our state's future.

March 24, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Poll Evinces Growing Concern About Television Violence

A major television network executive has announced plans to cut back on violence in his fall lineup because television violence may be hurting society.

I commend that decision.

For some time, I have decried the quality of much commercial programming.

I have no authority over the content of commercial television programming, and criticism of culture by an elected official often elicits outcries against censorship.

But my criticism of television violence is finding widespread echoes among the public.

A recent nationwide Harris Poll indicates that roughly 80 percent of the American people believe that gratuitous television violence is harmful to our country, and those polled are increasingly disturbed by such programming.

Understandably, people aged 50 and more were the most concerned about televised violence and the most infrequent viewers of violence-prone programs, while viewers under age 30 were more tolerant of such violence.

Interestingly, one group least concerned about television violence was teenagers, who were also among the heaviest viewers of

"real-life" crime shows that feature violent real-life film footage.

Unfortunately, according to a recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report, in 1990, a total of 4,173 teenagers were victims of firearms-related violence -- random murders, gang clashes, etc. -- the highest firearm death rate among 15- to 19-year-olds ever recorded in America.

Reared on television as an electronic babysitter from the cradle, many of those who perpetrated these murders grew up unable to differentiate between the make-believe on the television screen and real life, leading to the acting-out of engrained disvalues learned alike from crime shows and fictitious "shoot-em-ups."

I have no desire to be a television critic, per se. My concern is for the future quality of life in West Virginia and across our country.

I hope that decreased violence on one television network is the harbinger of a trend toward renewed responsibility in the media.

I hope that others in the entertainment field will follow suit.

At stake is the spiritual and moral well-being of our state and nation.

March 31, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Launching Young West Virginians Into the Space Age

Whenever reflecting upon my Southern West Virginia childhood, I think fondly, and with gratitude, of teachers who taught me to love learning for the sake of learning itself. Still today, I will pore over a book simply for the pleasure of learning.

Inspiring young people to love learning is a key goal of the Classroom of the Future at Wheeling Jesuit College, for which I recently announced the award of a construction contract.

A project conceptualized by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), begun with initial funding appropriated by Congressman Alan Mollohan, and being built with federal funding I have added to appropriation bills, this facility is designed to stir the imagination of youth.

Envision, if you will, an opportunity to experience the look and feeling of a trip into outer space. The Classroom will include a spacecraft simulator and a mission control simulator to enable students to execute mock space missions.

Multimedia computer classrooms in the building are planned to be centers of activity in which young people and teachers can work and learn on computer terminals. NASA is betting on the enthusiasm that young people exhibit for such high-tech equipment, a phenomenon nearly everyone with a child or grandchild and a home computer, a television computer game, or a local video

arcade has witnessed.

Located in Wheeling, the Classroom is designed to attract students from throughout West Virginia and the tri-state Northern Panhandle region, and to reach out to young people and their teachers across America.

The facility will also house a center in which software and multimedia resources will be developed for use by teachers and schools throughout the country. A satellite learning facility will be operated to share with students and teachers nationwide -- through satellite transmission and television reception -- the resources offered at the Classroom of the Future.

The expectation is that by exposing students to the discoveries, inventions, and possibilities presented through the use and mastery of math and science, they will be inspired to study those fields, which are so important to the future economic development of our country.

Ensuring the education of our young people, who will inherit the leadership of this nation, is a necessity. As a U.S. Senator and Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am working to develop educational opportunities, like the NASA Classroom of the Future at Wheeling Jesuit College, that will enable our children to be ably prepared to take the helm of West Virginia and America in the decades ahead.

April 7, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Defense-Conversion Workshop At Oglebay Park

Assisting West Virginia businesses and enterprises to pursue federal-government contracts has long been a priority effort on my agenda to strengthen our state's economy and to expand job opportunities for West Virginians.

The virtual collapse of the old Soviet Union has made possible a broad recasting of our country's defense requirements, at the same time foreclosing many of the federal-contracting opportunities available to the private sector.

To assist West Virginia business people to take advantage of the new possibilities presented by the need to convert from defense-related contracting to expanded domestic requirements, I am cooperating in the convening of a special workshop at Wheeling's Oglebay Park on May 5.

This workshop is being sponsored by the nonprofit Software Valley Corporation, which I helped to launch in an effort to promote high-technology business and job opportunities throughout our state.

Through the Defense-Conversion Reinvestment Act of Fiscal Year 1992, the Department of Defense has been provided nearly \$600 million to be invested in the development, deployment,

and stimulation of nondefense technologies -- in effect, an interagency federal effort to facilitate the conversion of previously defense-oriented enterprises to new domestic endeavors through eight competitive-bidding programs.

The purpose of this one-day Oglebay Park workshop will be to provide West Virginia enterprises with a detailed presentation of opportunities opening to them in this conversion effort; to allow West Virginia companies to learn about conversion proposals currently being developed in our state; and to permit attendees to coordinate, and not duplicate, their efforts in competing for the available funds. Federal agency officials will be present to supply information and to explain the full scope of the defense-conversion program.

I commend the Software Valley Corporation for conducting this advanced-technology workshop for West Virginia entrepreneurs and business people, and I encourage anyone interested in this workshop to contact Software Valley's Morgantown offices at telephone number (304) 594-9844 prior to April 30 to make workshop reservations, or for further information.

April 14, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Gracious Honor from West Virginia University

The people of West Virginia--from her youngest citizens to her oldest--merit the best possible health care, and that conviction has been uppermost in my mind as I have worked over the years to improve our state's health-care infrastructure.

Because health care is so important to me, I am deeply touched by a recent decision by West Virginia University and the University of West Virginia System Board of Trustees to honor my commitment to health care by naming the complex of health-related facilities in Morgantown "The Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center."

Included in that complex is an important facility for which I have added \$13.3 million in federal funding: The Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, which is West Virginia's first state-of-the-art facility dedicated to battling cancer. Also included is the Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center, a facility specializing in the care of accident victims. These facilities were named by WVU, respectively, in memory of Senator Jennings Randolph's late wife and for my late grandson.

Though sources of distinctiveness and pride, the remoteness and ruggedness of much of West Virginia have too long also meant inaccessible health care for many, as well as long journeys to distant, out-of-state medical facilities whenever acute illness demanded intensive, specialized treatments.

Consequently, two critical elements of any health-care infrastructure in West Virginia -- in addition

to first-rate treatment facilities--are outreach and training programs, both of which serve to expand health care far beyond the walls of such facilities as the Health Sciences Center.

The Trauma Center, for instance, not only offers training for local officials on quickly responding to trauma victims, but also enables distant West Virginia hospitals to better treat trauma victims by connecting them with trauma specialists at the Center via a two-way telecommunications network.

Other outreach programs for which I have been able to add federal funding and which benefit West Virginians in all areas of our state are the Breast and Cervical Cancer screening project, and the Alzheimer's screening project, operated jointly by WVU and Marshall University.

In addition, Marshall University is also administering the Southern West Virginia Center for Rural Health, an undertaking for which I added \$4.5 million in federal funding last year and which will augment health-care services to West Virginians in Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln, Mingo, Mason, Logan, Roane, Boone, Putnam, Jackson, McDowell, and Wyoming Counties.

A modern program of health care is important to West Virginia's future growth and development. Grateful for WVU's recognition of my contributions to our state's health-care infrastructure, I shall continue my efforts to give substance to my vision of better health care for all West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FBI Fingerprint Identification Center Funding Update

In the face of rising crime rates, I am gratified that President Clinton has included in the Fiscal Year 1994 budget \$75.4 million that I have sought to continue the automation and revitalization of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) fingerprint identification system, which is being relocated to its new West Virginia headquarters.

Unfortunately, for roughly the past dozen years, federal investment in our criminal-justice system -- and in other vital elements of our national infrastructure -- was too often ignored or neglected.

Rising rates of murder, robbery, drug trafficking, assaults, and other felonies are one of the prices that we are now paying for that neglect.

I welcome the Administration's support of my initiative to equip the FBI with a high-technology advantage in the fight against crime.

When the new Fingerprint Identification Division facility is completed near Clarksburg, it will provide our country's law enforcement agencies -- local, state, and federal -- with a rapid, ultra-modern, state-of-the-art, computerized system for checking fingerprints, confirming criminal identities, and tracking lawbreakers.

Since 1989, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have succeeded in adding a total of nearly \$350 million in federal funds to appropriations bills for the relocation of the FBI Fingerprint Identification system to West Virginia.

Also in recent weeks, to "keep on the fast track" the establishment of this vital facility in Harrison County, I urged Office of Management and Budget Director Leon Panetta to include in President Clinton's Supplemental budget request another \$16.7 million to support the staffing of temporary satellite offices in Clarksburg and Fairmont with a total of an estimated 500 employees from FBI headquarters. This has now been done.

Congress is expected to act on this measure in the near future.

The FBI Fingerprint Identification Division's new Harrison County facility will place West Virginia in the forefront of America's war on crime.

I look forward to 1995 when this new West Virginia facility is projected to be in operation, and when the employees there will be working at full capacity to make the homes, shops, and streets of our country safer for law-abiding citizens.

April 28, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Channel for Better Health Care

Rural West Virginians have a new ally in the quest for better health care.

That ally is Mountaineer Doctor Television--MDTV for short--a two-way, televised medical service linking specialists at West Virginia University's (WVU) Health Sciences Center with several rural medical facilities in West Virginia.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I succeeded in adding \$800,000 to a 1992 appropriations bill to establish this pilot program in West Virginia, and I look forward to the day when MDTV is expanded into other areas of our state.

The potential of this system for a largely rural state like West Virginia, with its hilly terrain and its many remote communities, is self-evident.

Consider a sequence of events in which an accident victim, many miles away from trauma specialists at WVU, is aided by the nearly instantaneous transmission of X-rays or by a long-distance examination, all compliments of MDTV.

For a trauma victim, the first 60 minutes after an ac-

cident is make-or-break time, a small window during which immediate treatment can mean the difference between life and death. Doctors in rural hospitals gain an extra helping hand in more effectively treating accident victims by allowing WVU trauma specialists to actually view the patient's injuries via MDTV's network of television cameras and monitors linked by fiber optic cables.

Trauma victims are not the only patients who can benefit from MDTV. With the flick of a switch, a physician miles from Morgantown can put a patient--perhaps one who is exhibiting baffling or unusual symptoms--on television and consult with doctors at the Health Sciences Center on the best treatment, or to determine whether that patient should be transferred to another facility for care.

MDTV is an exciting new health-care tool--a wonderful blend of medicine and high technology that promises to play an important role in enhancing the quality of life for countless West Virginians of rising generations.

May 5, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Drawing the Line on Terrorism

A recent poll indicates that the vast majority of West Virginians are concerned about terrorist activities in this nation.

Sharing that concern, I am cosponsoring legislation aimed at correcting a flaw in the political asylum portion of federal immigration laws that is threatening the safety and security of Americans.

The U.S. has thus far largely avoided the waves of horrible terrorist acts that have plagued many other nations, and, if we wish to continue that pattern, we must take steps to ensure that our borders are more secure.

The bill that I am cosponsoring is intended to tighten the political asylum loophole through which, for example, Mir Aimal Kansi slipped. Kansi is the alleged gunman in the February shooting that took place near the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) headquarters, which claimed the lives of two CIA employees.

Mir Aimal Kansi, who is now the subject of an international manhunt, had

applied for asylum almost a year prior to the shooting rampage and had not yet had his hearing when this tragedy occurred.

Upon making his claim of asylum, he received a work authorization document, which allowed him to obtain a Social Security card and then a Virginia driver's license. With that he was then able to purchase the AK-47 assault rifle with which he is believed to have carried out this heinous crime.

I am proud of the role that early immigrants have played in the shaping of this great nation. But, unfortunately, we have made it all too easy for unscrupulous individuals to take advantage of our goodwill by using asylum procedures to circumvent the regular immigration process.

By working for passage of this bill, I am attempting to help make our state and our nation more safe and secure by making it easier for Federal immigration officials to curb abuse of immigration laws.

May 12, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reaching Out to Alzheimer's Victims

With millions of Americans, I have long been concerned about Alzheimer's disease and the devastating effects that this tragic condition can wreak on its victims.

Named for the German medical researcher who originally diagnosed the syndrome, Alzheimer's disease is characterized by a progressive deterioration of brain cells that eventually terminates in dementia and, finally, death. Previously considered an affliction only of the elderly, Alzheimer's has been found to strike as early as age 40. An estimated 4 million Americans are currently suffering from Alzheimer's, 33,000 of those being West Virginians.

Realizing the impact of Alzheimer's disease in West Virginia, as well as our state's dearth of resources to cope with this growing scourge, I succeeded in 1990 in adding more than \$9.9 million in federal funds to an appropriations bill to develop the Center for Nuclear Research in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders at West Virginia University (WVU).

In addition, I added \$1 million to a federal funding bill to initiate an outreach and screening program being conducted by the hospitals and medical schools at WVU in Morgantown and

Marshall University in Huntington. The purpose of this program is to pursue research on Alzheimer's disease in rural areas of our state in an effort to fill gaps in our knowledge about this intractable disease.

Subsequently, I also added funds to help launch a pilot adult day-care program in Parkersburg to aid Alzheimer's victims and their caregivers. Further, the federal Department of Health and Human Services is conducting a trial, Medicare-sponsored, community-based program of expanded medical care and services for Alzheimer's patients, which is centered in Wood and Ohio Counties, but extends its services into Hancock, Brooke, Marshall, Wetzel, Tyler, Pleasants, Ritchie, Wirt, and Jackson Counties, as well.

Alzheimer's disease is a cruel and debilitating affliction that can cripple its victims, disrupt the lives of families, and physically and financially exhaust the patient's caregivers.

Through the efforts that I have summarized, I hope to have put into place programs that will help us to struggle more successfully against Alzheimer's disease in West Virginia, and to ensure a better quality of life, both for Alzheimer's patients in our state and their families.

May 19, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Seeing the Forest for the Trees

The old expression "You can't see the forest for the trees" has met its polar opposite in West Virginia.

Not only do we see the forest in West Virginia, but we also recognize the role that trees can play in our state's economic future and are moving forward on initiatives to make better use of our abundant timber resources.

Several years ago, for instance, I authored and won Senate approval for my timber bridge initiative, a program under which the nation's aging and deteriorating bridges are being replaced with strong, economical wooden bridges.

Since 1987, when I earmarked \$3.3 million to establish the Timber Bridge Resource Center at the U.S. Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Morgantown, 57 decaying West Virginia bridges have been replaced under the timber bridge program.

Plans are now underway to broaden my original program by seeking uses for timber in other transportation-related areas, including guard rails, sign posts, sound barriers, and retaining walls.

Another key component in my effort to promote West Virginia's timber industry--and the nation's--is the Hardwood Technology Center near Princeton, Mercer County, launched by \$9 million in federal funding that I added to appropria-

tions bills and dedicated to researching and developing new techniques, markets, and training programs for the nation's wood products industry.

For too long, West Virginia's fine hardwoods have been exported to other states, where their workers transformed our timber into furniture and other wood products. Through initiatives like the Hardwood Technology Center, we are aiming to keep those jobs in West Virginia by training our workers in advanced hardwood-products manufacturing techniques.

Some of those techniques will be on display at Appalachian Hardwood Expo '93, a two-day event June 18 and 19 in Princeton, to advance the wood products industry and the efforts that are underway in West Virginia.

My support for West Virginia's timber industry is longstanding, dating back to my successful efforts to gain federal funding for the Forestry Sciences Laboratories in Morgantown, Princeton, and Parsons.

These laboratories--and my other timber initiatives--have given West Virginia a role in providing future generations with healthier forests, an enhanced timber industry, and increased job opportunities in the wood manufacturing, conservation, and natural resource industries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Dawning of a New Millennium

The year 2001 A.D. -- the beginning of a new century and, indeed, of a new millennium -- is less than eight years away.

At this salient point in our history and, particularly, in the history of West Virginia, I have been reflecting on the future and on the possibilities that might be put in place to ensure a better future for our state's children and young men and women -- a future that holds the promise of new opportunities for all West Virginians.

My hope for West Virginia is that our state will enter the 21st century with sufficient jobs and opportunities for West Virginia's young people to earn a living wage so that they will not have to leave West Virginia. My vision is that, in the next century, because we in our generation have invested and built for the future, our state will be a better, more promising place in which our children and grandchildren can live and provide for their own offspring.

One of the tragedies of the 1980's was that, particularly on the national level, from a mountain of public debt, we invested a mere

molehill in our children's future -- in the public infrastructure on which much of our country's productivity, competitive edge, and prosperity will depend in the decades ahead.

Not since the tenth century -- 901 to 1000 A.D. -- has our world experienced the dawning of a new millennium. Psychologically and spiritually, the remaining years of the 1990's can be for us an exciting time -- a time to dream, to plan, to work, and to lay the groundwork for an abundant, prosperous, and opportunity-filled new era in West Virginia's history.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have had the unique opportunity to provide federal funding for infrastructure improvements nationwide and to match West Virginia potentialities and advantages with national requirements -- to the benefit of both America and West Virginia.

Against the constraints of the national debt and the imperative to reduce federal deficits, I shall continue doing everything feasible to promote West Virginia's economic growth and future statewide prosperity.

June 2, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Celebrating Tourism in West Virginia

With its river rapids, beautiful mountains, and splendid recreational parks, West Virginia has established itself as a prime location for the development of a prosperous tourism industry.

I have long been a proponent of the tourism industry in West Virginia, adding funding to federal bills to encourage development of the Wheeling Heritage area, the New River Gorge National River, Monongahela National Forest, the riverfront park in Charleston, the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, the Appalachian Regional Commission Tourism and Development Center at Concord College in Athens, and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

In the last three years, I added \$9.9 million to federal appropriations bills for planning, design, and construction at Harpers Ferry, funding that will be used to help prepare the Park for its 50th anniversary celebration next June. With this, Park authorities hope to continue restoration of the buildings within the lower town, the area of the Park first seen by visitors.

Founded on June 30, 1944, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park began as a small project, accommodating fewer than 100,000 visitors in its first year of operation.

Subsequently, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park was officially provided its land-base from the State of West Virginia in 1955, a move that permitted the

Park to develop into the prosperous area seen today.

Following this provision, the Park has grown by strides and dashes. Last year, the Park accommodated nearly 500,000 visitors, many of whom were visiting West Virginia for the first time.

These new visitors, along with the many repeat visitors, are learning something that West Virginians have always known--not only is West Virginia a state blessed by rivers, mountains, and wildlife, but it is also a state rich in history and heritage.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is a perfect blend of these two elements. Located at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, the mountainous town boasts of the important role it played during the Civil War, a role that has contributed many tales regarding the area's history, most notably accounts of John Brown's raid in 1859.

As West Virginia's tourism-industry potential expands, each of its many attractions grows more important. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park has accepted the challenge, and, with my assistance, is preparing for its 50th anniversary gala celebration.

The tourism industry in West Virginia has the potential of providing both job opportunities and investment throughout the state, and I shall continue working to help realize that potential.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's 130th Birthday

On June 20th--West Virginia Day-- our state celebrated its 130th birthday as the thirty-fifth state to join the Union.

This event did not occur easily. Through the strength and fortitude of many loyal northwestern Virginians, the area that we now call West Virginia began its break from the Confederacy in 1861.

Under the leadership of Governor Francis Pierpont and Waitman T. Willey of Morgantown and John Carlile of Clarksburg, the two U.S. Senators officially representing Virginia's nonsecessionist counties, West Virginia began its long road to establishment.

As a result of the undying efforts of Sen. Willey, West Virginia's petition for statehood was passed by the U.S. Senate by a vote of 23-17.

Ultimately, through Willey's relentless pursuit, and the urgings of Lincoln's cabinet, West Virginia was officially admitted to the Union on June 20, 1863.

The drive and dedication that Willey displayed during West Virginia's birth are characteristics that have never been forgotten by West Virginians, even today.

Throughout the last 130 years, West Virginians have drawn upon this self-sufficiency and desire to succeed, and have created new opportunities for their future.

In this regard, West Virginia has pledged itself to the development of new infrastructure, a move that not only benefits the state economy, but also contrib-

utes to the improvement of the nation. As chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have had the opportunity to help shepherd much of this development.

Among my projects that are marking a true "coming of age" for our state are the National Technology Transfer Center at Wheeling Jesuit College, the FBI Fingerprint Identification Division facility in Clarksburg, and the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Flexible Manufacturing Systems in Huntington.

These three projects will use the newest and most efficient research and technology to further enable West Virginia to compete in the global market and to provide the nation and the world with essential services.

These facilities, in addition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Education and Training Center in Shepherdstown, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Laboratory in Morgantown, the Robert C. Byrd Center for Hardwoods Training and Manufacturing near Princeton, and countless others on the horizon, will provide for the West Virginians of tomorrow.

West Virginians should take pride that they have laid the necessary foundations to provide for both their present and their future, and that they have had the strength and fortitude to advance our state for generations to come.

Happy Birthday, West Virginia!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Congratulations, West Virginia Scholars!

An article published recently in West Virginia newspapers gave me encouragement about our state's future: standardized test scores of West Virginia's students are on the rise.

Specifically, basic skills tests administered to the state's 3rd- and 6th-grade students to measure math, language, and reading proficiency improved by at least eight percentage points over the scores of last year's examinees.

These statistics follow on the heels of test scores released earlier this year for 9th- and 11th-graders on basic skills, which showed similar improvement over the previous year's scores.

The improvement in test scores of our West Virginia students strengthens my conviction that we must continue to encourage our young people to take full advantage of the educational opportunities that are available to them, and it helps to justify my optimism about the role they can play in the future of our state.

That optimism was reinforced recently when I announced the West Virginia recipients of the 1993 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships.

The 45 West Virginia students named as this year's Byrd Scholars join 256 other young West Virginians who have received scholarships since the program was established seven years ago.

I authored legislation to create this scholarship program in order to encour-

age West Virginia high school graduates--and graduates from across the country--to further their educations. I was touched when my colleagues subsequently voted to name the scholarship program in my honor.

Under the guidelines of the program, scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit to students that have been accepted for enrollment at institutions of higher learning.

Originally a one-year scholarship, the program was expanded last year by Congress, at my request, to encompass four years, enabling this year's students to receive first-year scholarships of \$1,500 and to re-apply for the same amount for each of the following three years of their educations.

The scholarships, which are awarded to students in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, have been given to nearly 37,500 students nationwide.

I salute this year's Robert C. Byrd Scholars as they prepare to embark upon another important leg in their academic journeys.

Indeed, these students have embraced the notion that education is one of the cornerstones upon which their future economic prosperity--and the prosperity of our state and nation--rests, and my efforts to build upon our educational foundations will continue to be a foremost priority in the coming years.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Celebrating Independence Keeping a Covenant

The freedoms that we as Americans currently enjoy and that we celebrate on Independence Day each year are the result of sacrifices of millions upon millions of Americans -- including thousands of our fellow West Virginians -- who surrendered their convenience, customary daily lives, and personal safety to place their lives on the line for all of us.

As Americans, we have an ongoing covenant with the veterans who have stood as vanguards against the forces of totalitarianism and dictatorship.

In my estimation, one seal of that covenant is our Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities.

In recent years, I have helped to obtain federal funds for better access and improved medical services for veterans throughout the state.

While in West Virginia recently, I participated in the dedication of a new Clinical Addition at the Huntington VA Medical Center, a facility for which I helped to obtain more than \$50 million in federal monies. The addition will provide state-of-the-art medical care to West Virginia veterans and other veterans of the tri-state region.

The Robert C. Byrd Clinical Addition, which nearly doubles the total size of the Huntington VA Medical Center, providing upgraded space for expanded cardiac services, and for the relocation of surgery, radiology, nuclear medicine, and intensive care, is the latest completed

of the four West Virginia veterans medical care facilities, for which I have helped to obtain federal funds.

I helped to secure more than \$75 million for the Martinsburg VA Medical Center replacement, which was activated in 1984, to bring to veterans in that area an upgraded facility for health care.

Through my efforts, additions were opened in 1989 at the Clarksburg VA Hospital. The construction provided expanded, upgraded space for inpatient and outpatient care. Since 1991, I have also added \$1.5 million to appropriation bills to launch and operate a pilot program, cooperatively conducted by the Clarksburg VA Medical Center and West Virginia University School of Medicine and Ruby Memorial Hospital. Through that program, West Virginia veterans, who otherwise would be sent to out-of-state facilities, are receiving specialized treatment, such as cataract surgery, closer to home and family.

A new addition to the Beckley VA Medical Center, currently under construction with federal money I helped to secure, will provide needed space for dental laboratories, a nuclear medicine unit, an outpatient psychiatry unit and various other services.

I shall continue to work for improved and accessible health care for the men and women who have fought to preserve for this nation the freedoms that we now enjoy. I salute our veterans.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal: The Contributions, The Challenges

Coal--and the raw power that it represents--is a common vein that runs through America's history, carrying blood to our nation's economic heart.

Of the many resources with which our country has been endowed, none has played a greater role in the development of America than the tremendous reserves of coal that lie beneath its surface.

Coal fueled America's transformation from an agrarian economy to an industrial powerhouse, supplying almost 80 percent of our nation's energy from the mid-19th century to the 1920's. Today, coal generates 56 percent of the electricity consumed in the United States.

Our nation turned to coal to power it through two world wars, and in the 1970's, when our country faced an oil embargo imposed by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, we looked to coal to help break our dependence on foreign energy.

Coal has a proud heritage and a bright future. I have every confidence that as we move into the 21st century, coal will continue to be used as the primary fuel for domestic power generation.

But coal faces challenges in the years ahead--challenges that I recently outlined for national coal industry officials during their annual meeting held in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

A growing concern

about the environment has made efforts to develop clean coal technologies--a move I spearheaded when I authored and obtained funding for the Clean Coal Technology program--a top priority. In fact, the future of coal use in America depends upon the development of new, cleaner methods of using fossil fuels.

I remain committed to seeking federal investment in programs to burn coal cleanly, but I caution that our budget deficits--now standing at more than \$4 trillion--will make efforts to find federal dollars for important initiatives, such as the clean coal technology program, increasingly difficult.

I am encouraged, however, by the remarks of Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, who, during a recent Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing that I chaired, assured me of her own commitment for the continued use and development of coal as a vital energy resource.

Secretary O'Leary described herself as a champion and a proponent of coal research and development programs, and I welcome her support in the endeavor to increase coal use.

Through the effort to provide federal resources for fossil fuel and clean coal programs--an undertaking to which I remain committed--coal can continue to play a major role in our economic future and in our quest for energy independence.

July 7, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Investing in West Virginia's Future

Recently, while participating in groundbreaking ceremonies for Charleston's Haddad Riverfront Park, I was struck by the contrast of the tranquil Kanawha River and the televised news accounts of the raging Mississippi River hundreds of miles to the west.

The heart-wrenching pictures of the devastating floods along the Mississippi basin—where thousands of acres of farmland have been rendered virtually useless, and towns and businesses have been left under muddy water—are a poignant reminder of nature's fury and the havoc that can be wrought when steps are not taken to tame her.

Along the peaceful Kanawha, as the assembled audience prepared for the construction of a beautiful new recreation area, I was reminded, too, that investments in the nation's infrastructure are multi-faceted and far-reaching, and that their original cost is often dwarfed by the future dividends that they pay.

Consider, for example, the towns of Rock Island, Illinois, and Davenport, Iowa. Rock Island's community leaders chose to erect floodwalls to protect their town against a raging Mississippi. As a result, damage there has been minimal. Davenport took the opposite course, and the lack of flood protection in that community has resulted in massive damage to the town's waterfront neighborhoods and business district.

Now consider West Virginia. Through the foresight of an earlier generation, a flood-control dam was built on the New River above Charleston—the Blue-

stone Dam at Hinton—and other dams were built on the Elk River at Sutton and on the Gauley River near Summersville. These projects tamed the Kanawha River, just as other infrastructure investments south of Charleston tamed the Guyandotte and are helping channel into peacefulness the Tug Fork River.

I believe in investing in our future through such infrastructure projects, and I have steered federal funds to West Virginia to make those kinds of investments. Indeed, public investments in better facilities and services are investments not only in our future, but also in the futures of our children.

For instance, through the Appalachian Corridor network and other highway projects, West Virginia is being opened to new economic possibilities and to an improved life for West Virginians in all corners of our state.

Through other federally funded initiatives that I have helped to gain -- improvements to airports, waterways, and public facilities and services; and projects to expand business, industry, and the federal government's presence in West Virginia -- I am working with West Virginians to plant the seeds for future growth in our state.

Together, West Virginians have joined hands to make the journey into the future, and we can all be justifiably proud of the steps we have taken to prepare West Virginia to meet the challenges that lie in the years ahead for us and for our children.

27 1995



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Meeting the "ChalleNGe"

A unique program that holds great promise for a group of young people too often ignored--our high school dropouts--will soon be underway in West Virginia.

Beginning this fall, Preston County's Camp Dawson will be the site of a remarkable undertaking known as the West Virginia Mountaineer "ChalleNGe" program--an initiative to provide young West Virginians who have given up on their high school educations a second chance to earn a diploma.

At my urging, the National Guard Bureau two years ago developed the "ChalleNGe" program, which was financed in part by \$2 million that I added to a federal appropriation bill. The program has been expanded this year and will operate in ten locations across the country, including Camp Dawson.

In addition to being given a chance to earn a GED/high school equivalency diploma, the 16- to 18-year-old cadets, as they will be called, will undergo a rigorous, 5-month resident program to help them gain vital job and life skills.

The resident program will be followed by a year-long mentoring relationship with a specially trained Guard member from each youth's community.

Participants in the Camp Dawson program must be legal U.S. residents as well as residents of West Virginia, and they must be drug-free and free of felony conviction.

Two "ChalleNGe" sessions are planned at Camp Dawson, with 68 cadets taking part in each session. Potential cadets must be nominated by a member of their local community and must then be selected for the program by a state-appointed committee.

The National Guard has set up a toll-free number--1-800-79-GUARD--for those interested in receiving additional information on the "ChalleNGe" program.

The potential of all of West Virginia's young people is too worthwhile to be lost. The Camp Dawson "ChalleNGe" program affords one more opportunity to help a group of West Virginia teenagers who might otherwise "slip through the cracks" by cultivating their talents and equipping them with necessary life skills.

The twenty-first century is almost upon us. The Camp Dawson "ChalleNGe" program will provide a promising new source of young leaders another chance to create even more opportunities for themselves and for West Virginia as the new century dawns.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A First Step Toward More Civilized TV Programming

In a tardy admission that television viewing might impact children negatively, and in response to growing outcries against gratuitous sensationalism and violence, ABC, NBC, CBS, and Fox television networks have agreed to air parental warnings before programs featuring excessive mayhem, and to issue similar advisories in printed program guides.

For years, the networks denied that television violence affected the behavior of young viewers — this in spite of a 1982 report by the National Institutes of Health stating, "After 10 years of research, the consensus among most of the research community is that violence does lead to aggressive behavior by children and teenagers who watch the programs."

In fact, television is no neutral eye peering out into reality and transmitting back to its viewers an objective picture of that reality.

All television pro-

grams, producers, writers, and directors have a point of view that they are trying to convey to their audiences. Unfortunately, too many artisans in the television industry substitute their own jaundiced and sensationalized versions of life for reality, all in the name of higher ratings and higher profits.

For many young people, life as presented over the television tube is as real as the lives they perceive in their homes and local communities.

I commend the television networks on their decision to give parents more warning about upcoming program violence.

But that gesture is just the first step toward more civilized television airways — channels that belong to the American people, not to any of the networks.

I urge television programmers to pursue additional avenues to purge from the airwaves gratuitously violent programming.

July 28, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Immigration Reform Now!

The United States is a nation that was founded by immigrants.

Men and women seeking a way of life free of religious, political, and personal persecution and oppression have been central to American history since the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

Unfortunately, the United States can no longer extend open arms to all those who seek entrance into our country in search of the opportunities that this nation once afforded all who made it to our shores.

Any regular viewer of television newscasts is familiar with the spectacle of thousands upon thousands of illegal immigrants streaming across the ill-policed Mexican border or pathetically seeking to swim ashore by the hundreds from leaking, rusting vessels launched from China by criminal extortionists.

In addition, the United States has endured an unprecedented explosion of legal immigration in recent years.

In 1988, for example, legal immigrants admitted to the U.S. numbered approximately 600,000, while in 1991, more than 1.8 million legal immigrants were admitted, more than tripling the 1988 total.

Against that background, particularly in this era of continuing economic hardship for our own native citizens, the government's failure to stem the tide of hundreds of thousands of

immigrants is both unfair and irresponsible.

This irresponsibility is particularly acute when one considers that the segment of our citizens who suffer most from this inpouring are those Americans at the lower end of our economic scale -- unemployed, unskilled, semi-skilled, and sometimes poorly educated men and women who are now in danger of becoming a permanent underclass in our society.

As a first step toward reversing these trends, the Senate recently passed a federal appropriation bill that funds increased border patrols and detention centers, and new positions that will help to expedite and improve the processing of immigrants. Moreover, I am also cosponsoring legislation aimed at closing the asylum loophole through which have slipped untold numbers of immigrants, some of whom have reportedly conducted illegal terrorist activities against American citizens on our own shores.

In addition, the President has recently unveiled a proposal to tighten enforcement of immigration laws.

These measures mark an excellent start toward correcting and reversing some of our out-of-control immigration problems. Further, they represent a positive step toward bolstering our security against terrorists seeking bogus asylum here and toward protecting jobs for Americans.

August 4, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Carving Out Our Future

Work is now underway for the first phase of construction of the Robert C. Byrd Hardwood Technology Center, placing West Virginia's state-of-the-art wood-products research and training facility on the fast track toward operation.

A West Virginia site was recommended as the location for this new center in 1990, based on the findings of feasibility studies, which concluded that the property near Gardner, Mercer County, was central to the spectrum of wood-products businesses that would benefit from the facility.

The hardwood center is a natural extension of work I have been conducting on several fronts to help provide for West Virginians the opportunities and resources to compete successfully for a greater share of national and international business in this era of the global marketplace.

The twofold aim of this new facility is to help our state and national wood-working industry apply the most advanced hardwood-products manufacturing techniques and to develop a pool of U.S. workers trained in the use of new, high-technology machinery.

Southern West Virginia rests squarely in the center of one of the earth's most

abundant, productive, and renewable timber-producing areas. Recognizing our state's historic advantages as a producer of quality hardwood trees, I added \$9 million to appropriations bills to construct and develop this center, and to equip it with the latest advanced flexible manufacturing technology -- robotics.

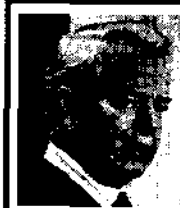
The Byrd Center will stand on a 3-acre site adjacent to the U.S. Forest Service Advanced Hardwood Resource Center.

The first construction phase will consist of a 22,000-square-foot, one-story structure to provide laboratory and workshop space and initial room for offices and training.

Long range plans call for a multi-purpose complex that will house a time-shared manufacturing operation, classrooms, and dormitories to accommodate training and education, advanced-technology research, and industry seminars.

Through wise, balanced, farsighted investments, such as the hardwood center, I hope to ensure that West Virginians can carve out new and expanded job opportunities, and an improved standard of living and higher quality of life.

August 11, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Joining the National Park Service and the Community in a New Way

The Wheeling area has played a significant part in the history of West Virginia and in the history of the nation. In the early 1800's, Wheeling served as West Virginia's first state capital, as well as the western terminus of the National Road, playing an important role in the westward journey of nineteenth-century settlers.

Wheeling continued its service to the expansion of the United States through its role as an inland port, where many of the region's major products, including iron, steel, textiles, boats, glass, cigars, and chewing tobacco, could be shipped along the Ohio River. This port helped the state of West Virginia to increase its industrial development and its economic capabilities by impressive amounts.

It is because Wheeling has played such an integral part in the development and economic prosperity of our state that I recently introduced legislation to authorize the National Park Service to establish the Wheeling National Heritage Area. Since 1989, I have added \$4.8 million to appropriation bills to aid in the development of the Wheeling National Heritage Area.

This proposal creates a unique and mutually beneficial relationship between the Wheeling community and the National Park Ser-

vice. It will allow the community to play a significant and leading role in the establishment, development, and ultimate success of this national heritage area.

The Wheeling National Heritage Area, once approved, will be a self-sustaining unit managed by the local community. Through the financial assistance of federal, state, local, and private sources, the Area will not only contribute to the expansion of the National Park system, but will also enhance West Virginia development.

I have always acknowledged the importance of investment in West Virginia, as well as the development and expansion of our industry and tourism potential. But at the same time, the success of such developments relies on the willingness and ability of my fellow West Virginians to build on the foundations, which I have helped to lay.

I will continue to work toward the realization of this investment and toward the establishment of the Wheeling National Heritage Area. It is a program, and a concept, which will enable this nation to recognize the importance of local history while still granting the local community the ability to steer the Heritage Area in the direction most beneficial to the community and the nation.

August 18, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hotline Help

West Virginians often have questions about Federal programs and services, and about regulations and opportunities that may affect them directly. Sometimes help is just a phone call away, and I have found that the following list of toll-free Federal hotlines can help West Virginians find answers to some of their questions.

Retired Army Pay Problems	1-800-428-2290
Cancer Hotline (National)	1-800-4-CANCER
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	
Medicare Information	1-800-638-6833
Medical Scholarship Information	1-800-638-0824
National Runaway Switchboard	1-800-621-4000
(For parents and runaways to leave messages)	
Consumer Product Safety Commission ...	1-800-638-CPSC
(Product recall, complaints, fact sheets)	
Financial Aid for College Students (National)	
Department of Education	1-800-433-3243
National Guard "ChalleNGe" Program	1-800-529-7700
AIDS Hotline (National)	1-800-342-AIDS
(HIV and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Information)	
Pesticide Emergency Information Clearinghouse ...	1-800-858-PEST
National Health Information Center	1-800-336-4797
Hill-Burton Free Hospital Care Hotline	1-800-638-0742
Small Business Administration	1-800-827-5722
Social Security Administration	1-800-772-1213
West Virginia Veterans Affairs Office	1-800-827-1000
Partnership for a Drug-Free America	1-800-662-HELP
(Drug-abuse help and information)	
Safe Drinking Water Hotline	1-800-426-4791
Hazardous Waste and Superfund Information ...	1-800-424-9346
Transportation Department	1-800-424-9393
(Auto-safety information and complaints)	
Washington, D.C., Central Reservation Center	1-800-554-2220
(Information on lodging in the Nation's Capital)	

August 25, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pioneering a High-Tech Process To Benefit West Virginia Steel

During a recent trip to West Virginia, I participated in a ceremony at Weirton Steel in Hancock County that was an example of my efforts to help our state's industries become more competitive through the use of high-technology.

At that ceremony, I joined Weirton Steel officials and employees in launching an advanced steel-making process known as the Logistics and Integrated Scheduling--or L&IS--system.

This computerized system--for which I have added nearly \$9 million to federal appropriation bills--will allow Weirton Steel to schedule and track orders, raw materials, inventory levels, production, equipment status and availability, work in progress, shipments, and customer feedback.

The L&IS system will enable the company to dramatically reduce waste, saving the steel industry energy and money and making Weirton Steel more competitive in world markets.

I salute the men and women at Weirton Steel who are pioneering the development of this pilot project, which is being watched throughout the American steel industry with the hope that reduced costs realized through Weirton's new process will translate into production-

cost reductions industry-wide. These cost savings could help give American steel producers advantages in the global market, thus creating and preserving more American steelworkers' jobs.

The exciting developments at Weirton Steel are evidence of one important law of practical science: Technology never stands still.

Indeed, across our country, many businesses have gone under because of their inability to keep up with the cutthroat competition of foreign companies that use the newest technologies.

The computerized manufacturing system that has been set in place at Weirton will help give that company an advance-guard position in twenty-first century steel-making, and put West Virginia in the front ranks of a changing American steel industry.

Encouragingly, long-time West Virginia industries like Weirton Steel are taking their place as pioneers of emerging new technologies that promise to preserve and create good-paying jobs in West Virginia. I will continue doing all that I can to help our state's industries to achieve greater competitive expertise in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Showcasing West Virginia's Wildlife

West Virginia's rugged beauty and abundant wildlife have long attracted visitors to our state.

With the establishment of the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, West Virginia will soon be home to a second area specially set aside to showcase and preserve her natural riches.

The establishment of West Virginia's first wildlife refuge -- the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge -- was set into motion when I added \$850,000 to a fiscal 1990 federal appropriations bill to begin the purchase of 13 islands to serve as the core of the refuge. Since that time, I have added an additional \$2.25 million to expand the refuge's reach.

Recently, to help initiate the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, West Virginia's second refuge, I secured \$2 million in federal funding in a pending appropriations bill, including \$1 million I added above the House-approved funding level of \$1 million.

The formation of these refuges is an important step toward ensuring the protection of our state's wildlife for generations to come.

When land acquisition is completed, our Ohio River refuge is expected to consist of more than 25 islands along a 362-mile stretch of the Ohio River, extending from the tip of West Virginia's Northern

Panhandle south to Mason County.

Rich in biological significance, the islands represent a mosaic of bottomland hardwoods, wetlands, and various life forms rare to the area. The islands also serve as home to migratory birds such as the black duck and the king rail, as well as to the endangered pink musket mussel.

The Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge is also an area of great biological importance, both to West Virginia and to the nation as a whole.

The valley's 6,700 acres of wetlands host an ecosystem that is usually native to areas much farther north, with more than 580 different species of plants and more than 280 kinds of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes.

Preserving nature while taking advantage of the rich natural resources that nature boasts is often a balancing act.

The establishment of the Ohio River Islands and Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuges, which are to serve as protected areas that will also contribute to the tourism industry, will stand as tangible evidence that West Virginians have a deep reverence for protecting the unique character of our land, even as we strive to make responsible use of our natural resources to further West Virginia's economic development.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Breaking Ground for the Future

I recently took part in groundbreaking ceremonies in Wheeling for a pair of high-technology projects that I helped initiate in order to open up a new avenue of prosperity in West Virginia.

The ceremonies marked another step in providing facilities for the National Technology Transfer Center (NTTC) and the Classroom of the Future, NASA-related projects that will be headquartered at Wheeling Jesuit College but that will extend their reach throughout West Virginia and far beyond our borders.

As I stood on the ground that will be the future home of these two facilities, I shared with gathered West Virginians my belief that high-technology education and applications will become an increasingly important part of West Virginia's economic future.

The NTTC--for which I added \$13.5 million in construction funding to an appropriation bill--will give the private sector access to the new technologies spinning out of our space program and other federal projects.

Through the NTTC's rapid transfer of advanced technology from the public to the private sector, our companies will have a better shot at gaining a competitive edge in the world marketplace.

Another critical element in our country's ability to compete worldwide is education, particularly in the

high-tech disciplines.

Long a champion of a formal education in the so-called "basics," I also hold the firm conviction that, in this era of high-technology and world markets, being educationally literate in the traditional sense is no longer a guarantee of job readiness. Indeed, many of today's students must emerge from school at least computer literate if they are to avoid being passed by the competition.

The Classroom of the Future--which was initiated with funding obtained by Congressman Alan Mollohan and which will be built with \$10 million that I added to federal appropriations bills--will be charged with devising methods to improve the way in which young Americans learn mathematics, science, and aerospace studies.

By applying the technologies gleaned from the space program to math and science teaching, the Classroom of the Future will better prepare the teachers of tomorrow's scientists, technologists, and technicians to impart the knowledge that will be critical to the future success of our young Americans.

The NTTC and the Classroom of the Future hold great promise for the West Virginians of today and tomorrow, and I am gratified that in breaking ground for these two projects, we are continuing to take steps to meet the challenges of the future.

September 15, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Crime Fighting In West Virginia

Two spokes in the nation's criminal justice wheel--inextricably linked--were on display in West Virginia recently when ground was broken for the new Raleigh County Federal Prison and when the final bolt was installed on the steel super-structure for the new FBI facility in Harrison County.

I was on hand for both ceremonies, and I took pride in seeing two of my initiatives for our state moving forward toward completion. Both projects will mean a safer future for the citizens in our state and across the nation.

The Raleigh County Federal prison, which will house 1,152 medium-security beds and 384 minimum-security beds, is being built with \$80 million in federal funding that I added to an appropriations bill. When completed, the new prison will provide an estimated 325 jobs and an annual economic impact of \$22 million in payroll and local purchases.

In spite of the positive impact that this federal prison will make on the economy of southern West Virginia, no one can rejoice that our society is being forced to build more and more prisons to house more and more criminals and law-

breakers.

But until our society finds a way to bring the escalating crime rate under control, facilities like the new federal prison in Beckley will be essential to ensure the security and safety of millions of Americans.

Essential, too, will be facilities like the FBI's new automated Fingerprint Identification Division, which is on its way to completion in Harrison County and which will bring with it an estimated 2,500 jobs and an annual payroll of \$75 million.

The new FBI facility, for which I have added more than \$400 million to federal appropriations bills, will provide police with a rapid-fire, electronic method of checking fingerprints of suspected law-breakers.

With this state-of-the-art capability, our law enforcement personnel will enjoy a new level of identification and tracking that will help to more easily place dangerous criminals behind bars.

West Virginia is poised to make a unique contribution to our nation's criminal justice system, and I look forward to completion of both the FBI facility and Raleigh County's new federal prison.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Crown Jewel Of American Democracy

Recently, I participated in a celebration of the 200th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

Perhaps no other structure in our country is more revered than is our national capitol.

From its beginning, the U.S. Capitol Building has been both a practical facility and the symbol of the living institution that physically resides here -- the United States Congress -- the so-called "people's branch of government" under our Constitution.

How ironic, however, that some Americans -- even those elected to serve in Congress -- can so vehemently attack the one institution in our system of government in which the voters themselves enjoy and exercise their greatest influence -- the Congress.

In particular, I shudder at the misdirected attacks that advocate the weakening of Congress to the favor of the executive branch.

Democracy is a living form of government that must constantly adjust to the demands placed upon it by a changing society, and Congress is the one institution in our democracy through which American citizens reshape our coun-

try to meet rising challenges and to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

Since becoming a member of Congress, I have supported a number of reforms, such as televised Senate debates.

But some so-called "reforms" recently suggested -- for example, giving the President a line-item veto, which would have the effect of diminishing the strength and influence of Senators from small states like West Virginia -- cut at the very heart of the intentions of the Founding Fathers in establishing Congress as an independent center of power in a system of governmental "checks and balances."

Indeed, Congress is the jewel in America's governmental and constitutional crown. Congress is the institution established by the Constitution in which the regularly elected representatives of the American people can wrestle, struggle, debate, and decide the destiny of our country.

In celebrating the 200th anniversary of a sacred American building, let us not forget to celebrate the even greater sacredness of that branch of government that performs its appointed democratic duties in that building.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Coming of Age of Software Valley

Among a parent's proudest moments are those events that mark a "coming of age" in lives of their children--a graduation ceremony, a wedding, the birth of a grandchild. During such times, a parent often reflects on the years of preparation and activity that have preceded the milestone event.

Such was my experience recently when the Software Valley Corporation Board of Directors voted to act as a business entity and compete for federal contracts, a decision that made it necessary for me to sever my official ties with Software Valley.

As one of the original founders of the non-profit Software Valley movement more than eight years ago, I viewed the Corporation's decision to embark upon this new course with a mixture of pride and excitement.

In 1985, West Virginia's Software Valley movement was a kernel of an idea--a vision that with a coordinated effort, West Virginia could be home to a high-tech infrastructure that would bring jobs to the state and diversity to West Virginia's economic base.

By gathering together fledgling high-tech businesses and academicians under a single umbrella known as Software Valley--and with donations from interested large businesses--the Software Valley Corporation grew into the state's clearinghouse for inquiries on West Virginia's high-

tech capabilities.

Software Valley's reach grew beyond that, however, as it launched a series of statewide conferences--which I have hosted--to help West Virginians plug into the world of high-tech, and to assist our small businesses in their efforts to obtain federal contracts. The twelfth in that series of Software Valley conferences will be held October 20 and 21 in Huntington, and will give West Virginians yet another opportunity to benefit from the gathered expertise of the Software Valley Corporation.

Software Valley also has supported efforts by state universities and colleges to sharpen their high-tech focus in terms of curricula and research in order to better prepare West Virginia students for the high-tech challenges of the future.

Software Valley is now poised to take a giant step forward by entering the competition for federal contracts, and while my position as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee makes it necessary for me to step down from an official role with Software Valley, I will continue to enthusiastically support the Corporation and its goals.

Software Valley is, indeed, coming of age, and as I look back in pride to the part I played in launching West Virginia's Software Valley movement, I wish the Corporation the best of luck in its future endeavors.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Placing Blame Where It Belongs

Growing up as I did in the coal fields of Southern West Virginia during the 1920's and 1930's, I learned the value -- indeed, the imperative -- of self-discipline, particularly in the face of adversity and hardship, as well as the values of hard work, perseverance, integrity, conscience, and numerous other qualities on which America was built by our forbearers.

For those reasons, I am especially concerned about a growing trend in our society -- a trend that, perhaps more than any outside foe or foreign aggressor, threatens the future of our country.

As nightly viewing of television newscasts illustrates, we are currently enduring a nearly unprecedented crime epidemic in our country.

Unfortunately, under a pseudo-scientific guise, some self-anointed experts seem bent on excusing every criminal for the most heinous of crimes and blaming "society" for the acts of every flawed personality, psychopath, rapist, or murderer.

Before it is too late, I appeal for a return to yardsticks by which individual men and women are judged by their own conduct, and by which criminals are

judged by their behavior.

I appeal for the rejection of pseudo-sciences that blame the police for the actions of murderers and thieves, and that blame society for the outrages of punks and ruffians against peaceful citizens and lawful institutions.

West Virginia and America were not built on excuses, and no society can survive by excusing those who will not conform their conduct to standards of conscience available to all rational people.

Further, I appeal for the restoration of values that teach children right from wrong; that teach respect for the lives and property of others; that teach citizenship in our communities; that teach love of our state and country; that teach the importance of hard work and honesty; that teach self-discipline and one's responsibility for one's own actions, one's own choices, and one's own conscience; and, most important, that teach a respect for the deep spiritual values and religious faith on which all of our rights and laws are ultimately based.

To do less is to betray the foundations that have made this the greatest nation in history.

October 13, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Stations in West Virginia's Life-Saving Network

I recently announced the expansion of a medical program that is telecasting health services for thousands of West Virginians living primarily in rural areas -- the Mountaineer Doctor Television network (MDTV).

Already operating at hospitals in New Martinsville, Wetzel County; Petersburg, Grant County; and Elkins, Randolph County, the MDTV network is adding two new "stations" -- St. Joseph's Hospital in Buckhannon, Upshur County; and Boone Memorial Hospital in Madison, Boone County.

Since 1991, I have added more than \$2.4 million to federal funding bills -- including \$800,000 in fiscal 1994 legislation -- to develop and expand this life-saving network.

This two-way televised system links physicians and other health-care providers in rural settings with medical and technological resources at the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center at West Virginia University in Morgantown and in Charleston.

MDTV transmits audio and video signals across our state over telephone lines. Cameras and television monitors at each connected

site permit 24-hour-a-day communications for patient medical consultations, emergency assistance, continuing medical-education programs, student and resident educational programs, and other services.

I have vivid memories from my childhood in the coalfields of Southern West Virginia of serious disfiguring injuries and fatalities resulting from coal mine accidents and of deaths brought on by illnesses that might have been successfully treated with adequate medical services.

These early experiences spurred my commitment to help improve the quality and accessibility of health care for all West Virginians, particularly West Virginians living long distances from hospitals and medical centers that offer specialized treatment.

I am excited about the possibilities for more accessible care that the revolutionary MDTV system affords thousands of West Virginians living in our state's rural areas, enabling medical specialists and local physicians to examine patients and consult on treatment across wide distances, and I look forward to the further expansion of this network.

October 20, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Identified As Low-Crime Leader

For the twentieth year in a row, West Virginia has achieved the distinction of having the nation's lowest overall crime rate.

West Virginians should take pride in the fact that for two decades our state has been recognized nationally as America's most crime-free place in which to live, according to statistics compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

This distinction has been one of the factors--coupled with our talented work force, low cost of living, and outstanding quality of life--that I have used to help promote West Virginia to federal agencies as a location for some of their operations.

Interestingly, the lowest crime state in the nation will soon be home to a federal facility that promises to revolutionize the national war against crime--the FBI's Fingerprint Identification Division, now under construction in Harrison County.

As this new facility takes shape on the Clarksburg horizon--being developed with the more than \$400 million that I have obtained in federal funding bills since 1989--I am thinking ahead to the day when the building will be ready for the installation of the heart and arteries of the identification division: the technologically advanced computer network that will modernize the way

that law enforcement personnel track criminals.

For that reason, I sought \$84.4 million in federal funding this year for the development of the equipment and programming that will give crime fighters nearly instant access to criminal identification information, and I am pleased to report that this funding was included in a bill that has received final congressional approval and has been signed into law.

When completed and fully occupied, the Identification Division's new complex, according to the FBI, will house approximately 2,500 employees--80 percent of whom are expected to be West Virginians--with an annual estimated impact on the economy of North Central West Virginia of roughly \$75 million.

Already, the FBI is operating two satellite facilities in Clarksburg and Fairmont which are staffed by more than 350 employees, of whom about 285 have been hired locally. The main complex will be completed in mid-1995, according to FBI estimates.

With all West Virginians, I anticipate that completion with enthusiasm, and I look forward to the numerous contributions that the FBI's Identification Division and its employees will make to West Virginia's economy, culture, and community life in the years ahead.

October 27, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Outcries Against Television Violence

A recent incident in which a mother accused an MTV cartoon series of inspiring her young son to set fire to the family's mobile home, killing her infant daughter, has reignited the perennial debate about the impact of television violence on American society.

In this instance, none less than the U.S. Attorney General and a Senate panel chairman have suggested government intervention unless television executives police themselves with regard to the violence in television programming.

Not unexpectedly, self-serving voices from within the television industry have been raised, protesting the outcry against gratuitous television violence as contrary to constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and artistic expression.

Other defenders of the status quo in television go so far as to assert that the graphic depiction of violence on television has no influence on violence and crime in society at large.

I disagree with that position.

In fact, I assert that be-

ing exposed regularly to violence, pornography, and perversion builds in viewers a greater acceptance of such behaviors, and too often ends in such once unacceptable activities' becoming normal for many people, in spite of their consequences on the quality of life in local communities.

Unfortunately, television -- perhaps the most powerful medium of communication ever developed -- is gnawing away at the moral fabric of our society and culture, numbing our sense of morality, and rotting the quality of our day-to-day speech and manners.

If the television industry does not relish censorship and criticism, let the decisionmakers in that industry learn self-restraint and conscience, or let them risk the imposition of restraints from the outside.

For the television industry to act less responsibly is to gamble with America's moral future and the lives of millions whose destiny will be largely determined by the values cultivated by television programming.

November 3, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Paving the Way to Prosperity

For generations, we West Virginians have looked to our coal-filled, forested Appalachias Mountains as the chief source of our livelihoods. Those same mountains--that wrap around us like a fortress of beauty and tranquility--have provided us comfortable harbor over the years.

But, for all the wonders they have brought us, our mountain guardians have sometimes obstructed the path to economic expansion, both in West Virginia and throughout the Appalachian states.

In 1965, with the establishment of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), our nation embarked on an effort to conquer poverty in the mountains of Appalachia.

The cornerstone of that program was the ARC Corridor Highway system, a network of modern roadways that was intended literally to pave the way to greater economic opportunity throughout the 13-state Appalachian region.

I believe that the ARC's mission--begun nearly three decades ago when a Blue Ribbon Commission was appointed to map out the Appalachian corridor highways--is as important today as it was back in 1965. For that reason, I have dedicated myself to adding millions to federal funding bills to ensure that construction of West Virginia's ARC highways, with costs averaging \$10 million to \$12 million per mile, moves forward.

As a result, West Virginia's corridor highways are becoming a reality. Last year, I added the

final chunk of federal funding needed--\$80 million--to complete Corridor G, a vital link between Charleston and Logan and Williamson. In total, I added more than \$328 million to federal bills over four years for Corridor G.

And in the past two years, I have added a total of \$175 million to appropriations bills to complete the federal government's portion of four-laning Route 19, or Corridor L, from Sutton in Braxton County to Beckley in Raleigh County.

Since 1989, I have also added \$10 million for initial work on the Parkersburg Bypass of Corridor D and over \$160 million for sections of Corridor H, from Buckhannon, Upshur County, to east of Elkins.

I believe in the Appalachian Corridor highway network and the promise that it holds for West Virginia. With better roads, West Virginia products can be moved to market more economically. Lower transportation costs can attract business and industry to the state.

But the benefits of good roads do not stop there. Improved transportation also invites tourists across our borders, bringing tourism dollars into our economy. And better, more modern roads save lives.

As every new piece of West Virginia's corridor system is put into place, I become increasingly convinced of the importance of finishing this network, not only to West Virginia and the twelve other Appalachian states, but also to the entire nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Signs of West Virginia's Economic Spring

Like a farmer surveying his field for signs of sprouting seed, I regularly look for evidence that my initiatives for West Virginia's economic growth are taking root.

One such sign recently appeared in an issue of U.S. News and World Report.

The magazine published a list ranking all 50 states in order of their economic performance since early 1991. The list was intended to provide a glimpse at which states are best managing their recovery from the recession and how they are doing it.

How did West Virginia stack up? Our state was listed as having the 11th strongest overall performance.

While this ranking does not suggest that West Virginia's economic crop is mature or that our seedlings are without need of further nurturing, it does provide a clear indication that we are headed in the right direction, and that is encouraging news.

In explaining West Virginia's standing, the magazine pointed to a broadening of the state's economic base, mentioning growth in construction and government jobs. Special note was made of the jobs

that will come with the FBI Fingerprint Identification Complex and the NASA facilities that I am shepherding to West Virginia.

While these facilities--and many of my other projects for West Virginia--are in the early stages of development, they serve as visible signs that the cultivation of our economic fields is well underway.

Just as a plant spreads by sending out runners, my ongoing initiatives in West Virginia are spurring growth beyond the facilities they occupy and the towns they call home.

For instance, when the FBI's Fingerprint Identification Division in Clarksburg is fully operational--sometime in 1998--an estimated \$75 million will be pumped into the economy of north central West Virginia each year, translating into an economic boost for area businesses--from automobile dealerships to gasoline stations, barbershops to butchershops, grocery stores to area restaurants.

I am encouraged by the signs of economic growth we are seeing in our state, and I will continue tending my West Virginia "crops" that are beginning to bear fruit.

November 17, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Another Building Block for 21st Century West Virginia

For more than a century, West Virginia's economy -- the engine that created jobs for our parents and grandparents and underwrote the way of solid family life and spiritual values that distinguish our state nationwide -- has rested on heavy manufacturing and natural-resource extraction.

Since the 1950's, however, a number of factors -- increased international competition, emerging high technologies, changing energy demands, and automation, to name a few -- have combined to reduce job opportunities in our state and forever alter West Virginia's industrial base.

Sensing such changes, some years ago, I conceived the vision of a 21st century West Virginia that would enjoy the dividends of a 21st century economy.

My vision for West Virginia comprises a diversified economy that frees us from the perennial boom-or-bust dilemmas of the past -- a diversified economy that includes improved highways, increased opportunities in tourism, improved education, better health care for our citizens, expanding high-technology and research enterprises, and broader job prospects for our young people.

In pursuing that goal, for example, I am helping to put into place in north central West Virginia an important aerospace community that will tie our

state's future into the dawning, international space age, and that will make West Virginia a leader among the Middle Atlantic states in the aerospace industry.

Toward that end, I added approximately \$5.1 million in federal funds to make possible the construction of the National Aerospace Education Center at Benedum Airport in Harrison County, which I recently helped to formally dedicate.

Operated under the auspices of Fairmont State College, this facility will instruct up to 120 students per year in airplane maintenance and repair, making West Virginia the training nucleus of an occupation in which a reported 4,000 positions go unfilled each year.

Further, I worked with Congressman Alan Mollohan in recruiting the Grumman Corporation's fabrication and assembly plant to join in an expanding complex of such corporate neighbors as Pratt and Whitney, the Lockheed plant in Clarksburg, and others who have caught, or will catch, the vision of West Virginia's growing future in the aerospace industry.

In the years ahead, I shall continue working to diversify West Virginia's economy, to assure a more abundant future for people in all sections of our state.

November 24, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Added Resources for the War on Crime

According to a 1992 FBI survey, 29 percent of Americans have been either victims of crime or have had a family member who was a victim of crime in the three years prior to the survey; 55 percent of Americans fear that they will be crime victims in the future; and 86 percent list their falling victim to crime as an important personal fear.

Such concern is not academic.

Recent FBI statistics indicate that, while America's population has increased roughly 41 percent in 31 years, the national violent crime rate has leapt more than 500 percent in that same period, and the overall crime rate has jumped more than 300 percent.

Further, though West Virginia perennially enjoys the lowest overall crime rate in the nation, West Virginia's crime rate is rising along with the national rate.

In the face of escalating crime nationwide, I recently offered an amendment to a national anti-crime bill. My amendment, which the Senate adopted, establishes a \$22 billion trust fund to fight crime on a large-scale national basis.

My amendment nearly doubled the original size of the package, enabling the Senate to pass the largest comprehensive crime-fighting bill in our nation's history. The Senate bill must

still be reconciled with a House version.

The new trust fund would be made up of savings accrued over a five-year period from anticipated federal personnel reductions. The monies provided by my amendment are to be used to build additional regional federal prisons, jails, "boot camps," and other state and local facilities to lock up criminals.

In addition, my amendment will put 100,000 new police officers on the streets of our communities, where the war on crime is being waged.

Of course, the only lasting crime remedy is a restoration across our nation of real family and religious values, and the re-elevation of family life to the position it has traditionally served in the history of our country in shaping values and personalities and instilling a sense of responsibility in our children.

But our nation cannot merely wait until that day arrives to do something about the daily threat posed by the criminal element in America. We must act now, and the measures prescribed through my amendment are the kinds of steps we can take nationally to stem the growing tide of violent crime and to help free our citizens from the fear of becoming the next crime statistic.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Getting Back to Family Values

During November and December--as family members travel across the miles to share a Thanksgiving meal or to celebrate the December holidays with one another--the family unit takes its place on center stage.

The family is the matrix in which children are intended to be shaped into considerate, productive participants in the larger society--indeed, the first and most enduring lessons are those learned at home.

But sadly--and to the detriment of our society as a whole--the preeminence of the family is taking a back seat to lifestyles in which fast food substitutes for the family meal, and in which discussions around the dinner table are becoming a relic of the past.

Recently, Education Secretary Richard Riley echoed my sentiments when he urged American parents to spend more time with their children--to turn off the television set and talk with their sons and daughters.

The importance of maintaining strong families cannot be overstated, for it is here that consciences--the compass which steers men and women through the shoals of moral choice--are shaped and girls and boys are taught to respect others and to live in harmony with their neighbors.

In 1940, public school teachers across the nation listed the following as the chief violations of student behavior standards: talking out of turn, chewing gum in class, making noise, running

in the hallways, cutting into lines, dress code violations, and thoughtless littering.

In 1990, the most pressing behavioral concerns of our public school teachers across the country included drug abuse, alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, suicide, rape, robbery, and assault.

In these shocking comparisons, the schools are but reflecting the overall moral deterioration in our society at large, and as violent crime increases in our country, the calls for tougher anti-crime measures have escalated.

Certainly, legislators have demonstrated their willingness to pass crime-fighting measures, as the Senate recently did. But people seriously concerned about stemming the tides of crime and murder in this country must realize that stricter laws are but substitutes for the real remedy for our crime epidemic.

If the decline of the family continues--and if our family structure fails to reassert responsibility for molding our children into thoughtful, law-abiding adults--no amount of laws will turn around the horrors that we now witness in our city streets, in the hallways of our school buildings, and in once peaceful communities across this nation.

Let us make 1994--and every year thereafter--the year of the family, and let us redouble our efforts to teach our children the cherished values upon which responsible adulthood is built.

December 8, 1993



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Ear to the Skies

Sometime during the next several weeks, motors in the base of the Green Bank Telescope will be activated, providing the first test of the equipment that will rotate the 15-million-pound listening device as it searches the skies in its quest to unravel the mysteries of deep outer space.

The upcoming test will mark an important milestone in the rebirth of the Pocahontas County telescope, an ultra-modern instrument which replaces a smaller, less technologically advanced device that collapsed in November, 1988.

The loss of the 300-foot radio telescope at Green Bank five years ago was felt far beyond its remote eastern West Virginia home. Scientists across the country gleaned valuable data from the depths of outer space for more than 25 years, thanks to the telescope.

But from that loss, West Virginia soon will gain a state-of-the-art radio telescope that will give our state a continuing and larger role in the scientific community's effort to learn about the universe.

Shortly after the radio telescope collapsed, I added \$75 million to a federal funding bill to build a new telescope. The new telescope will be equipped with an innovative laser ranging system--now being devel-

oped at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank--that will be able to detect any sag in the telescope structure caused by gravity or wind.

Although the telescope dish is the size of two football fields, it will have the precision of a fine watch. For example, if or when the sensors detect that some part of the telescope is out of alignment by even the thickness of a human hair, motors on the surface of the telescope--some 2,300 of them--will move it back to the correct position.

Another key element of the Green Bank Telescope--sensitive radio receivers that will amplify the faint radio signals collected by the telescope--is now being designed and built at Green Bank. Tests on the first of the many radio receivers that will be included on the telescope have been successfully completed.

According to the National Science Foundation, which serves as the funding agency for Green Bank operations, the new telescope should be completed sometime in 1995.

With its completion, the new Green Bank Telescope will begin scanning the skies for clues to the universe, giving West Virginia a unique place in mankind's continuing search for knowledge in the stars.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sober Thoughts for the Holiday Season

According to a recent poll testing opinions of the people of our state, 73 percent of West Virginians are concerned about drug and alcohol abuse in our society, while 97 percent of those interviewed by the poll cited drug and alcohol abuse as contributing factors to our nation's increasing crime rate.

Based on those statistics, a majority of West Virginians should be particularly on their guard as we confront the approaching New Year's Weekend.

For most Americans, this New Year's Weekend will be somewhat routine--the usual football bowl games, family and friends enjoying warm fellowship, and then back to work on January 3.

But, unfortunately, again this year, a regrettable number of Americans will never be able to forget the tragedy that New Year's 1994 will become.

Those people will forever remember this New Year's holiday as the weekend on which they lost some loved one in a traffic death.

During New Year's Weekend 1993, scores of Americans lost their lives in traffic accidents.

New Year's Weekend 1990 -- the last year such national statistics were compiled -- 289 automobile deaths were tallied nationally.

In 1989, the New Year's automobile death total was 317.

In 1988, that figure was 375.

Unfortunately, if previous years' statistics are any guide, alcohol will again be involved in more than 50 percent of this New Year's automobile accident deaths.

The National Safety Council estimates that, in the past dozen years, more than a quarter-million Americans have lost their lives as a result of alcohol- and drug-related automobile accidents.

My hope is that these grim statistics will give pause to anyone who reads them and contemplates celebrating New Year's Eve away from their homes or who plans to be on the highway the night of December 31.

On New Year's Weekend 1993, West Virginia suffered 2 highway fatalities, while New Year's Weekend 1992 saw 4 West Virginia highway deaths, 3 of those alcohol-related.

In spite of those relatively low figures, those 6 deaths over two New Year's Weekends represent deep grief and loss for the families involved.

For New Year's 1994, stay alive.

As some would say, don't drink and drive.

As I would say, don't drink--period.

The grief you will avoid will be that of those you love the most, and who cherish your life above all others.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Year of Promise for West Virginia's Future

As 1993 draws to a close, I am looking back at the events of the year, gauging the progress of my work, and planning my next steps for putting into place foundations for West Virginia's economic growth and prosperity in the years ahead.

Over the past five years, as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have been providing the building materials to help make West Virginia more competitive in the area of high-technology, thus more capable of successfully answering the challenges of the next century.

This year, I concentrated my appropriations efforts on ensuring that the many projects and programs that I have in the pipeline for West Virginia remain on track so that their benefits to West Virginia and the nation can be realized as soon and as fully as possible.

All told, 1993 was another very good year for West Virginia. My efforts this year included:

-- Adding \$104 million to two bills to complete the four-laning of the whole length of Corridor L, stretching from I-77 near Beckley, Raleigh County, to I-79 near Sutton, Braxton County;

-- Gaining another \$84.4 million for a state-of-the-art computer system to be housed at the FBI's new Fingerprint Identification Division complex -- under construction in Harrison County -- bringing to more than \$400 million the total

funding I have obtained for this national crime-fighting project;

-- Obtaining \$20 million for staff and equipment to keep up the pace of progress on the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Laboratory in Morgantown, bringing to nearly \$80 million the total monies I have secured for this facility;

-- Adding new funding to bolster West Virginia's high-technology capabilities, including \$4 million to continue the cutting-edge work of the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Flexible Manufacturing Systems at Huntington and \$21.4 million for the 3-M Metal Matrix Composite Model Factory at Middleway, Jefferson County;

-- Adding \$13.8 million for further development of the Wheeling National Heritage Area, including \$8.5 million for construction of a new transit facility; and

-- Adding \$1 million, making a total of \$2 million in funding approved this year, to begin the establishment of the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Looking over this sampling of my 1993 endeavors, I feel a sense of accomplishment, seeing that my work is helping West Virginia progress toward a broader, more diverse economy.

Now, as I stand at the edge of a new year, I intend to continue to pursue every opportunity for a brighter future for all West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Century -- A New Millennium

Today, we are less than seven years away from the year 2001 A.D. -- the first year of the 3rd Millennium.

In the 2nd Millennium A.D., West Virginia witnessed the end of the American Indian civilization, the westward migration of pioneers, and the full force of the Industrial Revolution, during which industrial titans developed our state's coal, timber, natural gas, and other natural resources.

As we verge on both a new century and a new millennium, I am concentrating my efforts on putting into place practical and far-sighted foundations for West Virginia's future, while, at the same time, being committed to preserving a heritage that is the matrix from which flow those qualities and strengths that render West Virginians genuinely unique among all other Americans.

Looking ahead, I believe that West Virginia's immediate future depends on continuing to modernize and extend our highway system and other modes of transportation to help overcome geographic obstacles that have sometimes deterred America's twentieth-century economic opportunities from coming to West Virginia.

Further, I believe that continued capitalization on

West Virginia's natural beauty offers us a rich opportunity through a developing tourism industry to accumulate resources that we will need to further improve life in our state.

Again, through promotion of high-technology initiatives like Software Valley, increased research at our colleges and universities, improved health care across our state, expanded flood control and water and sewer service, and upgraded river transportation facilities, my hope is to help develop a twenty-first century infrastructure upon which rising generations of young West Virginians can build more abundant, fuller lives.

But I offer one caveat.

The Scriptures caution, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Throughout its history, West Virginia has served as a model for the values, patriotism, and faith that have nourished our national life and sustained our souls.

Whatever the approaching new century and new millennium promise materially, my hope is that increased prosperity and enriched opportunities do not undercut those basic family and religious values that make West Virginians truly unique and great.

January 5, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Space Age Opportunities For West Virginia

West Virginia is standing on the threshold of the nation's space program, poised to play a part in the future of that important effort.

Through Fairmont's Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) facility--for which I added \$10 million to a federal spending bill--our state is linking up with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on a high-tech initiative to test and validate computer software used in the space program.

Two recent NASA contracts--portions of which will be undertaken in Fairmont--underscore the promise and potential of the IV&V facility.

The first of those--a \$172 million contract that NASA is negotiating with TRW, Inc.--calls for the IV&V to perform an archiving function for NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS), providing researchers nationwide and worldwide with quick and easy access to data retrieved from outer space concerning environmental changes here on earth.

According to NASA, this \$172 million contract calls on TRW to develop, install, and test this on-ground system that will process, distribute, and store data from space for use by NASA and other research agencies. Much of this system itself will be housed at the IV&V facility, with

about two-thirds of the EOS Data and Operations Systems (EDOS) work being conducted in Fairmont.

The second NASA contract--for an estimated \$81 million--was awarded to a Virginia-based company, Intermetrics, Inc. Under the contract, staff at the IV&V facility will perform approximately \$30 million worth of work as it verifies and validates the EOS data and information network.

NASA officials tell me that this contract will mark the first time that it has selected an independent contractor to test, design, and evaluate ground system software development and overall system performance.

As many as 96 employees are expected to be in place at the IV&V facility by the end of 1994, with another 100-plus workers expected to be on the job there by fiscal 1998.

Together with high-technology research and development programs that I have helped attract to Wheeling, Martinsburg, Huntington, Morgantown, Clarksburg, Bluefield-Princeton, Weirton, and other West Virginia communities, the IV&V facility in Fairmont will more firmly tie West Virginia into the rising global and twenty-first century economy, as well as offering increased numbers of West Virginians professions, vocations, and jobs in high-technology, high-paying fields.

January 12, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Role in the Search For Energy Alternatives

Power outages and calls for energy conservation accompanying the recent sub-zero temperatures in West Virginia and across the nation serve as reminders of the value of our energy resources and their importance to U.S. energy independence, domestic well-being, and national security.

Efforts to strengthen our energy independence, which have typically entailed exploration for new domestic fuel deposits, have grown to include studies for new, more efficient uses of existing energy resources found within our national borders.

In recent years, the call to shore up that independence while practicing environmentally kinder ways to harness energy has led to renewed and expanded research and development initiatives.

Among those initiatives is the national Clean Coal Technology program, which I established in 1984 to develop new methods for the clean burning of coal -- our nation's most abundant energy resource. Since its beginning, I have gained more than \$2.7 billion for the clean coal program.

Other innovative energy-expanding initiatives include programs for the development of alternatives to traditional petroleum-based transportation fuels. Methane, methanol, and propane, for example, are all being studied as possible alternative power sources for the automotive industry.

With \$1.5 million I added to a fiscal 1992 federal appropriations bill, West Virginia University (WVU) has established one such program, the first

phase of which is aimed at developing a model program and teaching materials for training technicians in vehicle conversion, maintenance, safety, and emissions testing procedures.

Any car owner can appreciate the value of having a well-trained auto technician available at the local garage.

The challenge of developing a viable broad-based alternative fuels vehicle industry relies, in part, on ensuring ready access to technicians trained to service these revolutionary vehicles.

According to WVU officials, the second phase of the program will implement the model, providing specialized training -- through classroom lectures and hands-on laboratory experience -- to educators at community colleges, vocational schools, and other institutions with auto technician programs. In other words, WVU will train the trainers.

In the long term, this program is intended to ensure that the pool of skilled trainers and technicians across the nation can keep up with the increasing demand for alternative fuel vehicles spurred by the implementation of the Clean Air Act and energy regulations requiring greater use of clean fuels.

Through initiatives such as the WVU-based alternative fuels vehicle training program and the national Clean Coal Technology program, I am working to power-up West Virginia's role in our nation's quest for energy independence.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Training Ground for West Virginia's Future

My efforts to put more education and training programs into place in West Virginia moved a giant step ahead recently with the release of nearly \$9 million that I added to a 1993 appropriations bill for a trio of education-related projects in our state.

These projects represent my continuing commitment to developing in West Virginia a network of training and education programs aimed at preparing West Virginians for the employment opportunities of tomorrow.

The first of these projects -- a new science and computer center at Shepherd College in Jefferson County -- will move forward with the release of \$4 million in construction monies that I added to the fiscal 1993 VA/ HUD appropriations bill.

This center will house facilities to train undergraduates in science programs such as chemistry, biology, and computer sciences to meet demands for trained applicants for several high-tech operations that I have attracted to the Eastern Panhandle recently, such as new computer facilities for the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

A second chunk of funding -- in the amount of \$1.8 million -- was released for further development of the National Aerospace Education Center at the Benedum Airport complex in Bridgeport, Harrison County. This brings to \$5.1

million the total funding that I have added for this facility, which will serve as a training center for avionics and aviation maintenance personnel and which will be operated by Fairmont State College.

The Bridgeport facility will include classrooms, laboratories, and administrative and faculty offices to accommodate as many as 250 students and to host state, regional, and national conferences, workshops, and seminars on aviation-industry concerns.

The third West Virginia project for which my funding has just been made available is the renovation of existing facilities at Davis and Elkins College in Randolph County.

Approximately \$3.2 million that I added to the fiscal 1993 VA/ HUD appropriations bill will allow the college to establish an economic development and education center to offer expanded programs to train students entering the travel and tourism industries. All told, I have added \$4.1 million to federal funding bills to help Davis and Elkins College in its efforts to serve the training needs of West Virginia's growing tourism industry.

The completion of these three new West Virginia facilities will further broaden education and training opportunities in our state, and will help supply qualified men and women to meet the growing demands of promising and expanding industries in a fast-approaching 21st century West Virginia economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Immigration Reform Needed

For more than two centuries, the United States has been a haven for those seeking asylum from persecution in other lands.

Indeed, throughout our history, many refugees fleeing oppression at home have made vital contributions to, and played significant roles in, America's history.

Partly in response to that heritage, in 1980, for the first time, Congress codified U.S. asylum laws to provide a safe haven for those legitimately fearing for their lives under communist dictatorships and other totalitarian states abroad.

Unfortunately, in America's desire to aid those who legitimately fear for their lives under repressive regimes, Congress made it too easy for unscrupulous persons, primarily seeking a more convenient life, to falsify their situations and take advantage of America's good will by claiming unwarranted asylum privileges to circumvent regular U.S. immigration procedures.

In too many such cases, individuals under no threat at home have lied about their political, ethnic, or religious circumstances, claiming persecution or oppression, only to sneak through normal immigration routes with minimal processing, then to disappear into our population, never to be officially heard from again.

Our country no longer

enjoys limitless resources and unbounded acres ripe for unplanned settlement. More and more, immigration is placing ever-increasing pressures and demands on our already overburdened environment and economy, and on our health, welfare, and education systems.

Consequently, I recently cosponsored, and the Senate adopted, a proposal that our immigration laws be amended to stop the rampant abuse of our asylum laws.

However, I believe the time has come for review of more than just asylum procedures; all aspects of U.S. immigration law should be reexamined.

The Cold War is over, and democracy is replacing dictatorship in much of the world.

America does not have the resources to solve all of the problems facing people living in substandard conditions worldwide, nor to accept all those who wish to come to America for a better life. With a population of roughly 260 million people, growing national needs across the spectrum, and an anticipated federal budget deficit in this fiscal year of \$223 billion, we no longer enjoy the luxury of being able to take care of the requirements of our own population and, at the same time, keep our doors open for the rest of the world to move to our shores.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Free Exercise of Religion

The First Amendment to the Constitution declares, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;...."

Most Constitutional historians understand exactly the intent of the Founding Fathers in placing those words in the Bill of Rights. Under America's Colonial experience, some of the Original Thirteen Colonies had maintained tax-supported state churches. Likewise, the Founding Fathers knew that large numbers of Americans had come to this land to practice their faith free of persecution.

The religion clause of the First Amendment was meant to protect religion against government, not government against religion. Government neutrality in religion, which is what the First Amendment requires, is one thing; but hostility to religion by the government is quite another.

In recent decades, some people have turned the Bill of Rights on its head -- prayer excluded from schools, voluntary prayer by students excluded from commencement exercises, Christmas trees and menorahs prohibited from public property, all references to religion expunged from textbooks in public

schools. How does one classify those actions but as efforts "to prohibit the free exercise" of religion?

Indeed, ongoing efforts to exclude all expressions of religious faith from American public and civic life amount to nothing less than "a tyranny of the minority" -- an attempt by a small element of our population to deny to the vast majority of Americans the rights we are guaranteed under our Constitution.

Certainly, public funds should not be used to build church properties or to underwrite the cost of religious ceremonies.

But do silent prayers in the classroom, a child saying grace over her meal in a school cafeteria, or a Nativ-ity scene or a menorah on a courthouse square equate to "an establishment of religion?"

In truth, if our country is to significantly turn around the contemporary plague of murders in our streets, violence in our schools, soaring illegitimate birth rates nationwide, epidemic drug abuse by all ages, and the alarming decay of our society, then we would do well to allow religious values to assume anew the place of honor and significance that the Founding Fathers intended.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Returning to Basics

During the recent Senate debate on the Goals 2000: Educate America bill, I added an amendment, which the Senate adopted, calling for renewed classroom emphasis on such "core" subjects as English, mathematics, science, U.S. history, civics, and geography.

The aim of this piece of legislation is to put America's public school system back on track -- a goal that nobody can guarantee reaching, but an effort on which much of the future of our country depends.

Throughout my career, I have been, and remain, a strong believer in the value and necessity of a good education.

But I am, and have long been, frustrated with the condition of public education in America.

And all across our country and -- as indicated by much of my mail -- throughout West Virginia, as well, parents, teachers, and business and civic leaders are also expressing a growing dissatisfaction with our public schools.

All too often, mediocrity has replaced excellence, with the "dumbing down" of textbooks and the desperate pursuit, too often, of

educational fads and false panaceas that bore and cheat students of the fruits of real education.

Teachers who want to teach and children who want to learn are being physically threatened, assaulted, and having their very lives endangered by thugs and punks who arrive at school armed with guns and knives.

How can dedicated teachers teach, and how can motivated children learn, under such circumstances and in such conditions?

Public education is obviously not what it should be. More to the point, public education is not what it must be if our country is to maintain its position of political and economic leadership in the world and if future generations of Americans are to have any hope of enjoying the standard of living that most Americans experience today.

We need to fix America's public education system, and one way to reach that goal is to get back to basics -- courses and disciplines of study that will challenge and excite young minds, and that will better outfit our children to meet the demands that their careers, the workplace, and the real world will place on them in the years ahead.

February 16, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Order of the Ages

These words, **Novus Ordo Seclorum**, are found on the reverse side of the Great Seal of the United States and on the back of every U.S. one dollar bill.

Translated from the Latin, "Novus Ordo Seclorum" means "A New Order of the Ages."

In fact, these words indicate the confidence of our Founding Fathers that the establishment of the new "United States of America" was the beginning not only of a new nation, but of a new era in human history, as well.

Indeed, the American Revolution did signify the beginning of a new political dispensation in world politics.

The words of the Declaration of Independence flew in the face of the dominant philosophy of government in Europe at the time: "The Divine Right of Kings."

According to the theory on which rested the monarchies of Britain, France, Austria, Spain, and the other European kingdoms, as well as the tsardom of the Russian empire, a monarch was divinely ordained to rule in any manner that he saw fit. To oppose the monarch was to sin, because the monarch was the deputy of the Lord.

And to oppose the monarch's will was to oppose the Lord's Will.

Thus, by asserting the right of the governed to determine their own form of government, the Founding Fathers declared as "a divine right" the power of a free people to govern themselves.

Little wonder that "A New Order of the Ages" became one of the mottoes of the new United States of America.

Moreover, the example of the citizens of our country in determining their own form of government, electing their executive and legislative representatives, and charting their destiny as a people and a nation has inspired other peoples and nations ever since 1776.

Today, the United States represents the very essence of self-government and democracy to millions around the world.

As we pass through the last years of the twentieth century and stand on the threshold of the dawning twenty-first century, I hope that all Americans will grasp the significance of our incomparable heritage and exercise their duties as American citizens with a deeper appreciation and responsibility.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balanced Budget Amendment To the Constitution (Part I)

Recently, the U.S. Senate rejected Senate Joint Resolution 41, a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution. Its demise was a victory for the American people, who deserve real leadership and responsible action to reduce the national debt.

By opposing the constitutional amendment, I am not suggesting that we should not bring our budget deficits under control. We must and we are.

However, a constitutional amendment to balance the budget would not accomplish that goal. It was not a substitute for responsible leadership, nor would it have been a catalyst for reasoned action.

That amendment, which called for annual balanced budgets beginning in the year 2001, was classic legerdemain--declaring, on the one hand, that the budget be balanced annually, and, on the other, that that mandate could be violated. Therefore, it constituted a false promise to the people.

Over the past dozen years the country has been on a national credit card binge. This is not the fault of the appropriations committees. Over the past half-century, 1945 to 1993, total congressional appropriations amounted to \$220 billion less than the total budget requests of all Presidents during that period.

The massive tax cuts of the early 1980's, which benefited the wealthy, and the huge defense build-up--together with spiraling entitlements, the S&L bail-out,

and the recession of the early 1990's--all resulted in a quadrupling of the national debt.

In other words, the borrow-and-spend mentality of the Reagan-Bush years added more than \$3 trillion to the nearly \$1 trillion of debt that had accumulated during the preceding 182 years of Republican and Democratic administrations.

To get control over budget deficits, debt, and interest on the debt will require tough and painful choices, including cuts in entitlements and increases in revenues--not gimmickry.

Pollsters often ask the American people a simplistic question that carries strong political appeal: "Do you favor a constitutional amendment to balance the budget?" The pollsters do not ask, "Do you favor increased taxes? Or cutting social security, veterans compensation and pensions, or military pay? Or cutting funds for education, law enforcement, or the war on drugs?"

We must not risk seriously crippling our economy with a "feel-good" constitutional amendment that would defile the Constitution and fool the American people, only to enhance the reelection of national politicians.

The 1993 budget deficit reduction package, passed by Congress, was a solid start. We must continue to build upon that effort.

I shall have more to say on this subject in subsequent columns.

March 2, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balanced Budget Amendment To The Constitution (Part II)

I voted for a balanced budget Constitutional amendment in 1982, but by 1986, having carefully researched U.S. history, the Constitution, and other authorities while writing my book on Senate history, I had changed my mind. I voted against the amendment in 1986.

I support efforts to reduce budget deficits, but a Constitutional amendment, standing alone, is an empty promise. It is political demagoguery to tell the American people that all we need in order to balance the Federal budget is to adopt a Constitutional amendment. The amendment, recently rejected by the Senate, does not explain how the budget is to be balanced, what taxes must be raised, or what spending programs must be cut. The American people are being fooled.

We often hear the argument, "The states balance their budgets; why shouldn't the Federal Government be required to balance its budget?" Sounds good. But to compare state constitutions with the Federal Constitution is like comparing apples with oranges.

For instance, states are not required to "raise and support armies", or "provide and maintain a Navy", or "provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States," or deal with international crises, or manage a national economy.

Additionally, the states operate on two budgets: an

operating budget, which they strive to balance annually; and a capital budget, in which they borrow money for construction of highways, bridges, prisons, hospitals, schools, and so on, with bonds that mature in ten, twenty, or even fifty years. The states are in debt. How, then, can one say that the states balance their budgets?

Some states avoid operating deficits through such gimmicks as borrowing money from off-budget funds -- for example, pension funds. Other states shift state programs off budget, or onto county and municipal governments and independent agencies. As another gimmick, the cost of the highway patrol may be removed from the general fund and charged against a fund that receives revenues dedicated for highways.

This is not to say that states do not make hard choices. They do. The point is, the states are in debt, and if a Constitutional amendment to balance the budget were adopted, the Federal Government would shift programs onto the states and cities, and mandate that they fund them -- thus helping to balance the Federal budget, but greatly increasing the burden on state and local governments.

A Constitutional amendment to balance the budget is quack medicine. I shall have more to say on this subject in a subsequent column.

March 9, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balanced Budget Amendment To The Constitution (Part III)

The Senate recently defeated a Constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget, beginning in the year 2001. As Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman, I conducted hearings on that amendment.

During those hearings, Secretary of HHS, Donna Shalala, testified that, "in the year 2000, if all programs are reduced across the board, the balanced budget amendment would require \$52 billion in cuts to Social Security." She added, "if Social Security were exempted, then the Medicare program would have to be cut that much deeper to achieve a balanced budget." Whether Social Security would be exempted from budget cuts, and whether all programs would be reduced across the board, would depend upon Congress's decisions in 2001. Of course, if Congress decided to exempt Social Security, other government programs would take deeper cuts than would otherwise result from an across-the-board cut.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jesse Brown, testified that the Constitutional amendment to balance the budget would be "devastating" to VA programs. Veterans compensation and veterans pension benefits would be cut, many VA hospitals would close, and thousands of VA employees would lose jobs. "We could be forced to default on our commitments to those whose service has kept our Nation free and strong and to the survivors of those who made the ultimate sacrifice," Secretary Brown said.

Likewise, Defense Secretary William Perry expressed concern, saying, "the balanced budget amendment could severely jeopardize America's national security," deplete force structure, cut the National Guard and Reserves, "and the ripple effect both of those cuts and the attendant civilian jobs associated with them would have a substantial effect on the general economy."

Other department secretaries testified to severe cuts in vital programs in the year 2001 if the balanced budget amendment were adopted. Education and health care; highways, bridges and waterways; water and sewer projects; civilian research, environmental programs, job training, military pay and retirement benefits; law enforcement programs, border patrols, the war on drugs -- all these, and hundreds of other programs necessary to the Nation's health, safety, and well-being would be drastically cut when the Constitutional amendment became effective seven years from now. Its traumatic effects upon the economy would be felt nationwide.

The budget deficits must be brought under control, but a Constitutional amendment is not the answer. The more orderly approach was begun with the passage of the 1993 budget deficit reduction legislation. Congress and the President, working together, made a solid start. We must continue on that road and build upon the foundation that was laid. More on this subject later.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution (Part IV)

The recently rejected Constitutional amendment to balance the budget would have been bad economics. The federal deficit depends, in great measure, on the state of the economy. The deficit increases automatically whenever the economy weakens because tax revenues fall and federal payments from the Treasury, like unemployment compensation, rise. Therefore, these same rising deficits act as economic stabilizers in periods of recession. In such situations, expenditures for unemployment compensation, food stamps, and other assistance programs sustain private incomes and keep sales, employment, and production at higher levels than they otherwise would be.

A balanced budget amendment would force us to raise taxes and cut expenditures even when the economy is weak--exactly the opposite of what is needed in a failing economy to keep it from sliding into a recession or even a depression. Such a course should not even be considered as a temporary policy during times of recession, much less enshrined permanently, in our Constitution.

Last year, we enacted a law, for which I voted, to reduce the deficit by around \$500 billion dollars over five years--according to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). That budget deficit reduction law established a hard freeze on discretionary spending for the next five fiscal years,

which means that not even increases for inflation will be permitted, under the discretionary spending limits. Mandatory spending targets were also set; these are programs which, by law, are required to be funded. The vote on last year's deficit reduction package showed that, though real deficit reduction is not easy, it can be done.

Perhaps the best measure of the seriousness of the proposed balanced budget Constitutional amendment is that most of its sponsors in both the House and Senate voted against last year's budget reduction package. In other words, they opposed real deficit reduction when it was on their plates! Of course, these members of Congress are the same members who cannot wait to tell their constituents that they voted for a balanced budget amendment.

To those who support a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, I say: "What specific taxes would you raise, and what specific entitlements and other mandatory funding programs would you cut, in order to balance the budget?" When it comes to the specifics, the silence is deafening.

A Constitutional amendment to balance the budget would be bad for the economy and bad for the Constitution.

I shall have one more column on this subject.

March 23, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution (Part V)

The proposed Constitutional amendment, recently rejected by Congress, promised a balanced budget without providing any mechanism to enforce that goal. It simply declared that "total outlays for any fiscal year shall not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year."

If the amendment were not enforced, the American people's faith in the Constitution would be greatly undermined. On the other hand, the likelihood is that the amendment would be enforced, and, therefore, by Constitutionalizing the budget process, an extraordinary expansion of executive and judicial authority would appear to be mandated. Both state and Federal judges might well be required to make decisions about taxing and spending -- issues that the courts clearly lack the institutional capacity to resolve in any satisfactory manner.

The Constitution and its previous amendments are a charter of government and of individual liberties. It is decidedly not a charter of economic policy. Hence, the amendment would alter the Constitution by introducing matter irrelevant to its fundamental and traditional purposes.

Furthermore, its adoption would open the possibility that tax increases or spending cuts would be ordered by the courts, whose members are not elected by the people but who serve under lifetime appointments.

Some may say that the courts would consider such questions to be "political" and, thus, beyond their

scope. However, the most recent decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court suggest that the Court would be inclined to review those questions that might once have been considered political.

Moreover, if the amendment were adopted, no longer would the people's branch -- Congress -- have control over the power of the purse, the supreme balance wheel in our Constitutional system of checks and balances.

Madison stated in *Federalist # 58*: "This power over the purse may, in fact, be regarded as the most complete and effectual weapon with which any Constitution can arm the immediate representatives of the people for obtaining a redress of every grievance and for carrying into effect every just and salutary measure."

We should ask ourselves whether a balanced budget amendment appropriately fits with the underlying purposes of our Constitution. We should question whether this amendment is enforceable, or whether it would become a broken promise, thus furthering the public's disillusionment and distrust. Most importantly, while the amendment sounds like a simple little plan to balance the budget, it would permanently damage our Constitutional system of separation of powers.

Although Congress has rejected the amendment for this year, it will be back again and again as politicians seek to milk it for votes. We should beware of this poisoned pill.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Clean Coal Technology Program Makes the Grade

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently released a midterm report on the impact of the Clean Coal Technology program, and the initiative received glowing marks.

In fact, the DOE reports that the clean coal program, which I authored and pushed through Congress in 1985 to expand coal use and protect coal mining jobs, has enjoyed major success in terms of creating new coal technologies and associated jobs.

I firmly believe that the Clean Coal Technology program is a necessary investment in our nation's energy and economic future, and the DOE report confirms that the program has made major inroads in the development of innovative emissions control and power generation technologies to expand coal use, protect mining jobs, and create new market opportunities at home and in the international marketplace.

DOE's report, entitled, "Clean Coal Technology--The Investment Pays Off," spotlights 23 projects that are in operation or have completed test runs, and another 13 scheduled to come on-line by the end of 1995. In all, 45 clean coal projects in 21 states are underway, representing a federal investment of \$2.5 billion and a private sector match of more than \$4 billion.

The first group of suc-

cessful projects are aimed at modernizing existing coal-fired plants with advanced pollution-control technologies, helping them to meet future environmental challenges while continuing to utilize our abundant coal reserves.

A second batch of projects, scheduled to be up and running between now and the year 2000, will focus on the development of cleaner and more efficient power generating systems for use in the years ahead.

The new coal technologies being developed under the clean coal program also offer the United States a competitive edge in world markets, where the demand for clean coal technologies is skyrocketing.

DOE officials predict that by the year 2010, the global demand for clean energy technologies will create a \$200 billion export market. The early success of the clean coal program puts our country in an excellent position to capture a significant share of that market.

The Clean Coal Technology program is fulfilling the promise that I envisioned when I created the initiative in mid-1985: that through a working partnership between government and private industry, we can strengthen our economy and achieve a greater measure of energy independence by maximizing the use of coal in the 21st Century.

April 6, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Confronting the No. 1 Drug Abuse Problem of America's Youth

If asked, most Americans might guess that the drug most commonly abused by America's youth is marijuana, "crack," cocaine, or heroin.

However, according to statistics compiled by the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, alcohol remains the Number One drug problem among young Americans.

Just as with illicit drugs, alcohol impairs one's judgment, causes people to drive recklessly, contributes to highway accidents and fatalities, and is often a contributing factor in assaults and murders. Alcohol can also lead to the gradual death of habitual drinkers.

According to 1988 data, alcoholism and related problems annually cost the nation \$85.8 billion -- \$27.5 billion more than the cost of the illicit use of other drugs.

Less than ten years ago -- 1985 -- approximately 4.6 million teenagers, ages 14-17, experienced "negative consequences" (automobile accidents, arrests for intoxication, and such) as a result of the consumption of alcohol.

Worse, in 1988 alone, 800 children up to age 14, and more than 8,000 young

Americans ages 15-24, died in alcohol-related highway accidents.

Again, while automobile drivers age 16 to 24 comprise but 17 percent of our total of licensed drivers, this age group is involved in about 36 percent of all fatal, alcohol-related automobile crashes.

Further, a recent survey indicated that nearly one third of high school seniors believe that no risk is involved in imbibing four or five alcoholic drinks almost every day!

Against this background, I succeeded in adding an amendment to the "Goals 2000: Educate America Bill," recently signed into law, calling for every school in the United States to be alcohol-free, as well as drug-free.

The aim of my amendment is to ensure that alcohol abuse receives as much corrective attention as that directed toward the elimination of other dangerous drugs.

We must not ignore alcohol and drug abuse by teenagers. Our schools should demand of our children greater self-discipline and personal responsibility, and insist on a drug-free, alcohol-free educational environment.

April 13, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Sylvan Treasure

Recently, I helped dedicate the newly completed "Falls of Hills Creek Trail," a scenic 114-acre delight located near Richwood, Nicholas County, in the Monongahela National Forest. I added more than \$800,000 in federal funds to make this site more accessible and tourist friendly. This is money well spent.

Included in this development are three waterfalls, one of them -- at 63 feet -- the second highest in our state, as well as a series of improved pathways, boardwalks, and stairs to better accommodate hikers and other visitors.

The nearly one-million-acre Monongahela National Forest serves multiple uses as a massive watershed for the Ohio and Potomac Rivers, as one of the world's finest timber stands, and as the site for great outdoor recreation areas for camping, hunting, fishing, and tourism.

Annually, an estimated 2.2 million people visit sites in the Monongahela National Forest and surrounding areas, such as Spruce Knob -- the highest elevation in West Virginia -- Seneca Rocks, Cranberry Glades, the Canaan Valley, Blackwater Falls, Dolly Sods, and Smokehole Canyon.

Significantly, these visitors -- many from outside West Virginia -- add

dollars to West Virginia's economy through motels and hotels, restaurants, and other tourist-oriented enterprises.

Recognizing the value of tourism to our state's economy, throughout my Senate career, I have promoted efforts to strike a balance between enhancing the Monongahela National Forest as a tourism resource and protecting its natural beauty and tranquility.

In the past 2 years, I provided \$3.4 million to initiate replacement of the busy Seneca Rocks Visitors Center, which had been destroyed by fire in 1992.

In 1989 alone, an estimated 144,000 tourists visited Seneca Rocks, while authorities estimate that more than 10,000 climbers annually attempt to scale this unique rock formation.

In response to such popularity, in 1990, I helped dedicate a new Seneca Shadows Campground, for which I had provided more than \$2 million in federal funds to replace a prior facility destroyed by flooding. This camping facility can accommodate 550 campers and contains a 200-seat amphitheater.

My aim is that the Monongahela National Forest will play an important role in our state -- combining the preservation of natural wonders with the benefits of tourism dollars.

April 20, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Battling the Backlog

For many coal miners, the diagnosis of black lung disease--or pneumoconiosis--confers a lifetime sentence. Lungs clogged after years of breathing fine coal dust can eventually shut down, forcing sufferers to rely on equipment for every breath they take.

In 1970, the federal government took significant steps with respect to pneumoconiosis with the approval of new federal standards to cut down on the amount of coal dust inhaled by miners. A year earlier, in 1969, I was a co-sponsor of legislation to create a federal benefits program to help those who suffer from black lung disease.

Three different Administrations have, for more than a decade, recommended the closing of black lung field offices. During that time, I have worked to keep black lung field offices open and to unplug the black lung claim backlog and afford claimants the quickest possible decision. Among my efforts has been the addition of money to federal appropriations bills to provide extra resources to the Black Lung Benefits Review Board (BRB), the entity that makes the final decisions on black lung appeals.

During Senate hearings last year, incoming Labor

Secretary Robert Reich--at my urging--agreed to make every effort to clear up the backlog of black lung claims at the appeals level. After Executive Branch foot-dragging on the claims backlog since the early 1980's, Secretary Reich's willingness to work on this problem was welcome news.

Just recently, Secretary Reich reported to me that significant progress has been made in whittling down the claims backlog. In fact, since appointing new leadership at the BRB last July, Secretary Reich told me that the average time between receipt of a black lung appeal and its disposition has been reduced by 30 percent.

In addition to my efforts to eliminate claims backlogs and to keep clinics and black lung offices in operation, I recently co-sponsored legislation to reform the black lung program and to make the process for determining eligibility for black lung benefits more equitable.

Black lung sufferers deserve the benefits to which they are entitled, and they deserve a speedy decision on their claims. I, for one, will continue my efforts to help ensure that that happens.

April 27, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Opening the Book on Reading

In a recent survey, the A.C. Nielsen polling company discovered that American children ages 6 through 11 watch television nearly 24 hours each week.

The same survey revealed that this trend continues into the teenage years, during which American youth watch television an average of nearly 22 hours a week.

Indeed, the American Psychological Association (APA) suggests that television may exert a malignant influence on young children, exposing them to gratuitous violence and teaching them antisocial attitudes toward others.

In particular, the APA reports that, by the time an American child, watching the average of three hours of commercial television programming per day, has attained the seventh-grade level, he or she has already witnessed an average of 8,000 television murders and been exposed to more than 100,000 other assorted acts of violence.

Since its widespread introduction into American homes in the 1950's, television has usurped undeserved numbers of precious hours in which children might be otherwise occupied with one of life's most rewarding activities: Reading.

Reading enjoys a special place in our heritage.

In generations past, children were schooled primarily to equip them to read the Bible. The young Abraham Lincoln was so hungry for the written word that, after all of his daily chores were completed, he curled up with books beside the fireplace to read long into the night. Many immigrants coming to this country arrived desperate to learn to read, a skill that their peasant origins in some parts of Europe had denied them.

Our American heritage -- indeed, our West Virginia heritage -- has traditionally placed a high premium on reading skills. Good reading ability, as well as an acquaintance with the rich corpus of American and English literature, is an entree to a wealth of wisdom, knowledge, and pleasure that can lend priceless joy to any life.

I hope that more adults will introduce their children to the rewards of reading by first reading to their children, and then by encouraging their children to read for themselves.

Any child who grows to maturity with a love of reading will eternally bless those who introduced him or her to that magical appetite.

So, turn off that television set, and hand your child a book!

May 4, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Economic Warming Trend

Although there is still much work ahead and many gains to be made, I am encouraged this spring by the recent release of studies indicating an "economic warming trend" in West Virginia.

A study by Georgia State University (GSU), released earlier this year, reports that economic growth in the southeastern U.S., including West Virginia, outpaced the rest of the nation during the last quarter of 1993. Of West Virginia, the study says that "solid economic expansion is occurring in this coal state."

The GSU study highlights construction, retail trade, and convention lodging as West Virginia growth areas, finding particularly that an increase in federal employment, which I have helped bring to West Virginia, is boosting our state's economy.

Further, a January Kiplinger Washington Letter predicted that during 1994, "Government projects will give West Virginia a lift..." noting especially some of my initiatives for our state, including the new NASA Independent Verification and Validation Center at Fairmont, the FBI Fingerprint Center at

Clarksburg, and the Coast Guard and IRS facilities near Martinsburg.

The increased federal presence that I am shepherding to our state is bringing construction jobs and long-term employment, while also supplying an economic transfusion for communities and private-sector businesses that provide supplies, equipment, and support services to new enterprises and their employees.

In addition, better highways, for which I have added federal funding to appropriations bills, are helping to attract new enterprises into our state and providing easier, less-costly transport of goods for our businesses, while opening West Virginia to expanded tourism -- the state's fastest-growing industry.

The studies cited above indicate that my efforts to lay a sturdy foundation for economic growth in West Virginia are paying off. The work of erecting a superstructure on that foundation lies ahead, and that is the responsibility of all West Virginians. Together, we should seize every opportunity to add to the current momentum of economic growth and to continue forging our state's future.

May 11, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Extending Health Care To Rural West Virginia

On my most recent trip through Southern West Virginia, I travelled to Northfork in McDowell County to participate in dedication ceremonies for a new health care facility that will serve local residents.

The drive to McDowell County underscores one of the key elements of health care delivery in our state: access to doctors, nurses, and medical facilities.

For a state like West Virginia--with many small communities nestled in mountainous terrain--the ability to get to a doctor or to a medical facility is crucial to those seeking health care.

In my ongoing effort to improve and expand health care in West Virginia, I have concentrated my energies in two areas: outreach programs, and health care delivery on the local level, such as the new Northfork clinic, a satellite facility of the Tug River Health Association, Inc., located in Gary.

The new health care center, for which I added \$500,000 in funds to the federal budget, will afford close-in primary dental and basic health services to people in the Northfork area, without the need first to travel to distant hospitals and clinics.

The Northfork facility--which also required local matching funds and which is operated, in part, by local volunteers--demonstrates the importance that many rural West Virginians attach

to having primary health care near at hand.

Outreach programs are also critical to health care in West Virginia, which will be the primary mission of the Southern West Virginia Center for Rural Health, a Huntington-based facility for which I added \$4.5 million in federal funds to a 1993 appropriations bill.

The new facility in Huntington--for which ground will be broken soon--will serve the health needs of a dozen West Virginia counties: Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln, Mingo, Logan, Boone, McDowell, Wyoming, Mason, Roane, Putnam, and Jackson.

To further meet the health needs of West Virginia's rural population, I have supported the establishment of the Mountaineer Doctor Television (MDTV) network.

Since 1991, I have added more than \$2.8 million to federal funding bills for MDTV, which affords physicians in a growing number of rural health facilities access to expert assistance from the West Virginia University Medical Center and the Charleston Area Medical Center via two-way, interactive television hook-ups.

These innovative health programs promise genuine improvements in rural health care in our state, and should make important contributions to the health of thousands of West Virginians in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Haitian Refugee Crisis

Like other Americans, I am moved by the multiple problems besetting the people of Haiti.

A country with no democratic tradition, Haiti has suffered a succession of dictatorial regimes, interrupted at points by U.S. interventions.

Worse, Haiti has ranked for decades as one of the world's poorest countries.

Disastrously, since 1992, thousands of Haitians have taken to the sea in flimsy craft, headed for the United States in a quixotic dash for economic opportunity.

In late 1992, an estimated 500,000 Haitians were prepared to exodus their country to seek asylum in the United States.

During the 1992 election, now President Clinton criticized the Administration policy of repatriating Haitian economic refugees intercepted at sea, while advising genuine political refugees to seek U.S. asylum at processing centers in Haiti.

But, facing reality, President Clinton later declared his intention to continue the policy initiated by the previous administration.

Recently however, President Clinton reversed himself, announcing the processing of would-be Haitian asylum-seekers at sea or in third countries, if possible.

This is a return to a policy that had to be abandoned when 10,000 Haitian refugees were intercepted in May 1992 alone, with 12,000 Haitian refugees living in tents at Guantanamo

Bay, Cuba.

While Americans empathize with Haitians' desire for a better life, the United States cannot solve the economic problems of the world by opening our country, piecemeal, to millions wanting a better standard of living.

Thousands of Americans are currently struggling with long-term unemployment or underemployment, seeking to forestall their own plunge into poverty and hopelessness.

Moreover, particularly at this time, the states in the Southeast and Southwest are not equipped -- nor is the Federal government equipped -- to absorb tens of thousands of economic refugees flooding into our borders with few, if any, employable skills and little knowledge of English or any means of survival other than by becoming wards of the state.

Our schools, hospitals, and social service agencies are already stretched to meet the needs of our own citizens. The further burden placed on these agencies by the additional needs of thousands upon thousand of immigrants threatens to strain them to the breaking point.

We cannot afford to permit a political crisis to become the cover for an influx of economic refugees seeking a better life in the United States.

Better, we should continue pressuring Haiti to institute a legal, democratic government that will begin to meet the real needs, political and economic, of the Haitian people.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Well Done, West Virginians

West Virginia's outstanding workforce is a key pillar in the state's economic foundation and a crucial component in my effort to expand and diversify our state's economy.

Two recent events in West Virginia in which I participated underscored just how valuable our West Virginia workers are, and how they serve as one of our state's strongest selling points to federal agencies and private-sector firms looking to expand or relocate.

Most recently, I attended an awards ceremony in Parkersburg in which eight public service employees were honored for their community service activities. At an earlier gathering in Charleston, I joined with AT&T employees to celebrate their company's decision to retain its Kanawha County Customer Sales and Service (CSS) office--a decision largely based on the remarkable productivity and high quality of work performed by the men and women who staff that facility.

Both functions allowed me to shine the spotlight on the contributions of our workers to West Virginia's economic prosperity.

A case in point is the expansion of the Bureau of Public Debt operation in Parkersburg. In response to my repeated urgings, the Bureau of Public Debt, in 1991, began the process of consolidating its offices at its Parkersburg facility, which boasted exceptionally high productivity and low turnover.

The Bureau explained its decision this way: "Our

[Parkersburg] computer center is highly regarded as a modern, efficient, and well managed installation. A primary reason for that is because of our well-trained and experienced staff....Two-thirds of our employees have more than 15 years of service with the Bureau. This is a very unusual and desirable level of data processing experience....Our employment and retention experience in Parkersburg has been very positive and is one of the most dramatic differences between our Parkersburg and Washington locations."

Employee excellence was also cited as a key factor in AT&T's reversal of an earlier decision to close its Charleston CSS office. After AT&T announced plans to eliminate its Charleston operation, the employees there refused to quit. In fact, they put their shoulders to the wheel and increased the facility's productivity--and their high sense of dedication was rewarded with a decision by AT&T to remain in Charleston. Such a reversal does not come easily to a large national company, but AT&T officials demonstrated that they understand that a firm is only as good as its employees.

The experiences of AT&T and the Bureau of Public Debt are just two examples of the numerous success stories attributed to West Virginia's strong work ethic. West Virginians understand the meaning of hard work and a job well done, and the rewards of that attitude are being felt across our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Good Program Run Amok

A letter I received recently from a West Virginia teacher touched a deep chord and compelled me to call into question the operation of a federal entitlement program that reportedly is creating problems in our nation's classrooms.

Let me share a portion of that teacher's letter that describes a situation she believes has been created by abuses of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) children's disability program, which provides monthly cash benefits to students who have been tagged medically or behaviorally disabled.

"I want to talk to you about an issue which is probably the most insurmountable obstacle I have to face as a teacher....students now are rewarded monetarily for disruptive behavior and lack of any effort by SSI payments," the teacher wrote.

"The resulting situation is that many students know the 'racket' and deliberately try to fail so they can test into special education. Students who are placed in a special education program at school can apply for these benefits and receive over \$400 a month," she said.

Armed with these words--and with several news stories which detailed reported abuses of the SSI program--I recently questioned top federal officials during a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing about the operation of the program, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Social Security Administration (SSA).

The officials acknowledged "shortcomings" in the program, which channels benefits to nearly 600,000 children nationwide, and agreed to provide the Senate Appropriations Committee with a detailed report aimed at correcting the program's flaws.

No one wants to deprive children of needed benefits, but reports of parents "coaching" their children to disrupt class and disobey their teachers in order to qualify for SSI benefits raises serious concerns about the operation of this program.

I was particularly disturbed when, during subcommittee testimony, federal officials admitted that the SSA had not included provisions in the disability program regulations to guard against fraud because they had not contemplated possible abuse of the program.

I am also troubled that the program guidelines do not require that the monthly disability checks be spent on services to help the recipients.

Unfortunately, the SSI children's disability program is a prime example of a well-intentioned federal program running amok, and the warning bells that have been sounded about its operation need to be answered.

The goal of the program--to provide assistance for disabled children--is one that I support, and I hope that SSA officials will take immediate steps to get this program back on track.

June 8, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's 131st Birthday

On June 20, 1863, West Virginia was officially admitted to the Union as the Thirty-Fifth State.

West Virginia was born at a crucial time in American history, recognizing its responsibility to remain loyal to the Union, but accepting that its borders were lined with a large aggregate of Confederate loyalists, some of whom later served in high public office in the newly formed state of West Virginia.

But the history of West Virginia did not begin in 1863.

Long before European explorers came to America, numerous Indian tribes inhabited parts of West Virginia, and during the Colonial Era, much of current Southern West Virginia was claimed by the Cherokee nation.

In 1763, following the French and Indian War, the British Crown sought to limit settlement in present-day West Virginia, all to naught.

Into West Virginia poured the vanguard of the great American pioneer expansion westward toward the Pacific.

Into the vacancy of then western Virginia came such pioneers as Christopher Gist, Thomas Decker, Morgan Morgan, Andrew

Lewis, Daniel Boone, Lewis Wetzel, and "Mad Anne" Bailey.

Many of those whose plans included traveling toward the riches of western gold and silver found the natural beauty of West Virginia too great to abandon and settled in the Mountain State, recognizing the value West Virginia provided in raising a family and establishing one's place in society.

Today, many West Virginians have kept alive those pioneer values and the spirit of individual responsibility and personal achievement on which our nation and our state were originally founded.

West Virginia is a unique place, and West Virginians are possessed of a rare heritage that blends religious faith, an innate patriotism, a love of liberty, family loyalty, personal integrity and self-discipline, and an appreciation for the natural beauties that continue to surround them in their lives.

On this, West Virginia's 131st birthday, we all should embrace the pioneering mindset of our forefathers as we bring West Virginia into the 21st century.

Happy birthday, wild, wonderful West Virginia!

June 15, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Working for Working West Virginians

In approaching the new millennium, West Virginia, as the rest of the country, must meet the challenges of a global economy by continuing our efforts to maximize our productivity. Honing this competitive edge has been, and will continue to be, inextricably tied to the health and safety of our work force.

Growing up in West Virginia's coal fields made me acutely aware of the health and safety needs of the worker. Consequently, much of my public service career has been aimed at improving the working conditions of West Virginia's workers.

In 1969, I secured the first funding for the National Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beckley, and I have continued to support this critical facility by adding more than \$23 million, over the years, to build, equip, and operate it. In 1992, I dedicated a new disaster simulation laboratory there. This lab gives disaster-relief workers realistic experience in responding to mine emergencies.

In the early 1960's, I pioneered efforts toward improved worker safety by establishing the Appalachian Laboratory on Occupational Safety and Health (ALOSH) in Morgantown. Subsequently, recognizing increased needs and the commendable work taking place at the ALOSH facility, I added nearly \$60 million to appropriations bills, beginning in fiscal 1990, to construct and equip a new ultra-modern laboratory at Morgantown -- the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

NIOSH, construction of which is slated for completion in early 1995, is planned to be a world-class center for research into workplace health and safety. The work at NIOSH is intended to put worker safety and health considerations at the forefront of the planning stage of any workplace construction or design project.

As a complement to these efforts, I recently announced that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has chosen to designate West Virginia University (WVU) as the location of its Region III OSHA Training Center.

This initiative, which will be a collaborative endeavor between WVU and the AFL-CIO -- serving West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia -- will offer public training classes targeted to safety administrators, industry officials, and others interested in worker safety.

From the steel mills in our northern panhandle, to the chemical plants in the Kanawha Valley, to our southern coalfields, West Virginia's industries -- which, by their very nature, entail hazardous activities for our workers -- are realizing the competitive bonuses of promoting a safe and healthy work force.

Indeed, West Virginia's pioneering efforts with the National Mine Safety and Health Academy, ALOSH, NIOSH, and the new OSHA Training Center will help to put West Virginia in the forefront of the study and promotion of a safe, healthy workplace.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preparing for the Challenges of Tomorrow

Less than a generation ago, a young West Virginia teenager might leave school at the legal age; find work in the mines, steel mills, chemical plants, or other industries in our state; and carve out a lifelong occupation at decent wages.

Today, we live in a vastly changed economic landscape.

Our coal mines are increasingly mechanized; those steel mills still operating against foreign competition are more and more specialized in both products and employees; and the chemical industry is similarly an international proposition, with many once American jobs now located outside the United States.

Cosmically, we are in the vestibule of the Space Age, and yet, many American school children have little inkling of even how to locate their home states on a map of the United States!

In too many of our schools, more energy is expended in behalf of athletic competition than in classroom competition. Star athletes carry more prestige than chemistry and math geniuses, and, too often, more money is expended on athletic equipment or driver education than on computers and laboratory equipment.

Simultaneously, across the Pacific Ocean, year af-

ter year, young Japanese students fix their sights on academic achievement, suffering pangs of deep anxiety as they prepare for examinations to determine their educational and professional futures. The competition for places in top-ranking Japanese universities and professional schools is intense.

And across the Atlantic Ocean, in Germany, 50 percent of high school students spend two or more hours daily on homework, and only 7 or 8 percent watch television for five or more hours daily.

By contrast, only 29 percent of U.S. students expend a similar amount of time daily on homework, while between 21 and 24 percent waste as much as five hours daily in front of the television tube.

Those Japanese and German young people are the future economic competitors that our American youth will be confronting in the world marketplace.

That is the future.

Our children are our most precious assets.

Our schools are the institutions charged with preparing our children to meet the challenges of the future.

Will young Americans be prepared to compete on the economic playing fields of the 21st century?



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

“Back to Basics”

An old song about 19th century schooling begins, “School days, school days, dear old Golden Rule days! Reading and writing and ‘rithmetic,”

Unfortunately, though our schools were originally established to educate our youth in the essential disciplines vital to making a living or advancing academically in a serious and competitive society, increasing demands have come to burden teachers and the school day with activities and options that too often crowd out serious academic subjects.

Today, academic subjects too often must compete for time in our schools with pep rallies, sports, driver’s training, and various clubs and other non-academic activities, all in a school day the length of six hours or less.

This is not to say that some such activities are not valuable in themselves, or that our students should not strive for a well-rounded education. But this smorgasbord of non-academic choices confronting our students leaves too little time for the “core” academic subjects that are increasingly vital for success in world competition.

Recently, a distinguished group of Ameri-

cans -- the National Education Commission on Time and Learning -- recommended both to the Federal government and the National Governors’ Association that the bulk of schooltime should be refocused on subjects such as English, mathematics, geography, the sciences, algebra, history, geometry, physics, chemistry, economics, foreign languages, civics, and the arts.

Throughout their years of pre-university schooling, German students spend an average of 3,528 hours in such “core” subjects, French students 3,280 hours, and Japanese students 3,170 hours.

Alarmingly, U.S. students average only 1,460 hours in comparable subjects during the same period.

Today, Western Europe and Eastern Asia are competing head to head with the United States in nearly every field of production and business.

As a nation and as a people, we have an obligation to prepare our children for the realities of the future.

Let us allow the schools to do what schools can do best: Teach serious academic subjects in a serious educational atmosphere.

July 6, 1994



By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Resisting the Tide Of Illegal Immigration

Recently, I presided over a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing to explore the problems -- including the increasing costs -- associated with illegal immigration in the United States.

Illegal immigrants have forced heavy financial burdens on this nation as a whole, and our border states, such as California and Florida, have been especially pinched. Several states have recently taken legal action, claiming that federal mandates have caused them undue financial hardship. These states have all but completely tried to exempt themselves from any of the blame for illegal immigration, pointing the finger of responsibility solely at the federal government.

In their testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee, the governors of Arizona, California, and Florida decried the problems of illegal immigration and called for more federal funding to reimburse their states for the costs of addressing these growing problems.

The Federal government does have a legitimate responsibility to re-analyze and modify its immigration policies. But the problems of illegal immigration are not limited to federal laws and mandates. It is time to realize that border states, as well as the Federal government, bear the burden for helping to stem the swelling ranks of illegal immigrants.

In my study of the issue, I found evidence that California, to some extent, encourages immigrants to enter its borders illegally. In a 1993 brochure, the California Department of

Health Services promoted a state-administered program entitled "Baby-Cal." The brochure invites illegal immigrants to receive pre-natal and maternity care and promises, "If you are not lawfully in the U.S. or have applied for amnesty, Medi-Cal will not report you to the INS" (Immigration and Naturalization Service). The care is free to the illegal immigrants, but is paid for by the tax dollars of legal U.S. citizens.

Regrettably, programs such as "Baby-Cal" act like magnets to attract illegals across our borders, making it even more difficult to barricade against illegal immigration. As long as immigrants know that the states will provide free medical care and citizenship for their newborn children, they will continue to be encouraged to enter U.S. borders illegally and take advantage of the hospitality of generous state-administered welfare programs such as California's "Baby-Cal."

While solutions to the problem of illegal immigration are far from fruition, it is clear that we need to refocus our priorities. Illegal immigration is a problem that affects all levels of government and threatens government's ability to adequately serve our own citizens.

Issuing a blank federal check is no solution to the problem. That is not a responsible or comprehensive answer.

It is clear that our country needs to refocus its priorities. Employers, state and local employees, and officials at all levels of government must get serious about the problem of illegal aliens if progress on this front is ever to be made.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Investments In Tomorrow

Recently, at a ceremony at Shepherd College at which I formally recognized the 1993 and 1994 West Virginia recipients of the national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships, I challenged today's young students, saying, "Never stop growing; never cease wondering; never end your search for knowledge."

I have long believed that West Virginia's bright young men and women are among our state's most valuable assets, and I am deeply proud of the young scholars whom I met at Shepherd College.

As a means of encouraging such promising high school students to continue their educations, I initiated a national program in 1987 -- subsequently named by my Senate colleagues the "Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship" program -- to provide \$1,500 scholarships to talented graduating high school seniors who have been accepted for enrollment at an institution of higher education.

This program was expanded in 1993 to allow qualified recipients to apply for the same amount in each of the following three years of education.

These "Byrd Scholarships" are awarded to students in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

This year, 44 young West Virginians were named Byrd Scholars, bringing to a total of 345 the number of West Virginians who have been so hon-

ored since the beginning of the program, and to \$517,500 the amount awarded to these young West Virginians since 1987.

In West Virginia, Byrd Scholars are selected by a five-member panel composed of representatives from the West Virginia Department of Education and the Central Office of the State College and University System. The awards are based entirely on scholastic excellence -- not on extracurricular activities.

In addition, this year, 301 West Virginia high school valedictorians received the Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Award, which includes a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond, and is presented annually to valedictorians of each of West Virginia's public, private, and parochial high schools, as well as the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

Since its beginning in 1969, this award, funded from a private trust, has been presented to 6,898 graduating West Virginia high school seniors, totaling awards valued at more than \$155,000 since its inception.

These young men and women are the future of West Virginia.

Believing as I do that hard work and genuine achievement merit our encouragement and reward, these recognitions of scholastic excellence are important investments in tomorrow.

July 20, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

National Gems

West Virginia's Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is celebrating an important anniversary this year -- its 50th birthday.

To mark that event, I participated in a dedication ceremony early this summer for the Park's latest additions -- namely, the John Brown Museum and the Industrial Museum.

As I spoke that day in Harpers Ferry, I was struck by the number of families who had gathered to enjoy the celebration and the park's many exhibits, and I felt gratified that the renovations and improvements at the Harpers Ferry facility had been made possible by nearly \$30 million in federal funding that I had obtained over the past 15 years.

In a larger sense, Harpers Ferry -- which, according to National Park Service officials, last year drew 375,000 visitors who pumped over \$30 million into the local economy -- is one in a strand of National Park pearls that stretches across our country, standing as a prime example of the benefits offered by our system of federally supported parks.

American writer Wallace Stegner said, "National Parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American -- absolutely democratic. They reflect us at our best...."

Our National Parks represent much of what is great in our country: They preserve our natural wonders, provide a place for recreation and peaceful reflection away from the stresses of

our daily lives, and educate us about our history, advancing our understanding of the past in order to prepare us for the future.

Indeed, investments in our park system are investments in the future, and if we want the benefits which we derive from the parks to be available to our children, our children's children, and generations beyond, we must continue to preserve and protect these valuable resources.

In addition to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia is blessed with a number of park system units and facilities -- among them the New River Gorge National River, the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, and the proposed Wheeling National Heritage Area and Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge -- that bring to our state hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. These facilities not only enrich the lives of people who visit them, but they also expand economic opportunities in the communities in which they are located.

As chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have worked hard to maintain and improve not only West Virginia's national parks and facilities, but also the park areas across our nation which annually draw millions of men, women, and children.

Our National Parks are gems that merit careful polishing, and I am committed to continuing my efforts to make needed investments in our National Park system.

July 27, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Challenge to Young Americans

Recently, I hosted a luncheon at the U.S. Capitol for participants in the 1994 National Youth Science Camp, an assembly of some of America's most promising young high school scientists, selected from every state in the Union, including West Virginia.

Conducted for more than three decades annually at the Pocahontas County 4-H Camp near Bartow, the National Youth Science Camp aims to bring some of our nation's brightest young men and women together for several days' exposure to outstanding scientists, national leaders, and the beauties of West Virginia, in hopes of inspiring these young people to pursue careers in science and related fields, as well as to introduce them to the natural wonders and hospitality of our state.

At the Capitol luncheon, I reminded the Youth Science Campers that, just as past generations faced prodigious challenges and triumphed, their generation, too, would face obstacles ahead, and that into their hands would likewise be delivered the duty of preserving, strengthening, and improving our country.

In West Virginia and

across the nation, our most precious assets are, indeed, our children -- boys and girls who will be tomorrow's parents, leaders, and decision-makers.

Some of the challenges that I issued at the Youth Science Camp luncheon are appropriate for all of the young people of West Virginia, as well.

In 1994, and as the beginning of the Third Millennium approaches, our youth are confronting a rapidly changing world.

Unfortunately, those who are not prepared to work and perform in such a world will find themselves in marginal or peripheral occupations.

To make the most of their promise, today's young men and women must not accept easy paths. Further, they must learn to accept only the best from themselves. To do otherwise will be to cheat themselves.

That is the primary challenge facing the rising generation.

For my own part, and with my eyes on the future, I shall continue working to lay foundations on which young West Virginians can depend in their efforts to meet the future with optimism and courage.

August 3, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taking Aim at School Violence

For the sake of our children's future, I am deeply concerned about our schools. Schools should be sacred precincts, in which students should be free to learn, search, and expand their minds, without fear for their very lives.

I am frankly alarmed that American school children daily face increasing crime and violence. Some of America's schools have become "war zones," with teachers living in fear for their lives and innocent children becoming casualties.

We have come to a sad state of affairs when metal detectors have to be installed at the schoolhouse door, and unless we take deliberate steps now to halt the violence in our schools, I fear for the future of our country.

This is not a problem restricted to urban settings. Regrettably, weapons and violence are turning up even in the small rural schools in our own state.

For that reason, I recently offered two amendments -- which the Senate adopted -- to the "Improving America's School Act," my amendments being aimed at addressing the problem of violence increasingly infecting our schools.

Many educational systems choose to address the problem of students bringing weapons to school through their own disciplinary process: taking the weapons away; sending students home; giving them detention; or reporting them

to their parents. These amount to little more than "slap-on-the-wrist" punishments that circumvent local law enforcement.

Possession of a gun on school property is a felony, and the police should be notified.

Accordingly, I offered an amendment -- which the Senate adopted -- directing every local educational agency to require school officials to refer to the criminal justice system any student bringing a weapon to school.

The Senate also approved my amendment to require the U.S. Secretary of Education to conduct the first major study of violence in schools since 1978. As a gauge of the extent of the problem and the scope and success of ongoing efforts to counter school violence, this study would be an initial step toward developing a national plan of action for combating this insidious problem.

One of the most basic lessons that history teaches is that unless each generation is initiated into disciplines that past generations have mastered, a civilization cannot expect to survive.

In West Virginia and across America, our schools are the forges of our future.

For the sake of our children, for the sake of our culture, for the sake of the continued promise of our country, let us give the attention required to make our schools safe and free from weapons.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting the Wild in Wonderful West Virginia

Throughout my career in the Senate, I have worked for modern development across our state -- highway construction, recreational and flood-control dams, water and sewer improvements, energy development, improved locks on our major rivers, and other projects aimed at creating jobs and raising the standards of living of all West Virginians.

In these efforts, however, I have likewise been concerned to preserve and enhance one of West Virginia's most unique assets -- the natural wonders that are precious elements in our state's heritage.

Toward that end, in 1990, as a result of \$850,000 in funding that I added to an appropriations bill, the first eight islands were acquired to establish the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, our state's first such natural reservation.

More recently, I helped to obtain \$2 million in a fiscal 1994 appropriations bill to initiate land purchase for the formation of the Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge in Tucker County.

This summer, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquired the first 86-acre portion of this new wildlife refuge, in an area of the Canaan Valley known as Balsam Swamp.

This acreage comprises the cornerstone of West Virginia's second -- and the

nation's 500th -- National Wildlife Refuge.

Subsequent to the initial allocation, I supported another \$2 million in a fiscal 1995 appropriations bill, now making its way through Congress, toward the eventual acquisition of approximately 24,000 acres for the Canaan Valley refuge.

The Canaan Valley has long been recognized as one of West Virginia's most extraordinary natural features, hosting a wide array of animal species and more than 500 varieties of plants, including several found elsewhere only in some Canadian tundra regions.

The establishment of the Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge represents a vital investment in the future -- especially, the future of our children and grandchildren -- by preserving for rising generations thousands of West Virginia acres of unique wetlands, and botanical and wildlife species almost exclusive to West Virginia.

I believe intensely in economic development, but I also believe profoundly in our stewardship of those invaluable natural assets that set West Virginia apart among the States.

The new Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge will help to ensure that rising generations of West Virginians enjoy ageless resources that make our state a natural wonderland.

August 17, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Erma Byrd Scholars

Recently, Marshall University announced the first six West Virginia recipients of a new scholarship named in honor of my wife, Erma Byrd.

Established by Marshall University in May, the Erma Byrd Scholarship Program will offer six \$1,500 scholarships annually to West Virginia high school graduates. The scholarships can be renewed each year based on collegiate academic performance.

The 1994-1995 Erma Byrd Scholars include Kimberly Elaine Adams of Barbourville, Cabell County; Kelley T. Burns of Logan, Logan County; Littia C. Chaowadee of South Charleston, Kanawha County; Leann Renee Haines of Parkersburg, Wood County; Joseph E. Remias of Wheeling, Ohio County; and Serena Lynn Starcher of Buffalo, Putnam County.

Under the program, two recipients will be selected annually from each of the state's three congressional districts. Selections will be made by an advisory board appointed by the president of Marshall University and consisting of a chairperson, a representative from each of the state's congressional districts, and two Marshall

University faculty members.

In addition to the scholarship funds, Erma Byrd Scholars will be automatically enrolled in the Marshall University Honors Program and will participate in an annual trip to Washington, D.C., to learn more about the workings of government.

Ensuring that higher education is available to our state's scholars is a goal I have worked toward for years, and the Erma Byrd Scholars Program offers West Virginians yet another college-funding option.

Together with the Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Awards and the national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program, the Erma Byrd Scholarship Program will help some of the future leaders of our nation to receive the training and education they will need to lead us in the next millennium, and I am deeply touched that this program has been named in my wife Erma's honor.

Erma joins me in congratulating these outstanding students, who have demonstrated a commitment to learning in their high school careers, and we wish them well as they continue their educations at Marshall University.

August 24, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Progress Report on Education

I have long been an advocate of better schools and improved academic performance by students.

Both in West Virginia and across the nation, our children are our future. Their standards of living in the years ahead and the performance of the United States on the world scene will, in large measure, depend on the quality of the teaching and learning that take place in our elementary and secondary schools.

Thus, I have been, and will continue to be, a firm supporter of policies and programs that promise and deliver the mastery of so-called "basic subjects" -- classical disciplines such as mathematics, science, English grammar, history, and geography, for example.

Understandably, I am somewhat encouraged by a report just released by the U.S. Department of Education regarding the program "the National Assessment of Progress," instituted following a 1983 report, "Nation at Risk."

According to the most recent report, students are generally taking more rigorous math and science courses than they did 20 years ago.

Further, in 1992, 78 percent of 9-year-olds understood simple scientific principles and knew some basic facts about plants and

animals, up from a reported 68 percent in 1977.

In math, in 1992, 28 percent of 9-year-olds were able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide using whole numbers, up from only 20 percent in 1978. Even better, 17-year-olds made gains in the same area, with a reported 97 percent in 1992, compared with 92 percent in 1978.

Unfortunately, in 1992, 60 percent of 9-year-olds, 64 percent of 13-year-olds, and 47 percent of 17-year-olds reported watching television three or more hours daily.

Worse, about one-third of the 17-year-olds reported having no homework in 1992, or having homework that they did not do.

And, interestingly, this recent study determined that the more time a 17-year-old spent on homework, the better his or her reading proficiency became.

Certainly, some students are on the right track.

But, for more American children, learning must become their primary task during their childhood and teenage years.

And, as their parents and role models, we must not be satisfied until every West Virginia school child is performing academically to his or her highest level.

Our future depends largely on that achievement.

August 31, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's High-tech Arsenal

As West Virginia stands on the threshold of the next millennium, it faces 21st century challenges with a new weapon in its economic arsenal--high technology.

I have long recognized the importance of high tech to West Virginia and the role that our state can play in our national quest to compete in increasingly technical world markets.

As I have worked to bring a number of high-tech initiatives into our state, the advantages they offer in terms of greater economic opportunities and increased job prospects have begun to be realized throughout West Virginia.

First and foremost, high-technology development in West Virginia is affording our mainstay industries the opportunity to take advantage of the latest high-tech advances. By applying cutting-edge techniques to their traditional manufacturing processes, our private sector will be better armed for the increasingly competitive world trade arena.

In that regard, I have worked to promote many technology transfer initiatives in West Virginia, including the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Flexible Manufacturing Systems in Huntington, the Robert C. Byrd Hardwood Technology Center in Princeton, the National Technology Transfer Center in Wheeling, and the revolutionary computerized manufacturing system, known as L&IS, at Weirton Steel.

Training West Virginians for work in this rapidly growing environment is a second critical component

of my high-tech game plan for West Virginia.

That is why I have worked to establish the Classroom of the Future at Wheeling Jesuit College, a new science and technology facility at Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, and the ADAnet computer language project at West Virginia University in Morgantown--all of which are aimed at providing the skills necessary for the high-tech jobs of the future.

Finally, with one of the most extensive, technologically advanced fiber-optics networks in the nation, West Virginia is a perfect location for many of our nation's high-technology government facilities and their back offices.

As West Virginia's high-tech network has grown, so has our state's ability to attract public and private state-of-the-art facilities. To that end, I have succeeded in bringing the FBI Fingerprint Identification Facility to Clarksburg; the IRS Computing Center, the U.S. Coast Guard Operations Systems Center, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Computer Center to Martinsburg; and the NASA Independent Verification and Validation facility to Fairmont.

These federal facilities, coupled with private-sector development and a growing cadre of workers trained in high-tech disciplines, are placing West Virginia squarely on the plateau of 21st century high technology and are offering our state new economic opportunities in the coming years.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Life-saving Health Services for West Virginia Women

In 1991, 336 women in our state died of breast cancer--the second leading cause of death among West Virginia women.

In that same year, nearly one-third of West Virginia women aged 40 and over had never had a mammogram--the most effective means to detect breast cancer in its early stages.

These are disturbing statistics since, in many cases, early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer can greatly improve breast cancer survival rates.

Throughout my career of public service, I have worked to put into place new facilities and programs that can provide West Virginians with health-care services close to home, including specialized services required to combat cancer.

One such facility is the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center on the campus of West Virginia University. This state-of-the-art facility for the diagnosis and treatment of all forms of cancer was constructed with \$13.3 million I obtained in federal funding.

In 1991, the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, the medical clinic on the campus of Marshall University, and Women and Children's Hospital of the Charleston Area Medical Center were selected as three of the first sites in the country for a unique Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) program, designed to deliver breast and cervical cancer diagnoses, prevention, and education to at-risk women.

Made possible by approximately \$5 million in federal funding that I added to an appropriations bill, CDC's Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (BCCSP) now has been expanded throughout West Virginia. With 126 screening sites, this program, administered by the West Virginia Bureau of Public Health, has made significant strides since its inception.

Between April 1991 and April 1994, more than 48,000 screenings had been conducted, serving approximately 30,000 West Virginia women through the BCCSP.

Enough emphasis cannot be placed on the fact that early intervention is critical to saving the lives of women with breast cancer. The commendable goal of this program is to ensure that at least 80 percent of West Virginia women, aged 40 and over, receive a clinical breast examination and mammogram by the year 2000.

To reach this goal, the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, in conjunction with the state Bureau of Public Health, has developed and disseminated educational materials that have supplemented the program's statewide public information and outreach campaign.

The three-pronged approach of the BCCSP--education, early diagnosis, and state-of-the-art treatment--now conducted throughout West Virginia exemplifies my vision of promoting accessible health care for West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Schools at Risk

More than 30 years ago, Congress mandated a periodic National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) report -- subsequently dubbed "The Nation's Report Card" -- on academic achievement among our nation's school children.

Subsequently, in 1983, the U.S. Department of Education released a NAEP report entitled "A Nation at Risk," which warned that not enough time was being spent in schools on academic subjects -- "the Basics" -- for example, English, mathematics, science, history, and geography.

Unfortunately, many in educational "ivory towers" have apparently ignored that warning.

Currently, in more than 30 states, followers of educational fads are committed to a school-reform process called "Outcome-Based Education" -- "OBE," for short.

The goals of OBE are not academic, but psychological and sociological: tolerance; intra- and inter-group communication; self-esteem; environmentalism; and group-centered problem-solving. Mastery of subject matter is apparently considered secondary; grades and achievement measurement are ignored; curriculum and textbooks are "dumbed down"; mathematical and spelling accuracy are de-emphasized; testing and competition are shunned; and children are increasingly being treated as educational guinea pigs in obedience to "scholastic political correctness."

The OBE fad is being

served at the expense of scholastic performance, to the detriment of our children, and at the risk of producing public school graduates unfit for collegiate-level work and -- worse -- the job market, nationally and internationally.

Grades and achievement measurement are very important, and, when a student demonstrates mastery of subject matter, self-esteem will follow. Competition in scholastic activities is desirable, because when students go out into the real world, they are going to come face to face with real competition. To deemphasize mathematical and spelling accuracy and to "dumb-down" our textbooks are not only ridiculous but just plain foolish.

Overwhelmingly, parents, elected officials, and taxpayers who underwrite our schools are demanding that educators spend time, money, and resources on guaranteeing achievement in the classic, basic disciplines. If the proponents of scholastic fads do not heed this demand, reform will be imposed from outside the educational establishment.

No one should expect that the public schools can solve all of society's problems, personal or social. But we do have a right to expect our schools to prepare our children to master a predetermined body of disciplines needed for jobs, careers, and achievement in a modern economy.

Before it is too late, both for our country and for our children, let us hope that academic excellence is reinstated as the primary goal of our schools nationwide.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reaching Out With West Virginia's Scientific "Ear"

In November 1988, the old National Radio Telescope at Green Bank, Pocahontas County, collapsed.

Understandably, the collapse of the telescope brought a cry of dismay from the Nation's scientific community, with calls for an early replacement.

Subsequently, to replace this vital scientific instrument, I added \$75 million to a supplemental appropriations bill in 1989.

Since then, construction at the Green Bank site has moved forward rapidly, with planned construction currently approximately 50 percent finished, and completion scheduled for autumn of 1996.

When fully operational, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) will place West Virginia firmly in the front ranks of international space research.

In spite of the 1988 calamity, the Green Bank scientific installation has nevertheless continued to host numerous educational activities, in anticipation of fully resumed research and training in the future.

For example, a series of Science Teachers Training programs, conducted by NRAO in partnership with West Virginia University (WVU), has been offered regularly since 1987, with support from both the National Science and Benedum Foundations. Since their inception, these programs have involved more than 350 teachers from across the country in exhaustive two-week summer courses that feature lectures on astronomy, actual scientific research using a 40-foot-diameter radio telescope, de-

tailed seminars about science education, and construction of scientific instruments for classroom use.

Since 1987, these seminar-trained teachers have conducted workshops in their own school districts, sharing their knowledge and training with an estimated 15,000 other science teachers across the nation.

This year, the Teachers Training program was redesigned to concentrate on West Virginia teachers, as well as college students attending WVU and Glenville State, West Liberty, and Fairmont State Colleges who are training to be teachers. As part of the redesigned Green Bank program, which will continue through 1996, the college student participants will be assigned to "student-teach" in schools near their colleges. Through this redesigned program, West Virginia teachers, schools, and students will be further enriched by the expertise available at Green Bank.

Additionally, the Observatory staff conducts workshops for small college science faculties nationwide; provides summer jobs for undergraduate science, engineering, and computer students; conducts tours for interested visitors; and, in cooperation with Glenville State, provides an "elder-hostel" program that allows the senior citizen participants to operate the 40-foot-diameter radio telescope.

Certainly, the Green Bank facility is proving its value as an educational tool, and I look forward to the completion and dedication of the new massive telescope and fully resumed activities two years hence.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Promise of Corridor H

Economic prosperity flows along concrete rivers.

For nearly thirty years, the people of West Virginia and the other twelve Appalachian States have been promised interconnected streams of asphalt -- the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor Highways -- that would serve as inlets for economic opportunities.

But, since 1965, when the ARC Corridors were roughly mapped out in legislation to authorize the Commission, the promise of a completed ARC Corridor Highway system has remained unfulfilled.

I am working to remedy that.

As chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have increased the federal share of funding for Corridor Highway construction, recognizing that industry and jobs would otherwise find only limited passage into the mountains and valleys of Appalachia.

Further, I was able to include the entire Corridor Highway System, as well as U.S. 52 in Southern West Virginia, as part of the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).

As a result of my efforts, West Virginia -- the only state entirely within the region identified as Appalachia -- has seen reenergized progress on Corridor Highway construction in recent years. Since 1989, I have added to appropriations bills the full federal share needed to complete

construction of Corridor G from Charleston, to Logan, to Williamson, and the total federal portion of funds required to upgrade to four lanes the full length of Corridor L, which runs from I-79 near Sutton to I-64 near Beckley.

In addition, over recent years, I have added \$10 million to a bill for planning and design of the Parkersburg Bypass of Corridor D and \$160.5 million to several bills for construction on Corridor H.

This year, based on the West Virginia Division of Highways' decision that work could begin next year on additional sections of Corridor H, I added \$110 million to two federal appropriations bills, which have been signed into law, to enable the project to move forward without delay.

This new funding brings to \$270.5 million the total monies I have added to federal appropriations bills to help ensure that the dotted lines that now signify Corridor H on West Virginia road maps will be filled in over the coming years.

In the meantime, the federal government must continue to make good on its nearly 30-year-old promise to the people of West Virginia, and I will keep fighting to see that Corridor H from Weston to Wardensville is eventually completed, opening Central West Virginia to further economic growth.

October 5, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The War on Crime Begins at Home

Crime is a terrible problem in our country. Parents fear for the safety of their children. People are being terrorized in their own neighborhoods. Even in West Virginia, which has consistently reported crime rates among the very lowest in the nation, criminal activity is growing.

Congress recently passed, and the President signed into law, the Fiscal 1995 Commerce/Justice/State Appropriations Bill, which will provide the money to initiate community policing programs, construct prisons, strengthen efforts to prevent illegal immigration, and support other crime-combating initiatives.

The bill includes \$84.4 million I sought for continued development of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) computerized fingerprint identification system that will be housed at the new FBI center at Clarksburg, a project for which I have obtained more than \$500 million.

The ultra-modern computerized system will provide law enforcement officers at every level with nearly instant access to fingerprint information and criminal history files, thus helping to identify, track, and catch law-breakers.

Also in the appropriations bill is \$19.6 million I

sought to provide start-up costs and initial staffing for the \$60 million Beckley Federal Prison, now under construction in Raleigh County with funding I provided as part of a 1990 anti-crime, anti-drug package.

The Beckley prison will help to ensure that prison cells are available in which to lock up the climbing numbers of criminals and hold them for the duration of their sentences.

These measures, though important, are only a small part of the solution to crime in our country. To a large extent, crime must be fought at the local level, by the officers on the beat, prosecutors, judges, and community members.

But most importantly, crime prevention begins at home, fostered by parents who instill in their children a strong sense of family and religious values -- the kind of traditional values still alive today in West Virginia.

At every opportunity, I speak on the Senate floor and in West Virginia about the need to return to those "old values," and I will continue to do so, recognizing that no amount of laws can replace the home-grown foundation of religious faith and family values in the fight against crime.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Time to Turn Back the "Values Clock"

Like most West Virginians, I am increasingly concerned about the deterioration that I witness in public morals, entertainment, and personal values in our national life.

For most of this century, mass communications -- movies, radio, and television, in particular -- have increasingly glamorized the values, preferences, and lifestyles of immoral, and even criminal, elements of our society, to the point of displacing responsible behavior.

Day in and day out, television and movies trivialize adultery, drug use, juvenile delinquency, rape, violence, murder, profanity, cheating, and a variety of perversions.

Indeed, the words of some popular rock and "rap" songs are not fit for utterance in decent company.

Responsible behavior, lawfulness, religion, patriotism, industriousness, fidelity, honesty, hard work, self discipline, and other values that render civilized life possible are routinely ridiculed, satirized, and denigrated.

No society or culture can hope to survive and flourish if it flouts the values and traditions on which civilization depends universally, and America, which is the paramount embodiment of mankind's highest

aspirations, is no exception.

From the beginning of American history, the family has been the primary promoter of our value system. From one generation to the next, American families have instilled in their offspring a respect for the Ten Commandments and other great religious principles, and have imbued them with a strong sense of right and wrong, of duty to country, and respect for authority and the law -- values that are primary building blocks for character and citizenship, and precepts without which societies and nations cannot survive.

Similarly, religious faith has been a well-spring, nourishing the highest ideals of personal and public morality, as well as citizenship and public responsibility.

For too long, however, both the family and religion have suffered undeserved assaults.

The philosophy of "do your own thing" is a cancer eating away at the soul of our country.

The time has come to reverse this immorality, and to turn back the "values clock" in our country.

In the name of national survival and community preservation, the traditional family and religious values must be restored to positions of primacy in American life.

October 19, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Caring For Our National Treasures

It was fitting that the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Education and Training Center (NETC) in the Eastern Panhandle took place on a dazzling day that showcased West Virginia's impending fall glory.

As we assembled to herald the beginnings of this new, state-of-the-art facility, I was struck by the appropriate choice of West Virginia as the location for the national center, which is being built with more than \$103 million that I obtained in federal appropriations bills.

Indeed, West Virginia's abundant assets and its close proximity to Washington, D.C., made it the logical site for the NETC, which will become the national training headquarters for the men and women who will protect and manage our country's precious natural resources.

When the National Education and Training Center is fully operational -- sometime in late 1996 -- it will be staffed by approximately 200 permanent and contract personnel and will provide training to as many as 250 federal and state conservation professionals at a time.

This new center is not only a symbol of our nation's commitment to protecting America's bounty,

but it also serves to remind us that each generation has a sacred covenant with the generations that follow to preserve our natural heritage so that it might be enjoyed in the years ahead.

The NETC -- a 16-building complex being built on a 538-acre Jefferson County site along the Potomac River -- will include classrooms, laboratories, administrative space, and living quarters for those who will train there. The facility also will be available for conservation instruction to environmentalists, civic organizations, and school groups.

Because the future of America's growing awareness of environmental issues rests with our youth, I am particularly encouraged that our young people, who will be the next millennium's caretakers of the land, will have access to the training center and to the professionals who stand on the front lines of the effort to maintain our country's natural treasures.

With all West Virginians, I look forward to the opening of the National Education and Training Center, both to share the glories of West Virginia with natural resources professionals from across the country and to provide those professionals with the most up-to-date facilities in which to train.

October 26, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Update on the Idea Of American Citizenship

Too often in our contemporary era, we use the word "citizen" without realizing its deep meaning.

In the Book of Acts, in the New Testament, as the Apostle Paul is about to be scourged like a commoner, he startled the authorities in Jerusalem by declaring that he was legally a Roman citizen, and demanded that he be tried in Rome.

That demand -- the legal right of a Roman citizen to be tried in Rome -- set the local officials into a panic, for Roman citizenship in the Ancient World bore with it a value of which few of us today can conceive.

Perhaps only one other citizenship in world history can parallel the prestige of Roman citizenship, and that is American citizenship.

Indeed, in many ways today, American citizenship is the equivalent of Ancient Roman citizenship.

Because of its value, annually, thousands seek illegal entrance into the United States, largely because of the Privileges that they perceive as belonging to Americans.

Unfortunately, most people do not grasp that American citizenship is not only about Privilege, but even more so about responsibility.

To some people,

American citizenship means being able to do whatever one wants to do.

But as perhaps no men have in human history, our Founding Fathers understood that there was a price that could be exacted for the political creation that they had brought into existence. They stated that price in the Declaration of Independence: "...We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

Based on that model, American citizenship is not doing what one wants to do, but doing what one ought to do.

Best understood, the essence of American citizenship is responsibility -- responsibility for one's own behavior, responsibility for one's own family, responsibility for one's own community, and responsibility for one's own country.

As we move toward the close of this century and further into the third century of our life as a nation, I hope that increasing numbers of West Virginians and their fellow Americans will actively nurture an inner sense of citizen responsibility, commitment, and dedication, without which this "last, best hope of earth" -- as Abraham Lincoln described our Nation -- might be lost.

November 2, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Handy Hotlines

West Virginians often have questions about Federal programs and services, and about regulations and opportunities that may affect them directly. Sometimes help is just a phone call away, and I have found that the following list of toll-free Federal hotlines can help West Virginians find answers to some of their questions.

Retired Army Pay Problems	1-800-428-2290
Cancer Hotline (National)	1-800-422-6237
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	
Medicare Information	1-800-638-6833
Medical Scholarship Information	1-800-638-0824
National Runaway Switchboard	1-800-621-4000
(For parents and runaways to leave messages)	
Consumer Product Safety Commission	1-800-638-2772
(Product recall, complaints, fact sheets)	
Financial Aid for College Students (National)	
Department of Education	1-800-433-3243
National Guard "ChalleNGe" Program	1-800-529-7700
AIDS Hotline (National)	1-800-342-2437
(HIV and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Information)	
Pesticide Emergency Information	1-800-858-7378
National Health Information Center	1-800-336-4797
Energy Conservation Hotline	1-800-428-2525
Hill-Burton Free Hospital Care Hotline ...	1-800-638-0742
Small Business Administration	1-800-827-5722
Social Security Administration	1-800-772-1213
West Virginia Veterans Affairs Office	1-800-827-1000
National Drug Hotline	1-800-662-4357
(Drug-abuse help and information)	
Safe Drinking Water Hotline	1-800-426-4791
Hazardous Waste and Superfund	
Information	1-800-424-9346
Auto Safety Hotline	1-800-424-9393
(Auto-safety information and complaints)	
Washington, D.C., Central Reservation	
Center	1-800-554-2220
(Information on lodging in the Nation's Capital)	

November 10, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Expanding the MDTV Network

West Virginia's revolutionary health-care tool -- Mountaineer Doctor Television (MDTV) -- is poised to add a new channel to its growing network.

Beginning next month, the Clarksburg Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center will become part of the MDTV system, a two-way, interactive television hookup that allows doctors and patients in the state's rural hospitals to consult with specialists at medical hub centers at West Virginia University (WVU) Medical Center in Morgantown and the Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC).

In the past several years, I have added more than \$5 million to federal appropriations bills to establish MDTV in West Virginia and to expand it into rural corners of our state where health care is not readily accessible.

MDTV is an exciting medical outreach program that promises genuine improvement in rural health care in our state. I expect that MDTV will make important contributions to the health of thousands of West Virginians in the years ahead.

Currently, MDTV connects its two major hub sites -- at WVU in Morgantown and CAMC in Charleston -- to six sites across West Virginia: Wetzel County Hos-

pital, New Martinsville; Davis Memorial, Elkins; Grant Memorial, Petersburg; Boone Memorial, Madison; St. Joseph's, Buckhannon; and the Cabin Creek Clinic, Kanawha County.

The Clarksburg VA Medical Center will be the seventh West Virginia medical facility connected to the MDTV hub sites, and is expected to be in operation next month.

In addition, I added report language to the Fiscal 1995 Labor/HHS Appropriations Bill to establish two more MDTV hub sites in the state -- at Marshall University in Huntington and the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg. My language also calls for the addition of three new community health centers in West Virginia to the MDTV network, bringing to ten the total number of MDTV remote sites across our state.

Access to modern health care and expert medical specialists will be essential for the people of our state in the years ahead.

Thankfully, West Virginia's growing MDTV network will afford much of that access, and will ensure vital services and necessary help to widespread patients through the miracle of an expanding communications system.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

1994 Progress Report

For the past six years -- my sixth term as a U.S. Senator from West Virginia -- my sights have been set on laying deeper and broader foundations for our state's economic future, both for the remaining years of the 1990's and well into the dawning 21st century, little more than a half-dozen years ahead.

Through my appropriations efforts, federal funding for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor Highway G, from Charleston southwest toward Williamson at the Kentucky border, has been completed, as has federal funding for Corridor L, stretching roughly from I-77 near Beckley, Raleigh County, to I-79 near Sutton, Braxton County; more miles of Corridor H, from I-79 near Weston eastward toward Buckhannon and Elkins, have opened; and preliminary design and planning work is underway on upgrading U.S. 52 between Huntington and Bluefield (proposed I-73). In addition, I have added federal funding for the Robert C. Byrd Expressway in Weirton and for the upgrading and four-laning of Route 9 in the Eastern Panhandle.

Further, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I secured necessary federal funding to initiate construction of the new Internal Revenue Service computing center and to further equip the new, 130-person Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms facility -- both in Martinsburg, Berkeley County. Additionally, through my efforts, another 400 new employees are being added to the consolidated Bureau of

Public Debt in Parkersburg, Wood County, which will eventually employ approximately 1,540 people.

In addition, in September, I broke ground for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's new National Education and Training Center near Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, another facility for which I added funding to federal appropriations bills.

In crime fighting, my appropriations efforts advanced the continued construction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Fingerprint Identification Center near Clarksburg, Harrison County, which will eventually employ an estimated 2,500 people; and the construction of the new Federal Medium Security Prison at Beckley, Raleigh County, which will employ nearly 500 people and which is more than two-thirds complete.

Moreover, I was successful in adding funding for construction of new library facilities at Marshall University, Huntington, and the College of West Virginia, Beckley, as well as a new science and technology facility at Shepherd College, in the Eastern Panhandle.

These examples represent only a portion of the initiatives on which I have been working to provide new opportunities for economic growth for West Virginia and her people well into the next century.

During my seventh term in the Senate, I shall continue doing everything feasible to promote West Virginia's economic growth and future statewide prosperity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Filling a National Need

The United States set a bleak new record recently: For the first time in American history, more than 1 million people are incarcerated in our nation's jails.

Given these figures and the escalating crime rate in our country, the need for adequate prison space becomes a national priority.

West Virginia is on the verge of playing an important role in helping to fulfill that national need with the soon-to-be-completed medium-security federal prison in Beckley, Raleigh County.

That facility -- being built with funding that I provided in a federal appropriations bill -- is almost seventy percent complete, and efforts to staff the new prison are already underway.

Nearly 500 employees will be required to run the new prison, which will house 1,536 inmates and which is expected to be in full operation in mid-1995.

According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, nearly two-thirds of the Beckley Federal prison employees will be drawn from the West Virginia workforce, a process that is already underway.

Recently, Federal Bureau of Prisons Director Kathleen Hawk advised me

that a warden and two associate wardens -- both of whom have West Virginia connections -- have been appointed to run the Beckley prison.

In addition, the Federal Bureau of Prisons held a two-day job fair in Beckley at the beginning of November, and the response was overwhelming. More than 3,000 people attended the sessions, and job applications were requested by more than 2,800.

Federal officials tell me that correctional officer positions at the new prison will be the largest number filled, and positions also will be available in the medical, food service, educational, and clerical fields.

Federal Bureau of Prisons officials report that exceptionally well-qualified, experienced candidates were seen for all disciplines, and, based on this, they are optimistic that they will have no difficulty finding people for positions that traditionally have been hard to fill. This is a tribute to West Virginia and to the strong work ethic that is a hallmark of our West Virginia workforce.

With all West Virginians, I look forward to the completion of this new federal facility and to the jobs that it will bring.

November 30, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

GATT

I recently voted to delay Senate consideration of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Uruguay Round, believing that this massive trade agreement deserved more time for study than the 20 hours allowed under the "fast track" process.

Further, I believe that an agreement with the potential to adversely impact our nation's economy and federal, state, and local laws should not be voted on by the lame-duck members of this Congress, who are retiring or were defeated in the recent elections. For these lame-duck members, this was a free vote. They will not have to face the voters and answer for their vote on GATT.

I do not believe that GATT, as currently crafted, will best serve the interests of West Virginia or the nation as a whole.

Too often in the past, I have seen our nation enter into "free-trade" agreements that are touted as a route to better economic times and increased job opportunities, only later to witness jobs moving overseas. Such has been the case in West Virginia, where many manufacturing industries have declined as foreign concerns have captured a greater share of the domestic and international markets.

One of the most disconcerting parts of the GATT agreement is the establishment of a secretive World Trade Organization -- a new body comprised of unelected, unaccountable,

international bureaucrats with extensive powers, which can be used in secretive ways against the U.S.

The WTO, in which the U.S. will have no veto, will have the leverage to influence elimination or modification of a staggering range of federal, state, and municipal laws and regulations dealing with labor issues, environmental protection, food labeling, meat inspection, and other consumer health and safety protections.

Further, if we refuse to change our laws to suit the WTO, our nation can be fined, thus imposing, in effect, taxes on the American people.

Additionally, the WTO can determine that one U.S. industry is in violation of GATT rules, but impose sanctions on another part of our economy. For example, sanctions could be imposed on the agricultural industry for failure to comply with a GATT ruling on the automobile industry.

Against my warnings and in spite of my procedural move to block consideration of GATT until the next Congress, the proponents of this agreement were successful in gaining Congressional approval.

Some suggest that if we dislike what we get as a member of GATT, we can simply withdraw, but the reality is that we will have limited opportunities to do so. Pulling out of this kind of agreement is never a quick and easy process.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

1994 Progress Report: Health Services

For the past several years, I have been working to expand and improve West Virginia's health care infrastructure -- those facilities and programs of outreach aimed at delivering education and treatment to meet pressing health problems in our state.

In continuing that effort, this year, for example, I added funds to an appropriations bill for two veterans-oriented health programs -- construction of a medical research addition at the Huntington Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, and for continued operation of a veterans' health-services demonstration project being conducted cooperatively by the Clarksburg VA Medical Center and Ruby Memorial Hospital at West Virginia University (WVU) in Morgantown.

Additionally, I added monies to build a new health care clinic at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, a facility that will serve residents of Greenbrier, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, and Summers counties.

Specifically targeting West Virginia's unusually high incidence of heart and lung diseases, I added funds to the Labor/Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill to establish at the West Virginia University School of Medicine an ultra-modern facility to provide medical education and

treatment geared to the needs of cardiovascular and respiratory-disease patients.

Also this year, I added funds to the Labor/HHS bill for the further expansion of Mountaineer Doctor Television, a state-of-the-art medical outreach program for which I provided initial funding in fiscal 1992 to connect physicians at the WVU Health Sciences Center with rural areas, so that patients and doctors in outlying regions can have instant access to specialized medical expertise.

These recently funded initiatives join a list of other health care programs I have aided in putting into place in West Virginia in recent years.

The Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, for example, constructed with a total of \$13.3 million in federal funds which I added to bills beginning in fiscal 1986, is giving West Virginians close-to-home expert diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Also funded with my appropriations from prior years are a new rural health clinic taking shape at Marshall University in Huntington and a new Centers for Disease Control Laboratory in Morgantown for the study of workplace health and safety.

These and other programs and facilities in our state are helping to make top-of-the-line health care services more readily available to all West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Joyous Season of Endings And New Beginnings

For generations, this season of the year -- those weeks preceding and following the Winter Solstice -- has played a significant role in Western civilization, in which America has assumed an ever-growing role.

The Christian Church has long celebrated December 25 as the birthday of Jesus Christ, with an added festival on January 6 to memorialize the visit of the Three Wise Men at the stable in Bethlehem.

Judaism has set aside an eight-day period in late November and early December to commemorate Hanukkah -- a remembrance of the recapture of the Temple in Jerusalem in 165 B.C. from Syrian Greeks after its defilement with pagan worship.

And from the Romans, we have the month of January, named after the god Janus, whose name meant "door," and who was the deity of beginnings.

Religious festivals of light and joy are particularly appropriate during a season of shortening days, lengthening shadows, and early darkness -- festivals for giving thanks to God for life, love, and blessings, and for sharing the warmth of our hearts with family and

friends.

Likewise, January, with New Year's Day, represents a logical season for starting anew, establishing fresh habits, resolving to work harder and to do better, and setting valuable goals.

At this time of year, I extend my own best wishes to all of the people of West Virginia, in a hope that their lives and homes will be filled with the real spirit of this special season, and that the dawning new year -- 1995 -- will be more fulfilling and rewarding than even the passing year has been.

More importantly, perhaps, I offer my hope that West Virginians will take special precautions on the highways of our state during this season.

Too often, these holidays have been occasions for indulgence in alcohol, with catastrophic consequences on our highways and tragic results for some travellers and their loved ones.

To everyone, then, I wish the most joyous of holiday seasons, accompanied by a sincere hope that the New Year will bring enlarged prosperity and enriching fulfillment.

Happy 1995, West Virginia!

December 21, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The West Virginia Spirit

One Sunday morning some weeks ago, leafing through The Washington Post, I noticed that West Virginia was the target of one of that newspaper's regular columns.

Each week, the Post sponsors a contest, asking readers to respond to a particular challenge.

The challenge that caught my eye that Sunday encouraged readers to come up with "good" things about West Virginia. That sounds innocent enough, and, as a matter of fact, the challenge was suggested by a West Virginian who was sincere in her desire for positive comments about our home state. The real purpose of this game, unfortunately, is to parody a given target, and in this case, abandoning better judgement, the writers of this column turned a good-natured suggestion into a "roast" of the state I love.

Consequently, after weeks of collecting contest entries, the Post printed the "winners." Readers from as far away as Houston, Texas, joined in the skewering, producing a list of some of the most snide, arrogant, crude, and offensive characterizations that I believe I have ever seen.

As West Virginians, this strikes us as nothing new. Over the years, our

state has perpetually been depicted in television and the movies as a backward state, filled with poverty-stricken, illiterate "hillbillies." Those depictions sting and anger, but it is especially infuriating to me when a major American newspaper encourages the perpetuation of mindless, misguided stereotypes.

West Virginia is a marvelous state, peopled by some of the warmest, most hardworking, charitable, patriotic, and God-fearing men and women in this nation. West Virginians have shared hard times, and perhaps it is these shared hardships and unjust put-downs from so many detractors that have helped to instill in us a fierce pride and loyalty toward our state.

At this time, as our nation faces difficult challenges at home and abroad, it is irresponsible for a newspaper or any individual to spread discord and disunity among our states. Instead, we should be making every effort to inspire among our citizens that combination of loyalty, pride, good will, and concern for neighbors and community that comprise the "West Virginia spirit" -- one of the numberless "good" things West Virginia has to offer.

December 28, 1994



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Caring for Our Children

With the increasing numbers of dual-income families, finding accessible, affordable, quality child care has become a priority concern for many people in our state and nation.

West Virginia is poised to play an important role in the national imperative to develop the best possible daytime care for our national treasures -- America's children.

Toward that end, I recently announced the award of a \$700,000 federal grant -- made possible by funding that I added to the Fiscal 1993 VA/HUD Appropriations Bill -- for construction of a new child care center in Upshur County.

That facility, known as the Child Development Center of Central West Virginia, will replace the existing child care center on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, which currently occupies a temporary structure built during World War II.

The new facility, construction of which should be underway during the summer of 1995, will have space for the children of approximately 85 families,

providing its young clients with a safe, modern environment.

The Child Development Center has a mission beyond its child care function, however -- a mission that will touch children across our state.

Upon its completion, the new center will not only serve as a training site for child care providers, but professionals at the center also will assist individuals in establishing and improving child care throughout West Virginia.

Unquestionably, our children are our nation's most precious assets, and their health and well-being are of paramount concern. With rising numbers of children in a patchwork of child care situations, we must search for ways to ensure their happiness, education, and safety while not in the care of their parents.

I am excited about the evolution of the Child Development Center in Upshur County and the promise it holds for our children, and I look forward to the completion of its new facility and the growth of the new child-care initiative that will take root there.

January 4, 1995



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Caution: Fiscal Rapids Ahead!

Since earliest times, people have questioned the use of their taxes and have resisted tax increases.

Little wonder that any suggestion of the reduction, cancellation, or reformulation of any tax is generally greeted with an initial burst of enthusiasm.

The truth is, however, that, without revenues supplied by taxes, governments cannot afford the services virtually demanded by citizens -- national defense, law enforcement, schools, highways and transportation, Social Security benefits, many health services, and more.

In the early 1980's, in allegiance to so-called "supply-side" economic theories, a massive tax reduction was pushed through Congress by the administration then in power, without adequate attention to the overall impact of that tax reduction and without a parallel reduction in programs favored by most Americans. At the same time, the administration launched the most far-reaching defense buildup in American history.

Unfortunately, the result was the \$4.5-trillion-plus national debt that now plagues our country and threatens to burden rising generations of Americans for decades to come with heavy interest payments on the debt.

More ominously, currently, voices in both national political parties are attempting to outdo one another in promising tax cuts.

In order to pay for these tax cuts, the President has already put forward a plan, with few details, for federal program cuts.

I anticipate that, in coming weeks, the fever for a tax cut will generate a landslide in Congress of proposed spending cuts and program consolidations, with little thought given to either the impact that tax reductions will have on reducing the federal debt or the havoc that will be wrought on every program from defense and police protection to air-traffic safety and educational quality nationwide.

Wisdom suggests that, for the foreseeable future, money from any federal spending cuts ought to be applied to whittling down our crushing multi-trillion-dollar national debt. Wisdom also suggests that program cuts be made with a surgeon's scalpel instead of an ax, lest we literally cut off our noses to spite our faces in the process.

Certainly, the time has come to put our national fiscal house in order.

Such reordering, however, requires intelligence and vision, not demagoguery and mindlessness.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Restraining Hand of Congress

During 1994, conflicts in little-known areas of the world -- the Balkans, the Horn of Africa, central and southern Africa, southwest Asia, and in the former Soviet Union -- have created economic and humanitarian disasters for countless numbers of people.

Sadly, there are many more cauldrons of ethnic, religious, and ideological tensions brewing in areas around the globe than there are cooks capable of creating a recipe for peace.

In the past year, the United States committed some 48,000 of its men and women in uniform to United Nations (UN) multilateral or unilateral "peacekeeping" operations in Somalia, Haiti, Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, the Sinai, Iraq, and Israel. The United States has provided transportation and financial support for many other UN operations.

U.S. military personnel are the best-equipped, best-organized, and most well-trained forces in the world, and they have the ability and resources to move quickly and effectively to meet any contingency. But the demand for their services is overwhelming, and it threatens to exhaust our personnel and equipment, as well as add considerably to our national budget deficit.

Further, while our hearts go out to those who are caught in the crossfire of warring factions, our best judgment tells us that U.S. military might cannot solve all of the world's problems.

A recent government estimate predicts that the

demand for international humanitarian aid and intervention will skyrocket in 1995. Thus, we can expect a swelling number of calls from around the globe for peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance -- calls that must be answered with a measured response which includes a careful examination of whether or not we can play a legitimate and helpful role in mitigating the conflict.

In the past year, Congressional efforts that I led resulted in the withdrawal of U.S. forces from questionable missions in Somalia and Rwanda.

It was through the much maligned "power of the purse" that the Congress was able to exercise a restraining hand on these military ventures. Absent that power to limit or cut off funding for military operations, the Congress would be impotent to check the President's power to interject our troops in ill-advised military missions.

Congress must continue to fulfill its role in decisions affecting the commitment of U.S. troops and humanitarian support. But in order to do so, the Congress must maintain a firm grasp on the federal purse strings.

I have been, and will continue to be, a steadfast voice for preserving the "power of the purse" for the Congress, the "People's Branch." That is where the framers of the Constitution placed it, and their wisdom has stood the test of time for 200 years.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In Behalf of Voluntary School Prayer

The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America -- part of our "Bill of Rights" -- declares, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...."

That passage was explicitly written into our Bill of Rights at the appeal of Baptist ministers in Virginia, whose own religious liberties had been officially penalized before the American Revolution by Colonial officials.

Unfortunately, since the early 1960's, opponents of all religion have turned that passage of the First Amendment on its head to prohibit the free exercise of religion in our public life and, particularly, to expunge any expression of religious faith from our public schools.

This movement has even gone so far as to deny students the opportunity of having prayer at their high school graduations.

Against that background, should we be surprised to witness nationwide rising drug abuse among our children, rampant teenage sexual promiscuity, children murdering children, gangs of teenage thugs terrorizing

their neighborhoods, and a pervading moral malaise among youth in both our inner cities and our suburbs?

In an effort to restore something of a spiritual balance to our public schools, I have introduced a joint Congressional resolution to propose an Amendment to the Constitution clarifying the intent of the Constitution with regard to public school prayer.

My amendment is not an effort to require or to deny voluntary prayer in schools. My amendment is an effort to make clear that the words that the Constitution uses with regard to religious freedom do not mean that voluntary prayer is prohibited from our public schools or public school activities.

In short, I hope to end a three-decades-long "tyranny of the minority" in denying to the majority of school children in our country the slightest vestige of the exercise of a liberty otherwise guaranteed by the Constitution -- the right of children in our public school system to voluntarily pray in our public schools and their right to voluntarily pray at public school activities.

January 25, 1995



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ushering in West Virginia's High-Tech Future

Two recent grant awards for West Virginia projects -- aimed at helping our industries take advantage of federally sponsored research and advanced technology and at furthering our student's science and math skills -- demonstrate the multi-faceted advantages offered by our state's blossoming high-technology initiatives.

When I began promoting high-tech ventures in West Virginia more than a decade ago, I envisioned the kind of practical application that both of these grants will make possible.

The first, a \$49 million, five-year cooperative agreement between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Wheeling Jesuit College, will provide for operation of the National Technology Transfer Center (NTTC) in Wheeling.

That facility, which was built with \$13.5 million that I added to federal appropriations bills, will pioneer the transfer of federally sponsored high-tech research and advanced technology to the private sector, affording the nation's industries a leg-up in the increasingly competitive world trade arena.

Through the NTTC, West Virginia and U.S. companies will be able to access and leverage billions of dollars worth of federally funded research results,

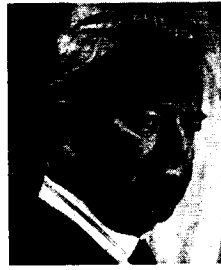
scientific/engineering expertise, and technology -- high-tech know-how that might otherwise be beyond their reach.

The second grant that recently came West Virginia's way -- also from NASA -- is a five-year, \$10 million cooperative agreement for operation of the Classroom of the Future.

The Classroom, which is housed in the Center for Educational Technologies (CETC) on the Wheeling Jesuit campus, is not only providing students with cutting-edge math and science training, but is also spearheading an effort to produce and evaluate educational technology products and programs.

I was in Wheeling this past fall to dedicate the CETC -- construction of which was made possible by \$10 million in federal funding that I added to appropriations bills -- and I was impressed by the tremendous potential offered by this new undertaking, both to our students and to our educators.

Indeed, West Virginia has taken giant strides in the past decade with respect to high technology, and I am optimistic that these latest grant approvals will expand and extend the many benefits that high technology offers West Virginia and the nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Balanced Budget Amendment And the People's Right to Know

An informed and active citizenry is essential to the workings of a representative democracy.

Unfortunately, in the 104th Congress, the new leadership seems determined to ram legislation through the two houses with little or no opportunity for debate, the process by which challenges and solutions are hashed out in public view.

I am not a party to the so-called "Contract with America," that seems to be driving the federal legislative agenda. My contract is with the Constitution of the United States.

The American people have a right to know how their lives and livelihoods will be affected by new laws. They have a right to weigh in on the legislative process with their concerns about, or support for, legislative proposals, and they deserve to have the facts.

The public should be outraged by the actions of some members of the 104th Congress, who are attempting to hide, under a veil of secrecy, the whole truth about legislative proposals such as the proposed Constitutional amendment to balance the budget.

The members of Congress have a responsibility, a duty, to be straightforward with the people they represent. But the proponents of a balanced budget Constitutional amendment seem bent on trying to hustle the ill-conceived proposal through the Congress before the public has the chance to review it. These proponents apparently recognize, as recent polls illustrate, that the more the public learns about the potential effects of the amendment, the less they like it, and the more likely they are to oppose it.

I support reducing the deficits.

I am for the goal of balancing the budget. For those reasons, I voted for budget deficit reduction packages in 1990 and in 1993. Not a single Republican in the House or Senate voted for the 1993 bill that was calculated to shave the deficit by well in excess of \$500 billion over five years.

As the Founding Fathers created it, the United States Senate is an institution intended to foster careful reflection, caution, and considered debate.

As opposed to the House, where members are elected every two years and the legislation is often influenced by the passions sweeping the nation, the Senate was designed by the Constitutional framers as the body where steaming passions would be allowed to cool through thoughtful, thorough examination. It is the Senate's Constitutional role to deliberate, and to guard against hastily produced, poorly crafted, and ill-advised legislation.

To those who are impatient for quick action regardless of the quality of the legislation, this process may seem frustrating, but it is this process that protects the rights of the American public and ensures that legislators will be held accountable for their actions.

I hope that the proponents of the balanced budget amendment will abandon this tactic of denying the public's right to know and will live up to their responsibility to the Constitution and to posterity by participating in a thorough public debate on the proposed Constitutional amendment to balance the budget.

Through such debate, I believe the American public will recognize the pitfalls and the folly of enacting a Constitutional amendment to balance the budget.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Time to Lead

Without question, I am concerned about the burden that will be imposed on future generations if the federal budget deficits are not further reduced.

But I am equally concerned about the possibility that our children and our grandchildren will have to pay an even greater price for another deficit -- a deficit of leadership.

I fear that the members of Congress who favor the balanced budget constitutional amendment, claiming that it is required to force them to take decisive action to whittle down the deficit, are merely using the amendment as a clever dodge to disguise their lack of courage to do the job they were elected to do -- to lead.

A constitutional amendment will give the members of Congress no greater vision and no more power to craft and pass balanced budgets than they already possess.

To the contrary, it will result in a massive shift of power out of the hands of the Congress -- the people's directly elected representatives -- and into the hands of the executive and judiciary branches.

The proposed amendment, if adopted, would drastically change the system of government under which this nation has flourished for over 200 years. It would irreparably damage the Constitution, which, with its carefully weighted checks and balances, its guarantees of liberty, its eloquent preamble, and its flex-

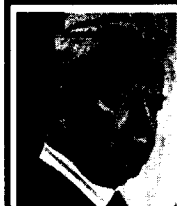
ibility, has inspired, guided, and protected this nation for generations.

I am not opposed to amending the Constitution. In fact, I have voted for constitutional amendments five times in the past. However, I am opposed to attempts to write fiscal policy into the basic charter of our nation, and that is what this amendment would do.

The constitutional framers, believing that fiscal decisions should be left to elected representatives, never intended fiscal policy to be contained in that document. Welding fiscal policy into the Constitution would exclude the kind of flexibility required to respond to changes in the economy, such as recessions, and the result could be even higher deficits, higher unemployment, and a disabled economy.

The budget deficits must be reduced, and I have supported two measures -- one in 1990 and another in 1993 -- that have put the deficits on a downward slope. Like those measures, any future effective plan to balance the budget will require tough, painful choices. It will require courage and leadership, but it can be done.

If the proponents can produce the two-thirds supermajority needed to pass a constitutional amendment, why not begin with an actual plan to further reduce the deficits? Such legislation would only require a simple majority of votes to pass both houses.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

COPS: Fighting Crime on the Local Level

Thanks to a new federal initiative -- the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program -- 116 West Virginia communities recently received grants to help hire extra police officers to patrol their streets.

The COPS program -- established in the 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill to enable local communities to expand their police forces and fight crime on the local level -- was funded through my amendment to the Crime Bill that set up the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund.

Through the latest COPS grants -- a total of \$5,327,620 was awarded -- nearly all of the West Virginia recipients will be able to hire one additional officer, with the exception of Morgantown and Parkersburg, which will be able to hire two new officers.

These latest awards, intended for communities with populations of less than 50,000, are the second round of grants approved for West Virginia under the COPS program.

Under the initial round, Huntington, Morgantown, Clarksburg, and the Boone County Sheriff's Department shared a \$1.2 million grant to hire a total of sixteen new officers, including six each in Huntington and Clarksburg; three in Boone County; and one in Morgantown.

The grants, which are awarded on a competitive

basis, provide up to 75 percent of an officer's salary and benefits over a three-year period. The size of the grants is based, in part, on the salary levels in each community.

Clearly, the battle against crime -- the effort to reclaim our streets and to ensure that our communities are safe from those who would flaunt the laws of the land -- must begin at the grassroots level.

In our homes, parents must continue to teach their children the moral and spiritual values and respect for authority that will enable young Americans to grow into law-abiding adults.

In our schools, our young students must understand respect for their teachers and for their peers, and school authorities should impose the discipline necessary to make schools safe havens for learning and teaching.

In our towns and cities, local leaders must have the financial resources with which to maintain law and order.

The COPS program helps to provide those much-needed resources, and serves as a signal that the local fight against crime has support on the national level.

My hat is off to all of the West Virginia towns and cities that successfully competed for COPS grants, and, in so doing, will gain an extra measure of security in the years to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Poignant Revelation

Recently, former President Ronald Reagan released a letter to the American media revealing that he is suffering from Alzheimer's Disease.

His revelation resulted in a nationwide outpouring of compassion and concern, and it brought renewed attention to this insidious disease.

Millions of Americans suffer from Alzheimer's Disease, most of them not on the national stage, but privately, in the bounds of their homes or nursing homes.

For all Alzheimer's patients and their loved ones, though, the battle against this disease is a lonely and difficult one, waged primarily within the confines of minds that progressively shut down.

Several years ago -- in the hope of establishing a network of services in West Virginia to assist the victims of Alzheimer's and their families -- I added \$9.9 million to a federal appropriations bill to develop the Center for Nuclear Research in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders at West Virginia University (WVU) in Morgantown.

Since that time, I have been successful in adding additional funding to a number of other appropria-

tions measures to expand the Alzheimer's research, treatment, and care network around the state through programs based at WVU and Marshall University in Huntington, as well as through a pilot Alzheimer's day-care facility in Parkersburg.

This past summer, I had the opportunity to dedicate the Parkersburg facility, which was launched by the Wood County Senior Citizens Association with the help of \$700,000 in federal funding that I had added to a fiscal 1992 appropriations bill.

I was struck by the outpouring of gratitude from those who have been touched by Alzheimer's, and that appreciation validated my efforts in West Virginia to help ease the burden of this tragic disease.

The latest statistics show that nearly 36,000 West Virginians suffer from Alzheimer's, a disease that counts among its victims an estimated four million men and women nationwide.

For all of its victims -- from former President Reagan to the millions of average Americans across our land -- we must not relent in our efforts to ease the suffering wrought by Alzheimer's Disease.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In Behalf of Public Broadcasting

It is unfortunate that, under the guise of budget economy, some in Congress have taken advantage of current debate on reducing the federal budget deficits to suggest the dismantling of the Public Broadcasting System (PBS), one of our nation's cultural gems.

Since the early years of television, thoughtful people have sought alternatives to the trash and vulgarity that have increasingly contaminated the television airwaves.

In time, "educational television" laid the foundations for today's public broadcasting stations.

Consequently, as the public television network grew, children in our inner cities and in rural states like West Virginia could be reached by television images that stretched their imaginations, taught them stories by great authors, exposed them to initial concepts in science and arithmetic, and challenged them with mainstream values such as telling the truth, respecting other children, obeying their parents, and becoming good citizens.

The Public Broadcasting System, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and National Public Radio have increasingly filled the voids left by the commercial networks when those networks appeared to turn their backs on good music, drama, public debates, documentaries, and

substance and challenge in entertainment.

Indeed, the Public Broadcasting System has evolved into a kind of cultural cutting edge -- the pioneering network -- that carved the frontiers and plowed the first fields that have provided the market that several other culturally oriented stations are now exploiting.

Lamentably, in commercial television, the bottom line is profit, and until certain kinds of programming prove themselves, most commercial networks are unwilling to take risks on most types of programming -- that is, until public television demonstrates the existence of a market for that kind of programming.

I hope that we will think long and sincerely before we punish, dismantle, or destroy one of the most valuable assets in our national cultural treasury, and risk reducing the Public Broadcasting System, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and National Public Radio to bad and ineffectual imitations of our commercial broadcasting networks.

To stifle, shut down, starve, emasculate, or cripple our Public Broadcasting System, by denying it the seed money that guarantees its very survival in some of our most isolated rural communities, would be to kill one of the finest golden-egg-laying geese on the American cultural scene.

March 8, 1995



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FBI Fingerprint Center is Making its Mark

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has attained another notable milestone on its way toward making its Clarksburg facility a keystone in America's crime-fighting infrastructure -- employee hiring has surpassed the 1,000 mark.

The FBI presence in the state has grown steadily since March of 1991, when thirteen men and women -- including 10 who transferred from FBI headquarters and three newly hired West Virginians—became the first staff members of the West Virginia Fingerprint Division, subsequently named the Criminal Justice Information Services Division (CJIS). With the addition of new employees in recent weeks, CJIS's staff has grown to more than 1,000. When fully operational, the FBI estimates it will employ a staff of approximately 2,500.

Indeed, the FBI facility promises to become a major source of jobs in the years ahead, providing quality job opportunities, not only for those directly working there but for collateral enterprises that will serve both the FBI and its broadening employee base -- department stores, health-care organizations, food suppliers, motels, and such. The growing CJIS will be a dy-

namo to power the economy of North Central West Virginia long into the next century.

In 1990, I was able to add \$185 million to a federal appropriations bill to launch the new ultra-modern fingerprint center. Since then, I have supported more than \$340 million in federal monies to keep the project on track and to develop its state-of-the-art computer system. Construction of the new facility is expected to be completed this summer.

In addition to the benefits to West Virginia's economy, CJIS will place West Virginia in the forefront of America's war on crime. It will provide our country's law enforcement agencies -- local, state, and federal -- with a rapid, advanced computer system for checking fingerprints, revolutionizing the way that law-enforcement personnel track and catch criminals.

I applaud all of those West Virginians who have sought and secured positions with CJIS, as well as those employees who have transferred from FBI headquarters. I renew my heartiest welcome to this exciting, vital, and imperative new crime-fighting institution that is finding a home in our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Line-Item Veto Charade

Many years ago, when the British explorer George Mallory was asked why he wanted to climb Mount Everest, he replied, "Because it is there." In similar fashion, some members of the Senate appear committed to a strategy of despoiling the U.S. Constitution for no other apparent reason than because it is there.

Their latest charge is to enact a measure they claim gives the President line-item veto authority. Never mind that what they actually propose is not a line-item veto at all. Their strategy is to pass anything, in this case something called separate enrollment, and then pawn it off as line-item veto.

Their mutation works like this: Once the House and Senate pass an appropriations bill, every "item" in that bill would be stripped out and magically transformed into a separate bill. This means that, instead of sending the President one spending bill for, say, the Department of Defense, the Congress would actually send him more than a thousand little "billetes." The key problem here is that that process does not meet the requirements of the Constitution.

Article I, section 7, clause 2 of the Constitution requires that "Every Bill" must pass the House and Senate, and before "it" can

become a law "it" must be presented to the President. Under a separate enrollment process, though, several thousand little "its" will be created from the original bill without ever having been passed by the House and Senate. And, to add insult to injury, the sponsors of this legislative sleight of hand even admit the procedure is unconstitutional.

The Congress does not need to trample on the Constitution to achieve the goal that line-item veto proponents are trying to achieve. Senator Daschle, the Democratic Leader, offered a substitute amendment to allow the President to excise any spending. If the Daschle proposal were enacted, all the President would have to do is send a message to Congress and the Congress would be forced to vote on his proposed spending cuts in an expedited manner. If the Congress agreed, the money would not be spent.

Unlike the convoluted and unconstitutional separate enrollment measure, the Daschle amendment was a workable proposal. Moreover, it would not have shifted the balance of powers from the Congress -- the American people's directly elected representatives -- to the Executive Branch and scores of faceless bureaucrats.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Come Out from Behind The Balanced Budget Gimmick!

The United States can boast one of the world's oldest forms of government, with a Constitution that has functioned for more than two centuries, and that has, again and again, served as a model for other nations seeking to forge a more functional, rational system of self-government.

Since its creation in 1787, only 27 amendments have been added to the U.S. Constitution, the first ten of those as the Bill of Rights, adopted in 1791.

To their credit, our forefathers through many generations have declined to trivialize the basic law of the land with a plethora of alterations.

Most recently, a politically motivated effort to add a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution was defeated in the U.S. Senate, and I am glad to have led the charge against it.

I agree that we must make balancing the federal budget a major priority, and I am concerned about our crushing national debt.

We owe it to our children and grandchildren to come to grips with the debt, the deficits, and the rising interest on the debt. But we also owe it to our children to preserve the Constitution's incomparable system of mixed powers and of checks and balances.

Our Constitution has served us well. In no small measure, America has avoided the chaos and disruption that have too often convulsed other nations, and we owe this felicitous circumstance to the sanctity and reverence in which past generations have held our Constitution, and because of our forebears' reluctance to debase the Constitution with politically motivated amendments.

Thus, I have urged my colleagues to put the recent balanced budget amendment vote behind them and to forge bipartisan policies to solve our country's fiscal ills now.

As constructed by James Madison and the other Founding Fathers, the Constitution was never intended to include language promoting any particular fiscal theory or politically partisan policy.

For the sake of the future, let us indeed get on with reducing our federal deficits and paying down our national debt, in a spirit of genuine patriotism, sacrifice, and cooperation.

But let us not achieve those goals by corrupting the most effective instrument of self-government ever devised by human genius -- the Constitution of the United States of America.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Forging the Future on a Foundation of the Past

Nearly fifteen years ago, I began a written narrative of the history of the United States Senate, the fourth and final volume of which has just been published.

This most recently published volume of The Senate: 1789-1989 is a compilation of 46 speeches of enduring historical interest that have been delivered by U.S. Senators over the years.

The other volumes include a chronological overview of the Senate's first 200 years; a topical volume that touches on issues ranging broadly from the structure of the Senate to its role in treaties and impeachments; and a statistical volume that contains facts and figures on nearly every facet of the Senate's history.

My chief purpose in crafting this work, for which I receive no royalties or other income, has been to help instill in the members of the Senate and the American public, now and in the future, a greater awareness of the importance of the Senate's role in our government and the Senate's contributions to our nation's history.

After being sworn in as a new Senator in January 1959, I developed a keen interest in the rules, precedents, and history of the U.S. Senate. For me, the Senate came to mean something far more majestic than its grand halls of marble and its ornate chamber where speeches and laws are made.

There was something about the Senate that was far nobler than these tangible things -- something imperishable. It had a soul!

During my Senate service, particularly in recent years, I have witnessed a disconcerting change in the institution and its membership. Very few Senators today have a sense of history or an understanding of, and reverence for, the role of the institution as intended by the founders of our nation and as molded by the legions of distinguished men and women who have served in the Senate throughout its existence.

Lacking that historical foundation, I fear that many Senators today are ill-prepared to recognize and avoid the perils that have led to the downfall of past leaders, and, in some cases, of entire nations.

Even in recent weeks, as the Senate has considered such issues as the line-item veto and the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, I have seen the disturbing signs of this lack of institutional memory and the threat it poses to our Constitution and our nation.

I hope that my multi-volumed work will serve as a warning beacon to elected leaders and the members of the American public, who might otherwise unwittingly allow a repeat of history's missteps.

We must recognize that it is on the foundation of the past that we forge our future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tax Favors vs. Deficit Reduction

During recent consideration of the 1995 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill, the Senate approved my amendment -- by a vote of 99 to 0 -- to direct all the savings from spending cuts in the bill toward deficit reduction, a requirement that prevents the savings from being used to finance other spending programs or political tax favors.

The Supplemental Bill contains billions of dollars in spending cuts for a broad range of federal programs.

For example, the bill pares funding for agricultural programs, public housing, foreign aid, and airport improvements.

While I cannot agree with all of the rescissions, they are the kinds of painful choices that will be required if we are going to make a serious attempt to cut the budget deficits.

After the recent weeks of nationally televised hand-wringing and teeth-gnashing by members of Congress over the need to balance the federal budget, one would have expected these federal spending cuts to have been directed toward deficit reduction.

Instead, the original version of the Senate bill left these savings unfettered

by such a restriction, allowing them to be redirected toward other federal spending programs or toward offsetting the cost of proposed tax cuts, the lion's share of which, according to the U.S. Treasury Department, will benefit the wealthiest Americans.

It was to correct that glaring error that I offered, and the Senate adopted, my amendment.

However, even as the Senate was embroiled in the final hours of debate on the Supplemental Bill, the House passed a massive tax cut giveaway, which will cost \$189 billion over five years and approximately \$700 billion over ten years in lost revenues. That cut would irresponsibly add to the \$1.2 trillion in spending cuts already needed over the next seven years to bring the budget into balance.

This persistent movement to squander budget savings on tax cuts for the well-to-do and for big corporations is just plain crazy.

Voting for tax cuts is popular. It is an easy vote. But this is not the time for popular, easy votes. This is the time for leadership, for fiscal constraint, and for taking the difficult steps required to reduce the budget deficits.

April 12, 1995



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In Recognition of 25 Years Of Safer Mining

Recently, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) recognized the 25th anniversary of the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, which has led to a quarter-century of effective life-saving health and safety regulations in mining.

Fueled in part by a mine explosion at Farmington in Marion County, West Virginia, in 1968, which resulted in the deaths of 78 miners, the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act was initiated to provide workers with regulated safety requirements and improved working conditions in the mines. The Act, which notably set the foundation for creating the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, has made a significant impact on the mining industry.

West Virginia's abundant coal resources, along with my upbringing in West Virginia's southern coal mining communities, have made mining safety and health issues a priority throughout my career in public office. In 1969, I secured the initial funding for the National Mine Health and Safety Academy in Raleigh County, a facility which is operated by MSHA. Subsequently, I have added more than \$23 million to appropriations bills to upgrade and expand the Academy's services and capabilities.

Further, in 1992, I added \$1.5 million to an appropriations bill to support the creation of a mine disaster simulation laboratory at the Academy. The technologically advanced laboratory realistically simulates mine-disaster conditions, enabling rescue personnel to train for real-life emergencies.

The Academy and its simulation lab are examples of the progress made possible by the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act -- progress evident in safety statistics. During the three-year period prior to passage of the Act, an average of more than 250 workers across the nation died annually in coal mining accidents. Between 1992 and 1994, the average number of annual coal mining deaths totalled fewer than 50.

Also, cases of black-lung disease, caused by inhalation of coal dust in the mines, have been reduced in the last 25 years by an average of 75 percent, and the prevalence of black lung disease among miners has declined by more than two-thirds.

I am thankful for the lives saved because of the passage of the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act 25 years ago, and I commend MSHA's efforts in improving mining safety conditions. Such efforts will continue to earn my support.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Cardinal's Twin Significance

The Cardinal holds special significance for West Virginians.

Since 1949, the brilliant scarlet male and his beautifully subtle mate have served as West Virginia's state bird. Often the only spot of brightness during gray winter months, the Cardinal is a promise of springtime and a sign of each year's renewal.

The "Cardinal" is also the Amtrak passenger train that three days a week stops in southern West Virginia on its runs between New York and Chicago.

For more than a decade, I have worked with Amtrak officials to keep the Cardinal operating through West Virginia, touting its importance to our state's blossoming tourism industry and promoting it as an important link between West Virginia and points beyond.

Earlier this year, Amtrak announced nationwide restructuring of its train routes, citing budget cutbacks as the impetus for its decision to streamline its passenger service. The Cardinal, which has been one of Amtrak's poorest financial performers, faced possible elimination absent the restructuring plan.

During a recent meeting in my office with Amtrak President Thomas M. Downs, I was advised that in September, the Car-

dinal will stop in West Virginia every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, instead of its present Sunday-Wednesday-Friday timetable.

In addition, the train will make its eight West Virginia stops -- in White Sulphur Springs, Alderson, Hinton, Prince, Thurmond, Montgomery, Charleston, and Huntington -- during daylight hours, an improvement in the current schedule of nighttime stops in West Virginia during the New York-to-Chicago leg of the round-trip journey.

Amtrak has also decided to use its more reliable, modern "superliner" cars on the Cardinal route.

This new, daytime schedule, coupled with the fact that full-time weekend service will be offered, should boost ridership and tourism in scenic southern West Virginia.

The endpoints of the Cardinal route will be changed, terminating in Washington, D.C., to the east and Cincinnati to the west.

I am encouraged by Amtrak's plan to make the Cardinal and its entire system more efficient, competitive, and customer-oriented, and, like its avian namesake, I hope that the Cardinal passenger train will provide West Virginia a glimmer of economic springtime in the years to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Origins of Our Nation

Our U.S. Constitution and our system of government are deeply rooted in history.

The Framers of the U.S. Constitution were well acquainted with history and drew upon their knowledge of it as they formulated our governmental system.

Among the Framers' greatest influences was the French author-philosopher Montesquieu, whose political theories were significantly molded by a detailed understanding of the history of the ancient Roman republic and the history of England and the unwritten English constitution. Montesquieu asserted that the three governmental powers -- judicial, executive, and legislative -- should be kept separate and distinct from one another to ensure political freedom and to safeguard against tyrannical rule.

Thus, the Framers, guided by Montesquieu's insight and that of other political philosophers, together with their own knowledge of the classics and of English history and the colonial experience, instituted for the United States a governmental structure of mixed powers and checks and balances.

During my spare-time studies over a period of several years, I came to discover numerous parallels between Roman history and the history of our own republic, including the presence of such sociological

themes as a sense of manifest destiny, religious faith, and family values that instilled patriotism and reverence, self discipline, and respect for authority.

Subsequently, in 1993, I delivered a series of 14 Senate speeches on the history of the ancient Romans and their governmental system.

I used those talks to demonstrate, through the examples of Roman history, the threat to our form of government and our way of life that are posed by popular but ill-conceived proposals, like the line-item veto and the balanced budget Constitutional amendment, that would shift the power of the purse from the legislative to the executive branch, thus undermining the balance of powers.

The full texts of my 14 speeches are contained in a new publication, entitled The Senate of the Roman Republic, for which I receive no royalties or other compensation.

A copy of my book can be purchased, at a cost of \$17.00, including postage, by calling the U.S. Government Printing Office at (202) 512-1808, or by sending a check to the Superintendent of Documents at P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. Your check should be accompanied by a note indicating your name, address, the name of the book, and the stock number: 052-071-01072-6.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Memorial Day, 1995

From its humble beginnings during the Civil War, Memorial Day has grown to serve as our nation's official holiday to honor the patriotic men and women who have fought for our principles and freedoms.

Memorial Day -- or "Decoration Day" as it is often called -- was originally observed on May 30, a date that may have been chosen to correspond with France's "Day of the Ashes," which commemorates the return of Napoleon Bonaparte's remains to French soil. In its earliest years, Memorial Day was an occasion to decorate the graves of the Civil War dead -- both Union and Confederate -- with flowers.

Memorial Day is now officially celebrated on the last Monday of May, serving as one of the "holiday bookends" that mark the unofficial beginning and end of summer and characterized by flags, parades, and the flowers of springtime.

As we prepare to observe yet another Memorial Day, it is worth noting that on numerous occasions in the 20th Century, America's military might has been tapped to restore peace to the world or to save mankind from cruel tyrannies --

against German Imperialism in World War I, against Nazism in World War II, and against militant communism from 1945 until this decade, for instance.

In fact, 1995 marks the 50th Anniversary of V-E Day -- the day that commemorates "Victory in Europe" and the end of the Second World War. During that war -- as they had done in World War I and as they continued to do in subsequent world conflicts, thousands of West Virginians answered the call to duty.

West Virginians are a peace-loving people, but they stand tall when called upon to defend our country's rights and freedoms and to preserve the principles upon which America was founded.

They know, as do I, that a strong national defense is essential to maintaining our liberties -- a fact that has underscored my work in the United States Congress on behalf of a strong, viable defense.

On Memorial Day 1995, then, I join all West Virginians in paying tribute to the contributions of all of the loyal men and women who have served our state and nation with distinction.

May 10, 1995



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Telescope Will Bring Universe Closer to Home

In the early 1600's, astronomer and mathematician Galileo fitted two glass lenses within a long tube and gave birth to the modern telescope -- a device with which man can gaze upon the stars and bring his world closer to the heavens.

Scientific discovery has advanced considerably since the 17th Century, and while Galileo surely marveled at what he saw through the crude lenses which he contrived, he had no way of knowing the level which technology would achieve, exemplified today through the powerful, state-of-the-art radio telescope currently under construction at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank in Pocahontas County.

It was in response to the collapse of the vintage 1962 telescope at Green Bank in 1988, coupled with the need for a sensitive and sophisticated device for research and development, that I added \$75 million to a 1989 federal appropriations bill for the construction of the new Green Bank Telescope.

When operational in late 1996, signals from the sun, planets, stars, and galaxies gathered by the telescope will be studied by astronomers to help provide a greater understanding of the evolution and workings of the universe.

The recent placement of a 336,000-pound, 148-foot axle marked the end of the initial phase of construction. The axle is a key component in the telescope's mov-

ing structure, which consists of two elements, a base that mechanically rolls on a circular track, and a tilting framework which allows for vertical positioning.

The second phase of construction will incorporate the tipping structure, which will weigh over 9 million pounds and include the reflecting surface, or dish, which will span 2.3 acres. The total height of the finished Green Bank Telescope will stretch more than 480 feet, twice the height of the Statue of Liberty.

Advanced computerization will perform a variety of functions, such as automatically compensating for the movement of the earth -- thus enhancing research capabilities by enabling scientists to study one specific point over an extended period of time.

Computerization will also monitor deformations in the surface of the dish caused by gravity and temperature changes. Minute changes will be corrected by the 2,000 automated adjusters assigned to the reflecting panels.

As the world's largest fully steerable, single-dish radio telescope, the Green Bank Telescope will also be the most precise telescope ever built for research with radio microwave frequencies. This scientific accomplishment will be a visible symbol of West Virginia's emergence into the high-technology world that will shape the 21st Century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Car Wars

America's future economic strength relies, in great measure, on our ability to compete in the emerging global marketplace.

Although the United States, given a level playing field, possesses the wherewithal to lead in the international economic races, some of our trading partners erect trade barriers that unfairly tilt the playing field, forcing the U.S. to run uphill.

Japan's closed auto market provides, perhaps, the most egregious example of such unfair trade practices.

In 1994, the U.S. trade deficit with Japan reached a record high \$65.7 billion, and the greatest portion of that lopsided deficit was comprised of the automobile and auto parts industries. Overall, while Japanese automakers held some 22.5 percent of the American market, the share of the Japanese market held by the Big Three U.S. automakers was less than 1 percent.

Astoundingly, the U.S. automobile trade deficit with Japan last year accounted for 22 percent of our total trade deficit worldwide.

The impact of that deficit on the American economy is far-reaching, affecting some 700,000 employees of the Big Three automakers and more than 2.2 million Americans employed in the auto parts and supporting industries, including aluminum, steel, glass, rubber, electronics, and machine tool manufac-

turers.

So unwilling are the Japanese to open their borders to foreign-made autos and parts that they recently shut out any consideration of compromising on the matter, walking out of trade negotiations that were underway between their country and the U.S.

A new era in trade is upon us. Air travel, computerization, and telecommunications have led to an intertwining of nations and national economies unlike that witnessed by past generations. In this global environment, the economic woes and fortunes of one nation necessarily have some impact beyond its own borders.

In the interest of the future economic vitality of the U.S. and of domestic jobs, Japan cannot be permitted to continue rigging its markets against the U.S.

It was, therefore, in response to the Japanese trade impasse, that I recently offered, and the Senate overwhelmingly approved, a resolution supporting sanctions against Japan, unless the Japanese agree to work toward some middle ground on the auto trade issue.

Our nations have much to offer each other, but we must be able to work together. Time remains for the Japanese to return to the negotiating table, and I hope that my resolution will help spur them to do so. That act would be a good starting point in forging a more open and cooperative relationship of mutual benefit.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Timber Bridges Linking Wood Resources to Progress

The bridges which join this country together are an important part of our national infrastructure. But a surprising number of the bridges currently in use need to be repaired or replaced. Because of the efforts of my National Timber Bridge Initiative, upgrading these older steel and concrete bridges can be done by using treated hardwood.

Recent technological advancements have led to the development of chemically treated wood which is versatile enough to be used in a variety of construction projects, including noise barriers, box culverts, retaining walls, pedestrian bridges, railroad ties, marine facilities, and highway bridges.

More than 40 percent of the 578,000 highway bridges in the United States are considered structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Responding to this decline, in 1988, I added \$3.3 million to a federal appropriations bill to create the National Timber Bridge Initiative, a nationwide program which is improving transportation networks. Since that time, I have added more than \$11 million to appropriations bills to continue the Initiative, which, along with research and development, technical assistance, and technology transfer, has funded construction of 349 bridges in 48 states. Sixty of these bridges have been con-

structed in West Virginia alone.

The most recent examples of timber bridges in West Virginia are currently being built in Monroe and Preston Counties. When completed, these bridges will carry a full range of highway traffic, including trucks, school buses, and emergency response vehicles.

The use of wood as a construction material makes sound economic sense. Timber bridges are made from hardwoods, native to West Virginia and other states, which last up to three times longer than steel or concrete in bridges because they do not rust and are not affected by de-icing chemicals. Also, timber bridges have lower material and construction costs and are easier to repair.

One of the principal objectives of the Timber Bridge Initiative is to stimulate West Virginia's timber industry, creating greater economic diversity and stability for our rural timber-producing communities. Timber bridges utilize wood resources from these communities and at the same time help to create local jobs and related services.

My National Timber Bridge Initiative is upgrading our nation's infrastructure while helping to create new markets for West Virginia's abundant hardwood resources -- a winning proposition on two important fronts.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's 132nd Birthday

In 1863, West Virginia officially became the thirty-fifth state to join the Union. On June 20th of that year, the hardworking founders of the State of West Virginia watched their dreams become a reality, as the northwestern and western counties of Virginia finally were recognized by the U.S. Congress and President Lincoln.

As West Virginia celebrates its 132nd birthday, all of its citizens know that birthdays can be a reflective time. Usually, we take a moment to take a reflective gaze upon our past, and set our eyes on the horizons of the future.

Throughout my tenure in the Senate, I have worked to develop the infrastructure and economic opportunities of our state. One of my top priorities has been the construction of the Appalachian Regional Commission Corridor Highway System in West Virginia. Earlier this month, I participated in the ground-breaking for the final 3.1-mile section of Corridor G, reaching from Charleston to Williamson, a project for which I have added \$329 million to federal appropriations bills.

I have also added \$270.5 million to federal appropriations bills for construction of Corridor H, which will stretch from Weston, Lewis County, to Wardensville in Hardy County; and I have added \$175 million to federal appropriations bills for construction of Corridor L, which runs from Sutton, Braxton County, to Beckley.

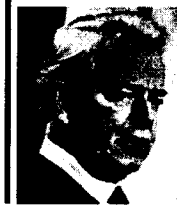
New opportunities can be seen springing up in all areas of the state as a result of my efforts. The FBI Fin-

gerprint Identification Division facility taking shape in Clarksburg has already hired more than 1,000 employees, and expects to have a total of 2,500 people on the payroll once it is fully operational in 1998. In April, 450 employees began work in completed portions of this state-of-the-art facility, which will generate an annual economic impact of \$75 million.

Additionally, the new federal prison in Beckley, which is nearly completed, is expected to hire a total of 491 workers, with employees beginning to occupy the minimum security portion of the facility next month. When fully staffed, the prison will have an annual economic impact of about \$28 million.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Education and Training Center now under construction in the Eastern Panhandle will help put West Virginia in the spotlight as a national training center for conservationists. And the Classroom of the Future and the National Technology Transfer Center in Wheeling will further efforts to train our young people for the industries of the future. These projects are only a few of the vast number of my initiatives that are contributing to our state's future.

So, as we celebrate our state's 132nd birthday, let us rededicate ourselves to the economic development of West Virginia to ensure that our children will be able to celebrate many more West Virginia Days in the next millennium.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building West Virginia's "Field of Dreams"

In the movie "Field of Dreams," Kevin Costner answers the call, "If you build it, he will come," by constructing a baseball diamond in his cornfields. In doing so, Costner hopes to facilitate a relationship between himself and that which had previously been unreachable.

I, too, have heard the call that they will come if it is built, but West Virginia's "Field of Dreams" is not that of emerald green grass and perfectly laid chalk lines. Instead, this "field" is one of the four-lane highways of the Corridor Highway System that reach through Appalachia just as Costner's baseball field cut through Iowa. And once our field is completed, the jobs and industry that the people of West Virginia so richly deserve will come.

Thirty years ago, in 1965, Congress enacted the Appalachian Regional Development Act, thus promising the people of West Virginia and the entire Appalachian region a vast network of Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor Highways. Since then, we have watched this vision slowly become reality, with new, modern, divided, four-lane highways replacing narrow, winding, unsafe roads throughout Appalachia.

Last week, I had the opportunity to participate in the ground-breaking for the final 3.1-mile section of Corridor G in West Virginia. Stretching from

Charleston, through Logan, to Williamson and the Kentucky border, this newest addition to the Corridor Highway System provides yet another building block in my goal of completing our ARC highway promise.

But the ARC highways cannot completely fulfill their objectives until Corridor H becomes a reality. To help assure this, I have added \$270.5 million to federal appropriations bills for Corridor H, and its potential benefits are easy to see.

Of the 399 counties that are part of the ARC, 110 counties lie on the ARC highway system. Research shows that, since 1969, those 110 counties grew 69 percent faster in income, 49 percent faster in earnings, and 32 percent faster in per capita income that their "twin" counties in areas not along major highways.

Corridor H will provide American travelers access into West Virginia, highlighting the natural beauty and economic opportunity available within our borders. In constructing Corridor H, we will provide West Virginia another inlet for the development of tourism, industry, and jobs.

Just as Costner's field soon brought a large number of visitors to his Iowa farm, the ARC Highway System is already bringing economic renewal to West Virginia. In West Virginia's "Field of Dreams," Corridor H signals the arrival of new possibilities to all the areas it touches.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Life-Saving Potential of Corridor H

The opportunity to help save lives has been one of my primary motivations in adding \$270.5 million to appropriations bills in recent years for construction of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor Highway H in West Virginia.

Highway planners acknowledge that most West Virginia roads, including those in the region to be served by Corridor H, were constructed at a time when safety was not a primary consideration. Built where terrain permitted, primarily alongside riverbanks in narrow valleys and on twisting hill and mountain ledges, these outdated roads have not kept pace with the advances in automobiles or the growth in the volume of automobile travel.

These old roads are significant contributors to West Virginia's being ranked third among the fifty states in per-vehicle-mile fatalities.

Today's modern roads, including the divided, four-lane ARC Highways, are designed as much for safety as for convenience, efficiency, and ease of travel.

The West Virginia Division of Highways estimates that construction of Corridor H could reduce traffic fatalities in that area by 52 percent and accident rates by some 70 percent.

Highway planners point to a list of inadequacies in the existing roads throughout Grant, Hardy, Tucker, and Randolph counties that contribute to death and injury of auto travelers in that region.

Traffic entering and leaving those sharply winding, two-lane roads is unrestricted, causing drivers to unexpectedly encounter moving vehicles at crossroads and driveways, many of which are camouflaged by steep terrain or trees and plants that reach to the edges of the roadway.

To help avoid these dangerous conditions, Corridor H would be built with improved visibility of off-road zones and access limitations that, in some cases, would include construction of overpasses to allow the free-flow of cross traffic on main routes.

Corridor H would also be designed with better grading, gentler and fewer curves, and longer sight distances that would enhance safer passage for drivers who today must contend with creeping truck traffic on narrow, two-lane roads where passing is a high-risk proposition.

While many of us enjoy an occasional scenic drive along a country road, the residents of these Eastern West Virginia counties -- breadwinners driving to and from work, schoolchildren on buses, emergency personnel responding to calls for help -- have no choice but to drive daily on antiquated, black-topped deathtraps.

These citizens are just as deserving as their fellow West Virginians of modern, safer, four-lane highways that exist in other areas of the state. They should not be denied the lifesaving potential of a completed Corridor H.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Investing in Our Parks

As we enter the summer months, millions of visitors will stream into our country's National Parks. Those hikers, rafters, campers, and sightseers have realized that true relaxation and utter enjoyment can be experienced within the confines of our National Park System.

I, too, have witnessed the vast opportunities our parks provide, and I have recognized that investing in our National Park System yields more than just expanded trails and new welcoming centers. Directing federal funds to our parks has provided a boost to local and state economies, thus improving the area's tourism and recreation industries.

In West Virginia alone, hundreds of thousands of visitors arrive to admire the beauty of our state every year. They are taken in by the rugged allure and natural grandeur of areas such as Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, New River Gorge National River, the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, and the developing Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. These parks represent the pastoral elegance that will continue to bring travelers within our borders.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to dedicate the restored railroad depot at Thurmond, on the New River Gorge National River. The dedication of the depot gave West Virginians another chance to recognize

the history, resources, and overall opportunities available in our National Park System. By investing in the National Parks of West Virginia, we are placing faith in our tourism industry and, in turn, making worthy contributions to the future of our state and our nation.

In that regard, I have added federal funding to assist the National Park Service in providing for its parks in West Virginia. As a result of this funding, areas such as the Eastern Panhandle have reaped the benefits of my efforts over the last 15 years, with Harpers Ferry National Historical Park's visitors contributing more than \$30 million to the local economy in 1993 alone.

Additionally, I have seen such promise in the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge and in the past two years I have helped to obtain \$4 million in federal appropriations bills for the project. These monies are allowing the Fish and Wildlife Service to purchase the land necessary to develop the Refuge.

West Virginia's parks are an investment in the infrastructure of our state, providing a venture that eventually works toward an enhanced economic future for our children and our children's children. Our state's parks are a tribute to West Virginia's natural beauty and to our economic vitality in the coming millennium.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Minds Open When School is Closed

The end of the school year symbolically marks the beginning of summer. Annually around this time, thousands of West Virginia children take a two-month break from their schoolwork, turning their thoughts to warm weather, visits with family and friends, and exploring West Virginia's many natural recreation areas.

While it is a rite of summer for students to have fun during this break, it is also important for them to continue developing their minds. A rewarding way for students to continue their education outside the classroom is through reading.

Astoundingly, a study recently released by the Department of Education, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, reports that 90 percent of third- and fourth-graders have not read a book or story at home in months. At the same time, about a quarter of those children were watching six or more hours of television a day.

These statistics are troubling because they indicate that our young people may be heading in the wrong direction. If our country is to maintain its position of political and economic leadership in the world, and if future generations of Americans are to have any hope of enjoying the standard of living that most Americans experience today, our youngsters must read and read voraciously.

Technology may swiftly be launching us into a worldwide network of information, but it is still important to read in order to master the "basic subjects" -- classical disciplines such as mathematics, science, grammar, history, and geography -- and to discover the wisdom which can be found in the great literature of the world. To operate the most sophisticated computer that technology yields still requires the fundamental ability to read and to comprehend what is being read.

Today's children are the foundation for tomorrow's future. We rely on education as a key element to ensure that this foundation is a solid one; and, as a nation, we must prepare our children for the realities of the worldwide competition which they will surely have to face.

Schools alone cannot fulfill every educational need. Parental involvement is a vital force for promoting good reading and good study habits, and for weeding out mindless and baneful influences. Reading at home can be a meaningful and cherished family activity, as well as an effective way for students to polish their learning skills.

Parents should be urged to read aloud to their children, and to encourage children to read on their own, and often. This summer, schools will be closed; but, through books, minds can stay open.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Striking a Blow against Underage Drinking

When it comes to substance abuse in this nation, alcohol is our biggest scourge. Almost 14 million Americans over the age of 18 are alcoholics.

As a nation that purports to care about the health, safety, and well-being of its people, the very least we can do is to try to address this alcohol plague by discouraging the early drinking that often results in later addiction or alcohol dependency.

With that in mind, I recently authored, and the Senate approved, an amendment requiring states to adopt a "zero-tolerance" standard for drivers under the nationwide legal drinking age of 21. That standard would make drivers 20 years old and younger who register blood-alcohol levels as low as 0.02 percent subject to state-imposed drunk-driving sanctions.

The zero-tolerance law -- already on the books in West Virginia and twenty-three other states -- corrects a glaring legal loophole that actually allows those under the age of 21 to drink and drive without fear of prosecution, as long as their blood-alcohol level is below the state's legal adult standard for drunk driving, most commonly 0.10 percent.

Where is the logic in telling teenagers it is illegal to drink, while overlooking alcohol in their systems when they get behind the wheel of a car?

In 1994, approximately 2,200 people were killed because of minors who were drinking and driving, and of that group, 1,600 were young people themselves.

My amendment will not only help save lives, but it will also send a message to our nation's youth that drinking and driving is wrong; that it is a violation of law; and that it will be appropriately punished according to the laws of each state.

Under my amendment, states that fail to adopt a zero-tolerance law will lose 5 percent of their federal highway construction funds in fiscal year 1998, and 10 percent of those funds every year thereafter.

I hope that my amendment will be successful in spurring the states without zero-tolerance laws to take the responsible step and enact them.

The simple fact is that alcohol mixed with teenage driving inexperience is a lethal combination. Zero tolerance will save lives, especially the lives of teenagers.

July 12, 1995



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Re-emphasizing Education

Recently, a great deal of media attention has been applied to the deficiencies of the American educational system. Critics of our current system cite a lack of academic rigor, the need for increased remediation, and the practice of grade inflation as signs that American high school graduates are unprepared for the high-tech, high-demand world that is waiting for them beyond the schoolhouse doors.

In fact, in an article last month in The Washington Times, employers expressed "alarm and disgust" at our current educational system, stating that "one-fifth of American workers are not fully proficient in their jobs."

As we question the direction that our educational system is headed, it is important for us to recognize the importance of schooling and the need for our state's and our nation's youth to begin learning life's teachings at an early age. In reforming our system and in preparing our children for the jobs of the future, we must first instill the desire to perform in an exemplary manner.

True educational excellence can only be achieved if the student is willing to work for it; learning cannot be presented as a gift or forced upon a young person like unwelcome medicine. Education must be something embraced, sought after, and valued. Learning must be recognized for the

treasure that it is, and our nation's youth must understand that their futures lie in the quality, scope, and depth of the educations they gain today.

The lack of communication skills of today's youth and the inability of today's high school graduates to adequately handle the demands of their jobs can be traced in part to a lack of pride and an absence of self-respect. If today's youth do not seek out the opportunities available in their educational journeys, they will not be capable of exerting the type of creativity and hard work that they will later need as they confront the challenges of the workplace.

As educational critics begin to look for solutions to what ails the American educational system, they must certainly contemplate the traditional values evident in West Virginia. One way in which our nation's youth can begin to achieve academic excellence is for them to regain a sense of determination, dedication, and hard work.

It is time for parents, community leaders, and local officials to accept their societal responsibilities and teach our nation's youth the value of education. We must help our children to realize just how important education and learning truly are, not only for their own personal future but also for the future of our state and nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Study Results Are Encouraging For Corridor H

The President's Appalachian Regional Commission in its 1964 report to President Johnson said, "Developmental activity in Appalachia cannot proceed until the regional isolation has been overcome....by a transportation network which provides access to and from the rest of the nation and within the region itself....The remoteness and isolation of the region, lying directly adjacent to the greatest concentrations of people and wealth in the country, is the very basis of the Appalachian lag."

These words continue to ring true today due to the fact that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor Highway System remains largely incomplete 30 years after it was promised to the people of Appalachia.

Construction of the ARC Corridor Highway System -- and most recently West Virginia's Corridor H -- has spurred a host of negative essays, based more on personal opinion than on actual attempts to measure the highways' impact.

However, a recent study, "The Economic Effects of the Appalachian Regional Commission" by Andrew Isserman and Terance Rephann of the Regional Research Institute at West Virginia University, provides an encouraging statistical analysis of the ARC and the Corridor Highway System.

That study, published in

the Journal of the American Planning Association, used a "control group" model that compared 391 ARC counties with "twin" counties in other parts of the country.

The study reached a persuasive conclusion with respect to the impact of Corridor Highways: The 110 counties on the Appalachian Corridor Highway System, when compared to their "twin" counties elsewhere in the nation not on a major highway, grew 69% faster in income, 49% faster in earnings, and 6% faster in population.

According to the study, the ARC highways do make a positive difference in the economic well-being of the counties they traverse.

And there is every reason to believe that the Corridor H counties and their business ventures -- including, for example, the expanding tourism, poultry, timber, and wood-products industries -- can expect the same kind of economic boost experienced in other Corridor Highway counties from construction of a safer more modern highway.

To argue against Corridor H is to advocate limited job and economic opportunities at the expense of the people of that region, as well as the state and the nation.

The statistics tell the story. Economic development does follow the paths of the ARC Corridor Highways and it will accompany the construction of Corridor H.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Recognizing Scholastic Excellence

Every year, many of our nation's top high school graduates take the summer months to prepare for the approaching college academic year. Recognizing the importance of education, these students arrange for student loans and grants and take on summer jobs to help offset the cost of a college education.

These students realize that the costs that come with pursuing a college degree are well worth the sacrifice. There is no greater mission than the continued pursuit of education, and, in order to ensure a sound future for our nation, those who desire to pursue their educations in the college or university setting should be given the means and encouragement to do so.

It is for that reason that I initiated a national scholarship program in 1985, a program that my Senate colleagues later named the "Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program." Through these scholarships, awarded on the basis of academic excellence, I sought to reward the brightest minds in West Virginia and throughout the nation for hard work throughout their high school careers.

When first started, the program awarded students across the nation a one-time \$1,500 scholarship for college. In 1993, Congress expanded the award, making the scholarship a renewable, annual payment of \$1,500 for up to four years, for a total of \$6,000. To continue receipt of the scholarship, Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholars are required to maintain the same academic excellence in the university or college setting that they exhibited in high school.

This year, 45 new Rob-

ert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships were awarded to West Virginia high school students. This brings to 390 the total number of West Virginians who have received this scholarship since the program's inception in 1985. These scholars are selected by a five-member panel comprised of representatives from the West Virginia Department of Education and the Central Office of the State College and University System. Education officials in the other states have established their own selection procedures.

Also this year, 313 high school valedictorians in West Virginia -- the top of the class in public, private, and parochial schools -- have been awarded a \$50 savings bond to be put toward their educations. Made possible through a private trust fund, the Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Award has, since its inception in 1969, signaled to our state's top high school students that education and hard work are, indeed, valued. To date, 7,211 West Virginians have received this recognition award.

As we approach the next millennium, I am confident, from looking at each year's crop of Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship and Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Award recipients, that hard work, dedication, and a thirst for learning are values that many of West Virginia's high school students continue to treasure. These and other investments in our children's academic dreams help to ensure that our nation is well prepared to answer the challenges of the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Recognizing ARC's Importance

In 1965, Congress established the Appalachian Regional Development Act, providing the residents of Appalachia with the means to develop their infrastructure and economic opportunities under the watch of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

As one of the original cosponsors of the legislation that created ARC, I continually worked to spare the program from threats of elimination during the Reagan Administration and have fought to avoid the drastic reductions in ARC funding proposed by the Bush and Clinton Administrations.

Over the last 30 years, ARC has been a good example of a federal program working to accomplish its goals without being burdened by the growing presence of a federal bureaucracy, while continuing to help Appalachian states advance economically. But ARC's work is still far from completion.

Recently, I led a bipartisan defeat of an amendment to a federal appropriations bill that would have stripped ARC of an additional \$40 million in funding, over and above the 35 percent reduction already made in this year's funding.

It is unfortunate that ARC funding has been cut 35 percent while funding for other non-military programs has only been tabbed for a 13 percent reduction.

It is deplorable that some Senators tried to slash ARC's funding by an addi-

tional \$40 million, especially after the Senate and the eight Republican and five Democratic governors who represent the region have voiced their support for ARC.

The \$40 million that was attacked was funding that the Senate Appropriations Committee approved at my request for further construction of the ARC Corridor Highway system in 13 Appalachian states. With only 75 percent of the system completed, now is not the time to divert our attentions from the Corridor highways. Fortunately, this ill-advised amendment was rejected, with 19 Republican Senators voting with me against the amendment.

ARC is not just another federal program "gone out of control." ARC is a well-managed program with a small staff and a smaller operating budget. In fact, only 4 percent of its budget goes for overhead, thus allowing the Commission to put its federal funding right into the communities it was designed to serve.

At a time when domestic spending is being drastically cut back, we must realize that positive, result-producing programs such as the Appalachian Regional Commission must continue to be a priority, both for the federal government and the Appalachian states. ARC must continue to work toward the goals it set 30 years ago, and I will continue to fight to aid ARC in fulfilling its mission.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Restoring Trust and Objectivity

On several recent occasions, I have spoken on the Senate floor about the large honoraria that some members of the press receive from private corporations and special interest groups.

Because of the public perception that highly paid lobbyists and special interest groups have undue influence over many legislators, the Senate adopted my amendment in 1991 prohibiting members of the Senate from accepting honoraria.

Ironically, we now hear reports of journalists and news commentators who receive thousands of dollars to speak to special interest groups whose issues they cover in their stories and news reports.

If the news media are to salvage their position of trust and authority in American society, they, too, should abide by the highest of ethical standards. The communications industry wields such enormous power that the media should be willing to take any reasonable step to help reassure the public about the accuracy and objectivity of what they report. With the hope that the Senate might help lead the way in this regard, I recently offered a resolution requiring journalists accredited to Senate galleries -- which are funded with tax dollars and staffed with Senate employees -- to disclose sources of honoraria and earned outside income.

The purpose of my

resolution is not to probe into the personal financial holdings or private lives of the members of the press, but to deal with a skeptical public perception concerning the impropriety of certain forms of outside earned income, such as speaking fees, and to address the possible doubts concerning the question of objectivity in reporting, when such reporting conceivably might be influenced by such fees.

Likewise, in order to deal with the people's flagging trust in our traditional institutions, I recently offered a "Sense of the Senate" amendment calling on the Judicial Conference of the United States to take a closer look at the judicial branch's regulations governing gifts and travel. This amendment was adopted by the Senate by a 75-23 vote.

These actions on my part were not intended to target or blame an individual or profession for past problems. Instead, they are intended to shore up the people's faith in our nation's time-honored institutions. Certainly, the news media's position as the interpreter and sole purveyor of the news brings with it an enormous responsibility to the public. My actions present the members of the media and the judiciary with the opportunity to remove the shadows of doubt and skepticism -- hopefully, voluntarily -- that have been cast across those professions.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Paving the Road to the Future

Recently, the U.S. Senate passed the Fiscal Year 1996 Transportation Appropriations Bill. This bill embodies the congressional trend -- initiated this year -- of cutting nonmilitary domestic investments in infrastructure by slashing transportation appropriations more than \$1 billion below last year's level.

In its quest to reduce the overall budget, while, at the same time, increasing military spending by billions of dollars and providing tax breaks for the wealthy, Congress, under the new Republican leadership, is proceeding to deal devastating blows to almost all domestic infrastructure programs.

This year's transportation bill is an example of such discretionary domestic budget cuts, for the monies appropriated fall far short of meeting the growing needs of our nation.

During the six years that I was chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, from 1989 to 1994, inclusive, I recognized that our nation's economic prosperity depends heavily on the adequacy of our highways, airports, railroads, and transit systems. For that reason, I advocated increased and sustained funding for our nation's transportation infrastructure.

Currently, 70 percent of

our nation's interstate highways in metropolitan areas are congested during peak hours. Nearly a quarter of our nation's more than half-million bridges are structurally deficient, while another 14 percent are functionally obsolete. And the number of arrivals and departures at our airports is expected to grow 60 percent in the next decade.

But Congress is cutting its investment in transportation infrastructure. Some members of Congress have decided that unnecessary, unrequested, and outdated missile defense systems are more important than the roads, bridges, and airports that our citizens use on a regular basis.

Cuts, such as those made to the transportation bill, will leave the next generation with an unsafe and inefficient transportation system that will result in devastating repercussions on the economy, on private industry, and on public travel.

We must reverse this "slash-and-burn" budget mentality before its impact is irreversible. Our nation's spending practices must reflect the demands and priorities of its citizens. Our transportation infrastructure is a necessary and well directed investment in our nation's future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Helpful Hotlines

Because of the vast number of regulations and options affecting Federal programs and services, West Virginians often have questions regarding specific problems or concerns. As such, the Federal government has established a system of toll-free phone numbers that can help West Virginians receive answers to their questions and overall assistance with their concerns.

Retired Army Pay Problems	1-800-428-2290
Cancer Hotline	1-800-422-6237
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	
Medicare Information	1-800-638-6833
Medical Scholarship Information	1-800-638-0824
National Runaway Switchboard	1-800-621-4000
(For parents and runaways to leave messages)	
Consumer Product Safety Commission ...	1-800-638-2772
(Product recall, complaints, fact sheets)	
Financial Aid for College Students (National)	
Department of Education	1-800-433-3243
National Guard "ChalleNGe" Program ...	1-800-529-7700
AIDS Hotline (National)	1-800-342-2437
(HIV and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Information)	
Pesticide Emergency Information	1-800-858-7378
National Health Information Center	1-800-336-4797
Energy Conservation Hotline	1-800-428-2525
Hill-Burton Free Hospital Care Hotline ..	1-800-638-0742
Small Business Administration	1-800-827-5722
Social Security Administration	1-800-772-1213
West Virginia Veterans Affairs Office ...	1-800-827-1000
National Drug Hotline	1-800-662-4357
(Drug-abuse help and information)	
Safe Drinking Water Hotline	1-800-426-4791
Hazardous Waste and Superfund Information .	1-800-424-9346
Auto Safety Hotline	1-800-424-9393
(Auto-safety information and complaints)	
Washington, D.C., Central Reservation Center .	1-800-554-2220
(Information on lodging in the Nation's Capital)	

August 30, 1995



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Re-evaluating Military Spending

In the 1980's, the United States invested billions of dollars to develop high-tech weapons and missile defense systems. During those closing years of the Cold War, Congress rightly focused on strengthening our nation's military, and funded the projects and programs that could be effective in a confrontation with the former Soviet Union.

Just as the Soviet Union no longer exists, however, the need for massive increases in military spending is also a relic of the past. The end of the Cold War marks an important crossroads for federal defense spending, but unfortunately some members of Congress still scurry to cast their votes for bloated defense budgets.

I recently spoke in support of an amendment that would have cut \$7 billion that was added to the President's fiscal 1996 budget request for the Department of Defense -- \$7 billion over and above the funding sought by the President and the Department of Defense itself.

These increases in military spending have a greater impact than just providing another missile defense system or constructing more B-2 stealth bombers. We are paying for these unnecessary weapons with funds that should be used for much-needed domestic infrastructure programs.

Sadly, as some of my colleagues force this added funding on the Department of Defense, they are stripping education, law enforcement, transportation, and

other domestic programs by \$183 billion over a period of seven years.

Effects of these cuts will mean a further deterioration of the nation's infrastructure. These are not the dividends that the end of the Cold War promised. We are now crafting a defense budget that does not reflect the needs and demands of our nation. We are building some planes and weapons and defense systems, not because they are needed, but because we have failed to move beyond the mindset of the Cold War era. Like caged mice on an exercise wheel, we go round and round, buying weapons we do not need. These taxpayers' dollars could be better applied towards reducing the nation's deficits.

The time has come for us to recognize that the future of our nation does not lie in the expensive and seldom-used weapons systems of days gone by. Instead, investments in domestic infrastructure -- schools, police, roads, civilian research, environmental clean-up, water and sewer projects, and the like -- are the key to a productive future.

I recognized the wisdom of increased military spending during the Cold War. But the time has come for us to acknowledge that the Cold War has ended. While it is important that we maintain a credible and dependable military force, we will also be placing our nation's defense on a sound foundation by investing in our domestic fiscal and human infrastructure.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FBI Moving Forward in Harrison County

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Fingerprint Identification Division is beginning to make its mark on West Virginia.

The new facility -- located in Harrison County and initiated by \$185 million that I added to a fiscal year 1990 appropriations bill and more than \$300 million in additional federal funding that I supported -- will serve as the nation's center to convert the FBI's antiquated fingerprint system into a state-of-the-art computerized network.

Recently, a ceremony was held in Clarksburg -- in which I participated -- to kick off work on the FBI's Fingerprint Image Conversion Operation (FICO) contract in Harrison County.

Through the FICO contract, some 32 million FBI fingerprint cards will be converted into computer-readable, digitized images, thereby providing law enforcement officials with a high-tech ally in the war against crime.

Until recently, the FBI operated two satellite facilities -- in Clarksburg and Fairmont -- to begin advance work in connection with the planned, ultra-modern computerized criminal history information network that will be housed at the Fingerprint Identification Division.

The 300 employees at the Clarksburg satellite operation, however, were transferred several weeks ago to the new Clarksburg FBI complex, bringing to more than 1,100 the employees on board there. Ac-

ording to FBI officials, those employees are handling a variety of tasks, including receipt and classification of criminal and civil fingerprint cards and records conversion and processing operations, as well as various policy, administrative, and liaison functions. Already, FBI employees in West Virginia have converted over 2 million criminal history records to an electronic format.

During my visit to Clarksburg, I was pleased to learn that construction on the main building is almost complete, and that employees are using portions of the entire building. When fully operational sometime in 1998, the facility is expected to employ approximately 2,500 personnel and pump an estimated \$75 million into the local economy annually.

In late August, I was advised that the FBI has now received its first electronically transmitted fingerprint images from the Boston Police Department's live-scan fingerprint device. This milestone, FBI officials advise, is the beginning of the end for manual, paper and ink fingerprint cards.

I am encouraged that the work on the FBI facility is proceeding smoothly, and that West Virginia and Harrison County will be home to the most technologically advanced, large-scale weapon ever developed in the age-old battle to curb crime and to help promote domestic tranquility.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Coast Guard's West Virginia Connection

In 1789, when a young man named Alexander Hamilton was appointed Treasurer of the United States, he proposed a service of small, armed vessels intended to enforce the new revenue laws. With this proposal, the United States Coast Guard was born.

Most people do not connect Alexander Hamilton with the Coast Guard. He is usually thought of as one of the triumvirate who crafted The Federalist Papers and laid the framework for our Constitution, or remembered for his tragic duel with Aaron Burr.

In much the same way, few people connect the Coast Guard with West Virginia. But like Hamilton's new idea in 1789, innovation is paying off in West Virginia for the U.S. Coast Guard.

Recently, I was in Falling Waters in the state's Eastern Panhandle to dedicate the Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center, an 18,000-square-foot facility that will house about 100 personnel and have a \$5 million annual economic impact.

For some time, I had urged the Coast Guard to look at West Virginia--its low crime rate, moderate cost of living, strong workforce, and advanced telecommunications systems--as an ideal place to locate certain segments of its operations that do not require water ports. The Coast Guard Documentation Cen-

ter is one such operation.

Through a number of cost-benefit studies, the Coast Guard determined that it could consolidate its 14 vessel documentation offices and provide documentation to all of its customers, no matter where they were located, and save tax dollars each year in the process.

West Virginia appears to be a comfortable match for the Coast Guard. This latest Coast Guard venture joins my earlier effort to establish the Coast Guard Operations Systems Center in Martinsburg. The Systems Center--in operation since 1991--employs approximately 150 Coast Guard and contract personnel, with an annual economic impact of \$8 million. Together, the two facilities mean 250 jobs and a total economic impact of \$13 million for West Virginia.

The U.S. Coast Guard has had a tradition of doing more with less, and in these tight budgetary times, it is a tradition that other government entities should emulate. Technology affords new and innovative ways to accomplish needs, and consolidation is one proven way to promote efficiency and save tax dollars.

West Virginia and the Coast Guard have a bright future together, and I am pleased that many-fold advantages will be realized through the Coast Guard's expanded presence in our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Lessons of "The Streak"

On two successive nights in early September, millions of baseball fans across the nation watched as Baltimore Orioles short-stop Cal Ripken, Jr., went into the record books.

On those two nights -- September 5 and 6 -- Ripken equalled and broke the record for playing in consecutive games, a record established in 1939 when baseball legend Lou Gehrig played in his 2,130th straight game.

But "The Streak", as it has become known, is about much more than showing up at the ballpark each night.

Ripken's determination and devotion to his job -- a job that he has not missed since May 30, 1982 -- sends a message to young and old alike that hard work is still revered and that persistence and perseverance are traits to be rewarded.

America's response to Ripken's accomplishment has underscored that message. In reporting the story, news organizations across the country have searched out hard-working Americans who have not missed a day of work in decades and students who have achieved perfect school at-

tendance records. Their stories have been told, and, basking in Ripken's reflected light, they, too, have earned the nation's respect and praise.

In accepting the accolades for his feat, Ripken had a simple explanation: He was just doing his job, he said.

In short, "The Streak" has seemingly revived the notion that "giving one's all" is something for which to strive and something that will win the nation's admiration.

I have long taken pride in the work ethic of West Virginians, who are known as a people who cleave to the notion that a day's salary deserves a day's work.

I hope that Ripken's achievement will inspire other Americans across the country to redouble their efforts to take pride in their work -- no matter what their occupation -- and to do a good job each day, every day.

Cal Ripken and his streak, and the nation's overwhelming positive response, have hit the right chord. It is music to my ears.

September 27, 1995



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

SOME BASIC ABC'S FOR A SOLID EDUCATION

A month ago, thousands of children in West Virginia, and millions nationwide, went back to school. Families returned to the routine of juggling the demands of daily life with homework and class projects, athletic and band practices, chess and debate clubs. All the while, our children have become acquainted with new teachers and new classmates.

Last year, Education Secretary Richard Riley launched an initiative that underscores time-tested "keys to success." This program, "Strong Families, Strong Schools," echoes some of my own thoughts on education by highlighting the importance of parental involvement in the education of children, and offering guidelines on what parents can do to raise a child's level of achievement. The following are some of those "keys to success."

- Read together. Research shows that the single most effective way to prepare children for future success in reading is to read aloud to them. Children who read at home with their parents perform better in school.

- Limit the amount of time that the television set is on at home. Parents should not only supervise the type of programs their children watch, but they should also limit the amount of time their children spend in front of the television.

- Make sure your children go to school every day. Set a regular time for homework each day, and provide a quiet place for your children to study. Be available for questions, and show your children that you are interested in their school work. Give children responsibility for chores, and hold them accountable for completing them.

- If you are employed, and your children are home alone after school, ensure that there is some way to monitor their activities. Talk to your children and their friends. Make certain they clearly understand the dangers of alcohol and drug use.

- Express high expectations for your children and praise achievement. Stress the importance of mastering the "basics." Encourage your children to take challenging math and science classes, as well as advanced courses in history and English. Foster an attitude of excellence whereby a child does not settle for doing less than his best. Encourage the child's academic interests with trips to the library.

- Keep track of your child's academic progress. Talk regularly to his teachers, and be a frequent visitor to his school. Show a personal interest in your child's education, and get involved with your PTA. Encourage the establishment of challenging standards in your school if they are not already in place.

There is no short cut to success. We as a nation must recognize the importance of old-fashioned hard work and study. Indeed, these are the keys that can help to unlock bright futures for our young people in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reforming the Welfare System

The Senate recently passed, with bipartisan support, legislation providing for a major overhaul of our nation's social welfare policy.

The Senate welfare reform bill would abolish the current Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program and the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program, and would send welfare funds to the states in the form of block grants. States would have great flexibility to design their welfare programs to meet their own unique needs.

In order to end the perpetuation of welfare as a way of life, the bill imposes work participation rates and a five-year lifetime limit on an individual's ability to receive benefits. Under the bill, the work participation rates, the percentage of welfare recipients required to be working each year, would climb from 25 percent in 1996 to 50 percent in the year 2000. In addition, states are given the option of exempting 20 percent of their welfare caseload from the five-year lifetime limit on the receipt of welfare benefits.

The bill would also strengthen child-support enforcement to make sure that "deadbeat" parents are living up to their responsibilities to help support their children. Increased collection of child support eases the burden on our nation's welfare system.

Shortly before passage,

the Senate overwhelmingly approved a bipartisan amendment to provide additional funds for child care. Child care, though one of the more controversial elements of the welfare reform bill, is an important component of any serious effort to get people off welfare and into the workforce. Without such strong child-care provisions, a welfare mother could be put in the position of having to leave her child alone at home in order to meet the work requirements in the bill.

The Senate-passed bill also includes a contingency fund which state governments can access in times of economic downturn or other unforeseen circumstances when their block grant allocation may not be sufficient to meet their needs.

The House of Representatives passed its harsher version of welfare reform legislation last spring. Now that the Senate has passed its bill, a conference committee must meet to work out the differences between the House- and Senate-passed measures.

It is my hope that the Congress will soon be successful in overhauling our current, costly welfare system, and that the taxpayers' money will no longer be spent in a manner that encourages dependency but, rather, one that enables people who want to work to move off the welfare rolls and into the workforce.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Paying for a Budget Face Lift With Medicare

The effort to bring the federal budget into balance within the next decade will require across-the-board pain and sacrifice. Even the most sensitive of domestic programs, including Medicare, can be expected to be trimmed in the budget-cutting exercise. Of that there is little disagreement. However, there is wide discrepancy as to how to implement those cuts and how deep they must go.

The Republican majority in Congress is claiming that some \$270 billion must be cut from Medicare in order to achieve a balanced budget and ensure the long-term solvency of the financially troubled program.

While it is true that steps need to be taken to make certain that Medicare remains solvent for future generations, a \$270 billion cut is, in fact, more than triple what is actually needed to stabilize the Medicare trust fund. Further, that cut is far beyond what the program can absorb without jeopardizing the quality and accessibility of care for millions of older and disabled Americans.

Disturbingly, under the Republican plan, that excessive cut is not being applied to the Medicare trust fund. It is actually going to be parceled out in the form of generous tax breaks -- some \$245 billion worth of them -- that will benefit the wealthy in our society. That

is a misguided tactic that benefits the rich at the expense of the elderly.

To make matters worse, the Republican leadership plans to wrap their Medicare proposal in the massive reconciliation bill, which must be considered on a fast track in the Senate that leaves little or no opportunity for debate or amendment. Thus, Medicare reform, already obscured by claims and counter-claims and waves of hype, oversimplification, and scare-tactics, is soon to be swept through Congress in a blind rush that will leave the American public wondering what hit them.

That is no way to lead.

The American people deserve to hear an honest, public debate on the matter of Medicare. They have a vital interest in the Medicare program and they deserve the opportunity to weigh in on any Congressional plan that affects it.

It is time for the Republican leadership to bring out into the light of day their plans to balance the budget, including such controversial and painful proposals as those that would cut Medicare and other popular programs. As for their current plan to drastically cut Medicare while handing out tax breaks to the rich, I believe that an informed public will see it for what it really is: a budget face lift being paid for with Medicare.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Early Adolescence: Easing the Transition

Nearly 20 million Americans are between the ages of ten and fourteen.

The parents of youngsters at these tender ages would most certainly bear testimony to the roller coaster of emotions evidenced in the pre- and early-teen years. Caught between childhood and adulthood, these years are spent striving for independence and making choices that set these children on the journey through the rest of their lives.

Too often, it seems, young Americans are set adrift during these crucial years to chart their own course to early adulthood, and with frightening results.

A decade-long study conducted by a blue-ribbon panel of scholars, scientists, former Cabinet officials, and members of Congress cautions that as many as fifty percent of youths ages ten to fourteen are making choices and pursuing activities that could jeopardize their future health, happiness, and productivity.

The recently issued report of the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development -- entitled "Great Transitions" -- concludes that declining parental involvement in the lives of early adolescents has led to an increase in undesirable behavior -- experimentation with drinking, smoking, and drugs, for instance -- that can lead to lifelong problems.

Further, the report found a disturbing trend relative to after-school activities for this age group: The average 8th grader spends more than twenty hours a week in front of the television set. Time spent on homework was barely five hours a week, with even fewer number of hours -- an average of two -- spent on outside reading.

The solutions suggested by the Carnegie Council to counter these alarming tendencies are straightforward and simple: More parental involvement and interest in the lives of their adolescent children; more guidance from parents, schools, and communities on making the right choices; more emphasis in school on learning not only the basics, but also on the importance of maintaining healthy minds and bodies.

I propose an additional solution: That parents see to it that the time their children spend watching television be severely limited.

The Carnegie Council has sounded an important wake-up call. Our children -- our nation's most precious asset -- hold America's future in their hands, and it is incumbent upon us to ensure that through guidance, love, and support, they are armed with the education and moral underpinnings necessary to achieve happy, productive lives in the coming 21st century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Unbalanced National Transportation Plan

One billion dollars for special mass transit projects, but not a drop for highway demonstration projects. That was the decree from the House Republican leadership on the fiscal 1996 Transportation Appropriations Bill, a decree that leaves West Virginia and other mostly rural states out in the cold.

Earlier this year, I had included \$9 million in the Senate version of the Transportation Bill for the 3.7-mile Merritt's Creek Connector on State Route 2 in Cabell County. By West Virginia construction standards -- where one mile of four-lane highway can cost as much as \$15-\$18 million -- that is a pittance. But it was also the largest chunk from a total of only \$39.5 million included in the Senate version of Transportation Bill this year for highway demonstration projects nationwide. That \$39.5 million figure, by the way, represents an 89-percent reduction from the more than \$350 million in last year's bill for such highways.

The House bill, however, in keeping with the House chairman's pledge to block any "earmarked" highway projects, contained not one thin dime for such roads. The House chairman reportedly called such earmarking "immoral," and House Republican committee members claimed that keeping the highway demonstration projects out of the bill was a move of fiscal responsibility. What they tried to brush under the rug, however, was the fact that the bill contains more than \$1 billion for earmarked mass transit projects, including \$333 million for 81 bus and

bus-related projects and \$666 million for 30 transit programs, such as commuter rail systems, in urban areas.

When the House and Senate versions of the bill came to an impasse recently at the House/Senate conference committee, the House Republicans refused to budge from their position, and they blocked the entire \$39.5 million from inclusion in the conference report. That is not only unfair; it is also unrealistic and unwise.

Highways are the lifeblood of West Virginia. They are sorely needed in our state and in many other states, which, like West Virginia, have very little mass transit and lack major airports and other transportation modes. In these states, highways are fundamental to economic development, and lack of adequate highways can spell economic stagnation. Highway demonstration projects are one of the few ways in which members of the House and Senate can address their states' and districts' special highway needs -- needs that are often ignored by federal agency bureaucrats and which are not properly addressed by the mathematical formulas generally used to distribute federal highway funds.

I have no qualms about earmarks for buses and transit projects. They answer a real need in high-population urban areas. But, clearly, by leaving highways out of the mix, the fiscal 1996 Transportation Appropriations Bill ignores a huge segment of America. That is no way to build a national transportation system.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Blessings

On my recent visit to West Virginia to participate in ceremonies marking the anniversary of the disastrous 1985 flood, I was reminded of just how fortunate we in West Virginia are.

The 1985 flood ripped through 29 counties, put whole communities under water, and left thousands homeless. Without warning, its raging waters tore through West Virginia's hills and valleys, taking the lives of forty-three human beings.

The force of that flood twisted bridges, mangled roadways, and covered valleys so thoroughly with rocks and debris that, in some places, the land was left looking like a distant planet from a science fiction movie.

In 1985, just a few weeks before Thanksgiving, there seemed little to be thankful about for the victims of that terrible flood. And yet, so many who had lost everything stayed in West Virginia, dug what they could find of their belongings from the thick mud, and rebuilt their homes and their lives.

To most people, especially those from outside the borders of our state, that seems remarkable. It is almost inconceivable to some that families who had lost loved ones, witnessed the total destruction of their houses, and seen irreplaceable mementos swept away forever could put it all aside and stay in their flood-

stricken communities.

I am often asked why I think these people did not just pack up and move away.

What keeps them here?

I can only answer that question through the prism of my own experience and emotions about our state.

West Virginia is our home. We have roots here. We feel a special connection to the land. And we have a strong bond, a kinship, to one another.

Perhaps it is because West Virginia is a poor state, where most people have never had much in the way of material riches, that we have never lost sight of those things -- family, friends, community, faith in God, loyalty to country, and traditional values -- that are most important in life. And, perhaps it is disasters like the 1985 flood that keep us focused on those priorities, by reminding us of just how fleeting the kind of happiness is that comes from spacious homes, fancy cars, and expensive clothes.

This Thanksgiving, I hope that my fellow West Virginians will join with me in reflecting on all that we have for which to be thankful.

And I urge them to dedicate themselves to the preservation of our traditional values and -- through our churches, schools, and civic organizations -- to pass those spiritual and family values on to future generations.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's New Tool For Medical Diagnosis

The Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center at West Virginia University (WVU) in Morgantown recently unveiled the state's first Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner, making available to West Virginians one of the most advanced tools known to modern medicine.

The PET scanner, housed in a new PET center, which has been established with \$10 million that I added to a 1991 appropriations bill, will offer top-flight medical services to West Virginians right in their own back yard.

This new scanner, one of only 60 currently in operation around the nation, not only brings ultra-modern health care to our state, but it also provides an expanded opportunity for WVU personnel to conduct specialized scientific research. That, in turn, will help to make the University's Health Sciences Center a more attractive location for nationally prominent medical professionals.

To conduct a PET test, I am advised that medical personnel inject a small quantity of radioactive material into the patient. That material -- which, according to WVU physicians, produces no harmful side-effects in the patient -- is then carried through the bloodstream to the organ the doctor wishes to examine.

The PET scanner detects emissions produced by

the injected material, records data about the organ, and then produces a live color picture, which is examined and analyzed by the physician.

One of the great benefits to using the PET scanner is that it can provide a three-dimensional look at the organ in action.

Imagine the ability to watch the heart in motion, beat by beat, pumping blood throughout the body, or the chance to see a cross section of a working kidney, without having to make a single incision. What a departure from the one-dimensional, still picture provided by an X-ray!

To a physician, the PET scanner can mean the chance to catch a life-threatening ailment early and accurately without the need of an invasive procedure.

To the patient, it can mean the difference between the mild inconvenience of spending a few hours in the PET center and a long and costly hospital stay involving exploratory surgery, just for a diagnosis.

The opening of this new PET center is the latest stride in my long-running efforts to make health care more accessible to West Virginians. Along with the professionals at the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center, I look forward to its successful long-term operation and to the many life-saving diagnoses it will make possible.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MDTV Improving Rural Medicine

West Virginians cherish the freedom found in the mountains and valleys of our state. But while the rural landscape eloquently showcases nature's beauty, it can also make it difficult to deliver modern health care services to remote areas. That dilemma, which prompted the development in West Virginia of the televised medical service called Mountaineer Doctor Television, or MDTV, continues to drive the program's expansion.

In 1991, I added the initial federal appropriations to help establish MDTV in our state. Including that first funding, I have, over the years, added more than \$5 million in federal funds for the initiative; and in recent weeks, I have announced that four new sites -- Rainelle Medical Center, Roane General Hospital, Monroe Health Care Center, and Marshall University -- have been selected for inclusion in the MDTV network.

The four newest MDTV sites will join seven other remote sites: Boone Memorial Hospital; Braxton County Memorial Hospital; Davis Memorial Hospital in Elkins; Grant Memorial Hospital; St. Joseph's Hospital in Buckhannon; the Veterans Affairs Hospital/Clarksburg; and the Veterans Affairs Hospital/Martinsburg. Those will be connected to two major hub locations: the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center in Morgan-town and the

Charleston Area Medical Center.

MDTV uses sophisticated, two-way video broadcasts to link physicians and other health care providers at the rural sites to the medical specialists and technological resources available at the two hub facilities.

The MDTV cameras capture images of patients at the remote sites and then transmit audio and video signals across telephone lines to screens at the hub sites, where specialists can consult on the patients' medical conditions and then provide advice to the local medical professionals.

In addition to the life-saving health benefits gained through the program, MDTV can save patients, their families, and the medical community time and money. Sparing patients of in person visits to medical specialists saves them -- and, in some cases, their caregiver family members -- the expense of travel and the loss of workdays. MDTV representatives estimate that the use of the network saves patients an average of \$2,500.

Residents of rural communities are receiving better health care through MDTV. To ensure that more West Virginians have access to it, I have included a provision in a fiscal 1996 appropriations bill to enable the further expansion in West Virginia of this modern medical outreach program.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Happy 10th Anniversary to Software Valley

I recently attended a celebration in West Virginia marking the 10-year anniversary of the Software Valley initiative.

It was in 1985 that I hosted the first Software Valley symposium, a gathering of representatives from government, academia, and business who came together to explore the possibility of founding West Virginia-based high-technology businesses, and of attracting out-of-state high-tech firms to locate in West Virginia.

Since its inception, Software Valley has been an assertive matchmaker, bringing federal agencies and their contractors together with West Virginia companies to forge promising business relationships. It has assisted in stringing "networking" lines that are providing for greater cooperation among West Virginia businesses. And it has served as an informational and educational resource, helping West Virginia firms to gain the know-how to become state-of-the-art competitors for the 21st century.

Four years after the launching of Software Valley, an opportunity opened for me and for West Virginia, when, for the first time, I was able to assume the Chairmanship of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

As Chairman, I added funds to appropriations bills to support the development of infrastructure that would provide a foundation upon which initiatives like Software Valley could build the private-sector framework for a

broader, more diversified West Virginia economy.

For example, as a result of my efforts, West Virginia is benefiting from construction of modern, safe, four-lane divided highways and renovation of river locks and dams that are providing for more cost-efficient transport of goods and services. My efforts have also included the establishment of high-tech federal facilities, such as the FBI Fingerprint Identification complex, that are creating an atmosphere conducive to new and greater private-sector investment. And I have added funding for the development of programs that provide training for the jobs of the future.

Much of this federally supported infrastructure is still taking shape, and as the current ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, I am continuing, within very severe federal budget constraints, to ensure that my various projects come to full fruition.

However, while federal funds can help to spur private-sector investment, long-term growth cannot be dependent on a constant influx of government assistance. A strong economic base requires a commitment from the private sector.

Therefore, although I no longer serve in an official capacity with the organization, like the proud parent of a child gone off to undertake a new challenge, I look forward to seeing greater achievements from Software Valley as it moves into its second decade.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Time for Bipartisanship

"All government -- indeed, every human benefit and enjoyment, every virtue, and every prudent act -- is founded on compromise." These, the words of Edmund Burke in an address to the British Parliament 220 years ago, bear repeating in the halls of Congress today.

In all my years of public service, I have never before witnessed such politically motivated and potentially disastrous intransigence as that which characterizes the current majority in Congress.

It was that partisan intransigence that forced the recent federal government shutdown, the longest in our nation's history, and that threatens future crisis. For if the current Congressional leadership remains wedded to its present "our way or no way" course, the workings of the federal government could again be brought to a standstill in the coming weeks. And, further, the chance to craft a thoughtful plan to move toward a balanced budget will be destined for failure.

Throughout the past year, the 13 appropriations bills -- traditionally rapidly moving measures by virtue of the fact that they must be passed every year -- have been weighted down by controversial pieces of the so-called "Contract with America."

Attaching the lopsided and ill-conceived elements of that contract -- for example, deep cuts in education, law enforcement, civilian research, Medicare, and

natural resources conservation, together with reduced discretionary funding for transportation infrastructure, coupled with a big build-up in military spending -- doomed the appropriations bills' enactment by the start of the new fiscal year and caused the federal government to stop operating for four business days. The cost of that shutdown is estimated at over \$700 million -- \$700 million in wasted federal tax dollars. That is the price of obstinacy.

Equally disconcerting and irresponsible was the calculated attempt by many members to attach partisan strings to the two temporary measures -- the continuing resolution and the debt limit extension -- that were necessary to end the federal shutdown and to keep the government operating until after all of the appropriations bills are completed and signed.

Now, with another possible shutdown looming just ahead, members of Congress and the Administration are engaged in negotiations intended to lead to a seven-year plan to bring the budget into balance. The test of their leadership will be whether or not the negotiators will put the good of the nation and the laudable goal of reasoned budget trimming ahead of political gamesmanship. If they turn a deaf ear to the advice of Edmund Burke and refuse to compromise, they will surely squander a real chance to bring the federal deficit down and to move toward a balanced budget.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Step Toward Peace on Earth

In the midst of this season of miracles, the world is poised on the brink of peace in the Balkans, a region which for the past four years has been battered by a brutal war.

Sadly, however, as the Bosnian peace agreement was being hammered out, the world paused to mourn the tragic assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, pointedly reminding us of the delicate nature of peacemaking and the tenacity and ugliness of those who would go to any lengths to sabotage it. The hope for Peace on Earth, then, however deeply felt and widely voiced, must be tempered with the reality that peace is a very fragile thing. It requires careful cultivation and diligent preservation.

In the case of the Balkans, peace is balanced on the narrow edge of an agreement made possible only by U.S. Diplomatic leadership and the conditions created by resolute U.S. and NATO military power. It is to that military might that the warring parties are looking to deter further war, to ensure stability, and to provide a chance to back away from conflict and begin anew in peace. The risks of not attempting to stabilize this fragile region, resulting in the spread of war, are substantial and troubling.

Against that background, after long consideration and deep personal reflection and concern, and underpinned by the recognition that all other alternatives for peace have been exhausted, I have given my

qualified support to a narrowly defined, one-year U.S. military mission in Bosnia.

Unfortunately, as with any military involvement, there are no guarantees that the Bosnian peace plan will proceed as the Administration currently proposes. There exists the possibility that the mission will not go well, or that it might be strained by efforts to expand the defined role.

Thankfully, in that event, the Congress, through the power of the purse, could force an end to the U.S. mission and bring our troops home again. It was my amendment to a fiscal 1994 Defense Appropriations Bill that set a deadline for the cutoff of funds for the U.S. mission in Somalia, thereby setting an enforceable end date to our involvement there. I have insisted on language in the Bosnian Resolution that sets up another deadline, thereby forcing the President to come back to Congress and justify the authorization and appropriations for any extension of our stay there.

In the meantime, U.S. troops, including service men and women from West Virginia, will join with NATO in a renewed effort to rebuild peace.

Thus, I stand behind our troops, and, in this season of hope, I join with the families of service men and women in offering up prayers for the safe return of their loved ones. May they be protected by the armor of what is right and just, and may their mission end in lasting peace.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Creating a Model for Classroom Reform

I have always believed that quality education is essential for molding a stronger nation. However, the deterioration of this nation's public schools and the lack of discipline in our classrooms impede the educational process. Disruptions in the schools, ranging from disorderliness to violence and gang-related murder, create a poor educational environment for teachers and students who are really striving to learn.

That is why I recently proposed an amendment to the District of Columbia Appropriations Bill to help return discipline to public classrooms in the District that could serve as a model for schools throughout the country.

My amendment would implement a two-year pilot project, requiring a study to determine the project's effectiveness in D.C. schools. If successful, schools across the country could follow its example.

My amendment would require community service for suspended students, propose a dress code, and make the Chief of the National Guard Bureau an ex-officio member of a new commission planned to oversee school reform.

Disciplinary suspension of a student is often looked upon as a vacation by the suspended individual. Students who are expelled and then left to their own devices tend to become bored and then, as a result, may get into further trouble. But

requiring them to perform public service will benefit the community, provide supervision for the time the student is out of the classroom, and demonstrate to the student that job opportunities will likely be limited without the benefit of an education.

Also, a dress code would keep obnoxious or inappropriate clothing out of the classroom. One reads newspaper articles about young people fighting and even murdering each other over articles of clothing. A dress code would minimize the differences between income levels among students, and remove the focus from clothes, brand names, and gang symbols, placing it, instead, on scholarship.

The third part of my amendment would include the Chief of the National Guard Bureau as an ex-officio member of the proposed Commission on Consensus Reform in the District of Columbia Public Schools, a commission intended to create and oversee reform goals. The National Guard is involved in youth programs throughout the United States and has a direct and positive impact on "at-risk" youth.

Our schools are a tremendous resource for our nation's future. It is important, therefore, to curb violence and restore sanity to our institutions of learning. We must reclaim the classroom.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Homecoming '96!

From the earliest days of my public service in our nation's capital, Erma and I have relished each and every opportunity to spend time in West Virginia. Like so many West Virginians whose jobs keep them stationed out of state, our hearts remain among good friends in the West Virginia hills.

Therefore, I was especially honored this past summer to be invited by Governor Gaston Caperton to serve as honorary co-chairman of Homecoming '96.

Although the post carries no official responsibilities, I look forward to this year-long celebration and to the chance to attend some of the festivities that will be staged in every corner of our state.

Those of us who call it home could easily pen a list of West Virginia's attributes, suitable for inclusion in a marketing pamphlet. It would contain the beautiful landscape and exciting tourist attractions, the numerous well-made products, the quality of life, and the presence of strong family values and abiding faith in God that can be found here.

But, beyond those traits that can adequately be described on paper, there exists, in West Virginia, a quality that defies simple

description. It is something that must be experienced first-hand, something that leads to a deep-seated attachment to this state. We West Virginians know quite well those wonderful feelings that well up in our souls as the visions of home sweet home settle in upon us. And, when we hear a homespun tale, or smell a fragrance that stirs a distant pleasant memory, or spot a familiar face in a crowd of strangers, there is nothing that stirs the depths of our hearts more.

Thus, West Virginia is engaging in a statewide celebration that not only beckons displaced West Virginians to come home again, but that also invites the whole nation to discover the West Virginia that we well know and cherish.

Homecoming '96 is an exciting venture, full of promise and possibilities. It is a tremendous chance to introduce newcomers to our state, and to showcase the progress being made here, including the renewed economic growth which I have worked so hard to help bring about. It is also, perhaps, a chance to entice some new enterprises to make West Virginia their home, too.

So, along with my fellow West Virginians at home and away, I look forward to a successful Homecoming '96!

December 27, 1995



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Call for Civility

It is with a measure of sadness and concern that I look back upon the year just ended, having witnessed a poison settle in upon the U.S. Senate that threatens to further undermine the public's trust in government.

During 1995, some members of the Senate, with growing frequency and severity, showed callous disregard for decorum and pummeled their colleagues with strident words better suited to tavern brawls than to debate in the world's greatest deliberative body.

Although the venom stopped short of the violent acts that have erupted on occasion throughout the Senate's existence, the past year's frequent outbursts of incivility could cause 1995 to be listed among the Senate's lowest years.

Most recently, for example, one member went so far as to label the President and other Senators "liars."

I cannot help but wonder what our young people think when they hear adults in the premiere upper body among the world's legislatures casting such rash aspersions upon other persons.

Such utterly reckless statements serve no constructive purpose in the legislative process. They only poison the waters of the well of mutual respect and co-

munity which must prevail in Congress -- particularly in the current, already bitter environment -- if our two political parties are to work together in the best interests of the people.

I do not intend to suggest that there is no room for disagreement in the Senate. The Senate is a deliberative body. It is a forum created to facilitate debate, including passionate argument. But when the American people are treated to such harsh words as have recently spewed forth on the Senate floor, it is no wonder that there is growing disrespect for the Congress throughout the country.

The members of the Senate have an enormously important responsibility, but the ability to carry out that responsibility is crippled when the people lose faith in, and respect for, their representatives and the institutions in which they serve.

I hope that in 1996 the members of Congress will exercise a greater restraint upon their passions and avoid making extreme statements that can only serve to further polarize the relationships between the two parties in the House and Senate and between the executive and legislative branches. The welfare of the country may depend upon it.

January 3, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

High Goals, Wholesome Books, And Dreams

A recent survey found a pervasive fear of violence and of dying young among a large sector of our nation's youth.

The study, conducted by the child advocacy group Children Now and the health care provider Kaiser Permanente, found that 63 percent of 7- to 10-year-olds and 42 percent of 11- to 17-year-olds worry that they will die young.

Also, according to the study, 71 percent of respondents who were between the ages of 7 to 10 years worried that they would be shot or stabbed at school or at home.

Survey analysts noted that, in a great many cases, these children's awareness of their own mortality was validated by their own experiences. Not only have many of them seen unspeakable acts of violence on television and in the movies, but, all too often, these children have either witnessed a violent act or know someone who has been the victim of violence.

These findings are frightening, and they are made even more so when coupled with other recently reported facts about violence and youth in America. For example, an October special edition of The New York Times Magazine, devoted to "childhood in America", noted that an estimated 135,000 U.S. children take guns to school every day and that, despite a nationwide decline in violent crime in recent years, the arrest rates for violent

crimes committed by juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17 doubled between 1983 and 1992.

Also disturbing is the magazine's report of the finding that, in 1991, more teenagers and young adults died from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, HIV infection or AIDS, birth defects, pneumonia, influenza, stroke, and chronic lung disease combined.

Such numbers present a huge challenge to the future of our nation.

How can we prepare our young people to take the reins of leadership in the coming years when, fixated on the possibility of dying young, they focus more of their attention on their own funerals than on their graduation days?

I believe that we have an obligation to our nation to encourage our young people to envision a future in which they finish their educations, build careers, raise families, and reap the fruits of old age.

To accomplish that, we must raise our voices against violence on television, and crack down on violent crime in our schools and in our neighborhoods.

Government, parents, teachers, and civic leaders should join together to rid our children's daily lives of gangs and guns, replacing them, instead, with high goals, wholesome books, and dreams.

There is no more worthy resolution for this new year of 1996.

January 17, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Instrument for the Public Good

The growing prison population is an unfortunate fact of life in the 20th century.

In 1982, nearly 29,700 inmates were in Federal correctional institutions. As of November, 1995, the Federal prison population had risen to nearly 101,000. This rapid increase is due largely to more severe sentencing, longer terms, less liberal parole laws, and greater numbers of non-citizen inmates. Long-range forecasts project that the total Federal prison population will approach 136,000 by the year 2002.

We have to have adequate correctional facilities -- sufficient to accommodate the growth in the prison population -- and qualified, dedicated staff. Further, we must make the financial commitment to build those facilities and to support that kind of staff.

That is why I included language in a 1989 appropriations bill report recommending that the Bureau of Prisons review its expansion requirements in the Mid-Atlantic States in order to ensure that sufficient Federal prisons were provided in the region.

Subsequently, I authored a national anti-drug initiative, included in a fiscal year 1990 appropriations bill, which provided funding to help alleviate the

growing problem of overcrowding in the Federal prison system. Based on its review, conducted at my request, the Bureau of Prisons selected Beckley as the site for a new Federal prison.

That complex -- constructed with \$80 million made available through my anti-drug initiative -- is now formally named the Robert C. Byrd Federal Correctional Institution.

Standing on 283 acres near the Raleigh County Airport, the Byrd Federal Correctional Institution is designed to house 1,152 medium security and 384 minimum security inmates. When fully operational later this year, it is expected to generate an annual economic impact of approximately \$28 million and to employ a staff of 491, sixty percent of whom are expected to be local hires.

The new Robert C. Byrd Federal Correctional Institution, like other modern prisons, is intended to protect the public by confining offenders in a safe, humane, and secure environment; providing positive, self-improvement opportunities to inmates who want to follow a more constructive path in life; and establishing and maintaining a safe and supportive workplace for all employees.

January 24, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Trail Blazing in the Age of Telecommunications

The age of telecommunications presents West Virginia with a wealth of opportunities for educational growth and economic development.

Telecommunications tools -- television sets, computers, satellite transmissions, and fiber-optic links -- can enable educational institutions to reach out to rural communities, helping to build a better educated citizenry. Recognizing the benefits that telecommunications can provide for West Virginia and its largely rural population, I have worked to put programs into place that are making "distance learning" available to greater numbers of West Virginians.

For example, I recently announced that by mid-year the National Guard will begin demonstrating telecommunications services in Huntington, Charleston, and Fairmont. In addition to providing a cost-effective means of training members of the National Guard and Army Reserve, the high-tech communications equipment will be made available to members of the local communities for a variety of purposes, including economic development and worker retraining.

Mountaineer Doctor Television (MDTV), an initiative developing in West Virginia through funds that I have added to federal appropriations bills, provides a wide array of distance learning experiences, in ad-

dition to the medical care that it extends to rural residents. Last year, the Morgantown-based MDTV provided over 500 hours of educational and videoconferencing services throughout the state, including medical conferences and programs for the West Virginia University College of Business and Economics.

The MDTV network is not only a cost-efficient vehicle for teaching over distance, but, in many instances, MDTV also provides residents of small communities with access to educational experiences, such as college-level lectures and conferences, that would not otherwise be available locally at any cost.

The Huntington-based Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing is another of my initiatives that is making use of teletechnology to boost education. The Byrd Institute provides small-business clients with a venue for interactive video conferencing and distance learning classes at sites throughout the state. For example, the Byrd Institute is one of 192 sites nationwide to host a monthly interactive teleconference series aimed at providing cutting-edge information and advice to small- and medium-sized businesses.

These initiatives serve as tangible evidence that West Virginia is already blazing trails in the age of telecommunications.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

COPS

The 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill included an amendment that I authored to establish the \$22 billion Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund, comprised of savings achieved by streamlining government. My amendment ensured that the bill's crime-fighting programs would be funded. And, in some cases, such as the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, my amendment enabled the expansion of major anti-crime initiatives.

Today, approximately 33,000 of the 100,000 new officers that the COPS program pledged to put on our nation's streets have been added to police forces across the nation. Because of COPS, well over 100 West Virginia communities have already been approved to receive grants to put more officers on the beat, and dozens more towns in our state could be awarded future COPS grants.

A recent *Time* magazine article about community policing reported that serious crime is on the retreat. Nationally, murders fell 12 percent in the first six months of 1995, and, in the suburbs, where the numbers of felonies have long been steadily rising, incidents of violent crime fell between four and five percent last year.

What has brought about this decline in crime? According to the *Time* report, community policing is a key part of the answer.

However, despite the COPS program's obvious success, and despite the fact

that it has the support of virtually every major law enforcement group in the country, the Republican Congressional leadership has been attempting to gut the COPS program.

For example, the recently enacted continuing resolution included funding for COPS, but at only 75 percent of last year's level, or about half the amount authorized by the Crime Bill.

In addition, the most recent version of the Fiscal 1996 Commerce/Justice/State Appropriations Bill proposed to distribute community policing funds by a complicated mathematical formula, based on the number of reported crimes in each state. That formula would strongly favor urban areas and put mostly rural states like West Virginia -- which has one of the nation's lowest crime rates -- at a significant disadvantage. Furthermore, under this block grant program, there would be no assurances that the funds would be used to hire more officers. It would, therefore, dramatically weaken the COPS program and make it much more difficult for West Virginia communities to win COPS grants.

Community policing is proving to be an effective strategy that reduces crime and helps citizens to feel safe in their own neighborhoods. Given its record of success, COPS should be maintained and allowed to fulfill its commitment to the American people, including the people of West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Power of the People and the Duty to be Informed

Thomas Jefferson, who authored the Declaration of Independence, wrote, "The people are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty."

Ours is a republican form of government, one in which the power is rooted in the people. Jefferson's words underscore the duty of every citizen to participate in our government.

The act of voting is at the heart of this duty. And, in order to ensure that our elected officials are the best suited for our nation, voters must be informed. But a recent article in The Washington Post found that millions of Americans cannot answer even basic questions about American politics.

The article reports that only 24 percent of citizens who were asked to name the two U.S. Senators from their state actually got both names correct. Further, 54 percent of those polled got both names incorrect.

Also, two-thirds of those interviewed could not name the person who serves in the U.S. House of Representatives from their congressional district.

Our republican form of government cannot operate without an informed citizenry. How can elected leaders properly represent a public which cannot even name the people who hold some of the country's most important leadership positions?

According to the article, four in ten Americans

could not name Al Gore as the vice president of the United States, while two out of three could not name the majority leader of the Senate, Robert Dole of Kansas, a Republican candidate for president.

It is not inconsequential that people across our country cannot name their elected leaders. A lack of political knowledge undermines our country's political system.

The Post article reports that Americans who are informed are more likely to vote, and they are more likely to see their vote as a remedy for what they believe is wrong with government. Those Americans who are less informed are less likely to vote and more likely to believe that their country is in decline.

It is through information that people form opinions and ideas concerning the direction in which they think the country should be headed. Every citizen's vote is his voice in our government. It is the duty of every citizen to be informed in order to vote wisely.

An informed knowledge of their government is a key that encourages people to get involved in the processes of government, to vote, and to participate in their government. When faced with disappointing facts like those contained in the recent Post article, it is important for Americans to remember the wisdom of Thomas Jefferson.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reviving the Dream of the Challenger

Ten years ago, seven courageous Americans, including teacher Christa McAuliffe, boarded NASA's Challenger space shuttle, embarking on a mission designed to draw upon the wonders of space travel to inspire our nation's youth to strive for excellence.

Just 73 seconds into that flight, the Challenger mission ended in tragedy, taking the lives of those seven astronauts and suspending the Challenger's dream of helping young Americans to "reach for the stars."

In the years since that disaster, however, NASA and the families of the Challenger crew have worked together to bring renewed life to the aspirations of the Challenger astronauts.

Their efforts have resulted in the establishment across the country of more than two dozen Challenger Learning Centers (CLC), state-of-the-art facilities that combine cutting-edge technologies with the thrill of space exploration to spark students' interests in the study of math and science.

One of those Challenger Centers -- initiated by Congressman Alan B. Mollohan and housed in the Center for Educational Technologies, which was constructed and equipped with \$10 million I added to federal appropriations bills -- began operating at Wheeling Jesuit College in November of 1994.

The Wheeling Center gives young people and their teachers hands-on experiences that supplement classroom work and provide

them with access to a wealth of NASA technology.

Like the other CLC's scattered around the country, the Wheeling facility contains replicas of a space station and of NASA's mission control center that allow teachers and students to "fly" simulated space missions.

In its first year of operation, Wheeling Jesuit's Challenger Learning Center flew approximately 10,000 young Ohio Valley residents on mock NASA missions. Another 15,000 students have already made reservations for 1996.

In addition, the Wheeling staff is actively pursuing ways to take the Learning Center concept to new levels, experimenting with innovations that can make all CLC's more accessible to physically challenged students. For example, the Wheeling Center staff, working cooperatively with the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind in Romney, Hampshire County, recently modified the facility to enable blind and hearing-impaired students to take CLC flights.

West Virginians can be proud of their Challenger Learning Center and its endeavors to keep the dream of the Challenger alive. In reaching out to West Virginia teachers and students, and in pursuing methods to extend the CLC experience to physically impaired youth, the Wheeling CLC epitomizes the kind of impact that the Challenger crew had hoped to make on young Americans.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Educated Workforce for West Virginia's Future

The most recent figures on the domestic labor force reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics should serve as a guiding light in our efforts to build a stronger economic base for West Virginia in the 21st century.

Noteworthy among the Bureau's latest projections, which provide a glimpse of the U.S. job market trends from 1992 through the year 2005, are statistics that underscore the importance of education to job seekers of the next 10 years.

According to the Bureau, the level of educational attainment in the labor force has been steadily rising in recent years and is expected to continue to grow through the early years of the next millennium. Job opportunities for those with the highest levels of education are expected to grow at a much more rapid rate than for those who do not earn high school diplomas. Additionally, individuals who cannot read and write will find, with growing frequency, that they are not even being considered for job openings.

In fact, 75 percent of the fastest growing occupational groups are predicted to be executive, administrative, managerial, professional specialty, technical, and related support occupations.

The brightest spot in the job market spectrum is projected to be the service industry. Already the largest employment sector, ser-

vice-producing industries -- health care services, the social and educational fields, and the wholesale and retail trades, for example -- are expected to account for almost two-thirds of all new jobs in the coming years.

Although that service industry growth is projected to translate into the creation of millions of new low-wage jobs, the fastest percentage growth will, again, be in the highest paying positions, those requiring the most formal education. Meanwhile, medium-wage employment opportunities will show little change, meaning that, for the most part, those who start out on the lowest rungs will find it extremely difficult to work their way up the economic ladder unless they attain at least a college education.

All of this serves as convincing evidence that the surest path to a stable, well-paying career of tomorrow is through education, and further, that building a well-educated population is fundamental to ensuring a strong economy for West Virginia's future.

If our state is to have a real chance at successfully competing for new and expanded opportunities in this shifting economic atmosphere, future and current members of our West Virginia workforce must be prepared with education and training in the anticipated growth fields in order to fill the emerging job vacancies.

February 28, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Changing Channels

Recently, 31 top television executives came to Washington to meet with President Clinton to announce their intentions to voluntarily rate the programs their companies sponsor.

This meeting demonstrates, at long last, a recognition by the nation's broadcasters that there is a correlation between television programming and the state of violence and moral decay in our communities. I see this as a much needed first step in an effort to inject responsibility into programming, and I applaud this decision.

For years, I have spoken of the power of television and its overwhelming influence in our society, and in particular with our young people. The average child will watch 25,000 hours of programming by the time that child reaches the age of 18.

For many young people, television is more than just entertainment. Often it serves as a babysitter, companion, and friend. Demands on the modern family, often comprised of two parents who must both work, leave little time for closely monitoring what each child watches on TV. This, coupled with the increase in prime-time programs which peddle sex and violence, means that we must give parents the necessary tools to help ensure that the time youngsters spend in front of the television is as wholesome and

enriching as possible. Even this new rating system can never take the place of the careful guidance which parents must give to their children. However, it can be a helpful tool.

This new commitment from the networks demonstrates a proper recognition that they are indeed responsible for their broadcast product. With this action, the networks appear to have realized that there is much more involved in television programming than popularity ratings and advertising dollars. These executives now acknowledge that they have an obligation to viewers, and parents in particular, to provide a means for screening what children are exposed to on a day-to-day basis.

In the past, the television industry has stridently resisted such efforts and has hidden behind a distorted view of the Constitutional protection of freedom of speech.

While we all are concerned about protecting the precious rights set forth in the Constitution, certainly parents have not only the right, but also the obligation to keep what they may view as objectionable material away from young impressionable children. In the long run, having the networks work in cooperation with parents may serve to help reverse the cycle of violence and vulgarity in which this country seems to find itself so mired today.

March 6, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In Support of the West Virginia Guard and Reserve

West Virginians have a long and distinguished history of supporting U.S. military missions around the globe.

Most recently, as part of the international effort in Bosnia, National Guard units from West Virginia have been, or are being, deployed to that troubled region.

Prior to the recent peace agreement, which was signed last December, the 167th Airlift Wing in Martinsburg was deployed on three occasions -- once in the summer of 1992, and twice in 1993 -- in support of Operation Provide Promise, the predecessor to the current mission, known as Operation Joint Endeavor. On the third occasion, they were joined by the Charleston-based 130th Airlift Wing.

Now, both the Martinsburg and Charleston Airlift wings are again in line to be called to serve in support of the current Bosnian peacekeeping effort.

When deployed, sometime in the April-to-June time frame, these two Air Guard units will join the 152nd Prisoner of War Information unit from Moundsville, the first West Virginia Army National Guard unit to be deployed as part of Operation Joint Endeavor.

Throughout my years in Congress, I have obtained federal funds to ensure that West Virginia's reserve components are well trained, equipped, and ready to respond to assigned missions. Modernization

projects in many communities throughout West Virginia for which I have obtained federal funds include the building of armories, reserve centers, and hangars; upgrades to airfields; renovations of maintenance centers; and acquisition of new equipment. The benefits of these investments are best realized, and best appreciated, during times of local or international crisis.

For example, over the last decade, as a member of both the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Armed Services Committee, I have pushed for modernization of facilities at the Charleston and Martinsburg Air National Guard bases. Also, as part of that effort, I included language in the FY 1995 Defense Authorization and Appropriations bills to provide the Martinsburg Air Wing with 12 new C-130 aircraft, eight of which recently have been delivered to the unit. The repeated and continuing involvement of the 130th and the 167th units in Bosnia confirms the need for, and value of, these peacetime investments.

While I have given my qualified support to a narrowly defined U.S. involvement in Bosnia for the period of one year, I stand ready to join in taking action to bring our troops home if the U.S. mission there begins to broaden beyond Congressional intent.

In the meantime, I remain steadfastly behind the men and women of the Guard and Reserve, and I commend them for their dedication, service, and patriotism.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Walk Down My Hall of Memories

It was in 1946 that I first tossed my hat into the political ring, running for, and winning, a seat in the West Virginia House of Delegates. Since that time, I have been privileged to serve in both houses of the West Virginia State Legislature and both houses of the U.S. Congress.

Recently, while reflecting upon my fifty years of public service, I was struck by the enormous changes which have come about in West Virginia since the beginning of my career.

In 1946, West Virginia's lot was believed to be inextricably linked to coal. That year, approximately 144 million tons of coal were mined by a force of 122,200 workers.

Physical infrastructure was scant. Only one major flood control dam -- the Tygart -- stood in the interior of our state. The Gallipolis Locks and Dam was the only major navigational structure on the Ohio River along our state's border. Fewer than 10 miles of four-lane highway existed in our state. Most of the rest were tortuous, two-lane roads that made driving anywhere a long and dangerous undertaking.

In 1996, ours is no longer the narrowly defined economy of fifty years ago. While coal and steel remain respected members of our industrial base, they represent a much smaller segment of the economic spectrum than they did fifty years ago. In 1994, just 27,000 West Virginia mine workers produced 164 million tons of coal. During the

last decade, the "information age" has dotted our landscape with numerous high-tech firms.

Additionally, several new, ultra-modern federal offices, offering thousands of jobs, have located to West Virginia as a result of my efforts.

Today, 871 miles of four-lane divided highways traverse our hills and valleys, making for faster, safer travel. Ten major flood control dams now stand within our borders, and several navigational locks and dams, including a greatly updated Gallipolis Locks and Dam -- today renamed the Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam -- have modernized the Ohio River navigational system, saving shippers hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

Since 1946, we have taken a war-time industrial base and transformed it into a technology-rich economy that rivals any in the nation. We have upgraded our physical infrastructure, improved our schools, and expanded the reach of modern medical services.

Throughout this era of change, we have also managed to preserve those precious old values that set West Virginians apart, an accomplishment for which we should be equally proud and thankful.

Reflecting on this walk along the path of my "hall of memories," I am heartened by the advances we have made in West Virginia, and I am convinced that we are on the right track as we prepare to enter the next millennium.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Combating Crimes of Violence Against Women

Rising with the escalating numbers of violent crimes in America are the crimes of brutality committed against women.

Recognizing that disturbing trend, Congress, in 1994, passed landmark anti-crime legislation that included provisions specifically targeting violence against women as a category of crime deserving special attention by law enforcement.

The statistics are compelling. For example, according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, every six minutes in the United States a woman is raped. In addition, the FBI reports that domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to American women between the ages of 15 and 44, greater than the combined total of car accidents, muggings, and rapes.

To address these crimes, the 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill set aside \$1.6 billion -- funding made possible through the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund, created by my amendment to that bill -- for police, prosecutors, prevention programs, and victim assistance initiatives to address sexual violence or domestic abuse.

In addition to providing funding that is supporting the establishment of resources such as women's shelters and domestic violence hotlines, the bill instituted tough new penalties for sex offenses.

It also included a provision which makes it a federal offense with additional

penalties to cross state lines to continue abusing a spouse or a partner, an important step toward protecting those women who suffer repeated batterings and who finally gather the courage to leave their abuser.

Beyond the actions the law has spurred at the federal level, it is aiding state level efforts to combat violence against women.

Last year, West Virginia received \$426,000 as its first installment of federal funding under that new program. The state is expected to receive at least four more annual grants.

Our state's initial steps to advance the goals of the law include the establishment of the "West Virginians Against Violence Committee," which will administer federal funds and oversee the development of programs throughout West Virginia to combat rape and abuse.

The fallout from these crimes reaches far beyond those women who are themselves the victims of rape or assault. It touches every woman who finds herself afraid to walk to her car after work, or reluctant to stop at the grocery store in the dark, and it affects every man who worries about the safety of his wife, daughter, coworker, or friend.

It is, then, in all our best interests to turn back the rising tide of violence against women. Ensuring that the objectives of the violence-against-women provisions of the anti-crime law are realized is a logical starting point.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

"Read To Me" Day

From the time I was a young lad growing up in the coalfields of Southern West Virginia, I was a lover of books and learning. I coveted books the way some children might covet a friend's new toy.

Looking back on those early years, I recall that one day when I was in the third grade, attending a two-room school, I noticed a geography book which belonged to a student in a higher grade. That very night I went home and told my dad that I wanted this fourth-grade geography book. I can still clearly remember that book -- Frye's Geography -- with its pretty-colored maps.

My dad was a poor coal miner with little schooling, but he understood the value of a good education. So, on the very next Saturday he took me to town, where he bought me a brand-new Frye's Geography book.

The following Monday, I proudly carried my new book to school, showed it to my teacher, and insisted on studying from it. In that way, I advanced myself to the fourth-grade geography class before I had actually achieved that higher station.

I was fortunate that my parents recognized the value of books and that they supported and encouraged my interest in them. I have carried that fascination with

books and their mysteries throughout my entire life.

Reading is a key to success. Books can open up new worlds. They can transport the reader through time and space. They can introduce new and different ideas and empower their readers with knowledge.

As my parents did, all parents have the ability to stimulate a lifelong interest in reading and to nurture a love of books. They can do so simply by reading aloud to their children.

It was in recognition of the connection between reading to a child, and the development by that child of an attachment to books, that Governor Gaston Caperton recently declared April 17, "Read to Me" Day in West Virginia, an event promoted by West Virginia Public Television.

I commend Governor Caperton on his declaration. A one-day observance of this kind is valuable in directing the public's attention to the issue of reading. But this message is so important that I believe that it deserves year-round recognition.

Therefore, I urge parents to make every day "Read to Me" Day by reading to their children. It will be one of the greatest gifts that a child will ever receive.

April 3, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Terrible Blow to the Constitution

The Republican leadership recently pushed through Congress an extreme brand of presidential line-item veto, and with it, a monumental change in our constitutional system of checks and balances and separation of powers.

Proponents of this so-called line-item veto power promote it as a cure for much of our nation's fiscal ills, arguing that it will give the president a knife with which to cut "pork" from congressionally approved spending bills.

In reality, this authority will do little to trim the federal budget, because it will affect, almost exclusively, discretionary spending, the portion of the budget that has already been cut to the bone in recent years.

Meanwhile, the real culprits in the growth of the deficits -- entitlements and tax giveaways -- will be allowed to continue to swell, immune from this new authority.

The recent legislation actually gives the president incredible rescission power to first sign a bill into law and then strike any money items from it. It will also give the president the ability to reach into the accompanying conference report, the statement of the House and Senate managers, and even charts and tables, and cancel any money items mentioned therein. This is truly a radical change from the qualified veto power given to the president by the Framers of the Constitution.

Supporters also claim that the Congress, with a simple majority in both houses, could, at a future date, repeal the law. That claim, however, ignores the fact that a president could block such a repeal with a

veto. It would require a two-thirds vote of both bodies to override the president's veto, which would be very unlikely. As a matter of fact, during the past two centuries in the life of the Republic, presidents, beginning with George Washington, have vetoed -- not counting pocket vetoes -- 1,460 bills, and only 105 (or seven percent) of such vetoes have been overridden by Congress.

This power over the purse, once surrendered to the president, will probably never be retrieved by Congress. Although the recent legislation contains a sunset provision that would terminate the law on January 1, 2005, it remains to be seen whether Congress, at the end of those eight years, will vote to extend this surrender of control of the purse.

In this recent legislation, Congress has initiated an unprecedented and massive shift of power from the legislative branch -- the people's directly elected representatives -- to the executive. It has given the president a club which he can hold over the head of every member of the House and Senate to impose his own will on legislation, treaties, and nominations.

In instituting such an enormous change in our constitutional system, the members of the current Congress have demonstrated a reckless lack of regard for both the intent of the Framers of the Constitution and for future generations.

I believe that this change is unconstitutional, and I hope that, as many constitutional scholars predict, it will be overturned by the courts.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Children From a Bad Influence

Modern telecommunications technology offers a seemingly unlimited variety of channels available to today's television viewer. But along with a growing number of choices comes the responsibility of ensuring that the television is tuned to programs that are suitable for everyone who is watching.

A good step in that direction was taken recently, when Congress passed -- with my support -- legislation that requires manufacturers to install in all new television sets a device known as the "V" Chip (V for Violence), which can electronically block shows labeled for violent or other questionable content.

Also, recently, the television industry commendably agreed to devise a rating system, allowing the "V" Chip to read rating codes and zap out those programs labeled unsuitable for children's viewing.

Television has a strong influence on a child's perception. Studies cited in Congressional hearings indicate that the average American child watches 25 hours of television each week. That same child will be exposed to an estimated 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence on television by the time he or she completes elementary school.

These studies have also found that children exposed to violent programming at a young age have a higher tendency for violent and aggressive behavior later in life than children who are not exposed.

Also, children exposed to violent programs have shown to be more prone to assume that acts of violence are acceptable social behavior.

For many years, I have been concerned about the corrupting effects, particularly on children, of violence and crudeness on much of television, recognizing that as long as broadcasters navigate by the compass of economic gain, questionable programming will persist.

The amount of time that children are exposed to the bombardment of violent television shows, coupled with the damaging long-term effects of such exposure, makes it more important than ever for parents to arm their families against these negative influences. Parents have a responsibility to strictly limit the amount of time their children watch television, and to censor televised material which could have damaging effects on their youngsters. The "V" Chip will be a useful tool in helping to combat television violence.

April 17, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Caring for West Virginia's Children

Today's families are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet without the incomes of two working parents. As a result, growing numbers of families are facing the emotionally and financially difficult dilemma of finding professional day care for their children.

In response to the modern child care needs of West Virginia families, I added \$700,000 to a federal appropriations bill in 1992 for the construction of a facility, which, in addition to providing space for day care, would accommodate the training of child care workers and assist working parents in coping with the competing demands of work and family.

I recently attended the dedication of that new facility--the Child Development Center of Central West Virginia--which is located in Buckhannon, Upshur County.

This new Center provides quality care for preschoolers while their parents work. The Center's child care program combines generous portions of play and imagination with education, helping to ensure that children have a chance to be children while preparing to move on to grade school.

In addition, the Child Development Center (CDC) offers a program of educa-

tion and instruction for child care providers and college students interested in pursuing careers in the child development field. Students and providers who are enrolled in apprenticeships at the CDC facility learn how to best teach and encourage young children, gaining valuable hands-on experience which they can take back to their own communities and use to enhance their own careers. Also, through an outreach program, the CDC is taking child care know-how to seventeen West Virginia counties, so that the need for professional day care can be answered with effective, quality programs throughout the state.

In addition, as part of its comprehensive program, the CDC offers advice and guidance to parents so that they are equipped to make the most of their limited hours at home with their children.

Our children are our future. Therefore, ensuring that they can grow and develop in warm, happy, nurturing environments is a society-wide concern. In a commendable fashion, the Child Development Center of Central West Virginia is addressing that concern, and I am glad to have had a hand in helping its important work grow.

April 24, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The False Promise of Term Limits

Once again, the ill-conceived issue of term limits has been thrust into the political spotlight, only to be wisely rejected by both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives.

Proponents of the issue have recently tried to tap into election-year voter anger to peddle term limits as an avenue to better government. They claim that limiting Congressional terms -- or, in actuality, limiting the tenure, or years of service, of members -- will help the public to exercise greater control over their elected federal representatives.

What the advocates of term limits conveniently ignore is that the public already has the power to limit the service of their representatives in Congress and, thus, to influence the quality of their representation, simply by exercising their right to vote.

Term limits would dramatically weaken the public's voting power -- the constitutionally provided vehicle for returning to office effective representatives or removing those who perform poorly -- diminishing the people's ability to influence the actions and votes of lawmakers and, thereby, the quality of representation.

Limiting the tenure of Congressional members -- for example, to two six-year terms for Senators, as a recently proposed Constitutional Amendment would have mandated -- would create individuals accountable to no one in their final terms. Without having to fear the reprisal of the electorate, last-termers could vote any way they pleased,

cut any deal that benefitted them, or rip off the public treasury with wild abandon. It would constitute a free ride for those who might wish to use it as such.

For anyone concerned that the current system fails to attract new ideas and fresh talent, consider the fact that 51 of the current 100 Senators have served less than two terms, and nearly half of the members of the House of Representatives have served fewer than four years.

Another problem with limiting Congressional terms, of particular concern to West Virginia, is the disadvantage at which such a proposal places small states, which garner power in Congress not through the size of their delegations but through the ability of senior members to earn powerful chairmanships of key committees from long service.

Without seniority, small states like West Virginia cannot hope to stand up to the voting power of large delegations from populous states.

Further, there is the matter of experience. It takes years to master the difficult issues with which this country must contend. We all benefit from the guidance of Congressmen who have gained insight through years of experience in office, just as we benefit from members of other professions who have gained hands-on experience in their fields.

Unlike the proponents of term limits, I believe the public has the wisdom to choose their own representatives and the good sense to see through the false promise of term limits.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Responsibilities in the Computer Age

The Internet is rapidly becoming widely available at public facilities and private locations throughout West Virginia, paralleling its growth across the nation and around the world.

This network of computer sites is an incredible resource. The potential scope of its influence is immense. With a few keystrokes, one can, for example, learn about current events around the globe, conduct research at distant libraries, find up-to-the-minute data on nearly any conceivable topic, and view art exhibits or hear live concerts being staged at far-away venues.

While the Internet, in these and other ways, provides a remarkable conduit for retrieving information available on the "World Wide Web," it also provides an unprecedented opportunity to disseminate information, a prospect that is both exciting and troubling.

Many users seem to forget that the Internet, or "Net", is far from private. Messages, even those addressed to a specific individual at a private computer, are not necessarily secure from prying eyes.

As the Internet has expanded, there have been numerous accounts of individuals naively sending messages that have fallen into unintended hands. These intercepted messages have, in some cases, resulted in personal disgrace or legal troubles for the writer, or others named in the messages.

Even more disturbing have been the accounts of individuals knowingly using the Internet in menacing

ways.

Numerous computer sites have been created by purveyors of sexually explicit and violence-filled material. Information on how to build bombs, for example, has been distributed over the Net. In one reported case, Internet-provided bomb-making information was used by a group of young people in the Midwest for a spree of dangerous mail-box pranks.

Even more distressing are the reports of some individuals using the Net to prey upon young children. For example, pedophiles have been known to locate victims over the Net via electronic mail. They accomplish this by entering into two-way computer conversations with youngsters. They gain the children's trust, and entice them to provide personal information, often including photographs and home addresses, that can be used to lure the youngsters into danger.

Obviously, the Internet can be a tool for tremendous good. But, like other innovations intended to benefit society, if used irresponsibly, the Net can be equally destructive.

As it becomes more broadly accessible, I urge West Virginians to act responsibly when communicating on the Internet. I also urge parents to take an active interest in their child's use of the computer. In this age, with the dangers that lurk on the World Wide Web, parental supervision of a child's computer activity is at least as important as monitoring their television viewing habits.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Illegal Immigration Enforcement Help for West Virginia

According to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), approximately 4 million illegal immigrants are residing in this nation today, and that number is growing by nearly 300,000 per year.

Although illegal immigration is not as prominent a problem in West Virginia as it is in border states like California, Florida, and Texas, our state is not immune from the difficulties associated with the influx of illegal immigrants.

The most powerful magnet for illegal immigrants is jobs. Foreign citizens regularly cross our borders in droves for a chance at employment and a better way of life.

All Americans suffer when illegal immigrants, through honest oversight or willful intent to skirt the law, are allowed to fill jobs in our country. In addition, when illegals or their children subsist on welfare and other government-supported services, it is U.S. taxpayers who get stuck with the bill.

To address these problems, the Senate recently passed, with my support, legislation intended to establish a coherent national policy aimed at stemming the tide of illegal immigration.

That bill makes much-needed and substantive reforms in the current law by focusing on the problem of illegal immigration without unfairly punishing law-abiding employers and those who come to this country and play by the rules.

It provides for expedited deportation of aliens

who commit crimes, imposes new restrictions on the use of welfare by immigrants, and makes it tougher for immigrants to falsely seek asylum protection.

Also, because laws can do little good without a means for enforcing them, the bill contains several measures for improving enforcement, including increasing the number of Border Patrol agents and INS officers.

Further, recognizing that a cohesive national immigration policy requires every state to have the necessary resources to participate in enforcing that policy, I co-sponsored an amendment to the Illegal Immigration Bill to place a minimum of 10 full-time INS agents in each state, including West Virginia, one of only three states which currently have no permanent INS presence.

A full-time INS staff in West Virginia will help state and local law enforcement deal with immigration problems and provide employers with the administrative guidance required to comply with federal immigration procedures. It will also help legal immigrants process paperwork more efficiently.

The Senate-passed Illegal Immigration Reform Bill is a positive step in the nation's overall effort to improve U.S. immigration policies, and with the new INS agents provided for by my amendment, West Virginia will be better able to address the challenges of the expanding immigrant population.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tapping the Potential of Corridor Highways

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is charged with helping the Appalachian states identify and implement strategies for reversing the region's history of economic adversity.

Central to that mission is the construction of the 13-state ARC Corridor Highway System. Simply put, the presence of a more modern, safer highway helps to make communities along its path more attractive to business.

But, such a highway, in and of itself, does not guarantee prosperity to its adjacent communities. Also required are the efforts of local governments, residents, and businesses working together to capitalize on the economy-boosting potential that accompanies a new, up-to-date highway.

Recognizing the importance of local participation in nurturing that potential, I added \$300,000 to a federal appropriations bill to fund an initiative that would assist Corridor communities in plotting their economic futures.

The first step of that initiative, intended to serve as a model for use throughout Appalachia, focuses on helping communities along Corridor L -- which runs from I-79 near Sutton to I-64/77 near Beckley -- to form a comprehensive economic development program.

Although other communities which later use the model may concentrate on different areas of economic growth, in the case of Corridor L, the program focuses on further enhancing tourist activities along the route, since the four counties traversed by Corridor L -- Braxton, Nicholas, Fayette, and Raleigh -- have recently

seen impressive growth in the tourism industry.

In this model program, ARC has been working with residents, businesses, academia, and government entities from the Corridor L communities to identify the tourist attractions that already exist along the route, discern the tourism-related needs of the region, and develop and implement an overarching strategy for increasing tourism jobs and income throughout the area.

Recently, the Corridor L Tourism Enhancement Steering Committee, the governing board for the project, selected 22 local entities to receive grants from the funding I added to an appropriations bill. Among the broad range of selected projects -- all of which fit under the umbrella strategy for growing Corridor L tourist activity -- are several to help inform tourists about area attractions through signs, maps, guides, and videotapes, and others to assist businesses in marketing locally made goods.

Concord College, West Virginia University, and Davis and Elkins College, educational institutions with expertise in tourism, are also pitching in by providing technical assistance to project participants in implementing the master plan.

Along with local participants, I look forward to the long-term success of the Corridor L Tourism Enhancement Project, and in turn, to the benefits that it can afford throughout Appalachia as other Corridor communities use this model to write their own economic development success stories.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Wrong Blueprint for America

Recently, the Senate passed its version of the federal budget. I voted against this legislation because it continues the unwarranted onslaught against our country's human and physical infrastructure. This budget shows a lack of commitment to the basic needs of our people. It severely shortchanges our nation's future. That is why I offered two amendments to restore critical funding to infrastructure needs over the next six years.

While I agree that achieving a balanced budget is an important and laudable goal, to do so at all costs would be unwise. The list of current domestic unmet needs for transportation, education, clean water and clean air, water and sewerage systems, research, law enforcement, our nation's parks, and housing is extensive and alarming.

For example, a status report on our surface transportation system indicates that it would require annual investments of roughly \$15 billion to adequately maintain our transportation infrastructure.

In the area of safe drinking water, in West Virginia alone, a recent study reported that it would take \$162 million to clean up and provide potable water to approximately 79,000 West Virginians. It would take another \$405 million to

meet the worsening drinking water supply of some 476,000 West Virginians.

While some persist in slashing the very programs that would address these demands, they continue to ignore the unchecked growth of corporate welfare and tax expenditures -- special exemptions that cost the U.S. taxpayer \$500 billion per year -- that are eating away at the very foundation of our national economy.

In order to avoid a further increase in the deficit, my amendments would have paid for critical improvements in our sewer and water systems through a combination of closing corporate loopholes and elimination of, or modifications of, tax expenditures.

While I well understand the gravity of our budget deficits and believe they need to be brought under control, there is another deficit looming on the horizon which in many ways is far more serious. That is the infrastructure deficit. I close with the question I asked my colleagues in the Senate. Once we allow America to fall into total disrepair, how will we ever afford the trillions of dollars it will take to put it right? My amendments failed in the Senate, but I will continue to try to raise the funding levels for America's important infrastructure needs before it is too late.

May 29, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Debut for West Virginia

On June 20, West Virginia will celebrate its 133rd birthday, and, while many of us who call West Virginia our home take a few minutes each year to reflect on this notable date in history, this year's birthday celebration will be made especially memorable by another statewide observance -- Homecoming '96.

The creation of Governor Gaston Caperton, Homecoming '96 is, in many respects, a "debut" for West Virginia. While it may be uncommon to be staging a "coming out party" for an honoree at the ripe age of 133, Homecoming '96 is an exceptional opportunity to reintroduce the grace and beauty of our state to the entire nation. At the same time, it serves as an appropriate venue for impressing potential business suitors with the many economic attributes that make her exceptional.

June 20 has logically been chosen as a centerpiece occasion in the list of official Homecoming '96 events being staged throughout the year. As such, a number of activities have been scheduled for that day in communities around West Virginia.

The day's anchor events are slated for Charleston, the high points of which include a reunion on the Capitol grounds of the knights and ladies of the Golden Horseshoe, those individuals who, as teenagers, earned the highest marks among those who were

given a statewide exam to measure their knowledge of West Virginia history.

Including family members, organizers expect more than 1,500 participants to attend the Golden Horseshoe reunion, including winners from the 1930's -- the earliest years of the contest -- and individuals now residing in other states, some from as far away as the West Coast. As one who places great importance on reading and studying history, I commend this show of support for learning about our West Virginia heritage.

In addition to the Golden Horseshoe reunion, that evening, my Homecoming '96 honorary cochairperson, country music star Kathy Mattea, will headline a birthday concert in Charleston which will include a number of West Virginia artists. This spectacular show will feature an array of music from across West Virginia, reflecting the variety of sounds and talent found throughout our state.

I take this opportunity to invite everyone wishing to help honor West Virginia to join in on the birthday celebrations that will be staged around our state on June 20.

In addition, I urge West Virginia residents, faraway West Virginia natives, and individuals from out of state to participate in the host of Homecoming events slated to take place throughout the rest of the year. Together, we can make Homecoming '96 a shining success!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Window to the Stars

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank has aided in the discovery of a bright new star, which can be found right in West Virginia.

This "star" is not a celestial body, but a gifted young lady named Naomi Sue Bates from Pendleton County.

Naomi, a high school senior, was selected as a finalist in the 55th annual national Westinghouse Science Talent Search competition, which recognizes the nation's most accomplished high school science students. Her project is a study of the rotation of the Milky Way Galaxy, which she tracks using a radio telescope at the Green Bank Observatory.

In 1989, I added \$75 million to a federal appropriations bill for the construction of a 330-foot ultramodern radio telescope at the Observatory. Although the main focus of the Observatory is to provide state-of-the-art research facilities to astronomers from around the country, it also offers educational programs for teachers and students.

Each year, hundreds of high school teachers are invited to Green Bank for intensive programs, including lectures, astronomy classes, and hands-on research opportunities. In recent years, these programs have benefitted teachers from West

Virginia high schools, and student teachers from West Virginia University and Glenville State College. After visiting Green Bank, these teachers are encouraged to return to the Observatory to introduce their own students to the experience.

Naomi is one of the many students who benefit from the educational opportunities at the Green Bank site. Her first visit was during her freshman year, and after returning several times on her own, she set up a mentorship program between her school and the Observatory to spend more time pursuing her own projects.

In addition, numerous groups visit the Observatory annually to learn about the universe. In conjunction with the 30th birthday celebration for a giant, 140-foot telescope last September, more than 1,150 West Virginia students, between the ages of 5 and 18, toured the Observatory and participated in educational programs and demonstrations.

Students from West Virginia and across the country are getting a unique educational opportunity through this hands-on experience in astronomy. The Observatory at Green Bank is more than a research facility. For students like Naomi, it is a window to the stars.

June 12, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Benefiting from the Lessons of Nature

West Virginians are proud of the relationship they have with nature throughout our state. The preservation of our natural resources, along with the benefits of West Virginia's growing tourist industry, are important reasons for maintaining our wilderness areas.

The Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, headquartered in Parkersburg, is one of the richest and most diverse natural areas in West Virginia. In 1989, I added \$850,000 to an appropriations bill to establish the area as the state's first national wildlife refuge. Since that time, I have added another \$2.25 million to appropriations bills for its land acquisition.

The Ohio River Islands Refuge consists of a series of islands, stretching from the Northern Panhandle county of Hancock to south of Point Pleasant in Mason County. This habitat is ecologically sensitive and is an important migratory route for many birds. It contains a rich mosaic of bottomland hardwoods, wetlands, and life forms which are rare to the area, including many species of songbirds and waterfowl, and at least 20 species of plants and animals which are on West Virginia's rare species list.

One West Virginian who knows about the wonders of the Ohio River Islands Refuge is Bonnie C. Welcker, a senior at Parkersburg South High School. Bonnie has volunteered at the Refuge for the past three years, where she studies mollusks and their impact on inland waterways.

Bonnie's research, which focuses on the reproduction of Asian freshwater clams and zebra mussels, recently earned her a finalist position in the 55th annual Westinghouse Science Talent Search. She is currently pursuing population control solutions for zebra mussel reproduction that could save millions of dollars each year in mussel population management.

The rapidly reproducing zebra mussels, which migrated from Lake Erie and spread throughout many of the nation's waterways, including the Ohio River, have been a nuisance to some forms of native stream life, as well as to humans, who have discovered large numbers of the mollusks attached to ship hulls and canal locks. Zebra mussels have also clogged industrial pipelines, forcing temporary shutdowns and the expenditure of vast sums of money to remove the clinging creatures. Bonnie is researching ways to suppress the mass reproduction of zebra mussels without causing harm to other forms of life in the island habitats.

Preserving wildlife in areas such as the Ohio River Island Wildlife Refuge is an investment in ensuring that future generations will also benefit from the beauty and lessons of nature. I am proud to have played a role in the creation of the Refuge for our children and grandchildren, and I am encouraged by young people like Bonnie who recognize the value in understanding and improving our environment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Investments in West Virginia Tourism

According to a study conducted for the West Virginia Division of Tourism, our state's tourism industry has grown consistently over the last six years, with tourism sales increasing 26.2 percent since 1989.

The study reports that in 1995 tourism in our state generated \$3.82 billion in economic impact and employed 72,605 individuals with a combined payroll of \$1.37 billion.

Recognizing that West Virginia is blessed with remarkable resources, I have worked to lay foundations for a robust tourism industry in West Virginia, bringing federal investment to our state to enhance our natural resources and to preserve our historic sites.

For example, in the last 15 years, I have obtained more than \$30 million in federal funds for the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, a place of magnificent natural beauty and significant historic interest.

Likewise, since 1979, I have obtained \$101.1 million in appropriations for operations and construction of facilities at the New River Gorge National River that have made the Gorge safer and more accessible to visitors, while preserving its natural qualities.

The Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge is comprised of a mosaic of bottomland hardwoods, wetlands, and many species of songbirds and waterfowl, with at least 20 species of plants and animals on the state's endangered species

list. Since 1989, I have added \$3.1 million to appropriations bills to establish this rich and diverse natural habitat as the state's first national wildlife refuge.

In addition to those examples, I have been able to invest in numerous other parks and recreational areas across our state.

The Haddad Riverfront Park in Charleston is a centerpiece of leisure-time activity, for which I have obtained \$4.5 million in federal funds.

Since 1990, I have added a total of \$1.9 million to appropriations bills to expand facilities at the Harris Riverfront Park in Huntington in response to a growing interest in boating, picnicking, and other recreational activities there.

I have also helped to obtain \$6 million for land acquisition for the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, which hosts a wide array of animal species and more than 500 varieties of plants.

These areas enrich the lives of people who visit them and expand economic opportunities for the communities in which they are located.

In these ways, the federal investments I have steered to our state, along with the considerable contributions of the State, local communities, and private-sector enterprises, are paying dividends not only in a strong tourist trade, but also in a healthier economy and a better quality of life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Striving for Completion Of the ARC Highways

For 32 years, the people of Appalachia have awaited the completion of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor Highways, a network of modern roads intended to increase the safety of travel and attract jobs and economic opportunities into our Appalachian communities.

During that time, Appalachian residents witnessed the completion of the Interstate system, a national network of up-to-date highways that avoided vast sections of the 13 Appalachian states, routing many of their accompanying benefits away from the mountainous, economically strapped region.

Meanwhile, lacking a consistent source of funding of the magnitude needed to build roads through the rugged Appalachians, the ARC Highways progressed slowly. Today they remain nearly 24 percent incomplete. That is, of the 3,025 miles that comprise the ARC system, roughly 725 miles are unfinished.

To help address this inequity, in recent years, I have secured authorization for the entire ARC Highway System and added funds to appropriations bills to ensure that construction of these important roads would continue. But, the ARC Highways need and deserve a focused and comprehensive effort at the federal level to expedite their completion.

For that reason, I recently introduced a bill in the Senate to ensure that sufficient funding would be set aside in the next major highway bill to complete the ARC Corridors by the year 2003.

The rationale behind the ARC Highways is no less sound today than it was in 1964 when the President's Appalachian Regional Commission's report stated, "Development activities in Appalachia cannot proceed until the regional isolation has been overcome by a transportation network which provides access to and from the rest of the nation and within the region itself."

In those areas where the ARC Highways have been constructed, there have been impressive economic successes. The Appalachian Regional Commission has conducted studies that indicate that, of the hundreds of thousands of jobs that have been created in the Appalachian region over recent decades, more than 80 percent of these jobs have been located along either the ARC Highways or the Interstates.

By ensuring, through my amendment, that sufficient federal funds would be directed specifically at completing construction of the ARC Highway System, I am aiming to see to it that the promise made 32 years ago to the people of Appalachia is, at long last, fulfilled.

July 3, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

“Campaign Grease”

Despite all of its clamoring for change, the Republicans' much-touted Contract with America failed to mention a word about one of the root problems plaguing Congress today: excessive campaign fund-raising.

The need for members of Congress to constantly focus on raising the huge sums necessary to remain in public service has taken a heavy toll, yet many of those who trumpeted the glories of the Contract with America decided that putting an end to our current grotesque and out-of-control campaign spending system was just not worthy of attention.

As Senate Majority Leader, I tried eight times in 1987 and 1988 to get cloture on campaign finance reform legislation, but my attempts were blocked eight times by the Republican Party in the Senate. Those failed attempts constituted real losses to the American people. The public deserves Congressional representatives whose attention is not fractured by the need to raise campaign funds, and who are not beholden to special interest groups out of the onerous need to fill campaign coffers.

But, once again, despite an increase of public concern, the Senate recently blocked attempts to put a stop to the noxious system currently in place for the financing of senatorial campaigns.

How unfortunate! I believe that until members of Congress come to grips with the simple fact that exorbitant campaign spending is a serious concern, the Congress will continue to be perceived as being owned

by special interests.

Countless times, action on the Senate floor has been slowed or delayed because Senators are elsewhere raising huge sums of money -- money essential for running for reelection. The traveling; the time away from the Senate; the time away from talking with constituents; the time robbed from reading and reflection; and the siphoning off of energies to the demands of collecting what has been called “campaign grease” is making us all less able to be good public servants.

If I were starting out in politics today, with a background like mine -- grocer, welder, butcher, just common ordinary trades -- I could not even hope to raise the huge sums of money needed to hire costly political campaign consultants, or to pay for the high-priced television advertisements required for a contemporary campaign.

According to data from the Congressional Research Service, the average cost of a winning senatorial campaign rose from \$600,000 in 1976 to more than \$4 million in 1994. Four million dollars! And that, of course, is just the average.

That kind of system sends the clear message to the American people that it is money, not ideas and not principles, that reigns supreme in our political system.

We must bring into check the obscene spending that occurs in pursuit of public office. We must act, once again, to put the United States Senate within the reach of anyone with the desire, the spirit, the brains, and the spunk to serve.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Irresponsible Advertising

In a time when our nation is working to curb alcohol abuse, I am troubled by a disturbing "step backward" by at least one member of the alcohol industry, an act that I consider a significant threat to our society.

Last month, the Joseph E. Seagram and Sons Corporation began airing commercials for whiskey on a television station in Texas, violating the liquor industry's 48-year-old Code of Good Practice, a self-imposed decision not to advertise distilled spirits products on television.

The Seagram commercial is doubly disturbing because it not only defies the industry's own long-term agreement, but it also aims to appeal to a young audience. The advertisement portrays two dogs graduating from obedience school. One holds a "mere" newspaper. The other carries a bottle of whiskey. The canine with the newspaper is labeled simply "graduate," while the dog with the whiskey is titled the "valedictorian."

I find it preposterous that the Seagram Corporation would associate academic achievement with hard liquor.

Alcohol is the number one drug problem among young Americans. Drinking impairs one's judgement, and alcohol mixed with

teenage driving is a lethal combination. That is why, earlier this year, I authored an amendment that requires states to pass "zero tolerance" laws which would make it illegal for a person under the age of 21 to drive a car with a blood alcohol level greater than .02 percent.

An individual of legal drinking age makes his or her own decision to drink, but surely it is careless to impose messages relating valedictorian status with alcohol, and to broadcast these messages through the seducing medium of television.

It is dangerously irresponsible for liquor companies to merchandise their vices using the influential power and looming ubiquity of television.

The overwhelming influences of television on our nation have contributed mightily to the moral decay in our communities. And since the broadcasting brew is already being polluted by commercials from the beer and wine industries, it is even more important to guard against mixing hard liquor ads into the caldron.

The health, well-being, and moral character of our nation far outweigh the profit that might be generated from broadcast advertisements peddling hard liquor.

July 17, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Caring for Some of War's Most Innocent Victims

Sergeant Paul Hanson of Wheeling served in the Persian Gulf War. Subsequently, his son, Jayce, was born with crippling birth defects.

The Department of Defense recently acknowledged that some Gulf War veterans may have been exposed to chemical warfare agents, including mustard gas and sarin, that have been linked to central and peripheral nervous system problems, as well as possible birth defects in children born to exposure victims.

The Hansons are one among a number of military families with children born with birth defects that may have been caused by the exposure of a parent to chemical warfare agents in the Persian Gulf.

Medical research is needed to determine if the exposure of these military parents to chemical warfare agents has caused the birth defects and catastrophic illnesses with which their children are afflicted.

To investigate that possible connection, I offered amendments to both the Fiscal Year 1997 Department of Defense Authorization and Appropriations Bills that will provide \$10 million for independent medical research into this problem area.

My amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill also ensures that appropriate medical care for Jayce, and children like him, is available through the military health care system, or through the CHAMPUS health care program with

civilian physicians, if these physicians are required for the kinds of specialized care many of these children need. Also, because the costs of multiple operations or expensive medical treatments commonly needed by these children can easily reach \$100,000, my amendment waives the CHAMPUS program's required 20-percent co-payment.

Further, because these children, due to their "pre-existing conditions," are often denied coverage by private insurers, my amendment ensures that their medical care continues to be covered by the military even if their parents have left the service.

The number of children affected is not large, according to the Department of Defense, but these children are in truly desperate straits. For example, until research can prove that Jayce's maladies are not linked to Sergeant Hanson's service in the Gulf War, the child should be given the benefit of the doubt.

President Clinton last month announced that he would seek legislation to provide benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida as a result of their parents' exposure to Agent Orange. Jayce and the other children like him should not have to wait twenty years before it is acknowledged that the incalculable difficulties they face may have resulted from their parents' service to our country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balancing Global Competition

A number of West Virginia companies have recently been feeling the squeeze created by unfair overseas competition.

For example, this spring, two Ritchie County textile manufacturers, Hodges Apparel and Safety Stitch, were notified that their primary client needed to move its work offshore in order to regain profitability. Unless these firms can garner other orders, the talented and dedicated employees at these companies will be out of work.

These potential job losses, and similar situations throughout the country, are not occurring because the quality of clothing produced in the United States is poor; quite the contrary. The design and quality of U.S.-made clothing and textiles are competitive with the design and quality of overseas products. But U.S. production costs must include pension and health care payments for workers, and the expenses of meeting workplace safety and environmental standards. Since many overseas manufacturers are not required to cover these costs and meet these standards, they overwork and underpay their workers, forcing them to labor in unsafe factories that pollute the air and water around them.

Job losses on this scale constitute more than a minor unraveling of the economic fabric of Ritchie County -- they are a tear in the very fabric of American society.

That is why I recently cosponsored a bill which

would provide protections for U.S. textile and apparel producers from unfair competition caused by overseas producers seeking to exceed U.S. quotas.

The Textile and Apparel Global Competitiveness Act, which I cosponsored, requires more even-handed trade negotiations on textile and apparel goods, helping, among other things, to provide U.S. firms greater access to foreign markets. This legislation increases enforcement of existing trade laws and imposes higher fines on quota-breaking foreign firms. These fines provide additional revenue for trade adjustment assistance to U.S. textile and apparel makers.

The United States is proud of its laws that protect workers and the environment. Nobody wants to reduce our standard of living by giving up workplace safety or clean air and water in order to "compete" with inexpensive goods produced by workers paid just pennies a day before they return to squalid homes under skies laden with pollutants.

Attempts by these overseas producers to evade U.S. trade laws and treaties must be firmly and effectively halted. Companies in West Virginia and across the United States which produce quality goods should not have to compete on an uneven playing field against foreign firms. The Textile and Apparel Global Competitiveness Act targets this problem and aims to level the playing field and protect U.S. jobs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reforming our Welfare System

The Congress recently approved comprehensive welfare reform legislation that marks a sharp break from the last 60 years of federal welfare policy.

While there exists significant disagreement over how to reform the welfare system, there is also widespread acknowledgment that the current system has failed.

Under the new policy, many existing federal welfare programs will be combined into block grants, obligating states to provide services to poverty-stricken families with children.

States will be given the responsibility of designing their own particular programs and setting rules for eligibility. In order to receive their full block grant, states will have to enforce rigid work requirements for welfare recipients and provide adequate child care resources to families with children.

During Senate consideration of this legislation, I supported amendments to preserve the "safety net" provided by the food stamp program, and to ensure that eligibility for Medicaid would not be adversely affected by any provisions in the bill.

At the conclusion of the debate, I supported the welfare reform initiative because I believe it represents a much-needed improvement over our current welfare system, which is ridden with misguided incentives that too often discour-

age work.

For example, one of welfare's primary cash programs, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), was originally intended to help widows care for their children. But AFDC has since been expanded to assist divorced and never-married individuals and their children. Many AFDC mothers had their first child as an unmarried teenager, and dropped out of high school. Too often, these eligible recipients have collected AFDC assistance for many years, far beyond the temporary "safety net" intended by the program. Clearly, we must do something to reverse such perilous trends of illegitimacy and dependence.

The Welfare Reform Bill will also ban most legal immigrants from receiving general welfare assistance for their first five years of residence in this country, the reason being that immigrants are frequently required to have a sponsor who bears responsibility for their financial support. Furthermore, illegal immigrants will be permanently banned from most forms of assistance.

The new measure aims to correct the ever-deepening cycles of dependence that have developed in the last 60 years. While this legislation is not a panacea for the welfare problems in our country, I believe it is headed in the right direction.

August 7, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Education and Preserving Liberty

Meeting young people from West Virginia and throughout the nation is one of the most enjoyable aspects of my job as a United States Senator. I recently had the opportunity to again host a luncheon for the National Youth Science Camp. Each year, the nation's most outstanding math and science students meet for three weeks at Bartow in Pocahontas County, to participate in recreational and educational activities, including a trip to the nation's capital. It was inspiring to see the glow of energetic hope on the faces of these students, and the sparkle of youthful ambition in their eyes.

Indeed, these qualities could also be found in the ideas of the early leaders of our nation. The hope for a brighter future, coupled with the ambition to create a government promising liberty for all of its people, guided our forefathers more than two centuries ago when they set out to write the framework for governing our Republic.

One idea I tried to set in the minds of these National Youth Science campers and other young people I meet -- people who will grow up to comprise the future of our nation -- is to learn more about, and to understand the importance of, the Constitutional liberties enjoyed in this country.

It is a responsibility of today's youth to preserve the sacred freedoms set forth in our Constitution more than 200 years ago. The constitutional checks and balances envisioned by the Framers need to be learned and then learned again by each succeeding generation in order to safeguard these liberties.

The Constitution was meant to be a living document, but without an understanding of its pearls of genius, its subtle tensions and counter tensions, its sublime encouragement toward consensus building, it is as dead and dry as the parchment upon which it is written. We have rights as citizens of this Republic, but the flip side of that coin is our very serious responsibility to understand what makes our system work.

I encourage people of all ages to set a goal of striving for a real understanding of the marvelous institutions of this Republic which are our birthright. Free societies are only sustained by hard work, and liberty does not come without a price. The currency with which it is purchased is an informed citizenry -- and informed citizens are made, not born.

Only by learning about the tools that provide our freedoms, can we preserve the precious liberties which make the United States the greatest nation on earth.

August 14, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Safe Drinking Water

Most Americans take safe drinking water for granted. They assume that when they turn on the faucet, clean water will automatically flow out.

Last year, however, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) completed "Water 2000," a study about safe drinking water needs of communities throughout the United States. The findings of that study paint a disappointing picture about the quality and availability of water throughout our nation.

According to Water 2000, nearly three million U.S. families, representing eight million people, do not have access to safe drinking water.

Disturbingly, the study ranked West Virginia among the five worst states in the nation in terms of the availability of safe drinking water. The study found that it would require \$162 million to clean up and provide potable water to approximately 79,000 citizens in West Virginia, and another \$405 million to meet the worsening drinking water supply situation of 476,000 West Virginians, nearly half the population of the state! Several other states are facing similar circumstances.

For citizens of the United States, the world's most advanced and industrialized nation, to confidently use water for drinking, cooking, and recreation ought to be a birthright.

American parents ought to be able to offer their children a drink of tap water without fear that the glass contains health-threatening bacteria.

Unfortunately, however, the Republican-led Congress

has shown little interest in addressing this serious situation, carelessly axing off domestic infrastructure investment at every turn.

During recent debate on the budget resolution, I made two attempts to restore some of the funding cut from our national infrastructure.

I offered an amendment that would restore \$65 billion to the federal budget to support a broad range of domestic infrastructure programs, including highways, bridges, education, and modern water and sewer systems. I then offered an amendment to include \$6.5 billion for federal water and sewer programs, and to meet operating and maintenance needs at our national parks. Regrettably, both of these amendments were defeated.

Subsequent to passage of the budget resolution, I met with Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman to urge him to use part of the \$100 million in discretionary funds provided to him as part of the 1996 Farm Bill to creatively address some of this nation's most pressing water resources needs. Further, with my support, the Fiscal 1997 Agriculture Appropriations Bill contained almost \$100 million more for basic water and sewer needs than the Fiscal 1996 Bill.

These steps are moving us in the right direction, but they are just small steps, and we need to go further. In the most prosperous and powerful nation on the face of the earth, there ought never to be any question about government's doing all that it can to ensure that Americans have safe drinking water.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Fresh Start for Learning

In a recent survey released by the Horatio Alger Association, American youth cited "friends," "sports," and "social activities" as the top three reasons for attending school. "Learning" ranked seventh in the survey. While social interaction is an important aspect of school, this survey provides evidence of the extent to which our students are failing to embrace the primary purpose of our educational system and the value of learning.

Too often, particularly during their summer vacations, students neglect reading, writing, and other essential skills, in favor of athletics and social activities. Unfortunately, that summertime mode of fun and play also carries over into the school year, causing young people to neglect their studies.

I believe it is never too late to readjust one's attitude toward learning, and the beginning of the school year presents a timely opportunity to return to the classroom with a fresh enthusiasm.

There are clearly long-term, measurable benefits to making the most of one's education. For example, the U.S. Department of Education has reported that the median income for year-round, full-time workers who are 25 years old and have a high school diploma is \$19,963. In comparison, the median income of those who do not finish high school is just \$15,386.

Such statistics serve as compelling evidence that those who commit themselves to their studies can benefit from greater economic stability. Furthermore, beyond increased earning power, an education can instill one with a feeling of self-worth and accomplishment unmatched by other endeavors.

The value of education, however, extends beyond the individual. Our public educational system is available to all because, as a nation, we recognize that learning improves our citizenry and establishes a foundation for a strong country.

Autumn, the traditional beginning of the school year, is a good time for a new start for our students. I urge all students to take this time to recommit and rededicate themselves to their studies.

In addition, I call on parents to help their children recognize the wealth of opportunities that can be gained only through education. Parents should encourage their children to strive to learn, to take challenging courses in school, and to practice healthy study habits at home. Parents should monitor their children's progress by looking over their homework and their test scores, and by communicating with their children's teachers.

I believe that learning is a life-long endeavor, and that it is never too early, or too late, to begin.

August 28, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Old Values are Slipping Away

Recently, I attended a ceremony at Stotesbury, Raleigh County, to dedicate a historical marker at the former site of the Mark Twain High School, my alma mater. From 1921 to 1965, children would hike from nearby coal towns to attend Mark Twain. I remember my teachers encouraging me to learn there, and I recall absorbing every book I could lay my hands on. In 1934, at the age of 16, I graduated from Mark Twain as valedictorian of my class, an event which marked an important early step in the journey that has led me to the United States Senate.

Attending that recent event at Stotesbury caused me to reflect on those early years in West Virginia and to contemplate the kind of change that has taken place in our nation since I was at Mark Twain. This nation has lost some of the old values that were present during my school days.

All across America in the days of my childhood, there was more of a sense of personal belonging -- to family, to community, to country -- than can generally be found today. We, as a nation, valued simpler things: a phone call from an old friend; a country fair with time to admire the neighbor's prize cow; a chat with the children on the back porch during a balmy summer evening; a home-cooked meal with family seated around the same dinner table; a Sunday morning church service where you knew everybody in the congregation and took the time to talk with them all before leaving the church.

Instead, America today has become a place obsessed with speed. We rush

to eat, we rush to work, we rush to sleep, we rush to get from one place to another. How could we get by without fast food, instant coffee, high-speed elevators, microwaves, quick-stop food markets, and drive-through banks? Why, there are even drive-through funeral parlors, so that you can catch a quick look at the dearly departed, shed a tear, and be merrily on your way.

It seems that most of America hardly stops to take a breath anymore, much less to take time to talk quietly with children, commiserate with a friend about a problem, or pause to reflect on the events of the day.

But, change is inevitable, and much of the change which has occurred in the last 50 years has been, and will continue to be, beneficial for all of us. Still, I think that America hungers and thirsts for the richness of those earlier days. As a society we are trying to find a way in the midst of all the turmoil to turn back at least part of our lives and find something like what I remember from my days at Mark Twain.

The historical marker which preserves the memory of my alma mater also serves as a reminder of the values which still live in the valleys and hills of West Virginia. These are the same ideas for which so many Americans are yearning today.

Let us, in West Virginia, recognize what a valuable commodity we have in these values, and let us collectively dedicate our energies to preserving and perpetuating them for our children and our children's children.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Defending the Institution of Marriage

Recently, I cosponsored, and the Senate overwhelmingly approved, the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), a bill to protect the institution of marriage, and in turn, the values and spiritual beliefs of the majority of West Virginians.

The DOMA bill responds to the drive spearheaded by a small segment of society for legal recognition of same-sex marriages. Quite simply, DOMA defines the word "marriage" as the legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the term "spouse" as a husband or wife of the opposite sex.

It is almost incomprehensible to me that the Congress should have to be considering a matter such as this, but we live in an era in which "tolerance" has progressed beyond a mere call for acceptance and crossed over to become a demand for the rest of us to give up beliefs that we hold dear in order to prove our collective purity. This push for legal recognition of same-sex marriages reflects a demand for "political correctness" gone berserk.

The suggestion that relationships between members of the same gender should be accorded the status of marriage flies in the face of thousands of years of human experience.

The marriage bond, as recognized in the Judeo-Christian tradition, is the

cornerstone on which society itself depends for its moral and spiritual regeneration.

During my childhood in Southern West Virginia, my family looked to the Bible as a moral compass. I still read the Bible and look to it for guidance. In preparing to debate this issue, I found a number of relevant passages, including one from the first Chapter of Genesis which reads, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth....."

On a more pragmatic level, DOMA provides that no state shall be required to recognize a same-sex marriage sanctioned by another state. Further, it helps to protect federal aid programs that provide benefits to spouses from the potentially exorbitant costs that could result from a change in the broadly accepted definition of "spouse."

In passing the Defense of Marriage Act, the Congress took a stand for American values by defending the oldest institution -- the institution of marriage between male and female as set forth in the Holy Bible.

I am proud to have been a cosponsor of this important legislation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Looking Out for the Safety of Our Miners

I recently delivered the keynote address at the 20th Anniversary Celebration for the Mine Health and Safety Academy, located in Beckley.

One of those in attendance was Mrs. Sarah Kaznoski, who lost her husband Pete in the 1968 Farmington mine explosion. This horrific mine explosion, in which 78 miners were killed, was the catalyst for the passage of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, which provided for the construction of facilities and the financing of a program to help prevent accidents and unsafe working conditions in our nation's coal mines.

The tragic loss suffered by Mrs. Kaznoski was shared by the families of thousands of other miners prior to the establishment of the Academy. In the 1960's there was an annual average of more than 430 deaths in the nation's mines.

I know first-hand the misery in the mines. I have seen the crushed limbs, felt the heartache of the aftermath of the explosions, and carried the coffins up the steep hillsides. For me, easing the lot of the miner and his family is much, much more than an exercise on paper. It is a visceral responsibility and an absolute moral obligation.

In 1969, I proposed that a Mine Safety and Health Institute be established and located in West Virginia, and in 1972, I secured \$13 million for construction of the facility. I continued to push for funding in Congress for the next four years. Finally, on August 19, 1976, and at a total cost of \$20.9 million, the Beckley Mine Health and Safety Academy became a reality.

The Mine Academy has played a prominent role in the reduction of mining deaths and injuries during the past 20 years by serving as the central training facility for Federal mine inspectors and mine safety professionals from other government agencies, the mining industry, and labor. Since its founding, the average number of annual mining fatalities has been reduced by over 75 percent.

The U.S. sits atop coal reserves equivalent to all of the world's known oil reserves of approximately one trillion barrels. Our miners will be toiling to extract coal to power our nation for many years to come, and they deserve our commitment to do all that we can to make their jobs safe. I shall not relent in my determination to work for increased safety and improved health for our miners.

September 18, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Aquaculture -- West Virginia's Emerging New Industry

In today's competitive economy, staying at the forefront of emerging businesses is essential to creating and retaining jobs. I have long made it one of my priorities to help West Virginia achieve the kind of business climate that is conducive to such cutting-edge enterprises and the jobs that they provide.

For example, in 1987, recognizing the increasing consumption of fish and seafood in the United States and around the world, I began efforts to explore opportunities for West Virginia in the emerging aquaculture industry through federal funding of aquaculture studies and demonstration projects. In 1990, I added \$50,000 to a federal appropriations bill to initiate a study of the possibilities of establishing a national aquaculture center in West Virginia.

While warm-water "catfish farming" has been successfully developed in the Southern states, the potential for a successful aquaculture industry in West Virginia is dependent upon establishing aquaculture systems that produce fish such as trout and salmon, species that prefer cold and cool water temperatures like those characteristic of West Virginia's lakes and streams.

That is why this year I added \$6 million in federal funds to begin construction of the National Center for Cool and Cold Water Aquaculture, which will be located on federal land at Leetown in Jefferson County.

This center will be unique because it will be the first such facility to focus on fish farming in the more moderate and chilly temperatures found in the Appalachian region. When completed, this facility will

quality, and health of cool and cold water fish species.

Currently, there are dozens of family-owned fish-farming operations in West Virginia, plus several high school vocational agriculture programs that teach aquaculture techniques.

The National Center for Cool and Cold Water Aquaculture is expected to provide information and technology to these aquaculture farmers to help them increase their production efficiency. The Center will also develop safer, more economical, and environmentally sustainable aquaculture practices to be used to establish new fish-farming operations across West Virginia.

A finding from a recent study conducted by the National Conservation Fund -- a national organization dedicated to natural resources conservation -- also bodes well for the establishment of a viable fish-farming industry in West Virginia. According to the Conservation Fund's study, active and abandoned mine sites make ideal locations for aquaculture production, providing the potential for West Virginia to become one of the largest trout producers in the U.S.

There are great possibilities for aquaculture growth in West Virginia. The lakes, streams, and mines across our state are exceptionally well suited for developing profitable fish-farming operations. It is my hope that the \$6 million I have added to the Fiscal Year 1997 Agriculture Appropriations Bill to build the National Center for Cool and Cold Water Aquaculture will help this up-and-coming industry to generate lasting and profitable economic opportunities for the future of West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Healthier West Virginia

West Virginians should get active for the benefit of their health!

Evidence of the positive health effects of physical activity is plentiful. Recently, the Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service released a report entitled "Physical Activity and Health." This report indicates that even moderate amounts of regular exercise are beneficial to our health. Further, as the intensity and duration of the physical activity increases, so do the benefits.

According to the Surgeon General's report, the benefits of physical activity are numerous. A lower risk of cardiovascular disease, colon cancer, and developing diabetes, as well as lower mortality rates, are just a few of the benefits associated with regular exercise.

Many Americans today are motivated to exercise because it helps to control body weight. Weight control is certainly one of the most important reasons to exercise, because excess weight can lead to the development of a number of diseases and other health complications.

One does not have to exercise in a gym, lift weights, or engage in a sport in order to enjoy the results of physical activity. Even moderate activities such as gardening, pushing a stroller, or raking leaves for thirty minutes or an hour are

healthful physical activities.

Unfortunately, the Surgeon General's report indicates that too many American adults, 60 percent, are not regularly engaging in physical activity. Even more disconcerting, 25 percent of Americans indicate that they do not participate in any form of physical activity at all. That is regrettable, since exercise can help to prevent the sufferings caused by ill health and the resulting costly medical bills.

The report also finds that seniors are more inactive than younger persons. This is especially significant for our state, where more than 20 percent of West Virginians are over 60 years of age (compared to the national average of 16 percent). The benefits of increased physical activity for older citizens, such as increased strength to aid in the prevention of falls, can be particularly important in helping the elderly to continue to live independently. The report cautions that, if previously inactive, the elderly should start off slowly and check with their doctors before embarking on a new physical activity routine.

An order form for the Surgeon General's report can be obtained by calling the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's toll-free line at 1-888-CDC-4NRG.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Deregulation Clips West Virginia's Wings

On the day that I cast my 14,000th vote in the U.S. Senate, I observed that one of the votes I most regretted was one supporting airline deregulation.

At the time of the airline deregulation vote, I was told that the measure would lead to cheaper fares. It has, but only in some regions of the country and in large urban areas. Meanwhile, West Virginians sometimes pay hundreds of dollars more to fly than before.

I was also told that deregulation would lead to an increase in the number of flights, and make air service more convenient. Again, it has, but only for those fortunate enough to live at the centers of major markets.

Today, as compared with pre-deregulation days, West Virginians have far fewer flights to choose from, and, in many cases, must drive to another state in order to fly at a reasonable price. This is a far cry from convenience!

On October 3, 1996, the Senate passed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill, containing a provision that directs the Secretary of Transportation to examine the impact of deregulation on small communities. The study is intended to determine if users of small community airports are paying "a disproportionately greater price" as compared with passengers using hub airports. It will, as well, attempt to discern the number of small communities that have lost air service as a result of the deregulation of commercial air carriers.

I strongly support this study, but must observe that, from the perspective of West Virginians, it is already evident that small communities are paying a disproportionately high price for air travel. For example, if

a West Virginian wants to fly from Charleston, West Virginia, to Washington, D.C., he will pay a one-way coach fare of \$332. To benefit from airline deregulation, he must spend over three hours driving to Columbus, Ohio, in order to fly for \$179. In other words, he must drive west, consuming gasoline and adding another automobile to the highways, in order to fly east at a reasonable fare.

Under deregulation, it is becoming increasingly difficult for small airports in West Virginia to continue to operate. Several of these airports benefit from Essential Air Service (EAS) support. Intended as a temporary subsidy to help small airports develop profitable service, EAS has become a permanent necessity to keep some small airports open due to the impact of deregulation. Essential air service, in recent years, has been repeatedly left out of the President's budget, only to be restored by my amendments to appropriations bills in order to keep our airline service alive in West Virginia and other rural states. Fortunately, EAS has been authorized to be funded at a level of \$50 million in the new FAA bill.

The FAA bill, with its required study of deregulation, is a positive step for our small airports. But it is not enough. It is my hope that the findings of that study will lead to ways to successfully reverse the deregulation-induced pattern of rising fares and declining service threatening West Virginia's small rural airports.

For West Virginia to continue to strengthen its economy, our state must have an adequate and cost-efficient transportation system. In this age, that means air service, as well as highways and waterways and rail service.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help for Second Generation Victims Of the Vietnam War

After more than twenty years, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has concluded that sufficient scientific evidence exists linking veterans' exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam conflict, in certain instances, to the tragic incidence of the birth defect spina bifida in the children of these veterans. This year, I cosponsored an amendment to the fiscal 1997 Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill to provide needed authority for the VA to treat these children for their service-connected disabilities arising from their fathers' exposure to Agent Orange. This is an unprecedented but appropriate action, since scientific research is now sophisticated enough to allow an understanding of the effects of toxic exposures on ourselves and, also importantly, on future generations.

As a result of the Agent Orange Act of 1991, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Academy of Sciences have, at regular intervals, reviewed the ongoing research on Agent Orange exposure. As a result, Veterans' disability compensation has been awarded, in some instances, for several Agent Orange-related illnesses, including nonHodgkin's lymphoma, soft-tissue sarcoma, Hodgkin's disease, chlo-racne, respiratory cancers, multiple myeloma, prostate cancer, and acute and sub-acute peripheral neuropathy. The report update, issued last spring, also found "lim-

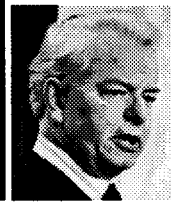
ited/suggestive evidence" linking the birth defect spina bifida to Agent Orange exposure. On the basis of this finding, VA Secretary Jesse Brown recommended that a service connection be granted to Vietnam veterans' children with spina bifida.

The research and the legislation are long overdue for families that have been struggling for over twenty years. Spina bifida is a serious neural tube defect, caused by the improper development of the vertebrae or spinal cord, and resulting in varying degrees of paralysis of the lower limbs. The damage is permanent and incurable, requiring surgery, medication, and assistive devices like braces, crutches, or wheelchairs.

This legislation will, beginning in 1998, provide health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs, two years of vocational training, and a small monthly stipend to these second-generation victims of the Vietnam conflict.

Someone once observed that "procrastination is the thief of time." These children and their families have already lost time, lost long years of doubt and wondering and of financial hardship that they bore alone because of delays in recognizing and investigating this tragedy. This legislation acknowledges responsibility for the tragic aftermath of our involvement in Vietnam, and takes care of these children.

October 16, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Drafting Parents for the War on Drugs

In 1987 and 1988, the national Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) estimated that just over 28 percent of 12th graders throughout the nation had used drugs. This is a disturbing statistic, and such data have helped to prompt increased efforts at the local, state, and federal levels to wipe out illegal drugs in our communities.

Largely in response to the prevalence of drug use among young people in the last few decades, schools throughout the nation have introduced antidrug programs. With my support, criminal penalties for the sale and purchase of illegal drugs have been stiffened, and federal and state governments have funded the implementation and operation of drug-prevention programs.

Although many may have assumed that such efforts have led to a decline in the use of drugs by youth in recent years, a study recently released by PRIDE reports that the current rate of teenage drugs use is, regrettably, on the rise from what it was in 1987 and 1988.

According to PRIDE statistics, drug use in 1995 and 1996 reached a level of more than 40 percent among the nation's population of 12th graders, the highest recorded level since PRIDE started its annual survey in 1987.

Anyone with an interest in the youth of our nation and their future should view this statistic with alarm. But equally disturbing, especially to parents, should be the data provided by PRIDE and by the federal Office of National Drug

Control Policy (ONDCP) that identify the failure of parents to communicate with their children as one of the weakest links in the national chain of antidrug efforts.

According to studies by ONDCP, while 94 percent of parents claim to have discussed drugs with their children, only 64 percent of teenagers report that their parents have actually discussed the dangers of drug use with them.

Furthermore, that ONDCP study found that 40 percent of parents felt that they had little influence over their children's decision about whether or not to use drugs. But the PRIDE study found that while 35.5 percent of children who claim that their parents have never talked with them about drugs have tried drugs in the past year, among students who have actually heard warnings about drug use from their parents, that number fell to 26.6 percent.

Clearly, if our nation is to reverse the trend of increased drug use among youth, parents need to be full participants in the anti-drug campaign. Parents should make it a priority to sit down with their children and discuss the harmful effects of drugs. But I would go a step further. I believe that parents also need to warn their children about alcohol -- also a drug -- a drug which is dangerous both to the user and to innocent victims of alcohol-related automobile accidents.

If we do not address these concerns today, the consequences could be tragic for the future of our nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Spirited Salute to Our Veterans

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 1918, the cease-fire that ended World War I brought silence to the muddy battlefields of Europe. Now, each year on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we honor American veterans of all wars.

Almost 5 million Americans served during World War I, which was optimistically, if wrongly, called the "war to end all wars." Since that time, valiant American men and women have carried the U.S. flag into combat in other wars and smaller conflicts, from the globe-spanning battles of World War II to the recent Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf. Almost 40 million Americans have answered their country's call to battle since the turn of this century. Just over 700,000 of those noble souls sacrificed their lives in the course of answering their call to duty.

As a nation, we owe an unquenchable debt of gratitude to these wartime veterans and to their families, who bear the pain and worry of separation from, or loss of, their loved ones. We also owe our thanks and commendation to those who serve in peacetime, maintaining the vigilance and skills needed to deter conflict. During the Cold War,

their unblinking presence kept at bay the largest army the world has ever seen, in the former Soviet Union.

Today, the Armed Forces of the United States are deployed across the globe, maintaining the watchful preparedness that keeps peace and stability in places like the Korean peninsula and the Persian Gulf, or supporting operations intended to reintroduce peace and stability into regions of conflict. While I may not always agree with the missions to which U.S. forces are deployed, the men and women of our military always have my unflinching support.

Active duty forces depend on the support of Reserve and National Guard units more than ever. The citizen-soldiers of the National Guard and Reserves carry the double burden of civilian jobs in addition to their military role. They, and the employers that support them so admirably, also deserve our appreciation.

Veterans Day is a day for remembrance, a day for prayers, and a day for thanks. To all who have so bravely faced the dangers of battle, to all who have lost their lives, and to all who stand watch over our nation today, I offer my heartfelt prayers and my sincere thanks.

October 30, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

One of the Best Investments Ever Made

On June 29, 1956, President Eisenhower signed the Federal Aid Highway Act, authorizing construction of the U.S. Interstate Highway System. In the forty years since its enactment, that law has made a profound positive difference for hundreds of millions of Americans by saving lives, reducing injuries, increasing business investment, expanding employment opportunities, and producing savings to the public and the private sector.

The Interstate System represents just over one percent of the nation's highway mileage, but it carries nearly one quarter of all roadway traffic.

According to Federal Highway Administration figures, 45 percent of the nation's trucking firms travel the Interstates, and the use of these modern highways is estimated to save those firms 17 percent on operations as compared to using other roads.

In addition, the higher speeds and reliability of travel times afforded by Interstate Highways have made "just-in-time" delivery of goods more feasible, reducing warehouse costs and adding to manufacturing efficiency. Further, the ease of travel on interstates has made it possible for many companies to expand the size of their markets. The resulting increase in competition among businesses coupled with the reduced manufacturing costs has helped to cut the prices of products regularly purchased by working families.

The Interstates have also improved mobility, mutually benefiting businesses and employees. Because workers are able to travel

greater distances in less time, they are also able to work at jobs farther from home. In turn, businesses can recruit from a geographically expanded pool of employees, thereby increasing the likelihood of matching the right employees with existing jobs, consequently, improving productivity.

In addition, being able to work at greater distances from home has, in many cases, allowed American families to purchase more affordable homes in more rural settings, providing for a better quality of life.

A study recently released by the American Highway Users Alliance -- a national organization comprised of individual, corporate, and association members -- estimates that, based on Federal Highway Administration data, the use of the Interstate Highway System over the last 40 years has saved 1,800 lives, reduced injuries by 89,000, and resulted in economic savings of \$3 billion in West Virginia alone. Moreover, nationwide, forty years of Interstate usage has provided between \$2.1 and \$2.5 trillion in economic benefits.

With the proliferation of shortsighted critics who haphazardly slap a "pork" label on a host of federal infrastructure programs, one wonders what chance the nation would have to construct the more than 45,500 miles of Interstate System if it were being proposed today. Thank goodness that in the 1950's, Congress and the President recognized the Interstate System for what it truly was -- one of the best investments that our nation could ever make.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Giving Thanks

This year, as in years past, West Virginians will celebrate Thanksgiving by bringing family and friends together for a communal meal rich in tradition.

It was in 1621, 375 years ago, that the Pilgrims, with faith in a Divine Providence, celebrated their first harvest with a feast which most Americans regard as "The First Thanksgiving."

Thanksgiving, as we now celebrate it each November, is a time for us to rejoice in the successful harvest, and to share with our neighbors the bounty of the land we inhabit. It is for many, a welcome day of relaxation and feasting before preparations continue for the cold winter ahead.

Like those early settlers, West Virginians look forward to spending a day with family and friends over a table groaning with delicious dishes, some likely prepared only on this one day each year. We feast not only on food, but also on the warmth of family caring, and on the richness of communion with our friends and neighbors. In a world which sometimes seems to be growing ever more splintered and divided, on this day we draw together in a way that is uniquely American. We are, indeed, fortunate that in West Virginia, that spirit of community still stands fast

against the inroads of modern life.

Some West Virginians will celebrate their Thanksgiving by sharing with the less fortunate. They will cook and serve meals for neighbors in their communities who otherwise would not be able to join in the spirit of the day. This kindness and thoughtfulness for those less fortunate than themselves is a laudable characteristic of West Virginians, borne perhaps from a history of making do in a state with an unforgiving, though beautiful, nature.

Raging floods, fires, deep snows, and mine collapses have always called forth an immediate and generous response from communities across our state. As fiercely independent as Mountaineers might be, in times of trouble they can be counted on to shoulder a sandbag, a shovel, or a pick to respond to the crisis and to assist the victims. This year, as in years past, neighbors and volunteers have responded magnificently to the challenge of repeated flooding throughout West Virginia.

So, on this day of Thanksgiving, as we give thanks for God's blessings on our wonderful families, let us also offer thanks for the spirit of community and caring that lives on in West Virginia.

November 13, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Streamlining Success

The recently completed consolidation of the Bureau of Public Debt office in Parkersburg is an impressive success story for both the federal government and West Virginia.

This most recent consolidation follows on an earlier consolidation, involving the Chicago Bureau of Public Debt office, which was undertaken with \$1 million in federal funding I helped to obtain in 1972, and furthered by my pressing to expedite the move and to provide facilities to accommodate the Bureau's growth in Parkersburg. That consolidation resulted in the relocation of functions and jobs from the Bureau's Chicago office to Parkersburg, and it has helped to make the Parkersburg office an even more valuable component of the U.S. Treasury Department.

Beginning in 1984, I added language to a series of appropriations bills urging the Treasury Department to transfer more of the Bureau of Public Debt's functions and jobs from Washington to the Bureau's Parkersburg office.

In 1991, I was able to announce that the Bureau would, in fact, consolidate most of its operations in Parkersburg.

At the beginning of that process, it was estimated that this consolidation would save the U.S. Treasury Department \$5.9 million annually. Now that the effort has been completed, savings attributable to the consolidation are estimated at an impressive \$15 million annually.

With the consolidation now finalized, the Bureau of Public Debt has gained significant improvements in productivity and reduced space costs that have resulted in savings to the American taxpayer far beyond those projected when the consolidation was initially proposed.

The merging of most of the Bureau of Public Debt's duties in the Parkersburg office and the transfer of 300 personnel to that office have also translated into benefits for West Virginia. Since the beginning of the streamlining, the economic impact by the Bureau on the Parkersburg community has doubled. In 1991, the Bureau's Parkersburg office employed about 1,100 workers, and provided an annual boost to the local economy of about \$40 million, including \$28 million for salaries and \$12 million for benefits, rent, utilities, and local purchases. Today, the facility houses about 1,400 full-time permanent employees with an estimated annual economic impact of \$80 million in salaries, benefits, rents, utilities, and local purchases.

Cost efficiencies and productivity improvements like those achieved at the Bureau of Public Debt in Parkersburg are demonstrative of the kinds of gains that are possible for the U.S. government and the American public from the consolidation of federal offices. The consolidation of the Parkersburg Bureau of Public Debt office is a real success story and I am proud that I helped to make it happen.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Television's Idle Jabber

A recent study conducted at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), reports some encouraging news about what Americans are being offered as television viewing. Results of the study show that network executives, likely responding to growing criticism about the effects of television violence on children, took a small but important step in the right direction by curbing the number of violent programs appearing on television last year. More changes like this must be made in order for our society to free itself from the moral deterioration and spiritless idle caused by recurrent television viewing.

The UCLA study found that programming during the 1994-95 television season included fewer violent shows than the previous year. Based on 3,000 hours of programming, five series during the 1994-95 season contained violence in what the report calls "a large number" of episodes. The report says that figure is down from nine frequently violent series the season before.

Throughout my career, I have repeatedly cautioned about the detrimental effects of irresponsible television programming. In September, I cosponsored a Senate resolution urging the major networks to revive their traditional "Family Hour" and voluntarily reserve the first hour of prime time broadcasting for family-oriented programming. Last year, I voted for legislation requiring that a "V" Chip -- a device to help parents weed out programs labeled for violent or questionable content -- be placed in all new television sets.

While television execu-

tives are primarily responsible for the content of their broadcasts, a portion of the responsibility for improved television programming rests with the public -- the viewers who have the power to turn to alternative programming or simply turn off the set, and with parents who have the obligation to establish viewing rules for their own families.

In far too many homes, the television set has become the centerpiece of family activity. Where children once sat in front of the fireplace, their minds working, their imaginations fueled by the ideas expressed on the printed page, today they sit in dull mesmerization before the flickering screen of the "boob tube."

More enrichment can be found between the covers of a good book than between the opening and closing credits of any television show. More fulfillment can be cultivated by a family conversation than by the idle jabber spilling from the small screen.

Although the study at UCLA indicates an improvement in the quality of programming broadcast to the screens of millions of homes across the country, television networks can, and should, demonstrate much greater responsibility in strengthening the quality of their programming. And, as a nation, we are also compelled to improve the quality of our lives and the lives of our children by turning off the television set. We should make efforts to redirect precious time and energy away from television's allure, and toward more productive activities. The alternatives might be pleasantly surprising and positively worthwhile.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Improving the Safety of America's Workforce

Many American workers are subjected to serious hazards in the workplace. Job-related deaths and injuries exact a staggering emotional and financial toll on workers, family members, the legal system, employers, and the U.S. economy.

Having grown up in the Southern West Virginia coal fields, I have seen more than my share of broken bodies, devastated families, and men slowly choking to death from pneumoconiosis. These indelible memories have resulted in my determination to do all that I can to find funds to help address the problem of on-the-job dangers.

More than 30 years ago, I initiated efforts that established, funded, and constructed facilities for the Appalachian Laboratory on Occupational Safety and Health (ALOSH) in Morgantown. In 1989, in response to the continuing growth of staff and the expansion of research responsibilities at ALOSH, I redoubled my efforts to fund construction of a new laboratory that would answer the changing needs of workplace safety researchers.

Since that time, I have added more than \$90 million to appropriations bills for construction, equipment, and staffing of a new National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) laboratory in Morgantown, and in October of this year, I helped to dedicate that state-of-the-art research laboratory.

There is no more appro-

priate place in the nation to be waging an assault on dangers in the American workplace than in West Virginia. From 1980 to 1989, the average annual rate of workplace fatalities in West Virginia was 15.7 per 100,000 workers -- more than double the national average. Dust-related lung diseases in West Virginia accounted for 8,350 deaths from 1968 to 1991. From 1989 through 1990, West Virginia's mortality rate for those diseases ranked first among the 50 states. These numbers are simply morally unacceptable.

The 300 people who will staff the new NIOSH facility when it becomes fully operational will develop lab techniques to further the understanding of occupational disease and to fortify the ability to prevent health damage in the workplace. They will examine ways to better address the relationship between hazardous substances and toxic reactions, and devise new methods for monitoring hazardous workplace agents with the aim of giving immediate notification of exposures as they occur.

In the American workplace, safety must be a forethought, not an afterthought. With this new West Virginia laboratory, our nation takes a step toward increasing the available knowledge about workplace hazards, with the hope of decreasing injury and loss of life to American workers. America's workforce deserves nothing less.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Battle over Booze Ads

I find disconcerting the recently announced decision by the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States to lift its self-imposed, decades-old ban of hard liquor advertising on television and radio.

In view of the alcohol industry's disappointing decision, I was heartened to see that, according to press accounts, the four major networks have decided to continue to ban hard liquor advertisements. Unfortunately, that commendable stand by the networks does not resolve the matter. It merely shifts the burden of responsibility in broadcasting with respect to the negative impact of alcohol advertising to local affiliate stations, cable operators and programmers, and radio stations.

West Virginia's broadcasters have a vested interest in the future of the communities they serve. They understand that, and they have demonstrated their commitment to our communities by providing local news coverage and forums for the debate of local issues, granting free air time for public service announcements, warning the public of local emergencies, and airing information about community charitable functions.

Alcohol is a dangerous drug. For many years, I have

taken the opportunity when addressing groups of young West Virginians to warn them about the dangers of alcohol, and I have supported legislative efforts to discourage people -- particularly young people -- from drinking any alcohol. For example, earlier this year, I authored an amendment which requires states to pass "zero tolerance" laws that will make it illegal for persons under the age of 21 to drive a motor vehicle if they have a blood alcohol level greater than .02 percent.

More recently, I have written to West Virginia broadcasters and cable operators, urging them to put the health and well-being of West Virginians ahead of the profits that may be gained by accepting alcohol advertisements. I hope that they will follow the example set by the networks and refuse to air ads peddling intoxicating beverages.

Now, in addition, I call on West Virginians to act responsibly, and, particularly in the midst of this season when alcohol is so prevalent at holiday celebrations, to set a positive example for young people by abstaining from drinking intoxicating beverages. Genuine holiday cheer comes from the heart, not from a bottle.

December 11, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Green Bank Telescope Update

As the constellations shift in West Virginia's winter sky, progress continues on the steady and intricate construction of the giant radio telescope being built at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank in Pocahontas County.

Expected to be completed in 1998, the Green Bank telescope is foreseen to be one of the most powerful instruments man has ever built in his pursuit to understand the heavens. This state-of-the-art device will be the world's largest steerable radio telescope, and, for its size, the most precise telescope ever constructed for research at microwave frequencies.

The new telescope -- for which I added \$75 million to an appropriation bill in 1989 -- responds to the need for a sensitive and sophisticated instrument for research and development in astronomy. It will replace an outdated radio telescope that collapsed at Green Bank in 1988.

Several important advancements in the development of the telescope have recently been completed. The elevation shaft has been welded and installed, and the elevation wheel has been assembled. When finished, these components will lift the massive dish more than 475 feet in the air, with two

20-story elevators providing access to the raised segment of the structure. Also, more than two-thirds of the 2,200 main antenna surface panels have been completed and are being painted. These surface panels, each with an area of 50 square feet, will comprise the surface of the dish. Thanks to sophisticated automation, this fully adjustable surface will never vary from an ideal shape by more than the thickness of a piece of paper.

While it will provide state-of-the-art research capabilities to scientists across the country and around the world, the telescope will also make a sizable contribution to West Virginia's high-tech educational offerings. Each year, hundreds of high school teachers visit Green Bank for hands-on educational programs that help them to teach their students about astronomy. In addition, the Observatory offers daily public tours, and special tours are provided to students and other groups.

I am glad to have made possible the funding for the construction of the Green Bank radio telescope in our state. This sophisticated instrument in West Virginia will have a lasting influence on man's understanding of God's handiwork in the heavens.

December 18, 1996



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

12-25-96

A Good Year for West Virginia

As 1996 draws to a close, I am glad to report progress in my efforts to help lay a firm foundation for the growth of West Virginia's economy. Working within the narrowing federal budgetary constraints, I successfully added millions of dollars to appropriations bills to help bring to fruition several still-developing initiatives in West Virginia that offer benefits to our state and nation.

For example, in my ongoing effort to assist the fight against crime and provide greater peace of mind to American families, I helped to obtain \$92.2 million for continued development of the first-of-its-kind computer system that will be headquartered at the FBI Fingerprint Identification Division in Clarksburg.

Just this fall, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) laboratory -- a facility built and equipped with a total of \$90 million I have added to past appropriations bills -- officially opened its doors in Morgantown. Another \$8 million I added this year will support operations of that cutting-edge facility.

Also, in keeping with my long-running interest in improving West Virginians' access to health care, I added \$800,000 to an appropriations bill for continued expansion of Mountaineer Doctor Television (MDTV), a televised service that helps medical specialists reach out to patients in rural communities.

To broaden the protection of West Virginia's precious natural resources, I obtained \$2 million so that the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge can increase its holdings, and \$1 million for the expansion of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

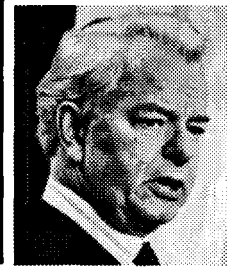
also added \$11.5 million for staffing and operations at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Education and Training Center at Shepherdstown, bringing to \$138 million the total monies I have added to appropriations bills in recent years for that state-of-the-art facility.

Further, West Virginia's high-technology transformation will be assisted with \$14 million I obtained for operations of the NASA Independent Validation and Verification Facility at Fairmont, and a total of \$9.8 million I obtained for the NASA-sponsored Classroom of the Future and National Technology Transfer Center at Wheeling Jesuit University. Additionally, \$4 million I added will enable the business-outreach programs of the Robert C. Byrd Institute of Flexible Manufacturing in Huntington to continue.

Mass transit users in the Morgantown and Charleston areas will benefit from \$4.2 million I added to update automation of the Personal Rapid Transit System in Morgantown and \$3.2 million I added for the Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority.

And, as a result of \$6 million I added to the Agriculture Appropriations Bill this year, Leetown in Jefferson County will be home to the nation's first Cool and Cold Water Aquaculture Center, placing West Virginia at the forefront of research in this new and expanding area of the fish-farming industry.

The future economic viability of our nation relies largely in its making wise investments in itself. These West Virginia initiatives, for which I have secured federal funding, are exactly that -- wise investments in the future of our



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sugar Grove – A West Virginia Success Story

West Virginia has a long and proud tradition of military service to the United States, and the people of the Mountain State possess admirable qualities for serving and protecting the ideals of our American heritage. Citizens demonstrating honor, bravery, and a sense of responsibility and respect for country make West Virginia a natural home for a national defense presence.

The Naval Security Group Activity, located at Sugar Grove in Pendleton County, represents the value that such a presence can bring to our state.

In 1962, a decision by the Department of the Navy to abandon plans for construction at Sugar Grove of a 600-foot-diameter "Big Dish," a powerful new radio telescope, placed the future of that naval installation in jeopardy. Recognizing its value to the community, the state, and the military, I spoke with President Kennedy and met with Defense Secretary Robert MacNamara a number of times, successfully making a case for the continued Department of Defense presence at Sugar Grove.

Since that time, I have supported funding for the construction of an underground operations building, including \$7.4 million for a major expansion and renovation of that facility. I also helped to obtain funding for a post exchange and a community building. More recently, the small, outdated community building was replaced, using \$990,000 I added to an appropriations bill for a larger structure that now serves military personnel as well as local residents. I also helped to obtain \$400,000 for a new fire station and \$1.4 million for water and sewage systems.

Most recently, I added \$10.8 million to a federal appropriations bill for construction of a

73-person bachelor enlisted quarters with an attached dining facility at the Sugar Grove naval complex, and for 17 to 23 new family housing units to accommodate the influx of military personnel being added to the installation. As a result of my efforts to maintain the installation, and due to the facility's ideal location within the National Radio Quiet Zone, it today continues to render an important military service in fulfilling communications research and development needs for the Navy.

Nearly 100 personnel have been added to the installation since 1992, for a total of about 280, with staff levels expected to reach 300 in the next two years.

The unit has also contributed to growth outside the base. The annual economic impact on the local community is \$12.2 million, an increase of \$4.3 million since 1993.

The Sugar Grove command is proud of its participation in the community. Along with taking part in local events, the base has "adopted" a nearby nursing home and sponsored a special education olympics. It has also established an academic excellence partnership with a local elementary school, and is working to establish a similar program with the local high school.

The enlisted men and women from our state have always served this country with bravery, honor, and pride. The success that the naval installation has had with the community illustrates that the men and women who serve in the armed forces are not only an asset to the country which they protect, but also to the state in which they live. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am proud that I could help along the way with funds for the National Security Group Activity at Sugar Grove.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Giving Wings to West Virginia's Poultry Industry

Boasting sales of more than \$195 million in 1995, poultry production is a leading contributor to West Virginia's economy. Chicken and turkey farms provide hundreds of jobs in many of West Virginia's most rural areas, and poultry processing is the fifth largest employer in our state. Broiler chickens are impressively distinguished as West Virginia's top agricultural commodity and one of our state's most successful exports.

Recognizing an opportunity to strengthen one of West Virginia's fastest growing industries, in 1987 I added \$375,000 in planning funds to a federal appropriations bill to launch a new poultry research initiative that would be administered by West Virginia University's (WVU) Division of Animal and Veterinary Sciences.

With those funds, WVU and members of the poultry industry, working together, drew up plans for a pair of modern facilities that would house research on poultry production.

Subsequently, to support construction of these facilities -- one at WVU's farm in Morgantown and the second at the University's Reymann Memorial Farm in Hardy County -- I added \$3.4 million to fiscal 1989 and 1990 appropriations bills.

The future success of poultry farming in our state is rooted in devising methods that increase the value and demand of West Virginia poultry products. Global competition for poultry and eggs is intensifying due, in part, to the escalation of consumer expectations for higher quality poultry products at

a low cost. With the investment of the federal funds that I have provided, the two poultry research laboratories are addressing these challenges and blazing new technological trails for West Virginia's poultry interests.

Currently under way at these two state-of-the-art facilities is research aimed at developing technology that will promote production efficiency and competitiveness, as well as studies aimed at identifying sustainable economical agricultural practices.

The development, commercialization, and use of these newly discovered technologies will have far-reaching benefits for West Virginia and the nation. In the years ahead, these technologies can help to create jobs and raise the standard of living for rural West Virginians.

Other research at the two labs is intended to produce safer and healthier food. For example, studies are now under way to develop methods of controlling salmonella, a potentially lethal bacteria that can infect poultry products and be passed on to human consumers.

Promoting innovation to ensure the future productivity of West Virginia's poultry farmlands, these two WVU-administered laboratories are helping to fulfill my vision for a broader economic base in West Virginia. The 21st century will demand the adoption of cutting-edge practices to sustain economic growth and job creation, and the technological infrastructure I have helped to put into place in West Virginia today will help to keep our state's poultry industry flying high, well into the future.

January 8, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balancing Preservation and Recreation

One of the challenges facing West Virginians, who are blessed with a state of breathtaking beauty, is that of preserving West Virginia's natural assets while working to promote economic development in our state. Nowhere is this more the case than in the nearly one-million-acre Monongahela National Forest. Annually, an estimated 2.2 million people visit sites in the Monongahela National Forest and its surrounding areas. Significantly, this large number of visitors -- thousands from outside West Virginia -- pours money into West Virginia's economy through the use of motels and hotels, restaurants, and other tourist-oriented enterprises.

I have long recognized the value and potential of tourism to our state's economy. Likewise, I have long recognized the incomparable natural legacy that is ours in our forests. Thus, throughout my Senate career, I have promoted efforts to strike a balance between enhancing the Monongahela National Forest as a tourism resource and, at the same time, protecting its natural beauty and tranquility.

For example, improvements to trails and picnic areas throughout the Forest have been undertaken with funds I have added to appropriations bills over the years.

In 1994, I helped to dedicate an upgraded Falls of Hills Creek Trail, which was improved with \$1.1 million, of which I had added \$800,000. Hidden away under the protection of the Forest Service, this 114-acre delight includes three waterfalls, with one of them -- at 63 feet in height -- the second highest in our state. The funds I obtained have allowed for the construction of a series of improved pathways, boardwalks, and stairs to make the trail more accessible to visitors.

Another of the beautiful attractions of the Monongahela National

Forest is Seneca Rocks, which annually draws more than 150,000 tourists, including campers, hikers, and picnickers. To help these visitors more fully enjoy the offerings of the Forest, and in an effort to replace a prior facility which was damaged by the severe flood of 1985, I added \$1.6 million for a new Seneca Shadows Campground and picnic area. These new facilities were completed and opened to the public in 1990.

Further, in the last five years, I have added \$7.1 million to replace the Seneca Rocks Visitors Center, which was destroyed by fire in 1992. The new center will provide needed services to those who climb, hike, or merely come to gaze at the unusual, towering rock formation.

The Cranberry Glades area is widely recognized as a unique and particularly environmentally sensitive portion of the Forest. With federal funds I obtained, two limestone treatment facilities began operating between 1988 and 1995 on the Cranberry River to treat acid mine drainage and improve the river's habitat, helping to ensure a healthy stock of fish for anglers. Also in an effort to allow visitation, but still preserve the area's natural character, in 1992, I added \$330,000 to an appropriations bill to upgrade the Cranberry Mountain Visitors Center. The upgrade of that center, which was originally constructed with \$100,000 I had added to a fiscal 1965 appropriations bill, has just recently been completed.

By obtaining federal funds for the development of its splendid scenic treasures and a wide range of outdoor activities and resources, I hope to preserve the Monongahela National Forest's scenic beauty, while expanding the outdoor activities that are available to the tourists who support a growing industry in our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Leaving a Larger Imprint on West Virginia

I recently announced that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) will be adding 1,100 new employees at its Fingerprint Identification Division complex in Clarksburg. Those employees, who will initially be offered two-year term appointments, will bring the number of staff at that facility to a total of 3,000 by the end of this September -- significantly more than the total staff number of 2,500 that the FBI had expected to employ upon the center's full implementation in 1999.

It was in response to the FBI's concern that its fingerprint system stood at the brink of collapse, a potential disaster for law enforcement, that I, in 1990, helped to launch the new Clarksburg complex and its computer system by adding \$185 million to a federal appropriations bill. Including that initial funding for construction and equipment, I have obtained more than \$600 million in appropriations bills for the Clarksburg fingerprint division.

The latest round of hiring responds to the growing numbers of inquiries from business interests and law enforcement agencies for the kinds of services that only this comprehensive, ultramodern fingerprint system can provide.

Fingerprint division assistance, for example, is regularly sought by schools, child-care services, and adoption agencies that check the backgrounds of prospective employees and

potential adoptive parents. In that way, the FBI helps to ensure that children are sheltered from child molesters and abusers and have safe environments in which to learn and live.

The ability of local police forces to have quick access to a comprehensive database of criminal fingerprint and identification information is of immense value and importance to every community.

Imagine the difference it will make when an individual is detained briefly for some minor offense on the East Coast, and, through this revolutionary fingerprint system, is identified within minutes as a fugitive murderer from the Pacific Northwest. This contribution to the security and the peace of mind of American families is inestimable.

Additionally, the FBI complex, as a major employer, is contributing to an economic revitalization of our state. Currently, the complex provides an annual economic impact on the local community estimated at \$50 million -- a figure that will rise as more employees come on board, resulting in the FBI's leaving an even larger imprint on our state. Therefore, the recent decision by the FBI to add another 1,100 employees -- most of whom are expected to be awarded permanent positions -- can be celebrated as a most welcome piece of economic news for West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Good Grammar Makes a Comeback

For centuries, the written word has been one of the most useful tools for allowing man to communicate and record information. In recent decades, however, conveniences made by technological advances such as the telephone have, for many purposes, replaced traditional correspondence. Even more recently, though, an unanticipated development brought on by the growing popularity of the computer has helped writing begin to make a comeback, and electronic communication, including e-mail, is reacquainting people with the written word. This is good news for a society that has grown lackadaisical about the correct application of English and grammar. But, as we enjoy the benefits of the Electronic Age, it is also critical to be aware of proper grammar.

Among other elements, our culture is defined by the quality of our education and the caliber of our language. As a nation, we have a responsibility to maintain our language as a vigorous, vivid, and exact tool of communication. Whether it be for an e-mail message, a fax transmission, or an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, proper grammar reflects the organized thought that is necessary for clarity and accuracy.

Striving for correct English usage in writing is more than a courtesy to one's readers. In what condition would our nation be

today had our forefathers not made the effort to carefully craft the wording of documents like the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights?

Throughout my career, I have stressed the importance of education and the employment of proper grammar, and I have always advocated the usage of proper English when meeting young people across West Virginia.

As keyboards and monitors unite with chalk and slate in the classroom, teachers and parents need to prepare students with the fundamentals of grammar in order to ready them for the challenges of the approaching new millennium. Good grammatical skills are essential for effective communication, and by equipping future generations with such knowledge, our nation, which is becoming more digitized and complex every day, will be able to continue to grow and prosper.

It is ironic that technology is bringing us back to the fundamentals of the English language. But, while use of the computer is encouraging people to write more frequently, we must be mindful of the fact that precision and clarity of thought in writing are fundamental to understanding written ideas. I hope that, as a society, we will work toward improving our grammatical skills, which will strengthen the way we communicate and enrich the way we live.

January 29, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Recognizing a Sound Investment

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) National Tracing Center (NTC) in Berkeley County was recognized recently for its contributions to the effort to streamline government.

The NTC received a national Hammer Award for its work to improve the ATF's crime-fighting capabilities. The award recognizes successful efforts to improve the efficiency of government.

The NTC's effective use of technology and teamwork is an outstanding example of how thoughtful federal investment can contribute to more efficient production at a greater savings to taxpayers.

In 1990, I added language to an Appropriations Committee report initiating a study of the feasibility of relocating certain functions of the ATF from Washington, D.C., to proximate, lower-cost areas. Subsequently, I added report language to designate nearly \$3 million toward locating the Tracing Center in Berkeley County.

The NTC -- with a staff of 138 federal and contract personnel and an annual economic impact of approximately \$6 million -- traces the origin of firearms recovered in crimes and provides that information to ATF and other law enforcement agencies.

To conduct and complete searches, the NTC maintains microfilm records, but, due to a back-

log in transferring hard-copy files to microfilm, NTC staff also must routinely sort through stacks of paper files. In 1992, the NTC maintained a backlog of 28 million paper documents that had yet to be transferred to microfilm, a number that was increasing every day. The turnaround time for searching through this mound of documents and completing a firearms trace request consequently grew from a matter of hours or a few days to as many as 45 days, jeopardizing the mission of the Tracing Center.

An independent contractor, consulted by ATF management at the time, estimated that the cost of conversion to microfilm would be \$50 million over a 28-year period. To their credit, the NTC staff discovered new technologies and completed the conversion project in just 18 months at a cost of \$14.2 million. I have been advised that this achievement would not have been possible in the NTC's previous facility.

In winning the Hammer Award, the Berkeley County Tracing Center staff has received a well-deserved pat on the back. Their success in cutting government red tape to improve the operations of the ATF is commendable. But, even more importantly, the federal dollars saved by this facility are proof positive that the NTC's move to West Virginia was a sound federal investment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Court Challenge to the Line Item Veto

In March of last year, President Clinton, with great fanfare, signed into law the Line Item Veto Act of 1996. Although enacted in March, the measure did not take effect until January 1, 1997.

I have been a strong opponent of the line-item veto because of my grave concern that the power it confers on the President of the United States would upend the system of checks and balances and the separation of powers laid out in our Constitution by our Founding Fathers.

I am so opposed to the Act that, on January 2nd, I took the uncommon -- and for me, unprecedented -- step of initiating a legal action which challenges the constitutionality of the Act. This lawsuit, which was filed in the U.S. District Court, District of Columbia, is based on the simple principle that the plain words of the Constitution mean what they say.

Specifically, the very first provision of the Constitution mandates that "all legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States." Under the Line Item Veto Act, though, the President will, for the first time in our history, have the power to selectively and unilaterally "cancel," or repeal, parts of legislation that he has just signed into law.

Clearly, the act of re-

pealing a law or part of a law, no less than enacting or amending a law, is an act of legislating which the Framers of the Constitution never envisioned for the executive.

In passing the Line Item Veto Act last year, the Congress chose to follow the same fateful path taken by the Senate of ancient Rome some 2,000 years ago, a path which ultimately led to the fall of that great republic. Julius Caesar did not seize power. The Roman Senate knowingly, willingly, and desiring to do so, ceded power to Caesar. Most importantly, this included the power over the purse. Once the Roman Senate gave away its control of the purse strings, it gave away its power to check the executive. This is what the Congress did last year; it voluntarily handed power over the purse -- a power belonging to the people and exercised by their directly elected representatives in Congress -- to the executive branch.

And so, for the preservation of our Constitution and our Constitutional form of government, I have taken the extraordinary step of going to court to challenge the new law. Let us hope that it is not too late to save our nation from the colossal mistake the Congress made in shifting the people's power over the purse to the President.

February 12, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Planning for Your Trip Abroad

I am regularly called upon to assist West Virginians in planning their overseas vacations. Perhaps the single most important piece of guidance I offer is my advice to apply for a passport well in advance of travel abroad.

I suggest, for example, that West Virginians anticipating international travel this year during the peak vacation season for travel abroad, March through June, should apply now for a passport. It is a vital document of identification, and is required for travel between the United States and most foreign countries.

A first-time applicant 13 years of age or older must apply in person, and can do so at most post offices and courthouses by completing an application -- Form DSP-11. An applicant should have in hand a certified copy of his or her birth certificate, a valid form of identification, and two recent 2" by 2" front-view photographs. The application fee is \$65.00 for citizens over the age of 18, and \$40.00 for those under age 18. For persons born in West Virginia, a birth certificate can be obtained from the Vital Registration Office in Charleston at (304) 558-2931.

Applicants who are unable to obtain a copy of their birth certificate may submit other forms of identifica-

tion, such as a hospital birth record, school or family Bible records, or notarized affidavits of persons having knowledge of their birth.

Travelers departing within a two-week period from the date of application may request expedited service for an additional \$30.00 fee. Further, an expired passport may be renewed through the mail simply by completing a renewal application -- Form DSP-82 -- attaching a \$35.00 fee, and mailing it, along with the outdated passport and two photographs, to the address printed on the renewal form.

The Department of State has established the National Passport Information Center (NPIC), (900) 225-5674, to assist with passport inquiries. The charge for the 900 service is 35 cents per minute for automated information and \$1.05 per minute for operator-assisted calls. The credit card option, (888) 362-8668, is based on a flat rate of \$4.95 per call. The NPIC will take calls in English, Spanish, and TDD, a telecommunications system for the deaf.

With early planning, foreign travel can be a relaxing and enriching experience. I hope that this information helps to ensure smooth sailing for adventuring Mountaineers this year.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fulfilling a 32-Year Quest

As my first piece of legislation in the 105th Congress, I have introduced a bill to provide sufficient funding by the year 2003 to complete the 13-state Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor Highway System. I hope that, as a result of my bill, the people of Appalachia will finally see the beginning of the end of a 32-year quest for a system of more modern, safer roads that are needed to help end the cycle of poverty indigenous to the region.

For a number of years, I have worked against the political tide in my efforts to add funding to appropriations bills to make good on the federal government's promise to the people of Appalachia to build these highways. In total, I have added \$804 million, since 1989, for construction of ARC Highways in West Virginia.

However, without a reliable and steady source of annual federal funds, like that which has been available to the now complete Interstate Highway System, the pace of construction of the 3,025-mile ARC system has been unacceptably slow.

Under my bill, the Appalachian states would be eligible to receive annual construction funds on a matching basis, like those provided for the Interstate System. My legislation

would also ensure that the ARC Corridors would not have to compete with the states' other pressing highway needs for limited federal resources.

On December 16, 1996, I met with President Clinton in the Oval Office to urge his support for my approach to completing the ARC Highway program. In addition, I met with his Budget Director, Franklin D. Raines, and with the new Transportation Secretary, Rodney E. Slater.

Subsequently, as a result of my urging, the President included \$2.3 million for construction of the Corridor Highways in his recently released six-year budget. This is an important initial boost, providing 35 percent of the total cost of construction. However, as Congress takes up the highway reauthorization bill this year, I will continue to press for 100 percent of the federal funding required to complete the Corridors, together with state matching funds, as called for in my bill, to see to it that the long-awaited, and much-needed, Corridor Highways are finally finished.

The entire nation has benefited from the improvements brought about by the Appalachian Corridor Highway System. So, too, will we all benefit from its completion in the near future.

February 26, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preserving the Miracle of the Constitution

In May of 1787, a Constitutional Convention convened in Philadelphia for the purpose of breathing life into the promise of the Declaration of Independence. The result of that gathering was so extraordinary that George Washington described it as "little short of a miracle." In fact, I have often felt that the spirit of the Creator himself must have helped to guide those deliberations.

I find inconceivable the thinking of those who advocate marring the genius of our Constitution with a balanced budget amendment -- a proposal so riddled with flawed thinking that its effect would be to disrupt the carefully balanced powers of the three branches so assiduously planned by the Constitutional Framers.

Certainly, I agree that, for the good of our nation, we must work to bring the budget into balance, as we are doing. But I believe that we can meet that responsibility without resorting to the ruination of our Constitution and the disastrous encumbrance that would then be placed on future leaders, who will be charged with making decisions that will affect the security and economic strength of our nation.

For example, one of the key contributors to our current budget imbalance has been the heavy spending

that this nation undertook during the Cold War. Our nation ran up the deficit because there was a strong consensus in the nation as a whole that we needed to spend whatever it took to assure our survival as a nation, and to prevail over the "Evil Empire" that was the former Soviet Union.

It was a successful strategy, and the funds expended toward that goal constitute one of the best investments our nation has ever made. Yet, it could never have been done under the balanced budget amendment that was recently defeated in the U.S. Senate.

Balancing the budget is indeed a very difficult task that requires inflicting pain. It means making decisions that are not popular, and hurting some people by cutting programs that matter in their lives. We have all the constitutional power we need right now to balance the budget. All that we have to do now is don the "velvet cloak of responsibility," and we need to begin by telling the people the truth about the pain that will be felt.

If we do that, the balanced budget amendment will at last be relegated to the ash heap of bad ideas where it most assuredly belongs, and "the miracle at Philadelphia" may be preserved for yet a little longer.

March 5, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Praying for Our Nation

Whenever I look back upon my early years growing up in West Virginia's southern coal communities, I am reminded of the central role that faith played in our lives.

I can still recall the sound of my mother's prayers being offered up each night in the soft glow of a kerosene lamp. It was faith, to a large degree, which helped men to endure the blackness of the deep mines day in and day out, and faith which wives clutched, white-knuckled with fear, as they waited and watched for their husbands to emerge from the mines in the wake of an explosion.

Throughout decades of enormous change, during the depths of the Great Depression, and in the aftermath of ruinous natural disasters, West Virginians have always turned to their faith for strength and guidance.

Faith is what has kept us going when hope has been in short supply.

I hesitate to imagine in what condition our state and our nation would be today were freedom of religion not among the basic tenets upon which our nation was founded.

Judging from the proliferation of examples of the current fragile state of our moral fabric, it is evident

that we need the anchor of faith today as much as we have ever needed it.

Yet, ironically, our nation in recent years has been embarked on a course to discourage voluntary prayer in schools and in commencement exercises -- a course that, in effect, denies religious freedom to many of our most vulnerable citizens at a time when they are struggling to chart their futures and searching for a moral compass.

I do not believe that the Constitutional Framers ever envisioned that their words would be so interpreted as to separate our young people from the practice of their religious faith in this way.

I, therefore, have proposed a clarifying amendment to the Constitution. My amendment would make it clear that the words the Constitution uses with regard to the establishment and the free exercise of religion do not mean that voluntary prayer is prohibited from our public schools or their extracurricular activities.

Just as we and our forefathers have found direction, strength, and inspiration in prayer, for the sake of our nation, our schoolchildren should not be denied the opportunity to voluntarily seek support and guidance from the Creator through prayer.

March 12, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Colliding Values

I was astonished recently to read a newspaper article describing a movie entitled *Crash*, which is soon to be released to theaters throughout the country. This movie, which reportedly depicts characters perversely aroused by automobile accidents and their resultant physical mutilation, is beyond the pale. *Crash* appears to be yet another effort by the entertainment industry to shock and titillate in order to run up profits with a blatant disregard for moral decency. Unfortunately, it is just the latest nefarious example of how today's television and movie fare is detrimental to the moral fabric of our nation.

It is ironic that, at a time when a movie in the depraved vein of *Crash* is being released, the television industry, under pressure from Congress and the President, recently announced with great fanfare that it was taking steps to give parents more information about the programs their children watch. The television industry's solution is a "ratings system," not greatly unlike that which is currently used by the movie industry.

The ratings system, which took effect in January, relies on six age-based designations to assist par-

ents in determining the appropriateness of programs for their children. For example, shows with a TV-Y rating are said to be suitable for all children. At the other end of the spectrum, TV-M is intended to indicate that a program is suitable only for audiences seventeen and older.

I am concerned that an age-based system does not offer parents enough information. A better system would be content based. Rather than being forced to trust some television executive's determination about what kind of programming is appropriate for designated age groups, parents should be told more specifically whether a program on television contains violence, sex, or foul language.

Bowing to the pressure of public concern about the cultivation of our children's moral character, entertainment industry executives are trying to give the appearance of making some concessions. But, they need to display the courage to put our national well-being ahead of the "quick buck" by providing programs and films that put forth good examples for our young people and that celebrate the morals and values on which our nation was founded.

March 19, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Returning Government to the Man on the Street

When I first ran for the United States Senate in 1958, I campaigned with Senator Jennings Randolph. Together, we shared a total campaign fund of about \$50,000. Today, the average cost of a U.S. Senate race is \$4.5 million, and some Senate campaigns have cost over \$20 million.

How, in the future, can a poor boy from the backwoods of West Virginia, or any other state, hope to run for the U.S. Senate? It is already beyond their means.

No longer do candidates' positions on the issues count most. No longer do experience and capabilities count most. Instead, Senate races are tilted to the advantage of the candidates who have the ability to raise the most money.

As each day dawns, the public is confronted with new and increasingly garish allegations concerning the campaign fundraising practices that have become a way of life in our nation. The incessant money chase that currently permeates every crevice of our political system is like an unending circular marathon. And it is a race that sends a clear message to the people that it is money, not ideas or principles, that reigns supreme in American politics.

Unfortunately, the Supreme Court has blocked attempts to set mandatory limits on campaign spending by equating such campaign expenditures with the Constitutional guarantee of free speech. A Constitutional Amendment, which I supported, was recently intro-

duced in Congress to nullify that decision, and to allow the Congress to reign in campaign spending. Unfortunately for the American people, that amendment was defeated.

I have long fought for reform of our campaign financing system. As Majority Leader in 1987 and 1988, I tried eight times to thwart a politically motivated filibuster blocking a campaign finance reform measure, but I was unsuccessful.

Money has become the great "unequalizer" in politics. Money talks, and a lot of money talks louder than a little money. Hence, the more money, the more "freedom of speech" a candidate has. This would seem to be the effect of the Supreme Court's decision if carried to its logical conclusion. Candidates with the most money have the most freedom of speech, because they can buy more television ads, more radio ads, and more newspaper space than their less-well-to-do opponents can buy.

We must put an end to the seemingly limitless escalation of campaign costs and the pervasive influence of the special interests and the wealthy. The Congress should not be allowed to dodge this issue. It should act now to put the United States Senate, the House of Representatives, and the presidency of the United States back within the reach of any candidate with the brains, the spirit, and the desire to want to serve.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Developing Alternative Sources of Oil

Our nation is far too dependent on the Middle East for oil. The involvement of the U.S. in the 1991 Persian Gulf War, for example, was driven as much by our need to maintain secure supplies of oil as it was to punish naked aggression.

Unfortunately, that region of the world is fraught with political tensions, and as long as the U.S. continues to be tied to the Gulf for a supply of oil, our own national defense and economic security will be vulnerable to the region's instability. For these reasons we must make reducing our dependence on Middle Eastern oil a priority.

Part of the solution is to find and develop alternative sources of oil. It so happens that a very important, world-class source of oil exists and awaits development at the crossroads of Europe and Asia in the Caspian Sea region of the former Soviet Union.

According to industry sources, approximately 42 billion barrels of proven oil reserves are available in that region for processing and transport to the West. If developed, some 2 to 4 million barrels of oil per day could be brought out of the Caspian Sea region, moved across Turkey by pipeline, and shipped to the U.S. market.

Not only could the de-

velopment of these reserves provide a new source of oil for the West, but it could also bring economic development and stability to the newly independent nations in the Caspian region, help to diversify the world oil suppliers, and stimulate price competition.

Azerbaijan is alone among the newly independent nations in the Caspian region in resisting Russian pressure to station troops on its soil. Russian interests would like to control the oil resources of their former territories. It would not be in the best interests of a competitive energy market or the American strategic position for Azerbaijan to be influenced by Russian factions.

To encourage independent development and cooperative economic activities in that region, Congress established a Caucasus Enterprise Fund to stimulate the development of free market economics in the Caspian region. I strongly support this strategic move.

A proactive American government program can help to stabilize these newly independent nations, while assuring competitive pricing for a resource on which we will rely well into the next century and, most importantly, easing our dependence on the potentially volatile Middle East.

April 2, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Give the Gift of Reading

A study released recently by the publishers of Education Week reported that only 26 percent of West Virginia's fourth graders achieved a "proficient" reading score on the 1994 National Assessment of Educational Progress. In the words of Education Week, "74 percent scored below proficient, which means that they will have trouble doing challenging grade-level work." This is an embarrassingly poor showing that should spur a renewed commitment by West Virginians to promote the basics -- in particular, reading -- in our educational system.

The week of April 13th through the 19th has been designated National Library Week. During this week, parents are encouraged to promote the importance of reading by taking their children to the local library. Acquainting children with the resources of a library can develop a solid foundation upon which children can build stronger reading skills, and, in turn, explore the universe without ever having to leave their own back yards.

While National Library Week is a tremendous opportunity for parents to introduce their children to the library, I urge all parents to make the trip a regular practice for their children.

I am an ardent believer in the value of reading as the fundamental tool for enhancing one's education. Throughout my public career, I have read many vol-

umes of literature which have enabled me to continually strengthen my skills as an orator and as a representative of the people of West Virginia in the U.S. Senate.

My personal reading list -- one that I recommend to others -- includes the King James Version of the Holy Bible, Plutarch's Lives, Milton's Paradise Lost, Dante's Divine Comedy, Homer's The Iliad and The Odyssey, The Federalist Papers, The French Revolution by Thomas Carlyle, Emerson's essays, Shakespeare's thirty-seven plays, and any good dictionary. In addition, I have read and studied various works by Plato, Aristotle, Herodotus, Xenophon, Thucydides, and other histories, ancient and modern. While this is not my complete list of recommended reading, it does highlight a mix of literature, history, and philosophy from throughout the ages that I believe to be important for a well-rounded education.

Educators and parents must work together to ensure that their children utilize every possible resource, both inside and outside the classroom, to enhance their educational experience and to prepare them for the challenges of the 21st century. Exposure to great works of literature is one of the finest gifts that parents can provide to their children, and a trip to the library in honor of National Library Week is a good place to start.

April 9, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Comforts of Home

Much of my work keeps me in Washington, and it seems that the more time I spend in the city, the more I yearn for the peaceful serenity of my home state. The time spent surrounded by the turmoil and clutter of our busy metropolitan areas brings on a new appreciation for the uncomplicated comforts of West Virginia's tranquil hills and valleys.

Ironically, rapid advancements in technology may help to contribute to a better quality of life for many West Virginians who presently undergo long-haul commutes each workday to and from their Washington-area offices by allowing them to work closer to home several days a week.

A new telecommuting center in Jefferson County, established with \$250,000 I added to a 1997 appropriations bill, will allow its users to "telecommute," or work at their regular jobs via computers some distance away from the physical location of their offices. Telecommuting provides all of the efficiency that a location in a modern, metropolitan business office affords, while retaining many of the advantages of a more rural setting.

The Jefferson County TeleCenter will afford telecommuters the freedom to spend more quality time with their loved ones and

also permit them to be more productive in their jobs.

Moreover, the center has been designed so that it can be used during evenings and weekends for education and training programs for the surrounding community. Potential uses include offering high school, college, professional, and vocational-level courses taught by on-site instructors or computer-based training programs.

The new TeleCenter will be equipped with state-of-the-art work stations furnished with dual telephone lines to accommodate voice and data links, personal computing systems, "smart telephone" capabilities, and video conferencing. In addition, users will have access to facsimile and copy machines and other essential office equipment.

It is a fact of life in today's world that urban pollution, high rent, and crowded highways all add up to lost time, wasted dollars, wear and tear, and less overall productivity. Telecommuting can help to solve those complex problems while also allowing our citizens to lead more fulfilling lives. This TeleCenter introduces a new approach to how West Virginians traditionally view working, and I look forward to the positive changes it will foster for our state in the years to come.

April 16, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cleaner Air and a Leaner Economy

Earlier this year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed strict new "clean air" rules that threaten to eliminate jobs and damage the economy of West Virginia.

West Virginia has already suffered job losses due to existing ambitious clean air standards, and -- in addition to the coal industry -- chemical manufacturers, construction firms, and steel and glass makers could be adversely impacted by these newly proposed rules on ozone and particulate matter. Furthermore, new economic development initiatives on a variety of fronts could be curtailed by the imposition of these rules.

There exists a number of unanswered questions about the newly proposed rules and their potential benefits, as well as their costs, that I believe must be answered prior to their implementation.

The EPA has conceded that the costs of implementing the ozone rule will exceed any expected benefits. But even then, the EPA may have badly underestimated the total annual national cost of the ozone rule, estimating it at \$2.5 billion. The President's Council of Economic Advisers, however, sharply disagrees with that estimate, projecting the annual cost at \$60 billion.

The Small Business Administration has called these proposed rules "one of the most expensive regulations, if not the most ex-

pensive regulation, faced by small businesses in ten or more years."

The EPA also readily admits that West Virginia and the nation have dramatically improved the air quality by moving toward compliance with already existing standards, leaving in question the necessity of implementing new tougher rules at this time. It only makes sense to allow the states to continue to develop and fully implement programs to comply with existing standards, and to measure the results of those changes before possibly hamstringing our economy with tougher standards, the benefits of which are in question.

I have long supported the cleanup of West Virginia's environment, and I consider the health and safety of West Virginians to be a very important matter. However, because of my many concerns about these new rules, I recently wrote to the EPA -- joined by Senators Rockefeller, Ford, Glenn, and Robb -- urging the agency to hold off on these new rules and to allow the states first to complete action on the ambitious clean air standards that are already in place.

Cleaner air is a universally popular goal. But for the EPA to insist on instituting new rules while their benefits are questionable and before their full costs -- including the costs to jobs and to the economy -- have been determined is unwise.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Time of Our Lives

With an understanding of history, we can learn from our ancestors, avoid many of the perils that befell them, and build upon their successes. But, without the ability to measure time and to make order out of the common and uncommon occurrences of the past, a useful understanding of history could prove elusive.

Modern society uses the birth of Jesus Christ as a primary reference point for recorded history. A.D., *anno Domini*, Latin for "in the year of our Lord", and B.C., "before Christ", mark the years following and years preceding the birth of Christ. Around 527 A.D., a monk residing in Rome calculated the year of Christ's birth, and instituted that date as the starting point for what is called the "Christian Era." By recognizing this reference point, we are able to better clarify when an historic event took place.

Prior to the establishment of the Christian Era, civilizations employed other methods to record history. The modern calendar is defined by unchanging numerical rules. For example, a calendar year is characterized by four seasons and 12 months. But ancient civilizations measured time with different

criteria, including astronomical, religious, or political influences. Early agricultural civilizations reckoned time by the passing of the seasons or by the blossoming of various plants. The Greeks measured time with Olympiads, which were intervals of four years that marked the span between their celebrated games. In some other ancient calendars, years were numbered according to the year of a ruler's reign.

The modern calendar is a solar calendar, based on the 365 days required for the earth to orbit the sun. It is modeled after the calendar introduced by Pope Gregory XIII more than 400 years ago and adapted from the calendar of Julius Caesar. The names of the months originate from names of Roman Gods, and, in fact, the term "calendar" derives from the word "kalendae," Latin for the first day of the Roman month.

Although the modern calendar has seen efficiency improvements since the age of Caesar, its roots lie in the calendar of ancient Rome. It is, therefore, as much a useful tool in today's hurried, time-conscious society as it is a link to the past and a reminder of the lessons of history.

April 30, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Filling a Hole in U.S. Highway Investment

Nowhere do we pay a greater price for inadequate infrastructure investment than in our nation's highways. Our national highway system carries nearly 80 percent of U.S. interstate commerce and nearly 80 percent of intercity passenger and tourist traffic. Yet, we have allowed large segments of our National Highway System to fall into serious disrepair.

According to the Department of Transportation (DOT), only 39 percent of our entire national highway system is rated in good condition, and almost one in four of our nation's highway bridges are now categorized as either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

Unfortunately, the DOT has also reported that investment just to maintain the current inadequate condition of our nation's highways is a full \$15 billion short each year. And, while it is clear that the requirements we place on our national highway system are growing -- for example, the number of vehicle miles traveled annually has grown by roughly 40 percent in the last decade -- our investment in highways continues to decline. We are simply digging ourselves into a deeper and deeper hole.

In addition to the adverse economic impact of this infrastructure disinvestment, deteriorating highways take a huge toll in diminishing safety conditions

and resultant vehicle crashes and fatalities. Almost 42,000 people died on our nation's highways in 1996 alone, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration points to poor road conditions as a contributing factor to these fatal accidents. Obviously, our nation needs to put more resources into highways, but at this time of deficit reduction, federal funds are limited.

That is why I recently introduced a bill to provide additional federal funds for our nation's highways by redirecting to the Highway Trust Fund the 4.3-cent-per-gallon gas tax already being paid by consumers, but currently being used for deficit reduction.

By depositing this additional 4.3-cent gas tax into the Highway Trust Fund, the DOT will have greater resources to meet the true needs of our nation's transportation infrastructure, thereby improving safety and helping to deliver welcome economic benefits to the nation.

Only through investment here at home -- investment to maintain and renew our own physical plant -- can our economy grow and generate healthy wages for its citizens and increased revenues for the U.S. Treasury. The longer we delay increasing federal highway spending, the more expensive it will be to reverse this destructive trend, which costs our nation dearly.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In Memory of Our Nation's Military Heros

On the last Monday of each May, our nation observes Memorial Day, a time for remembrance of the patriotic men and women who have given their lives defending the principles and freedoms that are so highly valued in our United States.

The modern Memorial Day, or "Decoration Day" as it was formerly called, follows on the post-Civil War practice of decorating the graves of the fallen soldiers of both the Union and Confederate armies.

Today, Memorial Day is casually considered one of the holiday "bookends" that mark the unofficial beginning and end of summer -- the other being Labor Day. I fear that, for too many, the real meaning of the holiday may have become blurred, and, for some, may mean, primarily, the day of the first family barbecue of the season, or of the opening of the community swimming pool.

Fortunately, there are still those veterans' organizations, patriotic individuals, and families who hang flags on front porches, plan and conduct memorial services, march in parades, and place flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers in recognition and undying appreciation of the sacrifices made to protect our nation and preserve our liberties.

In West Virginia, where patriotism runs deep, there is a tradition of standing tall when called upon to defend the rights and freedoms cherished in this country. In fact, throughout our state's history, West Virginia has played a role in the defense of our nation far outweighing its proportion among the 50 states. Our state's national defense heritage is, certainly, a badge of honor that West Virginians should wear with pride.

Through the Memorial Day ceremonies and symbolic remembrances of those occasions in the 20th century when America's might has been tapped to restore peace to the world, we are reminded not only of the need to be ever vigilant and always prepared to come to the defense of our nation, but also of the fragile nature and priceless value of peace.

I hope that on this Memorial Day, West Virginians will take time to reflect upon the sacrifices of those men and women to whom the ideals of this nation were dearer than life. One day of remembrance each year, one day of earnest gratitude and of rededicating ourselves to the tenets of patriotism is but a tiny bit of reparation on a debt that will never be repaid.

May 14, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Down-to-Earth Space-Age Help for Business

Constructed at Wheeling Jesuit University with more than \$13 million I added to a federal appropriations bill in 1991, the NASA-sponsored Robert C. Byrd National Technology Transfer Center (NTTC) has been busy making its mark on the business community in West Virginia and throughout the nation.

In the few years of its operation, the NTTC can boast of successes on several fronts to help domestic businesses by providing them with access to cutting-edge technologies and expertise developed at federally funded research laboratories.

Since the beginning of its operations, the Center has answered more than 15,000 requests for assistance, including many from businesses looking for training to bolster their competitive position in the global marketplace. The Center has also engineered several successful partnerships between federal technology sources and private sector manufacturers, and has created and produced training programs for the U.S. Navy.

In addition, the NTTC has developed NASA's first CD ROM, NASA Solutions: Sharing Aerospace Technology with America, a computer disk offering U.S. businesses and industries creative solutions to technological problems.

In keeping with the mission of the NTTC, the new CD ROM, a full-color, video-based computer disk filled with NASA technological resources, is helping to bring space-age solutions within easy reach of 20th-

century businesses.

The new CD ROM contains information about 19,500 technologies available for commercialization; 600 technology transfer success stories; and 15,000 contracting opportunities.

Users can also retrieve information from the disk about the NASA Commercial Technology Network, comprised of NASA's 10 field centers, six regional technology transfer centers, and the NTTC.

NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin described the CD ROM project as "the result of many innovative efforts to make NASA technologies available to U.S. industry quickly and easily."

NTTC representatives report that the disk caused a stir at Technology 2006, NASA's commercial technologies trade show in Anaheim, California, where vendors stood in line to secure a copy. More than 5,000 promotional copies of the CD ROM were distributed by the NTTC to interested parties from across the U.S., and, in response to its positive reception, the NTTC is currently updating the disk in preparation to make it available for wider circulation.

As illustrated by the success of its CD ROM, the Robert C. Byrd National Technology Transfer Center is fulfilling its mission to provide useful assistance to domestic businesses to help make America more competitive in the world marketplace, to strengthen our national economy, and to help create jobs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Addressing Military Misconduct

The extent of the scandals that have been unearthed at many of our military facilities indicates to me that the time has arrived for a thorough review of gender-integrated training in the armed forces.

This is a serious situation, involving very serious allegations with possible repercussions on our national security. As evidence of the depth of the problem, a 1995 survey found that 61 percent of the women in the Army reported incidents of unwanted sexual attention. Also, a hotline established by the Army last fall for women to report sexual harassment, misconduct, or abuse, received 7,000 calls in only a two-and-a-half-month period.

As this evidence indicates, there is a serious problem associated with gender-integrated training. That is why, pending a much-needed review of the problem, I think that the practice of gender-integrated recruit training in the military services should be suspended.

This is not just about sexual harassment among soldiers of equal rank. It is about that, but it is about much more. It is about the use of power and authority of sergeants and officers

who are put in charge of the recruits and junior personnel for whom they are responsible to train and look after. It leads one to ask a fundamental question: are women actually safe in the U.S. military?

The purpose of an army is to fight, and to win battles. If gender integration enhances the prospects of readiness and effectiveness in combat, then we should be all for it. But, if it reduces American effectiveness on the battlefield, should we be for gender integration purely on the general grounds of social equality?

The scandals which we are seeing in the training commands must be taken as a danger sign that gender integration complicates the military's fighting capabilities. We need to review the kinds of gender-integrated training that will work, and the kinds that will not work. In the special world of military life, where the ultimate mission of fighting and winning wars is uniquely different from all other environments and roles in civilian life, the real objective is the national security of our nation and how best to maintain it with the most effective fighting force.

May 28, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Our Rivers with Responsible Stewardship

Recently, American Rivers, a national environmental organization, ranked the Potomac River seventh on the group's annual list of the Ten Most Endangered Rivers in North America. In explaining this designation, American Rivers, based on a U.S. Department of Agriculture study that detected nutrient and bacterial contamination in the waters of the South Branch of the Potomac, cited agricultural production, and, most notably, poultry production, as the central threat to the river's future.

The North and South branches of the Potomac wind through several West Virginia counties in a region commonly called the Potomac Highlands, and later flow into the water supply of the Washington, D.C., area, and eventually into the Chesapeake Bay. The rich bottom land of the Highlands region is dotted with ancestral farms raising sheep, crops, and poultry -- one of West Virginia's fastest growing industries.

American Rivers' annual promotion of its top ten list is an effort to advance public awareness about the fragility of the nation's water resources, a laudable goal. Regrettably, however, absent from the recent media reports about the problems of the Potomac are details of the exemplary efforts of West Virginia family farmers to balance economic interests with environmental goals by voluntarily implementing the Potomac Headwaters Land Treatment Watershed Project.

I obtained \$2.3 million in the Agriculture Appropriations Bill last year to launch that project. Formally implemented in January, the initiative is providing farmers in the Potomac Highlands with federal and state funds and technical assistance to help improve farming practices. The program is helping West Virginia farmers, in particular poultry farmers, to implement new practices, such as the use of poultry composters and litter-storage sheds, that reduce threats to the Potomac River by improving the efficient use of farm land.

To date, 80 percent of the eligible farmers have enrolled in the seven-year project, and have agreed to assume forty percent of the costs. As a cooperative effort, the initiative exemplifies the realization that maintaining the health and integrity of our mountain streams and rivers is best achieved through a joint private/public commitment.

The Potomac Headwaters Land Treatment Watershed Project will achieve benefits for a broad base of interests, extending from our beautiful state to the Chesapeake Bay.

I am glad to be associated with this responsible and meritorious stewardship project, and I commend West Virginia farmers for their willingness to preserve the valuable resources of the Potomac Valley while simultaneously maintaining and expanding agricultural production.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Inspiring Academic Excellence

The United States is a world leader in government funding of education. However, I routinely read reports indicating that U.S. students score lower than many countries on educational surveys. With so much being invested in learning in this country, why is it that the U.S. is not turning out better students?

Certainly, part of the reason that our students are not scoring higher is because academic excellence is not being given the kind of recognition it deserves. It is essential for students to recognize that there are myriad benefits resulting from hard work in the classroom. To help foster in children a deeper desire to learn, the nation, as a whole, needs to devote greater attention to stimulating excellence in education. The process must begin with parents and teachers who reject the trend toward lower standards, and, instead, set high goals and help young people to attain them.

Unfortunately, in today's world, with professional sports and entertainment figures earning millions, young students can be easily led to believe that their studies are secondary to athletics and other extracurricular activities. The glitz and glamour surrounding professional athletes and entertainers should not out-

shine the accomplishments of outstanding scientists, distinguished political leaders and religious figures, and experts in other fields who have attained their status by clearing the educational hurdles that have challenged them throughout their careers. The best way to attain a successful job is not by scoring touchdowns or shooting foul shots, but through the hard work of earning a solid education.

This nation must harness a new attitude toward the value of education if U.S. students are to understand its importance in the real world and be prepared to handle the responsibilities of adulthood.

As one who started out in a modest two-room schoolhouse, I know firsthand the challenges of earning a solid education. I did not have computers, or television sets, or videos, but I did have those things that make for a good education. I had teachers who inspired their students to learn. I had adoptive parents who reared me with strict but loving hands, and who instilled in me the need for self discipline and a strong sense of basic values that continue to guide me daily. These are the enduring hallmarks of a good education and the foundation of a solid perspective on life.

June 11, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Confronting Immigration Problems in West Virginia

While West Virginia does not suffer the consequences associated with illegal immigration to the same degree as our nation's border states, I believe that a coherent national policy, directed at stopping the hiring of illegal aliens and swiftly deporting individuals who are here illegally, requires every state to be included in our enforcement efforts.

That is why last year I cosponsored an amendment to the Illegal Immigration Bill requiring at least 10 full-time Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) agents to be stationed in every state.

West Virginia currently is one of three states with no permanent INS presence; yet, the problems of illegal immigration cross our state borders, as occasional arrests and deportation of illegals in our state illustrate.

As a result of my amendment, however, I was able to announce recently that two new INS offices will be located in Clarksburg and Charleston, placing 11 new agents in West Virginia. The presence of the INS will improve the state's ability to enforce national INS policy, while giving residents more direct access to INS services.

The Charleston office, which is to receive five new

agents, will provide services to the public and ensure effective enforcement of the nation's immigration laws in the state. The Clarksburg office, which will employ six agents, will be responsible for administrative duties and will also assist with the processing of fingerprints in coordination with the newly opened FBI Fingerprint Identification Complex in Clarksburg.

West Virginia's INS personnel will include detention and deportation enforcement officers who remove illegal immigrants, and special agents who will enforce immigration laws and conduct investigations.

These new offices will help prevent illegal aliens from filling jobs that rightfully should go to American citizens. Additionally, maintaining an INS presence throughout all 50 states will save taxpayer dollars by reducing travel time for agents and by expediting the deportation process.

Establishing these new INS offices in West Virginia represents a positive step in the nation's overall effort to enforce U.S. immigration policies, and furnishes West Virginia with the personnel and capabilities to meet the growing challenges confronting every state as a result of the influx of illegal immigrants into this country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Age of Law Enforcement

With the recent dedication of the new FBI Fingerprint Identification complex in Clarksburg, the nation has officially entered a new era of fighting crime.

It was in 1989 that I began working to provide American families with a greater sense of security in their own neighborhoods by helping the FBI to establish this state-of-the-art complex and its automation that could put speedy identification of criminals within reach of officers at every level of law enforcement.

At that time, the FBI was experiencing increasing problems at its outdated fingerprint operations in downtown Washington, problems that placed the identification system in a state of near-collapse, severely handicapping the nation's ability to keep its law-abiding citizens safe from crime.

In 1990, I added \$185 million to an appropriations bill to begin construction of the complex in Harrison County. Since that time, \$600 million has been appropriated for the facility and the cutting-edge technology being headquartered there.

Having seen the new center when I participated recently in its dedication, I can say with assurance that it is a facility of which the citizens of West Virginia and the entire nation can be proud. Set on a wooded hill in a 986-acre reservation that boasts an array of na-

tive wildlife, the main building is an extraordinary structure with some creative innovations, including stonework appropriately featuring a unique fingerprint motif. Most importantly, the employees there, the majority of them West Virginians, are dedicated, hard-working people who take pride in their jobs and their significant contribution to a safer, more crime-free America.

The new capabilities at the FBI center will allow for a larger number of fingerprint checks to be made in a much shorter period of time, thus streamlining the work of the criminal justice system while helping to save countless lives.

The FBI complex is also making a huge contribution to the local economy with its annual economic impact of more than \$75 million. Presently, the FBI Fingerprint Division employs a staff of 2,700 in West Virginia, and expects to have some 3,000 employees on the payroll by the end of September.

The task of protecting law abiding citizens from those who would perpetrate crimes has never been more challenging than it is today. The new Clarksburg FBI Fingerprint Identification complex brings with it a new age of law enforcement and a renewed promise of safer streets for American families.

June 25, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bring Back Television's Family Hour

I find it troublesome that, in the United States, a nation offering more opportunity to learn and improve oneself than any other society in history, citizens waste so much time sitting idle in front of the television mired in the midst of a bombardment of broadcast bunk.

Disturbingly, the amount of inappropriate programming on television is growing at an alarming rate, and it is at the expense of families, children, and, ultimately, the future of this country.

For many years, virtually all of the content in television shows airing daily between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. was deemed suitable for children. "Family Hour" was first established in 1975, when, responding to congressional complaints about increasing prime time television violence, the major networks agreed to set aside a slot each night for programming suitable for the entire family. Since that time, this mutually agreed upon Family Hour for all ages programming has been challenged on legal grounds, but the networks, abiding by the spirit of that understanding, continued to air wholesome shows for some time.

In more recent years, however, the amount of obscene and violent programming during the Family Hour has skyrocketed. The once "safe haven" Family Hour slot has been invaded by shows totally unsuitable for children, and, in large

measure, even unfit for adult consumption.

That is why I recently joined several of my colleagues in urging the presidents of the major broadcasting networks to again set aside the first hour of prime time broadcasting each night for family programming. In my view, even that step would be but a drop in the bucket. In fact, it is ridiculous that the American public should have to be begging for just one hour a day of decent broadcast programming, when television viewers -- especially children -- are floundering in a 24-hour sea of slime that showcases programs ranging from mind-numbing to shocking.

Network executives should demonstrate more responsibility in choosing the content of their programming. Surely there is enough talent in the television industry to produce quality shows that entertain and, hopefully educate, without assaulting and insulting the viewer with sexual messages and violent images.

Such an uncomplicated gesture could have a strong positive impact on countless viewers and families across the country.

I will continue to call for appropriate television programming. But, meanwhile, the best way that I know to avoid the detrimental effects of this problem is to simply turn off the television set and pick up a good book.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Our Global Boat Afloat

In December, the United States will participate in an international summit in Kyoto, Japan, where the world's developed nations are expected to sign a protocol to make legally binding the current voluntary air pollution reduction targets formerly agreed to in an international treaty known as the Rio Pact, negotiated in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. Developing nations, however, would be left off the mandatory hook.

The Rio Pact's aim was a reduction in the worldwide production of greenhouse gases, which scientists widely believe have contributed to a slow warming of the Earth's atmosphere. While it is difficult to forecast what the precise effects of global warming might be, it is projected to cause a rise in sea levels; shifts in temperatures, rainfall, and agricultural patterns and zones; and an increase in the severity of weather events.

The United States should address the problem of global warming in a serious fashion by taking environmentally and economically responsible steps which address climate change concerns and also help to preserve domestic jobs.

But the notion that developed nations, including the U.S., Japan, and the European nations, can solve global warming without the participation of the developing nations -- such as China, India, Brazil, and

Mexico -- is far-fetched.

Emissions of the developing nations are growing at a rapid pace and will, in a few years, overtake those of the developed nations. In fact, based upon current trends, China alone -- a developing nation -- will surpass the U.S. in carbon emissions by 2015.

Environmentally, we are all in the same global boat. It does no good for the developed nations to work feverishly to plug the holes in one end of the boat, if the developing nations are drilling holes at the other end as fast as we are plugging ours. All that such a strategy accomplishes is to assure us all of a long, long swim.

Because of my concerns about global warming, I recently introduced a Sense of the Senate Resolution, which 64 other Senators have joined me in co-sponsoring, that urges the Administration not to sign any agreement in Kyoto which would mandate new commitments to limit greenhouse gas emissions by developed nations, unless it also mandates binding commitments on developing nations.

If the United States is going to be a leader in the issue of global warming, we must do so by ensuring that China and the other developing nations do their part to keep our global boat afloat. To do otherwise is environmentally and economically unsound.

July 9, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stuck with the Tab for the Alcohol Industry

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), more Americans use alcohol than any other drug, and the results are devastating.

It is estimated that 69.3 percent of children between the ages of 16 and 17 have, at one point in their lifetime, experimented with alcohol. Consider, on the other hand, that 26.1 percent of children in the same age group have tried marijuana and 5.3 percent have tried cocaine, drugs that receive a great deal of publicity and attention from government and the media. Meanwhile, the dangers of alcohol are essentially ignored.

Such alarming statistics recently led me to introduce an amendment in the Senate aimed at eliminating the tax deduction for alcoholic beverage advertising expenditures and directing the resultant savings toward increased funding for education and alcohol-abuse prevention programs that are targeted at our nation's youth.

Elimination of the deduction for alcohol advertising expenditures is not, as some might call it, the introduction of a "sin tax," but rather an end to a "sin subsidy" that has left American taxpayers subsidizing alcohol advertising and picking up the tab for the high costs imposed on society by alcohol consumption. Alcohol abuse and alcoholism cause more than

100,000 deaths each year in the U.S., and cost society approximately \$100 billion annually.

Our children are besieged with media messages that create the impression that alcohol can help to solve life's problems, lead to popularity, and enhance athletic skills. These messages are distortions that gloss over the all too prevalent and detrimental results of alcohol consumption -- the loss of productivity due to hangovers, the tragic deaths and injuries caused by drunk drivers, the hospital admissions for alcohol poisoning, the sad effects of cirrhosis of the liver, and the families torn apart by alcohol abuse. My amendment would have devoted much of the savings from closing the tax loophole to a far-reaching counter-advertisement campaign to educate youth about the dangers of alcohol consumption.

If we are truly concerned about drug abuse in this nation, we should not allow the alcohol industry's enticing and unrealistic messages to flow unchallenged.

This serious issue deserves greater attention, and although my amendment was defeated on the Senate Floor, I hope that it may have helped to focus the spotlight on the dangers of alcohol and its cost to our nation and our nation's greatest treasure -- our young people.

July 16, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Unveiling the Mysteries of Science

In recent weeks, Americans have been marveling at the digital images beamed to Earth from NASA's Pathfinder mission to Mars. The robotic explorer, Sojourner, has taken us across the rocky surface of the red planet, sparking the curiosity of onlookers from across the nation and around the world. Back on Earth, in laboratories in Munich, Germany, researchers have extracted and studied fragments of DNA taken from the ancient bones of a Neanderthal skeleton, revealing that modern humans are not closely related to Neanderthals, as some theorists have believed.

These are recent examples that illustrate some of the many ways in which science can have profound effects on our society. From outer space to inner space, from the technical marvels of automation to the intricate chemical complexities of molecular biology, modern science is unveiling some of life's most intriguing mysteries.

That is why I am proud to support the goals of the National Youth Science Camp in Pocahontas County -- one of the nation's premier science education programs -- and to honor the delegates to the camp each year with a luncheon in our

nation's Capitol.

Since its inception in 1963, the National Youth Science Camp has offered an annual four-week summer program of educational and recreational activities to encourage scientific leadership in graduating high school seniors from the fifty states and the District of Columbia. These graduates, selected through a competitive process, have already demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and an interest in the sciences. Encouragement of their further scientific growth is keenly important. In these camps may be found some of the great scientific leaders of tomorrow -- individuals who may break new ground in fields that could lead to discoveries about the nature of disease or the constitution of the universe.

By nurturing, encouraging, and sustaining such scientific curiosity, new generations will be able to discover thrilling scientific frontiers that will captivate and benefit all of mankind. The delegates to the National Youth Science Camp have tasted the excitement and the wonder of science, and through support of their enthusiasm, these young minds will lead us into a bright and promising future.

July 23, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia: A Special Place to Call Home

To those of us who call it home, West Virginia is the ideal place in which to live and rear a family. Breathtaking landscapes, a low cost-of-living coupled with a low crime rate, and the presence of strong family and religious values create a quality of life that few places can match and that few people would trade.

As a matter of fact, Money magazine's recently published list of the best 300 places to live in the United States included four West Virginia cities -- Wheeling, Huntington, Parkersburg, and Charleston -- among the nation's top 200 most livable cities. To compile its list, the magazine polled its readers and collected data from government and private sector sources, including information about each community's performance in nine categories -- crime, economy, health, housing, education, weather, leisure, arts and culture, and transportation.

I am delighted, but not surprised, that these four West Virginia cities made Money magazine's coveted list. In our state, far-flung relatives still gather for large family reunions, where they feast on "old family recipes," trade photographs, and tell stories about revered ancestors,

passing along an oral family history that has been handed down through generations.

In West Virginia, it is still considered polite in most homes to turn off the television set when entertaining a visiting friend. Families dressed in their "Sunday best" still walk together to church services, and the custom of delivering a homemade meal to an ailing neighbor continues to be practiced today, as in years gone by.

In recent years, our state has made great strides in broadening its economy to ensure that job opportunities will abound for future generations, and I am glad to have helped in that endeavor. Those efforts are paying off with improved physical infrastructure and the expanded presence of federal offices and high-tech industries, as well as enhanced crime-fighting capabilities and greater accessibility to basic health care services. And while we in West Virginia have earned the right to boast of these accomplishments, we deserve to be equally proud of our ability to hold on to those old values and lifestyle qualities that make West Virginia such a special place to call home.

July 30, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Supreme Court and the Line Item Veto

In the final days of June, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its ruling in the case of Raines v. Byrd, which I and five of my congressional colleagues brought in January of this year as a challenge to the constitutionality of the Line Item Veto Act.

Unfortunately, the Court side stepped the central question of the Act's constitutionality by deciding that my fellow plaintiffs and I did not have sufficient "standing" to bring the suit. In the opinion of the Court, we had not adequately demonstrated that we had been "deprived of something to which [we] personally [were] entitled." Thus, the effect of the Court's decision was to overturn a lower court ruling that had found the Line Item Veto Act to be an unconstitutional shift of lawmaking power from the Congress to the President.

Although I respect the Supreme Court's decision, I am disappointed with its finding in this particular case. The Constitution clearly places the function of lawmaking in the Con-

gress, not in the President. The Founding Fathers understood the abuses of power that would necessarily arise if one person were allowed to make, amend, or repeal law. That is why they created a three-branch government based on the principles of separated powers and checks and balances. The Line Item Veto Act flies in the face of those principles by giving to the President, for the first time in our history, the power unilaterally to repeal parts of a law as he sees fit.

As the Supreme Court noted, there will most certainly come a time when some state or local government, or some individual or group of individuals will feel the full brunt of the line item veto, and will then bring a case against it. At that time, I hope that the Supreme Court will address the heart of this matter and resoundingly conclude that Congress cannot, by simple statute, rearrange the basic structure of government as contained in the Constitution and confer upon the President the people's power of the purse.

August 6, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Helpful Hotlines

Because of the vast number of regulations and options affecting federal programs and services, West Virginians often have questions regarding specific problems or concerns. In response, the federal government has established a system of toll-free phone numbers that can help West Virginians obtain answers to their questions and overall assistance with their concerns. With the thought that it might be helpful, I am listing some of the most commonly requested numbers.

Auto Safety Hotline	1-800-424-9393
Consumer Product Safety Commission ...	1-800-638-2772
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	
Cancer Hotline	1-800-422-6237
Energy Efficiency Clearinghouse	1-800-363-3737
Flood Insurance Information	1-800-638-6620
Food & Safety Tips on Meats and Poultry	1-800-535-4555
Hill-Burton Free Hospital Care Hotline ...	1-800-638-0742
Medical Scholarship Information	1-800-638-0824
Medicare Information	1-800-638-6833
National Health Information Center	1-800-336-4797
National Runaway Switchboard	1-800-621-4000
(for parents and runaways to leave messages)	
National Drug & Alcohol Treatment Referral	
Service	1-800-662-4357
Pesticide Emergency Information	1-800-858-7378
Safe Drinking Water Hotline	1-800-426-4791
Small Business Administration	1-800-827-5722
Social Security Administration	1-800-772-1213
Washington, D.C., Reservation Center	1-800-554-2220
(Information on lodging in the Nation's Capital)	
Veterans Benefits Information	1-800-827-1000

August 13, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Labor Day, 1997

Labor Day -- the first Monday in September -- was first celebrated in 1882, and is one of this nation's oldest official observances. Labor Day has important meaning because it honors the enormous accomplishments of countless working Americans over the last 200 years, and celebrates the fruits of that labor which have provided the citizens of the United States with a higher standard of living in times of peace, and a powerful engine of energy in times of war.

Certainly, Labor Day is an especially important holiday in West Virginia. From the state's earliest days, man and beast toiled to clear the mountain fields of stump and stone. Men and machines have built smooth ribbons of highway, making possible the business opportunities that those early, isolated pioneers could never have imagined. The backbreaking and life-risking efforts of miners in the coal fields, struggling to support their families, provided a source of fuel for the nation's growing heavy industries, which have today spawned the high-tech businesses emerging around the state that enable us to compete in a worldwide marketplace. The brawn and brains of West Virginians have forged this place that we so lovingly call "Almost Heaven."

West Virginia's men and women have built and maintained a workforce to be proud of. Their ability and willingness to toil as hard as their pioneering forefathers contribute to attracting new businesses, just as the state's expanding infrastructure does. Communications networks and roadways draw businesses to the state, where a skilled labor force makes the mountains and valleys hum with the music of industry.

On this Labor Day, I hope that West Virginians across the state will take a renewed sense of pride in the value and quality of their work, and harbor a greater sense of satisfaction in the contributions that they are daily making to our state and to our nation.

In addition, I hope that young West Virginians will cultivate positive attitudes toward their future work and careers, and will prepare themselves to compete in the global workplace by holding their efforts to the highest standards of excellence.

I salute the working people of West Virginia, and I thank them for the quality of life that they are making possible for all of their families and their neighbors all across our nation.

August 20, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Criminal Connection to Alcohol

Too often I come across news reports about alcohol-related crimes. Examples of such disturbing accounts range from domestic violence and child abuse to maniacal homicides. Each time I learn about another of these news stories I am reminded that alcohol's connection to crime is yet another tragic aspect of the damage that this drug -- America's favorite -- inflicts on our nation.

Findings from several studies identify alcohol as a factor in a significant proportion of violent and aggressive crimes. According to the Center for Alcohol and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, alcohol -- not illegal drugs -- is the substance most commonly used in connection with murder, rape, and other violent crimes. And, in a nationwide survey of state prisons, more inmates reported being under the influence of alcohol than of illicit drugs when they committed their crimes. Among those in prison for homicide or assault, about 4 in 10 federal and state inmates were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the crime.

There is also a correlation between the rate of violent crime in an area and the number of nearby vendors of alcohol. That correlation probably evokes no surprise in anyone who has come across a crumbling, crime-ridden inner-city

neighborhood -- like many in Washington, D.C. -- where youths stand idly on street corners swilling from brown paper bags, or stagger around in drunken stupors shouting obscenities at passersby. Statistics indicate that there is likely to be a higher number of shops peddling alcohol in such neighborhoods than in crime-free locations.

It would seem, then, as some critics of alcohol have suggested, that one easy, common sense action that communities can take to help address violent crime would be that of better zoning to prevent a proliferation of liquor stores and bars and the easy availability of this "legal" drug.

West Virginia is consistently ranked as one of the nation's safest, most crime-free states. Thankfully, our state does not have violent crimes in the same high numbers as most states, or, unfortunately, as the nation's Capital. But we cannot be lulled into a false sense of security that we are immune from the problems of crime.

Clearly, if we wish to protect the high quality of life we enjoy in West Virginia, we should invest some thought and effort into holding back the rising tide of crime. Discouraging the use of alcohol in our communities would be a good place to start.

August 27, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fruit Research: At the Core of Better Quality Fruit

Most consumers, as they stand in their local market and pick through a bin of apples searching for perfect pieces of fruit, probably look at the color and size, check for bumps and bruises, and envision the apple's origin as part of a rolling orchard with rows of bountiful trees. Few are probably cognizant of the role that research laboratories play in providing them with large, firm, succulent specimens.

But, as the agriculture industry has become more competitive in recent years, scientific research, including a research program based in West Virginia, has played an increasingly important role in the production of quality fruits.

Recognizing the need to support our domestic fruit growers with modern technology, in 1962, I proposed the establishment of a regional fruit research station to serve the entire Appalachian region.

I envisioned the lab as a place of research aimed at benefitting fruit growers and consumers throughout the nation by enabling production of more profitable fruits for growers, and higher quality, lower cost fruits for consumers.

In 1963, I added an amendment to an appropriations bill that led to a study of the feasibility of an Appalachian fruit and berry laboratory.

Subsequently, in 1972, I secured \$200,000 in planning funds for a fruit and berry laboratory, and, in 1975, I obtained \$7.5 million for the construction of the Appalachian Fruit Research Station in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.

The Kearneysville station -- with 72 full-time employees -- houses research into deciduous fruit production, protection, harvesting, and sorting that benefits the fruit industry from Maine to Georgia.

Among the greatest hurdles to answering the growing demand for high quality fruits is in finding ways to counter the ruinous effects of pests and disease. Recently, scientists at the Kearneysville Lab were instrumental in developing and commercializing the world's first two post-harvest biofungicides, *Aspire* and *Bio-Save*. These naturally occurring products enable growers to fight storage-related disease on apples, pears, and citrus without the use of chemicals.

By finding alternative methods to control disease in ways that also protect the environment, the Appalachian Fruit Research Station in West Virginia is proving the value of research in the modern agricultural industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Encouraging Education

I know firsthand the kinds of sacrifices -- both personal and financial -- that may be required in pursuit of a formal education. Because of my own experiences, I have had a special interest in finding ways to encourage others to make the necessary sacrifices to earn a coveted degree. Toward that end, I have initiated two programs that reward educational excellence.

The Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Award program annually confers a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond upon each valedictorian of the graduating classes of West Virginia's public, parochial, and private high schools, and the Schools for the Deaf and Blind at Romney. The Scholastic Recognition Award, funded by a private trust that I established, is one way that I have chosen to express my pride in our state's brightest students.

Through this program, 307 valedictorians received \$50 U.S. Savings Bonds at the end of the 1996-97 school year, bringing to 7,820 the total number of valedictorians so recognized since I established the program in 1969.

Another program I established to provide encouragement and financial assistance to studious young people is the national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship program. Students of low-income families benefit from needs-based scholarship initiatives, and scholarships exist to recognize

student athletes. But these programs often overlook our nation's brightest students, because the reward of academic excellence is not the priority of such programs. I initiated the national scholarship program in 1985 for students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and have been accepted at an institution of higher learning. My Senate colleagues later named this scholarship in my honor. In 1993, the program, initially a single-year stipend, was expanded to provide 4-year scholarships of \$1,500 annually for qualified students.

This year, 45 new Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships were awarded to West Virginia High School students, bringing to 480 the total number of West Virginians who have received this scholarship since the program's inception in 1985.

The Scholastic Recognition Awards and the Byrd Scholarships are not large in comparison to the high costs of a college education today, but their inspirational impact is inestimable. Over the years, I have heard frequently from students who have received these awards. Their words of thanks and their remarks about the positive influence that these honors have had on their appreciation of the lasting value of academic achievement are evidence enough that these programs are worthwhile endeavors.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Critical Military Component

I recently had the opportunity to help dedicate a combined Army Reserve and Army National Guard complex in Huntington. The 89,968-square-foot complex, for which I added \$9.6 million in construction funds to a federal appropriations bill, will house 300 personnel from the Army Reserve and 220 from the Army National Guard, and will help to maintain a strong defense presence in West Virginia.

The new facility also serves as a symbol of the partnership between the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard that is necessary to ensure a solid total force defense structure comprised of active duty and civilian personnel. In West Virginia, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard have always had a harmonious relationship, but more needs to be done to foster harmony at the highest levels of the military nationwide.

A fully cooperative and utilized National Guard is necessary in this country if we are to meet the changing needs of today's military within current budget constraints. But, in the Quadrennial Defense Review, a recently released broad assessment of our nation's future defense and manpower needs, defense planners called for cutting Army Reserve component forces -- including the National Guard -- by 45,000 troops. Such unbalanced force cuts would be unwise. The men

and women of the National Guard provide highly trained, specialized service at a fraction of the cost compared to their active duty counterparts. Further, the reduction of National Guard forces would greatly reduce the state's ability to respond to emergencies such as blizzards, forest fires, and heavy flooding.

In order to form a closer relationship between the Reserve and the National Guard, I recently cosponsored an amendment to change the status of the Chief of the National Guard to that of a four-star general and to include the position as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This approach would go a long way toward correcting what I believe is a flaw in the structure of the Joint Chiefs, which does not fully include the National Guard in discussions and decisions on matters concerning force structure, force readiness, or the allocation of military funding.

Guaranteeing the Chief of the National Guard a seat at the Joint Chiefs' table would be one positive way to reduce friction and promote understanding and unity among the Guard, the Reserve, and the active duty forces, but surely there are others. In the interest of our national security, more steps should be taken to foster better coordination, cooperation, respect, and understanding among all of the critical components of our nation's fighting force.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Carding for Life

Both the tobacco and alcohol industries have received well-deserved criticism in recent years for a variety of questionable and unsavory practices, including what many critics have identified as the use of advertising campaigns specifically intended to entice young people to try, and then become hooked on, their products. In response, the tobacco industry has been attacked at both the state and federal levels, but, unfortunately, much less attention has been directed toward the alcohol industry.

According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics, the three leading causes of death for 15- to 24-year-olds -- accidents, homicides, and suicides -- often involve the use of alcohol. Efforts to curb the sale of alcohol, therefore, could be expected to yield high health payoffs to our society.

Tragedies like the recent alcohol-related death of a Louisiana State University student who reportedly had a blood alcohol level of .588 -- almost six times the level of legal intoxication -- further demonstrate that a national effort to save our young people from the destructive forces of alcohol is badly needed.

Such troubling incidents associated with youth

and alcohol prompted me recently to offer an amendment calling for coordinating the oversight of age identification checks for alcohol sales with those of tobacco-related age checks. The proposal would also increase the funding for supervision and enforcement of these provisions.

This amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations Bill will boost the ability of states to enforce age and identification requirements for the purchase of alcoholic beverages, as well as for the purchase of tobacco products. It only makes sense that store clerks who are already checking ID's for cigarettes should also check ID's for alcohol. The practice of "carding" -- checking identification cards to verify that the buyer is not under the legal age -- is such a simple step, but it can be instrumental in helping to prevent a teenager from drinking and getting behind the wheel of a car. I believe that my amendment will indeed be a constructive step in the fight to save our young people from the ravages of alcohol and make our highways measurably safer for us all. Carding underage drinkers before they get behind the wheel of a car by checking ID cards is "carding" for life.

September 24, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Progress for Workplace Safety

In October 1996, I participated in the dedication of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) research laboratory in Morgantown. In its first year of operations, this state-of-the-art facility is already proving its value as a world-class center for innovative health sciences.

The new Morgantown NIOSH lab, or Health Effects Laboratory Division (HELD), is developing techniques to further the understanding and treatment of occupational injury and disease, and devising new methods for improving the safety of workers dealing with hazardous and toxic substances.

In 1962, I initiated efforts to establish the Appalachian Laboratory on Occupational Safety and Health (ALOSH) in Morgantown to provide a safer workplace for West Virginians. In 1989, responding to the growing success at ALOSH, I began to secure funds to construct, equip, and staff the new HELD facility. To date, I have added more than \$90 million to appropriations bills for that facility.

The HELD facility allows researchers to break new ground in the fight against long-time foes of miners. For example, HELD is advancing the understanding of black lung disease. Through the use of a state-of-the-art device -- the only one of its kind in the world

-- HELD is able to detect coal dust particles and conduct sensitive research never before possible. Until HELD opened, the government lacked the proper facilities for using this equipment, but this advanced capability may help to prevent future cases of the life-threatening disease that haunts so many West Virginia miners and their families.

Technicians at the Morgantown facility are also developing a prototype pocket-sized transmitter that could significantly improve the capability of scientists and technicians to detect whether workers are being exposed to harmful levels of gases or vapors at specific locations. The transmitter could also be adapted to identify the location of firefighters and hazardous materials response teams in emergency situations.

HELD's cutting-edge science will be instrumental in preventing the occupational illnesses and injuries that traditionally have burdened workers in West Virginia and have caused lost productivity and imposed high health care costs on society. By anticipating new concerns that will emerge as workplaces change, and by keeping occupational health in step with other advancements in science and medicine, this Morgantown facility will serve the health and safety of hard-working Americans.

October 1, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Constitution 101

On September 17, 1787, the U.S. Constitution was signed by 38 of the delegates attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. This living document, thoughtfully crafted by our Founding Fathers 210 years ago, owes its enduring nature to one of its most basic, yet most ingenious and revolutionary ideas -- that the power and sovereignty of the United States government ultimately rest in the hands of its citizens.

However, a recent poll commissioned by the National Constitution Center, an organization established to better educate Americans about the Constitution, reveals that a shocking number of people in this country have little or no understanding as to how the Constitution affects their everyday lives.

In fact, according to the results of the survey, only 5 percent of Americans could correctly answer 10 rudimentary questions about the Constitution. That is an embarrassingly low percentage.

Only 66 percent of those surveyed knew that the first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. Some re-

spondents were so far off as to guess that they are called the Pledge of Allegiance.

Further, more than half of those surveyed did not know how many members comprise the U.S. Senate. About one in three did not know the number of branches of the federal government. And, almost one-quarter could not name a single right guaranteed by the First Amendment. Other questions were answered with equal error.

How can citizens be expected to meet their Constitutional responsibilities when they lack even basic knowledge about how our government operates?

If there is anything encouraging to be found in the dismal results of the National Constitution Center's poll, perhaps it is that 9 out of 10 people surveyed said that they were proud of the U.S. Constitution. I hope that more citizens will demonstrate that pride by taking it upon themselves to learn more about their Constitution and their government so that they can adequately perform the responsibilities which were conferred upon them in Philadelphia in 1787 by some of the greatest minds in history.

October 8, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Derail Fast Track

Currently working its way through Congress is legislation intended to renew so-called "fast-track" procedures for U.S. trade agreements.

Under fast track, the Administration may engage in trade negotiations around the world -- giving a little here, taking a little there -- but the Congress is largely shut out of the process, being forced to vote up or down on implementing legislation for any trade agreement that comes before it, with little opportunity to debate it and no opportunity to amend it.

In order for the U.S. to be competitive in foreign markets, to protect American jobs, and to ensure a healthy domestic economy, the Administration should have flexibility to strike the best trade deals it can on behalf of American business and consumers. But, the Congress also has a legitimate role to play in trade negotiations, and, despite claims to the contrary, that Congressional role does not necessarily impede the Administration's ability to negotiate and strike deals that are in the best interest of the country.

In pressing for fast-track authority, however, the Administration mistakenly insists that it can only be effective in promoting U.S. trade if it is unencumbered by the input of Congress. The Administration seems to think that any

agreement it submits to the Congress will, in fact, be amended, forcing a return to the bargaining table, and thereby shredding the Administration's stature as a negotiator.

To my mind, that kind of thinking belies a staggering lack of confidence by the Administration in its own negotiating prowess.

One could just as easily argue that, if the Senate retained amending authority, our negotiators might just come up with a somewhat better product, because the fact that the entire agreement will be scrutinized and possibly amended by the elected representatives of the American people gives our negotiators more leverage at the bargaining table.

Despite claims to the contrary, there is no inconsistency between supporting free trade, or freer trade, and preserving the right of the Congress not only to scrutinize the agreements, but also to question, if necessary, parts of the agreement that might appear not to be in America's best overall interest.

Rather than expending energy trying to stamper the Senate's Constitutional powers, the Administration simply needs to do its job well and negotiate sound, strong trade agreements in the first place. After all, we all want the same result from trade negotiations -- agreements that well serve the American people.

October 15, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Surf's Up

I recently launched a homepage on the World Wide Web, providing a new site and enhanced service for West Virginia's Internet "surfers."

My homepage -- which can be accessed at <http://www.senate.gov/~byrd> -- will enable computer users to more easily and efficiently access information that is frequently requested of me. For example, my Web site includes my biographical sketch, a list of the Senate Committees on which I serve, and details about books that I have authored. I have traditionally responded to the many requests for this type of information through the mail or by fax. But now, West Virginia computer users who seek to know more about my career of public service to West Virginia literally have that data at their fingertips.

In addition, I have provided tourism-related information for West Virginians who wish to visit our Nation's Capital. On my Web site can be found maps of the city and its metro system, in addition to information about museums, monuments, and other popular Washington tourist spots. With the particular aim of assisting visiting families, I have also provided a special section on points of interest to children.

As one of West Virginia's biggest boosters,

I also wanted my Web site to help promote our state. So, in addition to some of my personal reflections about West Virginia, which I hope will provide out-of-staters with a taste of the richness of our home state, I have included a list of West Virginia sites that can link interested Web surfers to educational institutions, recreational facilities, economic development initiatives, and media outlets in West Virginia.

I am regularly asked to intervene with agencies in behalf of my constituents who are having some difficulty with, or questions about, a federal program. To help cut through federal red tape, I have included on my Web page some of the most commonly requested federal agency phone numbers.

By no means a finished product, my homepage will be frequently updated to reflect new issues facing our nation, and will include direct links to legislative information, and statements that I deliver on the Senate Floor. It currently includes a selection of my past speeches, many of which have relevance to our current national debates.

With a note of excitement about the many possibilities accompanying the launching of my new Web page, I welcome West Virginians to catch the wave!

October 22, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Securing the Blessings of Liberty

The Preamble to the Constitution contains the brief phrase, "[to] secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity," words that merely hint at the sometimes staggering costs entailed in preserving that liberty. "Freedom is not Free," etched into the dark stone of the Korean War Memorial two centuries later, begins to capture the price that Americans have always been prepared to pay to preserve freedom for themselves and future generations.

In 1938, before the world-wrenching struggle of World War II had turned the page on a new chapter of American history, Congress voted to rededicate Armistice Day -- marking the end of that "war to end all wars" that World War I sadly was not -- as Veterans Day to honor the sacrifices made by soldiers from all wars. Since that date, American soldiers, sailors, and airmen have fought in every quarter of the globe and have kept a vigilant watch from outposts at every latitude and longitude, guarding American interests and American citizens.

Throughout our nation's history, brave sons and daughters have left their homes prepared to fight and perhaps to die in foreign

lands. West Virginia has seen many of her young people march from her hills into the ranks of names on memorials in our nation's capital. These men and women came from big cities and small towns, from college campuses, factories, farms, and mines. Some were killed before they were old enough to vote. Some died not knowing the joys of falling in love, raising a family, or growing old.

They fought so that we would remain free. They fought so that their children and ours could grow to be doctors, farmers, school teachers, musicians. They answered the call of their country and they did not fail it, even in death.

Most Americans today have never seen war, and hopefully, they never will. This Veterans Day, I hope everyone will join in offering a prayer of thanks to the brave spirits who defended us with their lives, and offer their thoughts and their thanks to the men and women of today's military -- active, Guard, and reserves. May God bless all West Virginians who have fought and sacrificed for the preservation of our nation's freedom and our nation's interests throughout the world.

October 29, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting More Officers on the Beat

Recent statistics indicate that the violent crime rate in the U.S. is on a gradual decline. A new FBI study, for example, reports that the number of murders in this country last year was the lowest in decades. According to the Department of Justice, one initiative that is being credited with reducing the crime rate is the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program.

The COPS program was established through the 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill to enable local communities to expand their police forces and to devise new ways of fighting crime on the local level. COPS and other anti-crime initiatives are funded through the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund, which was created by my amendment to the Omnibus Crime Bill.

The goal of the COPS program has been to increase the ranks of local police forces across the country by 20 percent, or 100,000 officers, over a six-year period.

Currently, at its three-year anniversary mark, COPS has put 65,000 new officers -- more than half its goal -- on the streets of communities across the nation.

While COPS provides an important initial boost, the expanded police forces

it is making possible are expected to be sustained for the long-term through local resources.

The success of the COPS program is largely attributable to the fact that it is geared toward law enforcement at the community level, enabling large cities and small towns to determine the best strategies for fighting and deterring crime on their own streets.

West Virginia has benefited significantly from COPS. Since the program's inception in 1994, more than \$18 million in grants have been awarded to West Virginia communities. In fact, in the last three years, 47 of our state's 55 counties have received COPS grants, putting a total of 355 new officers on the front line of defense against crime in West Virginia.

When I authored the amendment to fund COPS and other anti-crime programs in 1994, I did so to help ensure that our nation could better fight an escalating war against crime. Now, three years after the passage of the Omnibus Crime Bill that launched COPS, I am encouraged by reports that the rate of serious crime is declining, and I am gratified that COPS is being recognized as a positive factor in that decline.

November 5, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Family Thanksgiving

It is time again to count our blessings, to sit together at a table surrounded by family and friends, and offer thanks to the Creator for seeing us through another year together. The busy schedules and conflicting timetables that comprise our lives make the Thanksgiving holiday one of the few times each year that every member of one's immediate family can actually eat together and share the bond of being a family. Too often during the rest of the year, the hum of the microwave replaces the hum of dinner table conversation, and too often the eerie glow of the television set replaces the warmth of family interaction.

Thanksgiving, therefore, can be one of the few times that generations have the chance to gather together around a crackling fire to ponder photographs from the past, to slice carrots and mash sweet potatoes, to hear the laughter of children and the gossip from the kitchen, and of course, to smell the sweet temptation of a juicy turkey slowly roasting. It is a time of gentle companionship around a sudsy sink. It is a chance to share stories of past Thanksgivings, that

time when everything was ready but the turkey, or when Mom used paprika instead of cinnamon in the pumpkin pie. These shared experiences are ties that bind families together.

I hope that this Thanksgiving, West Virginians will take the time to rediscover what it is that makes them a family. A shared address and a designated spot before the hypnotic television set do not make a family, but a group of loving individuals who share laughter, tears, chores, and fun together, as well as their common genetic bond, make a true family.

So, before devouring that lovingly prepared feast, families should take the time not only to show thanks for the bounty they are about to receive, but also to be thankful for the opportunity to gather in cheerful kinship. And, before anyone leaves the dirty china behind in a rush to settle into the soporific stupor of the football game, I hope that some consideration is given to grabbing a dishcloth, taking a long walk, reading some scripture together, or playing a board game for the simple pleasure of spending time with family.

November 12, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting Gas Taxes to Work For Safer Roads

For many years, armed with U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) statistics detailing the crumbling condition of our national highway system, I have argued for greater investment in America's infrastructure. Unfortunately, to the detriment of the nation, the dire needs of our infrastructure have been neglected for too long.

Our nation's highway system is in deplorable shape and getting worse. Currently, according to the DOT, fully 61 percent of our national highway system is rated in either "fair" or "poor" condition, and almost a quarter of our nation's bridges are rated as either structurally or functionally deficient.

Earlier this year, in an apparent awakening, the Congress passed a budget bill which included the transfer of the 4.3-cents-per-gallon gas tax from deficit reduction to the Highway Trust Fund, signaling to the American people that highway construction was being given a higher national priority.

That bill, however, in and of itself, did not authorize the funds to be spent for highway and bridge construction. It merely allowed the 4.3-cents in taxes that Americans pay at the gas pump to go into the Highway Trust Fund and accumulate. As a result, by

the end of 2003, the Trust Fund is expected to grow to an unprecedented \$72 billion and just sit there -- amounting to an empty promise to the American people.

In an attempt to end this deception, I recently authored an amendment to the six-year bill that authorizes funding levels for highway construction. My amendment would ensure that the 4.3-cents gas tax now accumulating in the Highway Trust Fund could be devoted to safer bridges, better roads, and other transportation needs. It would make available to every state in the nation sizable sums -- resulting from the public's own payment of gas taxes -- and, additionally, would direct much-needed funding specifically to the continued construction of the 13-state Appalachian Regional Commission Corridor Highway System.

Congressional consideration of a new highway reauthorization bill has been postponed until next year. But I expect to renew my efforts at that time, because, without my amendment, Americans will continue paying gas taxes under the false impression that those taxes are going to create better and safer roads, while, in reality, the highways and bridges on which they drive will continue to fall apart.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Award Winning Transportation System

West Virginia University's (WVU) Personal Rapid Transit System (PRT), an unmanned, electrically powered shuttle system, has safely and dependably ferried passengers between sites on WVU's two campuses and downtown Morgantown for the past 25 years. In honor of the PRT's outstanding record of service, the system was recently recognized by a national transportation publication as the "Best Overall Performer" in its class.

In its ninth annual competition among transit systems, The New Electric Railway Journal selected the PRT for best overall performance in its "People Mover" category. The publication remarked, "There are few transit systems of any type that out-perform it."

In addition to providing dependable transportation, the PRT serves as a leading example of how technology can be used to provide alternative modes of transportation in urban areas. Numerous engineers and other interested groups have visited Morgantown since the installation of the PRT to study the benefits of an electric transit system that does not require on-board operators and that also addresses pollution, traffic, and environmental concerns.

The 8.7-mile-long PRT utilizes more than 70 shuttles, accommodating about 20 passengers each.

It began operating in 1975, and was built to help demonstrate new transit technologies at a time when our nation was growing increasingly concerned about energy and the need for alternatives to traditional fuels and methods of transportation.

Even though the PRT was initiated in response to the pressures of the energy crisis of the 1970's, the need to develop alternative fuels and transportation systems like the PRT remains critical to our nation's energy independence and security today.

Recognizing that, and responding to a study that found much of the PRT's automation becoming obsolete after two decades of advancements in the computer industry, I added \$4.2 million to an appropriations bill last year to support an update of the PRT's computer technology.

This upgrade will ensure that the PRT's automation is compatible with modern software and hardware and will also allow the system to continue providing safe, efficient transportation well into the future. It will also ensure that the PRT -- recognized for its outstanding performance by The New Electric Railway Journal -- will continue to serve as a model for efficient, alternative fuel transit systems throughout the nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Internet Indecency

Recently, a member of my staff, attempting to secure information on White House tours through the Internet, inadvertently typed in three incorrect letters of the White House Internet address, and to her shock and disbelief, what appeared on the screen was not helpful information about White House tours, but cyber pornography.

A simple mistake of three keystrokes resulted in offensive trash appearing on the computer screen. Beyond being an affront to adults who inadvertently stumble across it, this web site and others like it present a danger to children. Young students performing research for a school project could just as easily call up this and similar sites by accident.

The Internet offers valuable information and can be a useful resource. Unfortunately, however, due to a lack of regulation of indecent material on the Internet -- the kind of regulation that exists for other media -- it can also be a free-wheeling vehicle for disseminating smut. It is, therefore, important that this new electronic medium, which is increasingly making its way into America's homes and schools, have safeguards to protect our children.

I was a strong supporter of federal legislation aimed at providing such safe-

guards. The Communications Decency Act, which was enacted in 1996, made it a crime to knowingly transmit indecent material to children via computer. That law would have helped to fill the gap between the rapid development of the Internet and the eruption of web sites that peddle pornography. The Supreme Court, however, struck down that law, leaving pornographers with nearly unrestricted access to our children via the Internet.

To my mind, the act of distributing pornographic materials over the Internet, especially when it is done in ways that lure unsuspecting computer users, particularly children, into these sites, is the height of irresponsibility and borders on abuse. Furthermore, some child abusers have gone so far as to use the Internet to draw vulnerable children into dangerous relationships.

Therefore, with legislative solutions currently blocked due to First Amendment concerns, I am glad to see that members of the technology industry are, at least, proposing voluntary measures to help protect our nation's children from obscenity, including plans to report instances of child pornography to appropriate law enforcement officials. This is a commendable, though overdue, step, and I hope that others will follow.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The National Conservation Training Center

From concerns of a gradually warming globe to the problem of waterborne bacterial diseases like *ptiesteria*, the challenges to man's ability to strike a balance between improving his existence and preserving his environment are enormous. In order for mankind to ensure long-term survival, it is essential to make our children and grandchildren sensitive to the fragile nature of our planet, and better aware of our dependence upon the efficacy and abundance of its resources.

Recognizing the need to prepare current and future generations for the difficult decisions concerning our environment, I added \$4.9 million to an appropriations bill in 1989 to initiate the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Jefferson County. Including that initial funding, I have helped to obtain a total of \$138 million for this recently dedicated facility that is designed to strengthen the education and training programs offered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Set in a scenic wooded area overlooking the Potomac River, this spectacular center's 538-acre campus combines state-of-the-art technology with a natural setting to provide on-site training opportunities, as well as distance learning programs for use in

field locations. Campus housing accommodates about 150 students, and the facility also features 12 classrooms with advanced audiovisual systems, four laboratory classrooms, a 250-seat auditorium, a day-care center, and a library.

The NCTC is helping to educate not only Fish and Wildlife Service professionals, but also natural resource conservation professionals from all sectors of government and society, enabling a sharing of different perspectives, discussion and debate on difficult environmental subjects, and a search for common ground and common sense solutions to a growing list of environmental problems.

In West Virginia, where the natural environment has a large influence on its people -- from concerns about the danger of heavy flooding to interests in a growing eco-tourism industry -- this facility will prove to be a particularly valuable asset.

This new "home" for the Fish and Wildlife Service is providing students with knowledge that will enable mankind to progress while preserving the natural environment. It represents the kind of balanced approach our nation must take in order to ensure a healthy environment along with a healthy economy.

December 10, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Resounding the Essence of Christmas

The sounds of Christmas are in the air, although it can be difficult to identify the spirit behind the melodies. Is it the celebration of the birth of Jesus sweetly caroled by the bells, or the crass jingling of a commercial pitch over the airwaves? The holidays are rich in many seasonal sounds, but I sometimes worry that the spirited messages of soft hymns drifting throughout a candle-lit church are obscured by the chorus of automobile horns fighting their way to the shopping malls.

All told, there is much to exalt about the Christmas tradition of gift giving.

Sharing the blessings of our own prosperity with those less fortunate is a laudable gesture that would be welcomed throughout the year. The holidays are also an occasion for each of us to spend time thinking about our loved ones and trying to surprise them with gifts that show our affection for them. And the anticipation of children, building as the mound of presents rises around the Christmas tree trimmed with cherished ornaments, is one of the warmest joys that the holiday season offers.

However, too often, the

simple pleasures of gift-giving are overpowered by the pressures and strains of the commercialization of Christmas. Too many people will overspend this season, striking a joyful chord with shopkeepers and credit card companies, but placing a heavy financial burden on families who will face big bills in January. Too many children, influenced by ubiquitous advertising campaigns, will demand over-priced clothes and shoes that bear a designer logo -- and nothing else will satisfy. And families will spend time trudging through department stores and waiting in long lines, rather than in the company of friends and neighbors or at church celebrating the true spirit of the season in prayer and song.

During this hurried holiday season, I suggest that West Virginians go back and read the gospels, particularly the books of Luke and Matthew, in order to enhance their recollection of the birth of Christ, for therein lies the true meaning of Christmas. By going back to the Book our fathers read, perhaps we will recapture that spirit of Christmas which prevailed in their time.

December 17, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Resolutions

The dawning of a new year is traditionally a time for making resolutions. Some New Year's resolutions, like old friends, are very reliable -- we make the same ones every year. We pledge to lose weight, to exercise more, to spend more time with our families, to manage our money better, to keep in touch with old friends. As a result, gyms are crowded during the month of January, diet books fly off bookstore shelves, and lots of walking shoes are sold. But every year, most people's resolve falters in fairly short order.

Failure should not, however, prevent us from trying again, and again, and again, to reach a worthy goal. Nor should we be discouraged from tackling big problems, even if progress is slow and incremental. A mountain can be reduced to rubble by a gentle breeze, given enough time.

I am an ardent believer in self-improvement, and am convinced that everyone can make a success of his or her life, given initiative and opportunity. During my career of public service, I have tried to help create those opportunities by working to attract new federal facilities and private-sector investments that are bringing jobs to West Virginia. I have assisted our state by adding funding to

federal appropriations bills to build roads and develop flood protection and water and sewer systems, the lack of which can be a hindrance to a community's economic prosperity. I have also strived to encourage educational achievement, scholarship, and vocational training to provide individuals with the tools to build their own success stories.

But, the essential ingredient for the improvement of the economy of our state and the well-being of our people lies in their own ability and willingness to take advantage of the evolving opportunities, to build upon them, and to tackle that task with drive, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of commitment.

As we ring in 1998, I hope that I will be joined by many, many West Virginians in resolving to do better in the coming year. Let us strive to improve ourselves -- our minds and our characters, as well as our physical well-being -- and to improve our families, our communities, our state, and our nation. Let us not dwell on the failures of the past, or allow ourselves to feel overwhelmed by large goals, but, instead, let us focus on doing our best day by day to make the most of ourselves and the possibilities of the future.

December 24, 1997



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Sobering Holiday Message

The following message, by an unknown author, is a sobering reminder of the tragic consequences of drinking. I hope that it will serve as a deterrent to readers who consider celebrating with alcohol and getting behind the wheel of a car this New Year's Eve.

D.U.I...A Daughter's Final Words

I went to a party, Mom,
I remember what you said;
You told me not to drink, Mom,
So I drank soda instead.

I felt really proud inside, Mom,
The way you said I would;
I didn't drink and drive, Mom,
Even though the others said I should.

I know I did the right thing, Mom,
I know you're always right.
Now, the party's finally ending, Mom;
Everyone drives out of sight.

As I got into my car, Mom,
I knew I'd get home in one piece,
Because of the way you raised me, Mom,
So responsible and so sweet.

I started to drive away, Mom,
But as I pulled onto the road;
The other car didn't see me, Mom,
And it hit me like a load.

As I lie here on the pavement, Mom,
I hear the policemen say,
The other guy is drunk, Mom,
And now I'm the one who'll pay.

I'm lying here dying, Mom,
I wish you could get here soon;
How come this happened to me, Mom,
My life burst like a balloon.

There's blood all around me, Mom,
Most of it is mine;
I hear the paramedics say, Mom,
I'll be dead in a short time.

I just wanted to tell you, Mom,
I swear I didn't drink;
It was the others, Mom,
The others didn't think.

He didn't know where he was going, Mom,
He was probably at the same party as I;
The only difference is, Mom,
He drank and I will die.

Why do people drink, Mom,
It can ruin your whole life;
I'm feeling sharp pains now, Mom,
Pains just like a knife.

The guy who hit me is walking, Mom,
I don't think it's fair,
I'm lying here dying, Mom,
While all he can do is stare.

Tell my brother not to cry, Mom,
Tell Daddy to be brave,
And when I get to Heaven, Mom,
Write "Daddy's Girl" on my grave.

Somebody should have told him, Mom,
Not to drink and drive,
If only they had taken the time, Mom,
I would still be alive.

My breath is getting shorter, Mom,
I'm becoming very scared;
Please don't cry for me, Mom,
'Cause when I needed you,
You were always there.

I have one last question, Mom,
Before I say goodbye,
I didn't ever drink, Mom,
So why am I to die?

This is the end, Mom,
I wish I could look you in the eye
To say these final words, Mom,
I Love You...Goodbye.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pulling the Plug on Term-Paper Mills

In recent years, colleges and universities nationwide have been confronted with a new concern about term-paper fraud. As a result of the widening accessibility of the Internet, as well as the new medium's lack of regulation, a student today needs only to click a few buttons on his or her computer, and, in a matter of minutes, download a well-crafted term paper -- all without having to pick up a single book.

The problem of plagiarized research papers is an old one, but this new way to take credit for someone else's work is particularly alarming because of the ease with which research papers can be obtained and the rapid growth of web sites operated by money-hungry entrepreneurs willing to make a quick buck by promoting plagiarism.

Even a cursory search of the Internet reveals dozens of sites that offer "term-paper assistance." These sites -- with names like "Term Paper Emporium," "Recycled Papers," and "Cheat Factory"-- offer easy-to-download papers on thousands of research topics, which are available to anyone with a major credit card. In response to these "term-paper mills," as they

have been tagged by critics, some states have passed legislation aimed at prohibiting the marketing or sale of prefabricated term papers. Term-paper mills, however, attempt to circumvent such laws, contending that the information they provide is intended only for research purposes and not for classroom submission.

Ready-made term papers may be enticing to students seeking a lazy alternative to real work, but the knowledge and experience gained from the struggle to research and write a well-developed paper is an extremely valuable component of a solid education. Therefore, students who submit recycled term papers are not only plagiarizing the words and ideas of others, but they are also robbing themselves and their own intellect.

I hope educators will be vigilant and take a strong position against this kind of fraudulent activity. Moreover, students should resist the temptation of this easy way of writing a term paper. Learning is a lifelong journey, and writing a term paper is but one stop along the way. In the end, those who choose the more challenging path will reap the greater reward.

January 7, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Parents Must Set High Expectations And Be Good Role Models

A recent study of more than 12,000 American adolescents found what many West Virginia parents have known for generations; namely, parents exert a powerful influence on their children's behavior, even through the challenging teenage years.

Contrary to the prevalent modern-day impression that teenagers are impervious to parental guidance and fall under the full sway of their peers after early adolescence, the survey's findings confirmed that parents can and should continue to expect good grades and good behavior from their children throughout their teenage years.

The University of Minnesota study, published in The Journal of the American Medical Association, found that parental expectations play a major role in determining adolescents' behavior through the twelfth grade, regardless of family income, race, or the number of parents in the home.

Researchers found that the more adolescents felt loved and cared for by their parents, the less likely the adolescents were to have sex, use tobacco, alcohol or drugs, or commit acts of violence.

As a boy growing up in southern West Virginia, I knew that my foster parents

and my teachers fully expected me to do my very best, in my personal life as well as in my schooling. I wanted to please them, and I worked hard to earn their praise. Today's youth yearn for the same high expectations, as the results of this study show. They, too, want parents and teachers to care enough to expect the best of them.

In an age when many families have two parents in the work force, there is a tendency to want to relax and avoid confrontations in the few hours that the whole family spends together. That tendency should be resisted. For the good of their children, parents need to employ discipline, confront bad behavior, and set limits and adhere to them. Now, as much as ever, parents need to employ the skills handed down through families for generations by setting clear expectations and being good role models. A stern word is every bit as important as a warm hug when it comes to good parenting.

In West Virginia, where the "old values" are still revered, the results of this study may seem like a dose of good old common sense. By instilling these cherished values in their children, parents help them to build a solid foundation for life.

January 14, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Senate's Advice and Consent Function

The nation recently has had a valuable lesson in Constitutional affairs, thanks to the debate between the President and Congress over the nomination of Bill Lann Lee to head the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

The Constitution gives the Senate the responsibility to approve all presidential nominations. This "advice and consent" function is a vital part of the system of checks and balances that the Constitutional Framers created. By requiring presidential nominees to receive Senate confirmation before appointment, the Framers provided the legislative branch with a way of checking the power of the executive. Thus, the Senate's failure to approve Mr. Lee's nomination last November should have ended the matter.

During Congress' winter recess, however, the White House hinted that it was considering putting Mr. Lee in the office as a "recess" appointment. The Constitution allows the President, on a temporary basis, to fill vacancies during congressional recesses in order to prevent important posts from being vacant when Congress is unable promptly to return to session -- during a *sine die* adjournment, for example. Concerned that the President might use this power when there was no emergency (an

emergency would occur, perhaps, if the office of Secretary of State were to be vacant), I wrote to him, advising against what I saw as a potential misuse of power.

The President, in turn, did not make a recess appointment. Instead, Mr. Lee was installed in an "acting" capacity. I believe that this is a development fraught with opportunities for abuse. With a recess appointment, at least Mr. Lee's tenure would have expired in late 1998. Now, however, Mr. Lee may be able to remain in office much longer, and without ever garnering Senate approval.

Prompted by what I see as an unwise end run around Congress, I have written to the Attorney General to express my concern about the acting appointment and to remind the Administration that, under law, temporary appointments are actually valid for no longer than 120 days.

In reality, Mr. Lee, against the will of the Senate, could serve through the end of President Clinton's tenure. If Presidents can put nominees in office by circumventing the Senate's Constitutional "advice and consent" role, an important check against executive power will have been effectively removed, weakening the "people's branch" and the people's only voice in selecting unelected government officials.

January 21, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia: A Leader in High-Tech Crime Fighting

The FBI fingerprint identification complex, located in Harrison County, is the nation's largest and most sophisticated repository of fingerprint information. Beginning operations in April of 1995, this facility -- with more than 3,000 employees and a regional economic impact of more than \$90 million annually -- helps law enforcement agencies across the country to more effectively fight crime. Now, a new program being developed cooperatively by the FBI and West Virginia University (WVU) will further bolster the facility's mission by offering the world's first degree-granting program in forensic identification.

This new degree program will be offered at both the bachelor's and master's levels, and will enable students and law enforcement officials to expand their knowledge of fingerprint identification and other areas of forensic science, such as DNA testing. In fields such as computer science, electrical engineering, biology, medicine, dentistry, statistics, physics, mathematics, chemistry, and law, WVU faculty members have collaborated to create this one-of-a-kind program that will help make our state a forensic science leader.

In 1990, responding to growing problems at the FBI's fingerprint facility located in Washington, D.C., I added \$185 million to an appropriations bill for con-

struction of a new and improved FBI fingerprint center in Harrison County. In addition, I have helped to obtain more than \$600 million for development of the FBI's advanced automation system that is helping to speed the tracking and identification of criminals.

By instituting this new forensic science program, the FBI is answering a growing need of the law enforcement community. The International Association for Identification (IAI) recently announced that, beginning in 2005, it will require all persons employed as forensic identification specialists to hold bachelor's degrees. IAI's decision makes this new degree program especially valuable to anyone planning a law enforcement career specializing in forensic science.

WVU's establishment of this first-of-its-kind degree program serves as a good example of the kinds of spin-off opportunities available to West Virginians as a result of my work to bring federal investment to our state. While simultaneously bolstering the capabilities of the FBI's fingerprint identification complex, WVU, under the leadership of President David Hardesty, is also building a new area of educational expertise for itself and ensuring future job opportunities and a healthier economy for West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Aquaculture: No Fish Story!

West Virginia-produced caviar and smoked salmon? These are not such far-fetched notions, due to nearly \$13 million that I have added to federal appropriations bills to launch programs aimed at developing a fish-farming industry in our state.

A reliable supply of cool and cold water is a primary resource for aquaculture production. According to the U.S. Geological and Economic Survey, West Virginia has an abundant supply of water resources, including tens of thousands of springs scattered throughout the state.

Recognizing the potential value of West Virginia waters for the farming of fish, I added \$6 million to the Agriculture Appropriations Bill in 1996 to initiate construction in West Virginia of the National Center for Cool and Cold Water Aquaculture. I added another \$6 million to an appropriations bill last year to complete construction of this ultramodern facility. I was also successful in adding \$250,000 for initial operations of the center.

It was in the mid-1980's that I began exploring aquaculture opportunities for West Virginia by obtaining federal funding for aquaculture studies and demonstration projects. These early initiatives proved fruitful, and, today, West Virginia is home to profitable trout- and char-

farming operations, as well as aquaculture training services in high schools and higher education institutions. West Virginia aquaculture operators, however, have only begun to realize the potential of the billion-dollar, worldwide fish market.

The National Center for Cool and Cold Water Aquaculture -- now under construction on federal lands at Leetown, Jefferson County -- will house the nation's most advanced research programs aimed at efficiently producing flavorful, nutritious, cool and cold water fish products. In conjunction with the center's research, West Virginia University will use the \$600,000 that I added to an appropriations bill last year to launch a program aimed at helping small family farmers to develop successful aquaculture operations.

A short time ago, the notion of a fish-farming industry in West Virginia may have seemed implausible. But, make no mistake, the potential for a thriving aquaculture industry in West Virginia is no fish story. I firmly believe that my efforts to tap into the economic potential of West Virginia's natural water resources will provide new opportunities for our state's farmers, and will generate jobs and greater prosperity for some of West Virginia's most rural communities.

February 4, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Time to Act on the Highway Bill is Now

Our nation may be headed toward a type of "doomsday" scenario because of delay in Senate action on a bill to reauthorize funding for highway and bridge construction throughout the country.

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), or highway bill, would reauthorize federal funding for highway construction, bridge construction, highway safety, and transit programs for six years (1998 - 2003). When the Senate found itself unable to complete action on ISTEA at the end of the session last year, a short-term extension bill was passed to continue these programs through May 1, 1998, with the understanding from the Senate leadership that the Senate would return to the six-year highway bill immediately following the President's State of the Union Address.

Now, however, the State of the Union Address has come and gone, and the Senate still has not taken up the highway bill. I am increasingly concerned about the possible impact on infrastructure construction and jobs that may result from the delay on this important legislation.

Delaying action on the highway bill places states and cities in a precarious

and uncertain position as they struggle to continue, without interruption, critically important transportation projects and programs. If the Senate does not act on ISTEA before midnight of May 1 -- the cutoff date for states to obligate new federal highway funding -- highway projects across the country may suffer disruption and delay, and in cases where some construction projects dealing with safety need to go forward, accidents, injury, and perhaps even highway fatalities may result.

Without action on ISTEA, highway departments throughout the nation will find it difficult to develop and implement long-term financing plans because they will not know the level of federal resources available to them in the next six years. The current course of inaction is not justified, and it threatens the economic well-being and safety of people nationwide.

I have repeatedly pressed the Senate leadership to move the ISTEA Bill as soon as possible. The disruption of transportation projects may occur across the nation as states have to slow down or put off work on critical highway programs unless Congress gets it's act together.

February 11, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Line-Item Veto Revisited

Fewer than two years have passed since Congress recklessly handed the President the power to erase portions of a law with a "line-item veto." Now, thanks to a recent decision by a federal judge declaring the line-item veto unconstitutional, the carefully crafted balance of powers between our executive and legislative branches that the Constitution requires has been restored, subject to future action by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The recent court decision is only the latest chapter in a lengthy legal saga. That saga commenced last year when I brought suit in federal district court on behalf of myself and others, including Senators Patrick Moynihan, D-NY, and Carl Levin, D-MI, to have the 1996 Line-Item Veto Act declared unconstitutional. Although the federal district judge, Thomas P. Jackson, agreed with my view, the Supreme Court took a different approach. Rather than deciding on the Act's constitutionality, the Court decided that my fellow plaintiffs and I lacked "standing" to bring the suit because we were not "directly injured" by the Act.

This led to suits by persons who could claim injury when the President line-item vetoed projects favorable to them. Although I was not a party to these suits, I filed an "amicus" brief on behalf of myself and Senators Moynihan and Levin to direct the judge's attention to the important issues at stake.

I was particularly gratified to see that the judge -- Thomas Hogan -- fully

agreed with my analysis. As he noted in his opinion, the line-item veto "enables the President to pick and choose among portions of an enacted law to determine which ones will remain valid." By giving the President legislative powers that the Constitution assigns solely to Congress, the line-item veto disrupts the balance of powers that the Framers considered so vital between governmental branches. Under the Constitution, the President is required to faithfully execute the law. With the line-item veto, however, instead of faithfully executing a law that he has just signed, the President can turn around and unilaterally amend it.

I regret that Congress paid so little heed to these considerations when it passed the Line-Item Veto Act in 1996. Since then, however, it has become clear that my concerns about the Act were well-founded. Just as I feared, the President used his item veto as a device to intimidate Congress into letting him have his way on matters in which Congress might not otherwise be disposed to agree. By giving up a portion of its control over the purse, Congress allowed the executive to ride roughshod over the legislative branch.

Now, once again, the third branch -- the judiciary -- has stepped into the breach to save Congress from its folly. This time around, I hope that the U.S. Supreme Court will uphold Judge Hogan's decision and safeguard the balance of powers that the Framers intended.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia -- An Ecotourism Gold Mine

According to a non-profit, travel-oriented organization -- the Travel Industry of America -- ecotourism, a term that broadly describes nearly any nature-based recreational activity such as hiking, skiing, and nature photography, is the fastest growing segment of the U.S. tourism market. This is good news for West Virginia, a state boasting spectacular opportunities for abundant outdoor recreational activities.

Furthermore, given the fact that the Mountain State is within 500 miles of most of the United States' population centers, it is no surprise that West Virginia is growing into a popular destination for ecotourists.

Between 1989 and 1996, West Virginia's tourism industry grew an impressive 33 percent, and, according to the West Virginia Division of Tourism, tourism contributed an estimated \$403 billion to the state's economy in 1996. These favorable dividends are due, in part, to the federal funding I have obtained for numerous tourism initiatives in West Virginia, including many that promote ecotourism.

The New River Gorge National River in Fayette County stands out as one notable example of the successes and dividends generated by federal investment in the expanding ecotourism industry in West Virginia.

In 1974, I authored an amendment providing \$150,000 for a study to ex-

amine the New River Gorge as a potential component of the National Park System. Subsequently, former Senator Jennings Randolph and I introduced legislation, which became law in 1978, that established the New River Gorge National River as a National Park System unit. Since that time, I have added millions of dollars to federal appropriations bills for land acquisition, facilities construction, site stabilization, trail development, rafting put-ins, and other improvements in the New River Gorge.

While renowned for its river-related activities, particularly whitewater rafting, the New River Gorge also attracts hikers, bird watchers, picnickers, and other visitors who seek a natural sanctuary from urban settings and modern day stresses. This breathtaking area has become a major attraction for ecotourists, and by drawing growing numbers of visitors to West Virginia, it helps to boost the tourism trade in other parts of our state.

West Virginians have long cherished the state's natural assets. But the true value of those assets is yet to be realized. As the ecotourism industry grows and visitors continue to frequent our hotels, motels, and inns; dine in our restaurants; patronize our shops; and partake of our services; our state's natural resources will continue to yield robust economic dividends for West Virginians well into the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Alcohol Advertising in College Athletics

Recently, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala urged members of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to sever their ties with the alcohol industry, and called on colleges to move to eliminate alcohol advertising from sporting events.

I second that motion. Advertising is the chief means by which the alcoholic beverage industry promotes itself and encourages the use of its products.

Confusion occurs when students, who should be focusing on academics and personal development, are surrounded by a tidal wave of promotions -- apparently sanctioned by some college and university officials -- that glamorize drinking. It is these kinds of mixed messages which overwhelm and distort the thinking of our nation's impressionable young people into believing that a rewarding and successful life somehow must include alcohol.

Increasingly, colleges and universities recognize alcohol abuse as among the most serious campus problems confronting students. According to recently reported statistics from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, almost 90 percent of college students have used alcohol, and more than 40 percent binge-drink at one time or another. Just last year, the media reported several in-

cidents in which college students died due to alcohol poisoning or excessive inebriation. In Virginia alone, five college students died within a one-month time span in alcohol-related incidents.

Given these staggering statistics, I find it extremely disconcerting that the NCAA continues to depend upon the alcohol industry for sponsorship of intercollegiate athletics. Alcohol advertising at NCAA events, by inference, ties the consumption of alcohol to personal accomplishment, teamwork, and athletic competition. Colleges must not, on the one hand, encourage healthy bodies and wholesome minds, while, on the other hand, encouraging -- at least indirectly -- the use of alcohol. It is unequivocally evident that alcohol and sports do not mix, nor do alcohol and academics.

College should be a fulfilling experience -- an opportunity to learn and grow in preparation for one's future. The consumption of alcohol is counter to such goals, and I urge colleges and universities to explore other alternatives to the sponsorship and advertising of alcohol at sporting events and other campus activities, in order to preserve student lives and better encourage productive, enriching, academic pursuits. After all, universities and colleges are expected to be places of learning.

March 4, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Rights vs. Responsibilities

Individual rights have always been important in this country. Parliament's refusal to recognize the rights of the American colonialists helped spark the American Revolution -- but, there is little actual precedent for the sense of "absoluteness" about personal rights that seems to have pervaded our country in recent years.

This current tunnel-vision focus on individual rights is contributing to a general misunderstanding about another equally important requirement of citizenship: responsibility. Responsibility is the all-essential partner to the exercise of one's individual rights. Just as mortar binds together the bricks of a building, responsibility must serve as the adhesive that supports a free society which, in turn, protects one's individual rights.

Children in this country must be taught that being a good citizen can never be just about being "free" and having rights. It is always equally about responsibility. Our nation is built on the principle of accountability and responsibility under our laws. A responsible citizen, therefore, is entitled to all of the rights given to him under the law.

An irresponsible citizen, however, who thwarts our laws may, in turn, experience a loss of some or even most of his freedoms.

Children are quick to learn by example that it is easier to shift blame than to

accept it, and that rights are, on the surface, more enjoyable than responsibilities. Parents must also understand that. While it may be easy to emphasize rights to their children, parents and teachers must also inculcate a sense of responsibility and accountability for personal actions in the young.

Responsibility includes using discretion and self-restraint in the conduct of one's rights. For example, while the First Amendment protects the right of citizens to express themselves, it does not also sanction language which endangers public safety.

Responsibility also means accepting blame and even punishment for one's unwise or illegal actions. It means taking charge of one's own life and contributing to one's community, one's nation, and one's family in a productive and beneficial way. Children must be taught that there is no free ride, and no substitute for the satisfaction and rewards that they will realize from setting high goals and working hard to accomplish them.

The concept of protected individual rights helped to make the United States unique among all of the world's nations. However, just as a building constructed of bricks without mortar cannot stand, a nation which emphasizes only rights, without stressing their corresponding responsibilities, will eventually topple.

March 11, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Venipuncture and Home Health Services

Many West Virginians are concerned about a new federal provision that prohibits Medicare beneficiaries from qualifying for home health services based solely on their need for skilled nursing care for venipuncture (the drawing of blood).

On behalf of those West Virginians who may be affected by this provision, I have contacted the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), which administers the Medicare program, for clarification about the potential ramifications of this new provision. In response to my inquiry, HCFA has provided some guidance which may serve to allay some of the concerns of West Virginia's Medicare beneficiaries.

According to HCFA, Medicare enrollees should still qualify for at-home venipuncture services provided by a skilled nurse if they also qualify for skilled home care services other than the blood draws. Further, homebound patients who need to have blood drawn but who do not qualify for other home health services are entitled to the venipuncture services of laboratory technicians. Unfortunately, in rural West Virginia, the option of having a laboratory technician provide at-home services may not be a viable one.

Perhaps, as HCFA has indicated, many beneficiaries will still qualify for home blood testing. However, I am concerned that

many of those who truly depend upon these services may not receive the care they need, and that the health of those beneficiaries may consequently be jeopardized.

Recognizing the importance of home health care, the need for venipuncture services, and the difficulty for many elderly and disabled persons to travel to and from a physician's office, I have cosponsored a bill, S. 1580, that would reinstate, for a temporary period of 18 months, a beneficiary's right to qualify for home health services solely on the basis of needing skilled nursing care for venipuncture. That bill would also require a study of the impact on beneficiaries of eliminating the venipuncture provision and on potential fraud and abuse associated with the program.

I want assurances that patients, who are truly dependent on at home blood sampling, can receive that life-saving service.

In the meantime, Medicare beneficiaries who have questions about their home health benefits should contact their personal physician. Medicare requires the primary care doctor to determine the need for home health services and authorize a plan of care, which specifies the type of medical services required, the kind of health care professionals who will administer the care, and any home medical equipment needed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Senate's Role in Confirming Presidential Appointments

In devising our nation's constitutional system of checks and balances, the Framers specified that ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, Supreme Court justices, and certain other officers of the U.S. would be appointed by the President "with the Advice and Consent of the Senate."

Over the years, the Senate's power to confirm or reject presidential nominees has given it an important means of checking presidential power. One of the most famous examples took place on March 3, 1843, when the Senate, in a single late-night session, rejected President Tyler's nominee for Secretary of the Treasury, Caleb Cushing, three times. While the first vote had been 19 to 27, the second was only 10 in favor to 27 against. Demonstrating dwindling support, the Senate concluded the matter in a third vote on that same evening, rejecting Cushing by a vote of 2 to 29.

In recent years, however, the executive branch has effectively undermined the Senate's "Advice and Consent" function by filling senior positions "temporarily" for months -- and sometimes years -- at a time. Presidents have been able to fill key positions with people who have not been considered, let alone approved, by the public's directly elected representatives in the Senate. This practice does not just short-change the Senate, it also allows unelected members of the executive branch to

escape the scrutiny of the American people.

There is a law on the books, the Vacancies Act, that limits such temporary appointments to no more than 120 days unless a nomination is made. This law, however, has been routinely ignored in recent years. Of the 320 federal departmental positions requiring confirmation, 59, or 18 percent, have been vacant or filled by "acting" officials for over 120 days without a nomination being made, in violation of the Vacancies Act. Some positions have been filled by "acting" officials for more than two years without anyone being nominated to fill them.

For these reasons, I recently introduced legislation that would strengthen the Vacancies Act. My bill would close the loophole through which federal agencies have avoided the 120-day time limit by mandating that the Vacancies Act supersedes all other provisions of law. Further, it would enforce the time limit by requiring that the pay for anyone temporarily occupying a position be cut off once the 120-day limit has expired.

It is time for Congress to state, in no uncertain terms, that no administration will be permitted to circumvent the Vacancies Act, or any other Act designed to safeguard our constitutional duties. If this legislation is enacted, I think we shall have struck a blow not only for the Constitution, but also for the people's liberties.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Giving New Life to Our Nation's Highways

The Senate recently passed the six-year highway bill, or ISTEA II, that authorizes federal spending for highway and bridge construction and transit systems across the country. This bill, which demonstrates a reversal in the federal government's chronic underinvestment in our national highway needs, may be the single most important piece of legislation that Congress will consider this year.

A total level of \$173 billion in formula funding for highways -- \$26 billion more than the level in the committee-reported bill -- was made possible by my amendment to the bill to authorize the spending of the portion of the gas tax which has been designated for highway needs, rather than allowing revenues from the 4.3-cent tax to sit idle, unused, in the Highway Trust Fund.

Thus, my amendment would ensure a higher level of transportation funding for every state in the nation. For West Virginia, it would mean more than \$1.5 billion in formula funding over the next six years -- approximately \$593 million more than the state received in the last ISTEA bill, enacted in 1991.

Also, with my amendment, the bill provides a total of \$2.19 billion for the 13-state ARC Highway system over the six years of the bill. West Virginia would receive \$330 million of that funding for ARC highways within the state.

By contrast, the committee-reported highway bill devoted just \$300 million over six years to the ARC system, or just \$7.6 million annually for West Virginia. At that rate, the system would not be completed until the closing years of the next century, if then. In addition, the highway bill -- because of my amendment -- helps to pave the way for eventual completion of the ARC Corridor Highway System. After years of working for a consistent approach to funding the 13-state Corridor Highway system, and having had to contend with a happenstance method that has left the system less than 78 percent complete 32 years after its approval by Congress in 1965, my amendment launches a reliable funding mechanism, making the ARC Highways eligible to draw down contract authority directly from the Highway Trust Fund.

By passing ISTEA II, the Senate has told the traveling public that the revenues collected at the gas pump from American highway users will be spent on the purposes for which they were collected; namely, the maintenance, upkeep, and expansion of our national highway and transit systems. Further, this bill will bring new life to our nation's highways, providing more money to improve safety, relieve congestion, reduce fatalities, and bolster commerce and economic opportunities throughout the nation.

April 1, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Establishing a Commission to Study The Trade Deficit

Americans in recent years have been very focused on the federal budget deficit. Meanwhile, however, another deficit which should be of concern -- the worldwide trade deficit -- has grown dramatically with little notice.

Between 1970 and 1996, the U.S. merchandise trade balance shifted from a surplus of \$3.2 billion to a deficit of \$199 billion, and there are no indications that our trade deficit will decrease anytime soon. In fact, econometric forecasting firms indicate that the trade deficit will reach \$300 billion or more within the next ten years. By these estimates, unless something is done, our trade deficit will soon exceed the annual budget for the Department of Defense.

It is not clear what the particular reasons for this growing trade deficit may be, nor are the long-term effects of a persistently growing deficit well understood. Certainly, however, since the trade deficit reflects upon the ability of American businesses to compete abroad, the time for a detailed examination of the factors causing the trade deficit is long overdue. For that reason, I recently cosponsored legislation to establish a 12-member national commission to conduct a broad, thorough review of the growing U.S. trade deficit.

We need to understand the relationship between the

trade deficit and our overall economy. We need to find ways to accurately identify and quantify the effects of the trade deficit on our manufacturing capacity, the integrity of our industrial base, productivity, jobs, and wages.

This legislation, which I cosponsored with North Dakota Senator Byron Dorgan, requires the commission to make a detailed examination of the effects of the trade deficit and to identify alternative strategies for reducing the deficit, with a particular aim of retarding the migration of our manufacturing base abroad. The commission will be charged with recommending strategies necessary to the achievement of access to foreign markets -- strategies that will enhance the competitiveness and productivity of the U.S. and also improve the standard of living of our citizens.

It will only be when we truly understand the specific impacts of this large deficit on our economy that we will be able to formulate strategies to pursue the systematic reduction of the deficit. By establishing a commission to study the trade deficit, report its findings, and make recommendations based on its findings, the United States will take an important first step toward reducing the trade deficit and to better preparing our nation to compete in the emerging global economy of the next century.

April 8, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Combating Underage Drinking

Underage drinking is one of our nation's most troublesome concerns, and it is a problem that too often leads to fatal consequences. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2,315 young people died in alcohol-related crashes in 1996.

A big hurdle which West Virginia and other states must overcome in their efforts to prevent the tragedies associated with underage drinking is the lack of available resources to ensure reliable and consistent identification checks for alcoholic beverage purchases. To help improve this important enforcement activity, I added an amendment to an appropriations bill last year to provide \$25 million to help enforce laws regarding sales of alcohol to youth, as well as laws concerning possession and consumption of alcohol by minors.

My amendment established the national Combating Underage Drinking Program, which is intended to help each of the 50 states to develop a comprehensive strategy to address underage drinking, including cooperation among states, communities, and private organizations, and coordination with other ongoing public and private efforts.

Under this newly initiated program, West Virginia and each of the other 49

states recently received \$360,000 to devote to efforts aimed at combating underage drinking. These federal funds can be used in a variety of ways in correlation to each state's own existing programs and particular needs. This funding, for example, could be used to crack down on establishments that are suspected of consistently selling alcohol to minors, to educate young people about the dangers of alcohol, or to generate greater public awareness about the legal issues surrounding consumption of alcohol by minors.

In too many communities around the country, young people are finding it all too easy to lay their hands on a bottle of booze. Children are walking into liquor shops and convenience stores with fake identification and walking out with real pints of pain and suffering.

This new program, which provides federal funding specifically to combat underage drinking, sends a clear message to the states that enforcement of underage drinking laws should be a priority. It is my hope that the new national Combating Underage Drinking Program, established through my amendment, will help spare families throughout the nation the kind of pain and misery that comes in pint-size bottles.

April 15, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Crumbling Education

The Senate recently debated an education bill in which efforts were made to fund the rebuilding of our nation's dilapidated school buildings. This is an issue that merits attention and action since, according to the General Accounting Office (GAO), over fourteen-million students attend schools in need of major repair.

Crumbling school buildings are cause for concern. However, before the federal government takes on a new burden, that of providing massive amounts of scarce federal dollars for school construction, we should take a hard look at why our students are not performing well scholastically. Study after study has indicated that U.S. students perform below their peers internationally, and that their performance in all subject areas is substandard. That is deplorable. Reasons much more fundamental than aging school buildings underlie the poor academic performance by American students.

Despite the ever-increasing amounts of money being poured into education, we are losing the battle against mediocrity. I am 100 percent for education, but I want some confidence that my vote to spend additional hard-earned dollars of taxpayers will do the job of producing better students. As recent tests demonstrate, merely pouring more money

into education programs has not solved the problem of improving the quality of our nation's students. When I started out in a two-room schoolhouse, it lacked high technology, even indoor plumbing and electricity. Yet, we learned the education basics that carried this nation to its current economic prosperity and its status as a technological innovator.

I believe that something much more fundamental is at the root of our education problems. If America ever hopes to improve the quality of her students, we must correct the shallow, substandard, often poor quality of education offered to our nation's children today.

Schools need far better discipline than is the case today, especially in urban schools. We need quality teachers who receive pay that is commensurate with the important responsibilities they carry in the education of our children. And we need textbooks that inform and challenge, rather than the worthless amalgams of touchy-feely, politically correct twaddle that fill student backpacks today. Parents need to get informed and get involved. Many schools do need modernization or repair, but let no one believe that school construction programs alone will solve all that is wrong with education in America today.

April 22, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Crime Rate the Lowest in the Country

West Virginians have new evidence showing that our state's reputation for integrity and safety is fully deserved. That evidence comes from the recently released 1996 Uniform Crime Report, which, for the 24th year in a row, ranks West Virginia's crime rate as the lowest in the country.

According to the report, the incidence of murder, rape, robbery, and breaking and entering declined in West Virginia, while the total number of offenses statewide remained, at 2,485 per 100,000 residents, remarkably low. Still, the report does suggest some reasons for concern. West Virginia's crime rate is up slightly over the previous year, bucking a national trend of decreasing crime. Of particular concern is a 4-percent increase in West Virginia's violent crime rate, in the face of a 6-percent drop nationwide in violent crime.

While I applaud the latest statistics, we should do more to prevent criminals from making additional inroads into West Virginia. That is why I am a strong supporter of federal programs aimed at fighting crime. In fact, in 1994, when a massive anticrime bill came to a standstill due to a lack of sufficient funding, I created the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund. That trust fund supports many critical federal law enforce-

ment programs called for in the 1994 bill, ensuring a stronger arsenal for fighting crime in West Virginia and across the nation.

One of the notable successes of that bill was the establishment of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program -- an initiative intended to put an additional 100,000 police officers on the beat by the year 2000. As of March, the Department of Justice reports that 70,000 new police officers have been hired through COPS and claims that the program is largely responsible for measurable reductions in crime.

The trust fund also made possible the construction and operation of new prisons, drug enforcement programs, improved security at our nation's borders, and implementation of new programs aimed at combating violence against women.

While West Virginia has benefited from all of these programs, such initiatives could not succeed without a foundation of values that includes respect for law and order. West Virginians have traditionally been a law abiding people, resilient, honest, and God fearing. This is a tradition in which we should all take pride, and I expect that as long as it continues, West Virginia will continue to be the most crime-free state in the union.

April 29, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

High-Tech Protection From High Waters

Flooding can strike with unexpected ferocity in West Virginia's narrow river valleys, making every minute count in the race against Mother Nature's unbridled will. Entire West Virginia communities have been devastated by unrestrained floodwaters, and many citizens continue to live under an ever-present threat of flooding.

Concerned for the welfare of West Virginians who must contend with that threat, I have worked on the federal level to help communities throughout West Virginia protect themselves from flooding. One of the initiatives I have supported is the Integrated Flood Observation and Warning System, or IFLOWS, which is designed to monitor rainfall and give residents of flood-prone areas the additional warning time they may need to help save lives.

IFLOWS consists of a series of gages that measure the amount of rainfall in a given area. It was developed by the National Weather Service to help reduce the annual loss of life from flash floods, and limit property damage. The program began operations in 1981 with the installation of prototypes in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. While federal funding provides for the construction of the gages, system operation and maintenance are the responsibility of the state government.

Recently, I announced the completion of two new flood warning systems along the Cheat and Greenbrier Rivers. The addition of gages along these rivers -- a result of my addition of \$1 million to appropriations bills in 1995 and 1997 -- has allowed for the expansion of IFLOWS into the Automated Flood Warning System network. The network integrates and shares information from approximately 250 computers and 1,500 sensors in the 12 states where the technology is now in use.

The sophisticated signaling devices that make up the network allow for constant monitoring of rainfall and fluctuations in the level of water in streams and rivers. By providing timely and accurate information about rising waters, this system enhances the capability of the National Weather Service to predict floods, giving emergency personnel and residents critical lead time to prepare for evacuations. The Automated Flood Warning System network should provide a tremendous sense of relief to the residents of communities along the Cheat and Greenbrier Rivers and its tributaries that are vulnerable to rapidly rising floodwaters.

Thanks to high technology, mankind is finding ways to minimize the dangers posed by Mother Nature's wrath.

May 6, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Thoughts on the Death of a Friend

With countless West Virginians, I am saddened by the recent death of my longtime friend and colleague, Senator Jennings Randolph.

Jennings Randolph was a man possessed of a deep love for West Virginia and our nation.

An educator, writer, public speaker, an aviation enthusiast, a corporate executive, a U.S. Representative, and a U.S. Senator, Jennings Randolph possessed many talents.

He was a man of seemingly boundless energy and limitless horizons. Both in government and in his several other fields of interest and expression, Senator Randolph seemed constantly to be looking for ways to assist other people to achieve their own potential, or for avenues by which others might attain a better life for themselves.

In 1932, Jennings Randolph was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served until January 3, 1947.

After twelve years, in 1958, he returned to national politics, winning election to complete the unexpired term of the late Senator Matthew Mansfield Neely.

West Virginians will long be indebted to Senator Randolph for the outstanding work that he did on the Senate Environment and

Public Works Committee and for projects that he pioneered through the Appalachian Regional Commission -- an effort of which he was a sponsor and a moving spirit.

Among his lesser known accomplishments was Senator Randolph's authorship of the legislation that created the National Air and Space Museum complex on the Mall in Washington -- noted today as one of the most popular tourist attractions in the Nation's Capital.

Jennings Randolph was responsible for numerous other types of important legislation as well -- legislation to aid the handicapped and black lung victims, to promote clean water and clean air, to provide vocational and career education, and to create the National Peace Academy in 1983.

In announcing his decision not to run for reelection to the Senate in the 1984 race, Jennings said, "It's been a happy road. I have no regrets....I believe the Bible says there is a season and a time for every purpose. It is time for me not to run for reelection."

Certainly, Jennings Randolph's career was a "happy road" for West Virginia, and I know that all of the people of our state join me in paying tribute to the memory of this great West Virginian.

May 13, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Safe to Serve Food

Compared to the citizens of many other countries, American consumers enjoy a virtual smorgasbord of foods available in their local supermarkets. In recent years, however, outbreaks of food-borne illnesses have raised a number of alarming questions about the safety of the U.S. food supply. Not only are Americans getting sick from eating contaminated food, but an estimated 9,000 deaths also occur annually in this country as a result of food-borne illnesses.

Beyond the problems associated with domestic foods, the expanding importation of foreign-grown fruits and vegetables presents new and worrisome challenges for the U.S. food-safety system. For example, in 1996 and again in 1997, outbreaks of food-borne illnesses in the United States were traced to raspberries imported from Guatemala that had been contaminated with the parasite cyclospora. In another untoward case, radish seed sprouts from the Far East were found to be infected with a strain of *E. coli*, a bacterium that has gained notoriety in recent years as the cause of highly publicized and, in some instances, rather mysterious outbreaks of serious, and sometimes fatal, illness.

Over the last decade, importation of foreign foods has almost doubled in the

U.S., with nearly 40 percent of fruit consumed in this country coming from abroad, and imported vegetables accounting for 12 percent of U.S. vegetable consumption.

To help ensure the safety of American consumers, I recently cosponsored a bill that would provide the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with new authority to strengthen its oversight of imported foods. Current efforts to prevent the importation of contaminated foods are concentrated at ports of entry, and only a small percentage of imported foods are inspected or tested. The new food safety bill would allow the FDA to take a more proactive approach, extending the focus of the agency to include consideration of the conditions under which imported food products are grown and processed. This would greatly enhance the FDA's ability to identify potential hazards before tainted food reaches our borders.

The bill I have cosponsored will help to ensure that as our fruit, vegetable, and other food imports increase, the health and safety of American consumers are not jeopardized by flawed food-safety systems in other countries. American consumers have a right to expect that the food they put on the family table is safe to serve.

May 20, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Many Americans Lack Basic Reading Skills

Reading is one of the most important and rewarding human activities. It exercises the imagination, expands the mind, and enriches the soul.

Sadly, however, a recent report by the National Institute for Literacy found that as many as 44 million American adults perform at the lowest of five levels of literacy.

While persons scoring at this level can perform many tasks required to interpret basic documents, they typically have problems using the reading, writing, and computational skills that are considered essential in everyday life. Many are unable to perform such simple tasks as locating an intersection on a street map.

That study placed West Virginia sixteenth from the bottom in a ranking of states by literacy rates. Overall, it found that around one in every five West Virginia adults, or 20 percent, lack basic reading skills. Nationally, illiteracy rates ranged from 11 percent to 30 percent of the adult population in each of the 50 states.

The study also found a strong correlation between reading ability and economic status. Forty-three percent of U.S. adults with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty, compared to just four percent of those with

the most advanced literacy skills.

Clearly, in order to enhance the economy of our state and ensure the economic security of future generations, more attention must be directed toward the problem of illiteracy. The solution, however, will not be a simple one. Raising literacy rates throughout the nation will require commitment and great effort.

Parents need to read to their children. The love of reading is cultivated in the lap of a parent well before a child reaches school age.

Schools need to do their part, too. When college professors or high school teachers find students in their classrooms who lack the ability to read or write, obviously, something is terribly wrong with our schools.

I have always supported funding for education at the federal level, but the failure of students to demonstrate basic reading and writing skills makes me question the wisdom of putting more and more federal funding into an educational system that is producing a lower quality of students.

The high illiteracy rates reported by the National Institute for Literacy help to underscore my long-held contention that our schools need to get back to the basics! It is time for all parents to get informed and get involved.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Children Are Flunking History

Cicero, a great Roman Senator, said: "To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born, is to remain always a child."

Recent studies suggest that we are failing in our efforts to teach our children history. If so, we may soon hand over the reins of leadership to a generation that is ill prepared to steer the nation to continued success.

Since time immemorial, individuals have entertained and instructed one another by passing on stories about past events and people. It has long been understood that knowledge of the mistakes and successes of the past enhances the ability to understand the present and set goals for the future.

According to a 1994 study, however, only 17 percent of fourth graders, 14 percent of eighth graders, and 11 percent of twelfth graders, nationwide, are proficient in U.S. history. Half of the twelfth graders surveyed lacked basic history skills, as did one in three of the fourth and eighth graders.

A more recent report by the Fordham Foundation may help to explain why so many American students know so little about history. According to that report, which graded states on the quality of their history standards, thirteen states appeared to have no standards at all, and nineteen more states earned an "F" for their

poor standards. West Virginia, with a "C" rating, was ranked among the 10 best states.

How can we ensure that our children learn history? First, we need to prevent history from being lumped into a mishmash of different disciplines and served up under the name "social studies."

Second, states need to develop intelligent and comprehensive standards for teaching history, and to ensure that sufficient resources are provided to attain those standards. Teachers, however dedicated, cannot be expected to teach history effectively without adequate resources and support.

Parents, too, can play a key role in ensuring that their children get a solid grounding in history by finding out whether their state has history standards, and, if so, whether those standards are up to the task. They should also monitor their children's textbooks. To my dismay, I have seen a great many history textbooks in recent years that are pure junk. The great heroes of our past are often relegated to mere footnotes, buried in the pages of books aimed at entertaining, rather than informing.

Children must know and understand the past, else they will never be able to lead this country successfully into the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Paving the Way for a Better Future

For too long, the federal government has underinvested in our nation's highways. Now, with enactment of a new highway reauthorization bill, known as TEA-21, an important step has been taken toward fixing past mistakes and assuring Americans of safer, more modern highways.

Thanks to an amendment I authored to the highway bill, a portion of the federal gas taxes which had previously been allowed to accumulate, unspent, in the Highway Trust Fund will now be spent on highways. As a result, all of the federal taxes Americans pay at the gas pump will now be spent for the purposes they are collected; namely, the upkeep and expansion of our national highway and transit systems.

Also as a result of my amendment, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor Highway system stands to receive \$2.25 billion over the next six years. My amendment not only provides an infusion of funding to the Corridor Highways over the course of TEA-21, but it also serves as an all-important foot in the door to help ensure that a consistent and reliable source of funding will be available in future years to bring to completion the 13-state system. Of the total ARC funding, West Virginia will receive about \$345 million for continued

construction of Corridor H in Eastern West Virginia and Corridor D in the Parkersburg area.

The struggle to build the Corridor Highways, first authorized in 1965, has been as uphill as the mountains of Appalachia, but my amendment has given renewed momentum to the effort to complete the 3,025-mile ARC system.

Working with U.S. Representative Nick Rahall -- who, as the ranking member of the House Surface Transportation Subcommittee, was a driving force during conference negotiations on the bill -- I also pressed for the inclusion of funds for other important highways in West Virginia. These include \$22.69 million for the Coalfields Expressway; \$50 million for West Virginia Route 10 from Logan to Man; and others throughout the state.

In addition to highways, TEA-21 provides funds for transit programs in our state. For example, at my request, the bill contains \$10 million to improve bus service throughout the state and authorizes funding for the modernization of the Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system at West Virginia University in Morgantown.

With enactment of the new highway bill, West Virginians can take comfort in the knowledge that the future promises better, safer travel.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Acknowledging Academic Excellence

Every year at this time, high schools across West Virginia and the nation hold graduation ceremonies, heralding the successful completion of many years of academic training for our students. Many of them are preparing to continue the journey in colleges and universities, building on the foundation of knowledge they have gained from kindergarten through the twelfth grade.

Because of my own experiences, I have a special interest in encouraging others to make the necessary sacrifices to earn a college diploma. Toward that end, I have initiated two programs that reward students who exhibit scholastic excellence.

The first of these programs reached an important milestone this year. The Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Award program annually confers a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond upon each valedictorian of the graduating classes of West Virginia's public, parochial, and private high schools, and the Schools for the Deaf and Blind at Romney.

This is the thirtieth year for the Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Award. In that time, I have awarded 8,133 West Virginia students more than \$186,000 from the private trust fund that I established.

Another program I established to provide encouragement and financial assistance to studious young people is the national Robert C. Byrd Honors Schol-

arship program. Too many scholarship programs often overlook our nation's brightest students, because the reward of academic excellence is not always the priority of such programs. When I started the program in 1985, it awarded one-year, \$1,500 scholarships to students who demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and who had been accepted for enrollment at an institution of higher learning. My Senate colleagues named this scholarship in my honor. In 1993, the program expanded to provide four-year scholarships, making students who receive the first-year scholarship eligible to apply for stipends for the following three years.

This year, 40 West Virginia high school seniors have been selected to receive the national scholarship, bringing to 520 the number of West Virginia students who have been awarded the scholarship since it was first established.

Too often, scholarships are awarded on the basis of excellence on a playing field, and not enough priority is given toward excellence in the classroom. Through the Byrd Scholarship and the Scholastic Recognition Award, students who succeed in the classroom receive the acknowledgment they deserve.

I congratulate all of this year's winners, and I wish them every success in the pursuit of their education in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Helping Business Reach the Cutting Edge

Many of America's factories have been slow to incorporate computers and robotics into their manufacturing processes, lagging behind some foreign competitors. Today, that is changing, as American industry increasingly goes high-tech. But, thus far, most efforts in that direction have come from the nation's big manufacturers. Smaller manufacturers, with an equal need to harness new technology, have not kept pace, lacking the resources to make the leap to cutting-edge production.

The Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI) for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing, a unique blend of academia and industry working together, is helping small-and medium-sized manufacturers to harness high-tech change.

Since it was launched at Marshall University in 1989 with \$2.9 million in funding I added to an appropriations bill, the RCBI has aided a growing list of companies in making the high-tech transition, with an emphasis on defense-related manufacturing.

Today, the Byrd Institute's four West Virginia locations are "teaching factories," where a manufacturer and its employees can obtain low-cost, hands-on experience and training with the automated equipment that they need to be competitive.

Now, in a dramatic step toward the future, the RCBI has invested \$11 million in funding I added to appropriations bills for new state-of-the-art equipment at its four locations, bringing cutting-edge technology within easy reach of more West Virginia

manufacturers.

The Byrd Institute's downtown Huntington facility is in the final stages of a \$1 million renovation and expansion.

The RCBI Charleston Technology Center, operated in partnership with the Marshall University Graduate College, serves manufacturers throughout the Kanawha Valley.

Meeting the needs of North-Central West Virginia's growing aerospace industry is the primary goal of the RCBI Bridgeport Technology Facility. With funding that I have provided through the federal appropriations process, Bridgeport has evolved into a center of aerospace and aviation activity, and the new RCBI facility is dedicated to helping promote that industry's continued growth in the region.

The Byrd Institute's Rocket Center Technology Facility in Mineral County addresses the needs of manufacturers in West Virginia's rapidly growing Eastern Panhandle. Housed at the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory -- a Navy-owned, contractor-operated plant -- this fourth RCBI location focuses on metals manufacturing and fabrication.

The future of our state and nation depends upon the ability of our private sector to compete economically in the global arena. The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing exemplifies how government and academia can help industry to prepare our nation for the economic challenges of the approaching millennium.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Expanding Preventive Care for Seniors

Health care costs have risen sharply, often placing quality care out of the budget for senior citizens, delaying checkups and preventive care. To reverse this trend, I supported efforts in last summer's budget resolution to provide Medicare coverage for preventive care for the 331,000 West Virginians who rely on the program.

In January, Medicare started covering annual mammograms for women aged 40 and over. The program also expanded coverage for colorectal screening. Beginning this month, preventive coverage will include the cost of bone mass measurement screening for certain Medicare-eligible women at high risk for osteoporosis.

Also this month, Medicare will begin to pay for certain training, education, and testing services to help diabetics learn to manage their disease, and will extend its coverage of self-testing equipment, currently provided to juvenile diabetics, to include Type II diabetics.

This new step is especially important for the 100,000 West Virginians who have diabetes, of whom only about half have been diagnosed. Many learn of their diabetes only after developing one of its many devastating consequences.

That is why preventive care is so important. The American Diabetes Association reports that more than 4,000 West Virginians die every year from diabetes and its complications. If those cases were diagnosed

earlier, doctors might be able to save many lives. A diagnosis of cancer in an early stage of that disease also helps to increase the chances of survival.

Preventive Medicare coverage complements programs already in place in West Virginia. For example, the annual mammogram coverage is an excellent partner for the statewide breast and cervical cancer prevention, education, and screening project. This initiative, launched in 1990 with \$5 million I added to an appropriation bill, offers screenings to West Virginians who otherwise might not have access to such tests.

In addition, researchers at the Robert C. Byrd Cancer Research Laboratory, part of the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center at West Virginia University, are constantly looking for new cancer treatments. The Center is West Virginia's first statewide cancer research and treatment facility, and was established in part with \$13.3 million I added to appropriations bills in 1985, 1986, and 1987.

When medical problems are identified early, they can be handled more easily and usually at lower cost. However, if the problems are not diagnosed early, the treatment often becomes more costly and complex. By expanding Medicare's coverage of preventive care and treatment, we help to improve the health and quality of life of our citizens.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Be Aware When Rebuilding From Floods

Once again, West Virginians are cleaning up from a round of severe flooding that has exacted a heavy toll from our people and our state. I know from past disasters that as families begin to put their lives back together, they will need the support and assistance of their friends and neighbors throughout West Virginia, as well as individuals from across the country.

Unfortunately, sometimes there are unsavory individuals who offer help only to help themselves to the hard-earned money of unsuspecting people in need. Posing as skilled laborers, these scam artists will promise to repair damage to homes and businesses, but never deliver on those promises. Their only real skill is knowing how to bilk disaster victims in their time of trouble.

To protect yourself, as you hire a contractor to repair or rebuild your home, keep these thoughts in mind.

Check the contractor's background and reputation. Call the West Virginia Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-368-8808 to determine the contractor's complaint history. You can also contact your local builders' association or building trades council as sources of information.

Always ask for references. Contractors who want to work on your home should be willing to provide you with the names and phone numbers of previous

customers.

Make sure the contractor is insured. Be sure the contractor you hire has workers' compensation and disability insurance. You could be liable for accidents on your property if the contractor is not properly insured.

Ask for a written estimate. Make sure your request and the estimate include everything you expect the contractor to do.

Ask for a contract. It might be worthwhile to get legal advice before you sign.

Do not pay in advance. Hold all or a substantial portion of your payment until work is completed and accepted by you.

Having witnessed the devastation caused by numerous floods over the years, I have observed that flood protection and prevention are key priorities. In recent weeks, I have secured more than \$23 million for flood control and prevention initiatives throughout West Virginia. Ranging from dam repair to statewide flood prevention planning, these efforts will help to save lives and protect property for West Virginians living along flood-prone creeks and rivers.

It is my hope that, through these and other measures I have supported with federal funding, West Virginians will be better protected from flooding in the future.

July 8, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Insuring Against Flood Losses

As West Virginia is heavily involved in rebuilding and recovering from this latest round of severe flooding, we are all reminded of the need for flood insurance. Homeowners' insurance policies do not cover flood damage. Too many people learn this fact only after the floodwaters have ripped through their homes, which is why it is so important to carry flood insurance.

In the spring of 1997, when heavy rains caused destruction in 16 West Virginia counties, more than 3,700 people applied for disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Of those claimants, fewer than nine percent had flood insurance.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) licenses insurance agents and companies which then make flood insurance available to people living in communities that adopt and enforce flood plain management plans. In West Virginia, 262 communities participate in the NFIP. Residents can purchase flood coverage through any licensed property insurance agent who is in good standing with the West Virginia Department of Insurance.

Premiums vary according to the property's flood risk, the amount of coverage purchased, the deductible selected, and the type of building being insured. Across the country, the average premium is about

\$300 a year for about \$98,000 in coverage. The policies can cover homes, apartments, and other types of residential and commercial property.

Until the late 1960's, most property owners could not purchase insurance against flood damage. Private insurance firms, afraid of the potential for catastrophic losses, did not want to assume the financial risk alone. In 1968, Congress took steps to lift that burden by creating the NFIP to provide affordable insurance to people who live in areas with the greatest risk of flooding.

In 1996, the Flood Insurance Program almost ended. However, I cosponsored an amendment to a federal funding bill that extended the program's authorization. Since then, the NFIP has been able to move ahead and provide affordable insurance coverage to people living in high-risk areas.

I have seen the destruction caused by flooding in West Virginia. In many cases, victims never imagined that a flood would strike their home, and the damage is often not severe enough to warrant a federal disaster declaration. Flood insurance is the best way to ensure that you will be compensated for any losses that occur, no matter what the strength of the floodwaters.

July 15, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Supreme Victory over the Line-Item Veto

All Americans should breathe a sigh of relief that the U.S. Supreme Court, in its recent ruling, has found the Line Item Veto Act unconstitutional, because the Court, in so finding, has spared an American birthright for yet awhile longer.

When the Framers of the Constitution met in Philadelphia in 1787, they painstakingly crafted one of the simplest, yet most enduring documents ever printed -- its central notion being that the power of the United States government ultimately rests in the hands of its citizens. Thanks to their familiarity with history and philosophy, the Framers knew that power concentrated in the hands of one individual or one branch of government poses a direct threat to personal liberty. Accordingly, they devised a complex system of divided powers in the expectation that future generations would understand and respect the intimate link between the organization of government and the protection of their own liberties.

Essential to that system of divided powers, the Framers realized, was the vesting in Congress -- the people's branch -- of the power over the purse. That power, they recognized, would provide the Congress, and through it the people, with an important check on the executive and judicial branches of government.

I believe that Justice Kennedy put it well when, in concurring with the majority opinion of the Court, he wrote, "By increasing the power of the President beyond what the Framers envisioned, the [line-item veto] statute compromises the liberty of our citizens, liberty which the separation of powers seeks to secure." His words echo those of the 18th century philosopher Montesquieu, who wrote, "When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty...."

The Framers took seriously the tyrannical threat posed by vesting too much power in one man or one body, and they took pains to guard against that threat.

Our Constitution embodies their vision, their dream of freedom, supported by the genius of practical structure which has come to be known as the checks and balances and separation of powers. If the fragile wings of that structure are ever impaired, then the dream can never again soar as high.

For me, a long, difficult journey is happily ended. The wisdom of the Framers has once again prevailed, and the slow undoing of the people's liberties has been halted, at least for now.

July 22, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bringing Families Back Together

Summer's glorious skies and longer days bring with them vacations, picnics, and that most American of traditions: the family reunion. Reunions provide an opportunity for family members to come together in celebration of their common roots and heritage and to preserve the traditions that make our state unique.

Throughout the summer months, legions of native West Virginians, many now residing out of state, journey back to the old home place, making the annual reunion the centerpiece of their family vacations. On almost any summer weekend, West Virginians perched on old porch swings witness the passing by of family cars, following familiar country roads, drawn to fellowship, fresh air, and down-home cooking.

From vans and trucks and cars pour giddy children, glad to be free, at last, to roam and romp in cool mountain air. Tables scattered under the graceful branches of old sycamore, oak, and maple trees overflow with lovingly prepared casseroles, steaming baked beans, creamy potato salads, flavorful home-grown tomatoes, and, of course, that favorite pie from the old family recipe, a closely guarded secret.

Before anyone lifts fork to lips, a family elder calls on the Creator, offering thanksgiving for the blessings of the past and asking for future blessings.

Well fed adults doze in the warm afternoon sun, while the unofficial family historian takes a seat on an old oak stump to tell once more the oft-repeated family tales. These shared stories, passed down from generation to generation, help to instill in the children a respect for their forebears and for the "old values" that are the cornerstones of a good and happy life.

Later, revived by the breeze and the spray of a cool brook, cousins choose sides for a baseball game. Sack races and water balloon tosses keep the youngest entertained. The sound of laughter and happiness echoes around the mountain.

When shadows grow long on the verdant hills, the packing begins for the journey home. Those gathered depart, each with the certain knowledge that, as West Virginians, they are specially blessed. Fond memories of the day spent reminiscing and rejoicing with kith and kin will linger throughout the year.

This summer, as hundreds of Mountain State families reunite to give thanks for their blessings and to share the stories of their forebears, let us also take time to reflect upon our own family's beginnings, and to celebrate the special way of life enjoyed by those who are fortunate to call West Virginia home.

July 29, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Back to School

Classrooms around West Virginia soon will be buzzing with activities as another school year gets underway. In these waning days of summer vacation, it is a good time to take stock of the many achievements of our students and educators, and to consider the steps that may need to be taken to meet the challenges that lay ahead.

During the 1997-98 school year, West Virginia, for the second year in a row, posted the highest marks for education of any state in the nation in the "Quality Counts" report released annually by Education Week magazine. West Virginia tied only with Connecticut for top honors in the study, which grades states on standards and assessments, quality of teaching, school climate, and adequacy, equity, and allocation of resources. In another impressive achievement, West Virginia was one of just seven states reported to have made significant gains in the national fourth grade mathematics test.

The National Geographic Society, earlier this year, recognized West Virginia as a national model in geography education. National Geographic Chairman Gilbert Grosvenor hailed the state as "one of the best examples in the country of putting essential geography into a statewide system." Moreover, the Fordham Foundation, a private organization committed to quality-based school reform, recently listed West Virginia

as one of only six states to receive honor grades for adopting clear, comprehensive, and rigorous standards for geography education.

These are impressive successes that deserve high praise. But West Virginia, like every state, continues to face a number of challenges in the effort to provide the best possible education for our children.

In today's global environment -- where technology has bridged the once-imposing barriers between countries and continents -- students in Weirton, or Moorefield, or Spencer are not merely competing with students in neighboring counties or states. They are competing with students in Osaka, Japan, and in Stuttgart, Germany, and other cities around the world, and that means they need world-class educational programs.

Improving education is not a matter of throwing more money into the education pot, or trying the latest education gimmick, or lowering standards so that all students can devolve to the lowest common denominator. It is a matter of getting back to the basics, instituting real discipline, setting high standards, and encouraging excellence.

West Virginia's students and educators deserve a pat on the back for their recent achievements. Now they must take that progress and strive for even greater successes.

August 5, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cracking Down on Deadbeat Parents

Instead of the traditional two-parent, "Ozzie and Harriet" family of thirty years ago, many families today are often led by a single parent. In an age when divorce is far too prevalent, it is not uncommon to see a single parent struggling to raise children while working full time. Unfortunately, many of these single parents must bear an additional burden created by the other parent who has deserted his or her responsibility to contribute to the children's well-being.

In June, I supported legislation, which was recently signed into law, to crack down on delinquent parents. The Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act closes loopholes which had previously allowed parents to slip across state lines to avoid paying child support. Specifically, the new law creates a first-time felony offense for parents owing \$10,000 or more in child support payments, or being delinquent for two years. In addition, it is now a felony for a parent to cross a state border with the intent of evading child support when the amount owed is \$5,000 or more, or is more than one year past due.

The new law toughens legislation I supported that passed the Congress in 1992. The Child Support Recovery Act made it a misdemeanor to purposely avoid making child support

payments to a child in another state. In the five years since that law was enacted, child support collections have increased by nearly 50 percent.

Delinquent parents should not be allowed to neglect their responsibilities to their children. Too often, the lack of full and timely child support can place families in financial jeopardy. It can cause the responsible parent to have to choose between paying a month's health insurance premium or paying the rent. In many cases, it can leave the family in dire economic straits. On occasion, the parent raising the children is forced to work overtime hours or get a second job to make up for the financial shortfalls the family faces, only to forfeit the precious time needed to supervise children's activities and provide emotional support and moral guidance.

The Congress cannot force a person to be a loving, involved parent, but it can strengthen the government's ability to make parents fulfill their minimum legal responsibility to provide financial support for their children. The deliberate evasion of this basic obligation ought not to be tolerated. Delinquent parents, not their children, should be punished for the deplorable decision to avoid paying child support.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Political Incorrectness

America has always had an uncanny ability to absorb people of different races, religions, nationalities, and abilities, and to inspire them to embrace the ideals of freedom and work toward the common good of the nation, without destroying their individuality.

But today's trendy, misguided urge to vigorously emphasize in contemporary thought and speech, not the value and worth of individual differences, but the inoffensive security of "sameness," seems to me to be going against the time-honored grain that has fostered the successful development of a richly diverse, yet united, nation.

In order to avoid offending anyone in any way, we have come up with such linguistic acrobatics as Chair to replace the title of Chairman. I hear this expression repeatedly as people struggle in vain to find a politically correct way to address the person who chairs a committee or the person occupying the Senate President's chair at the front of the chamber. Carried to its logical conclusion, the absurdity of political correctness becomes abundantly apparent.

For instance, what, in perfectly politically correct phrasing, do we conjure up to replace such expressions as "manhole cover", "manhood", "man-hour", "manhunt", "man overboard",

"manhandle", or "fireman"?

We should all stop this unhealthy preoccupation with political correctness and seriously consider for a moment what effect it has had on the content of public dialogue in general. In order not to risk offending anyone, we tend to ignore all of the truly valuable and important aspects of each individual, such as brainpower, level of achievement, talent, or quality of character.

On a more subtle level, political correctness has encouraged us to become much less honest with one another and with ourselves and, as a result, much less willing and able to come to grips with the troubling problems which beset our land. Often, in our tortured efforts not to offend anybody, we in public life mentally partition our population, obscuring the inarguable fact that we are all citizens of the United States of America and that our fates -- and therefore the fate of the entire nation -- all hang together.

Personally, I hope that political correctness will soon go the way of high-button shoes or the lace-up corset. It is shopworn window dressing, far too constricting for a fast-moving, difficult age, crying out for courageous leaders, frank discussion, and innovative solutions.

August 19, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Blessed Are the Hands of Toil!

Every September, Americans celebrate Labor Day, a homage to the working men and women who helped to build the United States into the economic powerhouse that it is today. We honor the backbreaking toil that laid the first railroad track, dug the harbors and the ports, channeled the rivers, welded the steel-girded backbone of skyscrapers, and constructed so many more marvels that have forever changed our lives.

In West Virginia, back-breaking toil and labor have never been strangers, whether in steel or glass production, logging, timbering, or manufacturing. The bedrock of West Virginia's economy has long been rooted deep in coal seams, reaching below the earth's surface where men toiled in hard and dangerous jobs. Labor unions were critical in helping to bring about humane working conditions in the deep abysses of these mines. Thanks largely to the efforts of labor organizations, the pay and benefits have come to more nearly reflect the skills and courage needed to perform the job.

West Virginia's past is written across the surface of her mountains as well, in the roads that wind through narrow hollows where the settlers scratched out small homesteads, in the wakes of laden barges coursing along her rivers, and in the rail lines that loop along steep valley walls. Quiet, deter-

mined men and women helped to make all this possible.

Technological advancements are shaping West Virginia as well. We do not have Silicon Valley, but we have Software Valley, an initiative aimed at helping West Virginia companies to better compete in the global high technology arena. Mountaineer Doctor Television enables doctors in rural areas to consult across the miles via computer links with medical specialists in Morgantown and Charleston. West Virginians are harnessing new manufacturing techniques, exploring alternative energy uses, and developing more efficient and environmentally friendly methods of producing the foods that Americans put on their tables.

I am proud to honor the workers of the United States and of West Virginia. By their sweat, skill, and intellect, they have helped to make this country a land of prosperity and of promise. Here, it is still possible for a good idea and sheer hard work to pay off, both for an individual and for the economy. That possibility, that opportunity, has kept the flame of optimism alive through good times and bad, and is at the core of our national belief that any problem, any challenge, can be met and overcome by hard work.

August 26, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hanging Up on Telemarketing Scams

For many years, telemarketing fraud has been a problem for citizens in West Virginia and across the country, especially for seniors. One of the most prevalent white-collar crimes in the country, telemarketing fraud robs honest people of an estimated \$40 billion a year. As one telemarketing con artist explained to The Washington Post recently, the scams are not very difficult to create: "People are so lonely, so tired of life, they can't wait for the phone to ring. It's worth \$300 to \$400 to them to think that they've got a friend. That's what you play on." But now, seniors are fighting back!

In a unique partnership, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) have teamed together in an operation called Senior Sentinel to catch these fraudulent telemarketers in the act. Retired law enforcement officers and volunteers, recruited by the AARP, go undercover to record the "sales pitch" of the scam artist. In the last five years, the senior volunteers have taped about 11,000 conversations with scam artists. These tapes and other law enforcement efforts have resulted in the criminal prosecution of more than 1,000 people on federal charges.

The Senior Sentinel volunteers have helped to

identify a wide variety of phony telemarketing approaches ranging from fake charities and investment schemes to the so-called premium promotions in which people are guaranteed one of four or five valuable prizes. Once enticed by the prospect of a prize, the victim is pressured to buy an overpriced product in exchange for some cheap gadget. Despite their promises, all that the scam artists deliver is disappointment.

This summer, I supported legislation, which was recently signed into law, increasing the penalties for con artists who purposely target senior citizens. In addition to longer jail terms, the new law requires convicted offenders to forfeit any real or personal property they obtained from the scam. The law also enhances the penalties for those people who mastermind the phony telemarketing scheme.

West Virginians who suspect they may be the target of a fraudulent marketing scheme might wish to call the West Virginia Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-368-8808. In addition, the National Fraud Information Center at 1-800-876-7060 can offer assistance or information. Fraudulent telemarketers must not be allowed to bilk honest citizens out of their economic security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Patients' Rights

Managed care -- be it called a health maintenance organization, preferred provider organization, or point-of-service plan -- is a growing reality in the health care industry in West Virginia. In these plans, a patient chooses a primary care physician from a list of doctors covered by the plan. That physician then coordinates all of the patient's health care. Across the country, 85 percent of all insured employees have moved out of traditional fee-for-service health plans and into managed care programs. This change has, at least in part, been positive, resulting in increased numbers of children receiving vaccinations, more women having mammograms, and lower costs for many services. Simultaneously, however, concerns are growing about who is truly responsible for making medical decisions.

In a typical managed care plan, many decisions that would have been made privately between a doctor and patient are shifted to an insurance company office. In too many cases, people are denied care or are forced to navigate a maze of bureaucratic red tape before receiving needed treatment.

For this reason, I am cosponsoring Senate Bill 1890, the Patients' Bill of Rights, which would provide patients with basic protections when medical decisions are being made. This legislation would (1) guarantee patients greater access to information and

care, including access to specialists and emergency rooms, (2) help to create a fair appeals process when health plans deny care, (3) expand choice, (4) ensure that medical decisions are made as part of the traditional doctor-patient relationship, and (5) hold managed care companies accountable for decisions that result in patient harm.

In West Virginia, the Patients' Bill of Rights would make a difference for all privately insured people and those covered by health plans funded through employer-employee contributions. It would provide protections currently not guaranteed, including referrals to health care providers not covered by a managed care plan, permission for a patient to continue to see his or her primary care physician even after the doctor leaves the plan, and the creation of an independent ombudsman for consumers who encounter difficulties with their managed care system.

Too often, patients find that the biggest challenge to getting well and staying well is a health care system which has profits, rather than patients' needs, as its focus. As more West Virginians move into managed care systems, they deserve basic patient protections. The Patients' Bill of Rights will help to ensure that people receive the medical care they need, when and where they need it.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ending a Deadly Trend

Over the years, the culture of colleges has, unfortunately, changed from one of academics and study to one consumed too much with partying. Gathering at the library to prepare for an exam has taken a backseat to swilling beers at a party or ordering a round of shots at the closest bar. Surveys show that more than 85 percent of all college students, most of whom are under age 21, imbibe alcohol, whether it be a beer, a glass of wine, or some other potent concoction. More than 40 percent of the students are binge drinkers, consuming five or more drinks at one sitting within a two-week period.

The risks associated with these trends are enormous. In the past two years, there have been several incidents in which students have died due to alcohol poisoning or excessive inebriation. In Virginia, for instance, five students died within a one-month time span in alcohol-related accidents. Alcohol is a factor in the three leading causes of death for 15- to 24-year-olds — accidents, homicides, and suicides. Links have been identified between alcohol use and teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

To address these troubling statistics, I added an amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1998 aimed at reducing alcohol use at the nation's colleges and universities. My amendment establishes a program to annually recog-

nize ten schools across the country that have developed innovative and effective alcohol prevention policies.

Through this program, each eligible institution, in recognition of its efforts to combat alcohol abuse, will receive a grant of \$50,000 to help maintain and improve each respective program. In addition, the U.S. Department of Education will distribute a publication to prospective college students and their parents through high school guidance counselors highlighting these schools' efforts.

Already, West Virginia's colleges and universities are taking steps to combat the problem of alcohol abuse. At West Virginia University (WVU), for example, the school's administration and student leaders have been working with Morgantown officials to find ways to avoid the problems related to binge drinking. WVU also provides late-night activities for students who might otherwise have considered drinking. In addition to offering alternatives, WVU provides an integrated program of alcohol abuse prevention, including the recent hiring of two drug and alcohol educators.

Schools that excel in combating alcohol abuse on campus deserve special recognition. It is my hope that these schools will move others to take a stronger stance against underage drinking by students.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting West Virginia's Steel Industry

West Virginia businesses and industries are developing strong abilities to compete in the global marketplace. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, our industries are doing so well that, since 1994, international exports by West Virginia companies have increased by more than 41 percent.

West Virginia companies can successfully compete internationally when there is a level playing field. Unfortunately, domestic steel makers have been forced to contend with foreign subsidies that tip the playing field, change the rules, and make steel trade unfair for American companies. One significant problem for domestic steel companies, like Weirton Steel, has been the subsidies provided by the South Korean government to its second largest steel manufacturer, Hanbo Steel.

Because of these subsidies, Hanbo has been able to severely undercut the worldwide average market price of steel and, thereby, gain the upper hand in selling its steel, including here in the United States. In the first four months of 1998, U.S. steel imports from South Korea have increased by almost 45 percent over the same period of time in 1997. Much of those imports are in the form of pipe and tube, cold-rolled steel, and galvanized sheet metal -- all products that companies like Weirton Steel produce. The result: Hanbo is

literally taking money out of the pockets of West Virginia families and putting it into the South Korean government bank account.

On behalf of the thousands of families in West Virginia's Upper Ohio Valley and throughout the country who rely on the steel industry for their livelihoods, I recently added an amendment to a federal appropriations bill calling for a report by the United States Trade Representative on trade subsidies provided by South Korea to its domestic steel industry. This amendment follows on another I offered earlier this year, which was adopted by the Congress, to ensure that resources from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are not used to undermine the U.S. steel industry. After the approval of the IMF-related amendment, the South Korean government temporarily stopped its steel subsidies. My latest effort is aimed at increasing the pressure on South Korea to end the subsidies for good.

I have long stood with the working families of West Virginia, keeping watch for unfair foreign trade practices and policies that might rig the game against them. I will continue to work for fair trading practices and to prevent this kind of subsidy from harming West Virginia families and industries again.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Striving for Classroom Excellence

Plato long ago wrote, "Excellent things are rare." Indeed, excellence is uncommon, and excellent acts, because of their remarkable nature and the effort they require, earn respect and admiration.

Earlier this year, I took an opportunity to speak in the Senate about some bright spots in education in West Virginia. In those remarks, I recognized two West Virginians who have been honored for their outstanding educational achievements -- Heather Wilson from Jefferson County and Susan Lee Barrett from Nicholas County. Wilson, a student at P.A. Mowery Elementary School in Shenandoah Junction, was selected as a National Runner-Up in the Reading is Fundamental 1998 National Reading Celebration. The Reading is Fundamental program annually challenges students to meet or exceed specific age-based reading goals.

Barrett, a teacher at Richwood's Cherry River Elementary School, was named the West Virginia Teacher of the Year for 1998 in recognition of her leadership in education reform. Even the most driven and ambitious students can falter in the hands of an unqualified, incompetent teacher. Educational success depends upon quality teachers. Susan Lee Barrett is a fine example of the kind of teacher we want in all of our classrooms.

In the United States today, one of the commodities most in demand is excellence in education. Unfortunately, too many American school systems employ teachers who lack the basic skills necessary to teach even at the most fundamental level, and classrooms abound with undisciplined students who close their minds to learning before ever opening the covers of their textbooks. As a consequence of these and other factors, the United States lags behind many other countries in student achievement.

If this country is to have any real hope of forging ahead in the realm of education, we must produce better teachers and students. Susan Lee Barrett and Heather Wilson have proved that good teachers and students do exist. They also underscore the basic fact that a strong educational system relies on the quality contribution of both teachers and students.

While the gift of intelligence may be planted upon birth, it requires cultivation to blossom into culture and wisdom. It is the inspiring teacher and the dedicated student who, together, possess the magic to make brilliance. In the early days of another school year, I encourage West Virginians to follow in the footsteps of these two pacesetters, and strive toward excellence in education.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Early Detection Key to Cancer Survival

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time of year when doctors and breast cancer survivors speak out, urging women to take time to learn about the disease. Programs offering education, cancer screenings, and other special services will mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month events across the country.

In West Virginia, the American Cancer Society estimates that this year 1,200 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer while nearly 300 women will die from the disease. Across the country, one of every nine women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime, up from a risk that was just one in 14 in 1960. More than 43,500 women will lose their battle with the disease this year, while 178,700 will begin their fight.

However, breast cancer does not always result in death. When a breast tumor is found in its earliest stages, a woman has a better than 90 percent chance of long-term survival. Advancements in treatments and prevention give women a better chance of surviving breast cancer and leading a happy, active life. But finding the disease early is the most important step.

The easiest way to detect breast cancer is through a combination of regular self-exams and clinical mammographies. Doctors can provide instructions on how to properly administer the self-exams. A mam-

mography is a simple and fast procedure available at many of the clinics and hospitals across West Virginia.

For many years, I have supported increases in cancer research funding and the development of new facilities. The statewide breast and cervical cancer prevention, education, and screening project, launched in 1990 with \$5 million I added to an appropriation bill, offers screenings to West Virginians who otherwise might not have access to such tests.

In addition, scientists at the Robert C. Byrd Cancer Research Laboratory, part of the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center at West Virginia University, are constantly searching for new cancer treatments. The Center, established in part with \$13.3 million I added to a series of federal appropriations bills, is West Virginia's first statewide cancer research and treatment facility.

These efforts, combined with research underway across the country, will hopefully one day lead to a cure for cancer. That will be a glorious day. But, until there is a cure, the battle against cancer must also take place in every home across West Virginia. Loved ones should be encouraged to take the necessary steps to look for the signs of the disease. Early detection is the key to survival.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

"You Know" Must Go

Much has been said about the so-called "lost art" of writing. The ubiquity of telephones and, more recently, electronic mail, as well as the growing acceptability of alternative presentations -- posters, pictures, plays -- in lieu of written essays in schools, can all be cited as contributors to the growing inability of many people to compose and edit well-organized and effective written documents.

Further, the speed of today's electronic communication with its instant responses inhibits the kind of thoughtful consideration of messages and care in editing that are the hallmarks of good letters and great literature. This trend means that the future's historical archives are likely to be littered with sentence fragments, incomplete thoughts, and embarrassing misspellings.

The Framers of the Constitution were certainly well read and good writers, characteristics that enhanced their speaking performance. Doubtless, their ability to organize the spoken word was key to their ability to reason and to convince one another of their views as they struggled to lay out our form of government.

Today, however, it often seems that we are awash in all-too-common fillers that plague common conversation today, especially "you knows" that are uttered

by those unaware of how their mouths are filling the time between words while their mind is still struggling to complete the thought.

There is almost nothing more irritating than suffering through countless "you knows" while trying desperately to discern what message the speaker is attempting to convey. Perhaps it is the television age, characterized by the seamless reading from scripts, that makes us unable to tolerate listening to pauses of any length, and, therefore, unconsciously we try not to allow even a few seconds of quietude to fill the air.

Clearly, a moment of silence is preferable to a string of "you knows." Imagine, if you can, the great speeches of history filled with "you know." Would the Gettysburg Address have so inspired us had it been littered with such space keepers? Would Shakespearean characters so enchant us? Would Roosevelt's call to arms after the attack at Pearl Harbor have so motivated us?

Ridding a person's speech of such verbal trash may not make an individual a leader of nations or of men -- that requires great thoughts as well as a clear and stirring delivery -- but resorting habitually to such verbal litter can surely blight the path to greatness.

October 14, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

On the Cutting Edge of Medical Research

Through funding I added to a federal appropriations bill this year, planning and design will soon begin on a new world-class education and technology center to be based at West Virginia University (WVU). This new facility will expand the work of WVU's existing Positron Emission Tomography (PET) center, allowing scientists and physicians around the world to share research results, to better train health care workers, and to deliver improved patient care at a lower cost.

PET scanning is a highly accurate and noninvasive procedure, providing information that cannot be gathered through other techniques such as MRI or CT-scan. In a PET test, patients are injected with small quantities of a radioactive tracer material, which breaks down quickly after the test without harmful side effects. The tracer is carried in the bloodstream to the organ the doctor wants to study. A scanner maps the tracer, recording data about the organ which is analyzed and used by doctors to more accurately diagnose often dangerous medical conditions.

Though tremendously beneficial, PET is still too expensive for many smaller hospitals, clinics, and laboratories. This new national center will greatly enhance the ability of medical institutions throughout the country -- through the use of

communications technologies like Mountaineer Doctor Television -- to offer patients this diagnostic technology while filling a critical need for a national education center to support the development of PET.

This is perhaps the most important aspect of this new clinic. By putting PET technology within reach of clinics and hospitals in rural areas, West Virginia doctors and technicians will be able to diagnose many medical problems like brain cancer or heart disease at earlier stages while they are highly treatable. Since early detection is the key to patients' survival in many illnesses, PET possesses tremendous life-saving potential.

Throughout my career of public service, I have strived to ensure accessible medical care for West Virginians. From providing funding for rural clinics and supporting home health programs, to launching screening, testing, and research initiatives, I have tried to help meet the medical needs of West Virginians, many of whom live several miles from the nearest hospital. This new PET center will provide yet another means for improving the accessibility of state-of-the-art health care to all West Virginians, while putting West Virginia at the forefront of a critically needed, cutting-edge medical technique.

October 21, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Moving Ahead with School Safety

Every morning, children pack their school bags and leave their homes for another day of lessons at school, confident that they will return home safely that evening. Regretfully, we as parents, grandparents, educators, and legislators realize that, just a few months ago, some of our nation's schools resembled war zones, stained with blood and the tragic loss of life. We now face the formidable challenge of rebuilding the safer and more serene school environment that every student deserves.

In an effort to provide West Virginians with an up-to-date school safety resource, I have created a new branch of my web site (www.senate.gov/~byrd/schl-main.htm) which contains the latest information on school safety. This web site is designed to be an electronic resource book, complete with descriptions of initiatives underway in West Virginia, updates on federal funding available for violence prevention efforts, and some of the latest information on legislation moving through Congress.

I have also introduced legislation to provide for the establishment of school violence prevention hotlines. Such a hotline would provide parents, students, and teachers with a means of reporting potentially threatening situations and dangerous individuals to authorities. Once alerted, authorities can work to prevent a disturbed individual in need

of help from taking that next, possibly fatal, step.

To help address school safety problems, the Congress recently approved more than \$335 million in new school safety programs in an omnibus appropriations bill. Of that funding, more than \$167.5 million has been set aside to increase community policing in and around schools. Officers and educators alike believe that having a familiar police presence in the hallways and a cruiser in the parking lot helps to reduce violence at school. Another \$151 million is devoted to a variety of community efforts, which include providing alternative education settings for students who are expelled for bringing a gun to school, providing specialized training for teachers and school security officers, and responding to disruptive and violent behavior by students.

Our nation has been grappling with the issue of improved school safety for years, and I find it alarming that American school children continue to face increasing crime and violence. In recent years, I have supported federal efforts aimed at solving this problem. But I would like nothing better than to see these programs grow obsolete as horrible incidents of school ground violence dissolve into distant memories.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

On Guard for Our Veterans

Fifty years ago, the Soviet Union attempted to enforce a blockade of all the overland and air routes to Berlin. The Soviets wanted to cut Berlin's ties to the rest of the world and take control of Germany, but America and the other Allied Forces stood firm against this effort. For months, through the Berlin Airlift, the Allies kept the city's people, and their hope for freedom, alive. The airlift became a symbol of the Allies' determination not to yield to communism.

West Virginians were part of that effort, just as they have been a part of every fight to protect the nation's interests abroad. Our state's sons and daughters have always been prepared to fight for our country, whether in Berlin or in other trouble spots around the globe.

We owe a great debt to our veterans for their service. In my work in the U.S. Senate, I have striven to help repay that debt. Recently, I became a member of the Senate's VA/HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, in part, because I felt it would better position me to fight for veterans' needs. In an appropriations bill this year, I supported the addition of \$42.5 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). That legislation provided \$17 billion for veterans' health care, \$249 million above last year's level.

I also added language

to the report accompanying that bill urging the VA to accelerate efforts to establish outpatient clinics in Grant and Pendleton counties. Other language I added directs the VA to continue the specialized, local health services demonstration program operated by the Clarksburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown. These initiatives are intended to bring modern medical care within easy reach of West Virginia veterans.

I have also taken the lead to secure health care benefits for veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War. Since that conflict's end, thousands of veterans have suffered from a range of diseases and medical complications. However, the government has not provided them with the care that they deserve. Recently, I won approval of legislation guaranteeing that these veterans will finally receive the care they need.

West Virginia has sent record numbers of men and women to fight for our nation, never wavering in answering the call of their country. As we celebrate and commemorate Veterans Day this year, may God bless all West Virginians who have fought and sacrificed to preserve our freedom and interests throughout the world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Character Counts

When I was a young lad growing up in West Virginia, I was, what I suspect would be labeled today, "a victim of poverty." At times I did not have socks or shoes or adequate clothing to keep warm.

I did not have money, but I was rich in so many other ways. The old couple who raised me instilled in me a sense of the "old values," such as honesty, integrity, and loyalty. They encouraged me to work hard and to use my mind in wholesome pursuits. I had teachers who inspired in me a love for learning. And I had heroes — public figures who showed, by their example, the way to achieve important goals.

Although I was faced with a ladder of life from which the bottom rungs were missing, I learned that I could reach the upper rungs on the shoulders of those public and private heroes who showed me the way to a fulfilling and successful life.

A national organization, the Character Counts! Coalition, recently released an unsettling report on the ethics of America's youth. The coalition reported that nearly half of the high school students surveyed claimed to be active thieves, and 70 percent admitted to cheating on an exam at least

once in the last 12 months. An astonishing 92 percent of surveyed teenagers admitted to having lied to their parents at least once in the last year! How shocking! According to that report, we are raising a generation rife with cheaters and liars. What a cause for despondency!

Is it any wonder? We live in a time where the noise of the bizarre and the spectacle of aberrant behavior are blasted at our young people. Too often, our children get the impression that it is the cheaters who prosper, and the unscrupulous who gain. Public heroes are in very short supply.

But, in the absence of public heroes, private heroes — good parents, good teachers, and those men and women who quietly set a good example and who give of their time to help young people formulate character and encourage excellence — are acutely important.

We all have a responsibility to guide and inspire young people. We need to teach them, by deed as well as word, that character does count. Not only is it one of the most important things any of us can do, it is also one of the most rewarding. It is not too late to save a foundering generation.

November 11, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Approach to Classroom Safety

Nearly five years ago, the Congress approved a wide-ranging anticrime bill containing an amendment I authored to establish the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund. That amendment, which earmarked \$22 billion for the trust fund, provided for the expansion of major crime-fighting initiatives.

As a result of the resources made available through the trust fund, a variety of new anticrime initiatives have been created, all sharing the same goal -- to make our neighborhoods safer. One of the more well known of those initiatives is the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, which provides grants to local communities to hire more police officers. To date, this program has helped more than 150 West Virginia communities to put a total of nearly 540 officers on the beat.

Now, the COPS program is adapting to meet a growing concern of many parents -- school safety. Last year, tragically, the nation was shocked by high-profile acts of violence in schools across the country. These acts were not restricted to typically higher crime inner city schools, but they reached into idyllic, rural communities as well. The fatalities and injuries that resulted served as a startling reminder that, even though the majority of our

schools are free from major violence, we should take steps to make all schools even safer.

The new COPS initiative provides grants to help communities hire School Resource Officers (SRO). These fully trained and sworn officers are assigned to a school on a full-time basis. In addition to providing security, SRO's teach substance abuse prevention, mentor troubled students, and build respect for law enforcement among children.

Some West Virginia schools already have these officers on the school grounds, and reports about their presence are positive. Educators and officers alike generally agree that having a police presence in the schools helps to reduce violence in the classrooms. The new SRO program serves as an important new tool for school efforts to solve some of the problems that lead to juvenile crime and violence.

There is no single answer to the problem of classroom violence. Ensuring that our children have the opportunity to learn in a safe environment is a responsibility that parents, educators, officers, and lawmakers all share. By working together, we can take steps toward ensuring that schoolyard violence does not strike other innocent families.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting a Cork in College Drinking

With alcohol abuse permeating college campuses nationwide, I recently included \$750,000 in the fiscal year 1999 omnibus appropriations bill to develop and implement a national program to reward institutions of higher learning that implement innovative and effective alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs.

In 1997, the Harvard School of Public Health surveyed a number of colleges and universities across the country to find out how many students were drinking alcohol and how much they consumed. The results revealed that two of five students were binge drinkers and one in five was an abstainer. Moreover, the study found that four of five residents of fraternity or sorority houses were binge drinkers.

Binge drinking, or heavy episodic alcohol use often defined as five or more drinks at one sitting within a two-week period, is one of the most serious problems at our nation's colleges. Just last year, precious lives were prematurely lost as a result of alcohol poisoning or excessive inebriation. In Virginia alone, five college students died within a one-month timespan in alcohol-related incidents.

I have long been concerned by youth alcohol abuse, and to address this matter, I secured authori-

zation and funding for the National Recognition Awards program. Through this program, ten eligible institutions of higher education, in recognition of their efforts to combat alcohol and drug abuse, will receive a grant of \$50,000 to help maintain their respective programs. In addition, the U.S. Department of Education will make available to prospective college students and their parents, through high school guidance counselors, a publication highlighting the award-winning programs of these colleges and universities.

Incorporated into the set eligibility guidelines for a National Recognition Award is language to discourage colleges from promoting the alcoholic beverage industry in campus publications and at campus sporting events. Both U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala have endorsed these fundamental priorities.

Just as the schoolhouse should be a safe haven for students of all ages, so should the college campus. I commend those schools that have put a cork in the college drinking scene. It is now time for all institutions of higher learning to follow these leaders.

November 25, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taking a Stand for Steel

Thousands of West Virginia families are watching closely as the United States and several nations are engaged in a trade dispute about steel. Domestic steelmakers charge that some countries, like South Korea and Japan, have been dumping their products at below-market prices that domestic companies cannot match. During the first half of 1998, the U.S. Department of Commerce reports that Japanese steel imports jumped 114 percent and South Korean imports increased 90 percent over the same period one year ago. In the first half of this year, imports of hot rolled steel increased 27 percent over the first six months of 1997.

Unfair trade practices by foreign steelmakers affect entire communities. The city of Weirton, for example, depends on the steel mill for about 60 percent of its tax base and about a third of the residents' jobs. Hard times at the steel mill affect grocery stores, movie theaters, restaurants, and more. I know the importance of the mill to Weirton. I supported the establishment of an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) that has helped the plant to continue operating during tough times. I also added \$9 million to federal appropriations bills to support development of an automated manufacturing system that allows Weirton Steel to track steel products throughout the manufacturing pro-

cess, helping the plant to produce steel more cost-effectively. But even these improvements cannot adequately shield Weirton Steel from the damage caused by unfair trade practices.

On behalf of the thousands of U.S. steel families, I have urged the Clinton Administration to crack down on the unfair trade practices being used by the foreign steel manufacturers.

In addition, as a member of the Senate Steel Caucus, I introduced and supported a number of pieces of legislation this year aimed at stemming the rising flood of steel imports. Most recently, the omnibus appropriations bill included a provision I added that calls for the U.S. Trade Representative to submit a report to Congress regarding subsidies reportedly provided by the government of South Korea to its largest manufacturer, Hanbo Steel. This provision simplifies the job of U.S. trade negotiators as they work to prove a link between an increase in imports and the harm those imports cause to domestic industries.

West Virginia steel companies deserve a level playing field. But the dumping by foreign steel manufacturers has tilted the playing field and made it impossible for U.S. companies to compete. It is time to put the "fair" back in fair trade.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cutting Student Loan Interest Rates

The Senate recently passed a five-year reauthorization of the Higher Education Act to expand federal assistance to college students. This legislation, which was signed into law on October 7, 1998, reduces college student loan interest rates to the lowest level in seventeen years, representing perhaps the single most important education bill passed during the 105th Congress.

I am pleased to inform all West Virginians of a time-limited opportunity for college graduates to reduce the interest rates on their student loans. As included in the Higher Education Act reauthorization, borrowers who have student loans can apply for a consolidation loan from the Direct Loan program before January 31, 1999, to receive a lower interest rate for the life of the borrower's loan. The Department of Education estimates that, under this lower interest rate, most students will save approximately \$50 per \$1,000 of debt over the life of their loans. A typical student borrower at a 4-year college, who graduates with \$13,000 in debt, will save about \$700 over a ten-year repayment period.

Through loan consolidation, students are able to combine some or all of their outstanding student loans

into one consolidated loan, possibly extending the repayment period, reducing interest costs, and eliminating the hassle of dealing with multiple lenders. Loan consolidations are available through the Department of Education's Direct Loan program and through lenders participating in the Federal Family Education Loan program (FFEL), or the government-guaranteed loan program. Individuals interested in applying for a loan consolidation through the Direct Loan program may wish to contact the Direct Loan Origination Center at 1-800-557-7392, or download an application form from the Internet at "www.ed.gov/Directloan".

The federal government has played an integral role in helping to ensure that all students, regardless of their socioeconomic status, are granted the opportunity to further their education at the postsecondary level. The reauthorization of the Higher Education Act is another testament to the dedication and commitment of Congress to improving our nation's education system. I encourage individuals with college loans to explore this unique window of opportunity to lower their interest rate and save a considerable amount of money over the life of their loan.

December 9, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Investment for New Jobs

The state's economy has long been rooted deep in the coal seams that stretch below our mountains. Our residents have traditionally found work in steel and glass production, timbering, and manufacturing. But today, while much of that bedrock remains, we are expanding our economic base to create new opportunities for the future. Numerous women entrepreneurs have contributed to this evolution, bringing with them a keen business sense, self-reliance, ingenuity, and dogged determination.

Women-owned businesses are increasing in number, range of products, diversity, and economic impact. As the numbers of women business owners grow, they contribute to the success of West Virginia's economy. According to the National Foundation of Women Business Owners, as of 1996, there were 40,400 women-owned businesses in West Virginia, employing 62,800 people and generating \$7 billion in sales. Between 1987 and 1996, the number of businesses owned by women in the state increased nearly 64 percent.

Recognizing the growth in the number of women entrepreneurs, the Congress recently approved legislation fully funding two important programs. The legislation provides \$8 million in funding for the establishment of Women's Business Centers nationwide. Already, 35 centers are open across the country, includ-

ing one in Charleston, and this additional funding will help to open another 25 centers in the coming year, resulting in one center in each of the 50 states. These centers, run by the Small Business Administration, provide entrepreneurial training to the women business owners of today and tomorrow.

In that same appropriations bill, the Congress provided \$600,000 for the National Women's Business Council, which serves as an independent source of advice to the federal government on issues affecting women business owners.

It takes a great deal of courage to start something new, to carve a reality out of a dream, often with few resources, sometimes in adverse surroundings, and in an economy that demands much of its participants. But federally supported resources like Women's Business Centers and the National Women's Business Council can help women to make the successful move into small business ownership.

As more and more families are finding it difficult to make ends meet on one salary, greater numbers of women are joining the ranks of small business owners. Ensuring the success of these women entrepreneurs is an investment in the economic well-being of the nation, and in the quality of life of West Virginia families



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

1998: A Year of Accomplishments

Over the past year, I was able to advance a number of initiatives that are important in strengthening the foundation for our state's future. As Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, for example, I added funding for a variety of initiatives -- many that I have shepherded to our state -- to help expand West Virginia's economic base and provide good, well-paying jobs for future generations.

During 1998, I also achieved a major victory in the authorization of funding for infrastructure -- the roads and bridges -- that are so critical to West Virginia's economy. I added an amendment to the six-year highway authorization bill guaranteeing that all of the federal taxes paid at the gas pump, which had previously been allowed to accumulate unspent, will now be used for the upkeep and expansion of our national highway and transit systems.

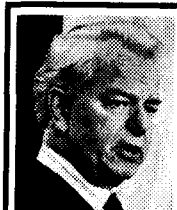
As a result of my amendment, the 13-state Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor Highway system stands to receive \$2.25 billion over the next six years, including \$345 million for West Virginia. My amendment not only provides an infusion of funding to the Corridor Highways over the course of the highway bill,

but it also serves as an all-important foot in the door to help ensure that a consistent and reliable source of funding will be available in years beyond the next six years to complete the Corridor system.

On another front, this past summer, I joined in a U.S. Supreme Court case opposing the Line Item Veto Act. Fortunately, the Court ruled, as I have long argued, that the line item veto was unconstitutional. The Framers, in drafting the Constitution, vested in the Congress -- the people's branch -- the power over the purse as an important check on the executive. When the Congress willingly shared that power with the executive branch, it handed away an important check on the executive and weakened our Constitutional system of separation of powers. Thankfully, the Supreme Court in its ruling preserved, for yet a while longer, the separation of powers and the fragile system of checks and balances that the Framers crafted to ensure that the liberties of the American people would be protected.

Just as the past year has been one of challenges to our state and our nation, so will the coming year. I look forward to working to meet those challenges as I continue my service to West Virginia.

December 23, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hopes for a New Year

Each January brings a sense of hope and optimism for the new year. This January, as we in West Virginia embark on a new year, we are also preparing to step into the 21st century armed with a firm knowledge of where we have been, and energized with the sense of where we are going.

If West Virginia had much to offer those who ventured into her steep terrain and followed her coursing streams in her early days, she has so much more to offer today. In addition to her natural beauty, this lady state of the mountains offers the brawn, brain, and talents of her hardworking and thoroughly modern populace. In towns and cities dotted with institutions of higher learning, West Virginia produces the intellectual firepower to combine with the fabled brute strength of her coal miners of old. The transportation system -- including interstate highways and connectors, rail, air, and even river routes -- is increasingly interconnected and modern. West Virginia also offers an extensive fiberoptic telecommunications network that allows today's cyber workers to combine high technology jobs with an uncrowded pastoral setting, a

low crime rate, and great family life.

Since the moment of her birth, West Virginia has undergone great change; yet, as I so often like to boast, she has never lost her grasp on those "old values" that continue to set her apart among the fifty states. Today, faith resides in her hills just as surely as it did when I was a youth living in her southern coal mining communities and in the hills of Mercer County. Faith is what has kept us going when hope has been in short supply. But it is hope that shapes our vision of the future, and drives us to achieve our dreams.

While she may adapt and modernize, and enjoy the fruits of economic prosperity, I hope that West Virginia will always be the sort of place that fills her native sons and daughters with a longing to be home. I see an energy and optimism throughout the state as new opportunities, new roads, and new buildings rise alongside the gentle reminders of the great and historic legacy of West Virginia's earlier settlers. I know that God's blessings have shone down on her people and her mountains, and that I have been blessed to be a part of securing for her a bright future.

December 30, 1998



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

COPS: A Partnership for Safer Communities

Every day in West Virginia, more than 540 police officers are on the job protecting homes, schools, and businesses because of a very successful program called Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). Since 1994, the COPS program has invested millions of dollars in law enforcement efforts in West Virginia, helping nearly 160 communities to strengthen their police forces.

The COPS program is one of several approaches developed to put more officers where they are needed most -- on patrol, not behind desks filling out paperwork. The Omnibus Crime Bill of 1994 included an amendment I added to establish the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund, ensuring that programs such as COPS would be funded. In that bill, the Congress partnered national resources with local strategies. By building the cooperation between all levels of law enforcement and expanding police and prevention efforts, more criminals can be taken off the streets.

Police departments from across West Virginia credit the COPS program with giving them the flexibility they need to implement innovative crime fighting strategies and to build stronger partnerships within the community. These departments are not

required to follow a mandated program, nor do they have to rely on a one-size-fits-all approach to reduce crime in their neighborhoods. COPS gives these police departments the ability to tailor their crime fighting efforts to the specific needs of the local community.

In an effort to expand the COPS program to meet a greater range of needs, the Congress last fall approved funding for police departments in partnership with schools and other community-based organizations to develop programs to improve the safety of elementary and secondary school children and educators, including the hiring of school resource officers. A number of West Virginia schools already have these officers in place, and students, teachers, and officers agree that the effect has been positive. I have supported this initiative, believing that teachers cannot teach and students cannot learn in an undisciplined, unsafe environment.

West Virginia has traditionally boasted one of the lowest crime rates in the nation, a fact of which everyone should be especially proud. By strengthening crime fighting efforts, the COPS program has become an effective tool in continuing that tradition.

January 6, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ensuring that Patients Come Before Profits

As the Congress begins its new session, one of the top priorities is expected to be passage of a Patients' Bill of Rights. This legislation is aimed at protecting people from some of the abuses that have been associated with managed care operations. While there is general agreement that managed care has helped to reduce medical costs in recent years, there is also evidence of a troubling and growing trend of health insurance plans to move medical decisions out of the doctor's office and into an accountant's office.

Over the past decade, the number of Americans enrolled in a managed care plan has risen rapidly. In 1987, only 13 percent of people with employer-provided health insurance were in a managed care plan. Today, 161 million Americans -- almost 60 percent of the U.S. population -- are insured through managed care plans.

A Patients' Bill of Rights would provide basic protections for people enrolled in managed care plans. This legislation has wide support in both the House and Senate, and also is endorsed by more than 180 different organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American Nurses Association.

Basically, the Patients' Bill of Rights would ensure that patients with a serious illness are allowed access to

a specialist without having to get the permission of an accountant who does not have medical training. The legislation would give patients the power to go to any emergency room during a medical emergency, when every minute is critical, without waiting for pre-approval by their health insurance company. The Patients' Bill of Rights would give women direct access to their obstetrician/gynecologist and also would allow them to designate that physician as their primary care doctor. Finally, the legislation would ensure that patients who are denied care by an insurance company can appeal the decision to an independent reviewer and receive expedited decisions that are binding on the managed care plan.

The protections included in this legislation are not radical ideas. In fact, many health plans already provide these guarantees. This legislation is aimed at those plans which choose to put profits before patients and interfere with decisions that should be made by a doctor and patient.

As more West Virginians enroll in managed care plans, they deserve basic guarantees of protection. The Patients' Bill of Rights is the best way to ensure that health care is based on a medical diagnosis, and not on a business bottom line.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal for the 21st Century

Since the state's beginning, West Virginia's economy has been rooted deep in the coal seams. From one end of the state to the other, thousands of families have depended on coal-related jobs to put food on the table, to pay the doctor bills, and to send children to college. I am proud to say that much of what I am today and the values and beliefs that are the underpinnings of my character are the result of my roots in West Virginia coal mining communities.

The coal industry has changed greatly since I was a boy. Advancements in mining equipment have made it easier to pull coal out of the ground. Improved transportation methods move the coal more quickly to market. Safety advancements have been spurred by partnerships involving the entire coal industry. While fresh challenges to the coal industry await, experience should show that they can be met and conquered.

One promising strategy for harnessing change to the benefit of the coal industry is a program that I introduced in Congress in 1984. In that year, I proposed, and the Congress adopted, a \$750 million Clean Coal Technology (CCT) program. Originally, the program was designed to achieve long-term, real reductions in acid rain. Since

then, the program has expanded thanks to a joint government-industry investment of more than \$6 billion. This investment has led to 40 first-of-a-kind projects in 18 states, including an array of high-technology ideas that can spearhead a new era of clean, efficient power plants which will continue to burn our nation's abundant coal resources.

In addition to the benefits at home, the CCT program can also prove beneficial environmentally and economically on the international market. Developing nations are searching for cost-effective ways to upgrade their older, higher-polluting power plants and to expand their power production capacity. These nations can learn from our experiences and utilize our new technologies to combat these problems.

My life has spanned great changes in technology, in energy production and consumption, and in the global economy. Through all of this, coal has been a constant, in all its forms and uses. If the partnerships that have proved so valuable already are continued and if the investment in new technologies is expanded, I believe that the challenges of the coming age can be met, and light the way to a new millennium for coal as well as for environmental and energy policy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Role in Impeachment

The last time the House of Representatives impeached a president was 131 years ago, when the bitter feelings that stemmed from the Civil War gave rise to the impeachment of Andrew Johnson in 1868. At the heart of the Johnson case were issues far larger than those individuals involved; instead, the case was centered on policies concerning Reconstruction. When Johnson became President in 1865, his reconstruction policies ran counter to those of the majority of the members of Congress. It was Johnson's decision to replace the popular Secretary of War Edwin Stanton that sparked a series of events that led the House to approve 11 Articles of Impeachment against Johnson.

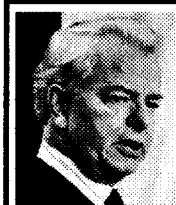
At the time of the Johnson trial, U.S. Senators were elected by state legislatures, while the House of Representatives' members were elected directly by the people. The West Virginia Legislature had chosen Waitman Willey and Peter Van Winkle as the state's two Senators, and in February, 1868, approved a resolution urging them to vote to convict Johnson and, thereby, to remove him from office.

In March, the Senate voted on the eleventh Article of Impeachment, the charge that those House members handling the prosecution of Johnson thought was most likely to produce

a conviction. With 36 votes (two-thirds) needed to find Johnson guilty, the Senate tally on that article was 35 to convict, 19 to acquit -- falling one vote short for conviction and removal. Senator Willey voted to convict, while Senator Van Winkle, even though it meant his political career would come to an end, voted to acquit. Van Winkle thought that the constant fighting between the President and the Congressional leadership placed too great a strain on the fabric of the nation, a fabric that had already been stretched thin from the Civil War. The West Virginia Senate did not like Van Winkle's reasoning, however, and voted 18 to 3 to condemn his vote to acquit.

In the presidential impeachment trial of today, as in the day of Johnson, Senators have taken an oath, to "do impartial justice according to the Constitution and the laws: So help me God." Senators cannot be guided by political affiliation or political partisanship and keep faith with this oath. Senators must have the courage to weigh the evidence, search their own consciences, and render a judgement that is fair to the President and to the nation, one that reflects the gravity of the responsibility placed upon the Senate by the Constitutional Framers.

January 27, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Primer on Impeachment

The U.S. Senate is engaged in one of its most serious of Constitutional responsibilities: deciding whether to convict or acquit an impeached president. The Framers of the Constitution struggled in the crafting of the impeachment powers but, in the end, created a delicately balanced tool that has served the nation well.

In crafting the Constitution, the Framers drew heavily upon their knowledge of English history and their experience with impeachments in the colonies and the newly formed states to carefully write the impeachment provisions that guide us today. In Article I of the Constitution, the Framers vested in the House of Representatives "the sole Power of Impeachment." In that same Article, the Framers gave the Senate "the sole Power to try all Impeachments." The language for impeachment and conviction was left purposefully vague so that it could reasonably be applied on a case-by-case basis in the future to meet whatever facts and circumstances might arise. The Framers intended that Senators bring their accumulated experience and wisdom to bear when called upon to determine whether the charges presented against the accused -- whether that person be President, Vice President, judge, or other civil officer

-- merit the very substantial consequences outlined in the Constitution.

The Framers deliberately set the bar high for the vote on articles of impeachment, first by requiring a supermajority of two-thirds of the Senate to convict, and second, by fusing the penalty -- removal from office -- into the question of guilt. In voting on articles of impeachment, Senators must answer not one but two questions: Is that President, Vice President, or civil officer guilty or not guilty of committing "high crimes and misdemeanors," and, if he is guilty, do his actions warrant removal from office? This coupling was not a casual step by the Framers. They wanted to force Senators to set aside personal prejudices and passions and focus, instead, on the best interests of the nation. Party politics should play no part.

For me, this vote will be the most difficult of the more than 15,000 that I have cast in the Senate. I have heard the views of my constituents, watched the deliberations of the House, reviewed volumes of evidence, and listened to the arguments by the House prosecutors and White House defense team before the Senate. But, in the end, it is not what a lawyer tells me that I may do; it is what my own clear conscience tells me that I ought to do.

February 3, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Free Trade -- Fair Trade

Throughout my career of public service to West Virginia, I have found reason to be skeptical about the ability of administrations -- Democratic and Republican -- to negotiate and monitor international trade agreements. In my experience, U.S. trade policies have been influenced far too heavily by diplomatic interests and concern for the welfare of our trading partners. Too little consideration has been given to domestic needs and the jobs of Americans, too much to the economies and political problems of other nations.

West Virginia is feeling the pinch of ill-conceived trade policies. Our steel industry, for example, is currently suffering cutbacks and layoffs. The community of Weirton has been particularly hard hit. Hundreds of employees of Weirton Steel have been laid off as a result of the dumping of low-priced foreign steel on our shores, leaving many hardworking families in tenuous circumstances in the new year.

But steelmakers are not alone in suffering the consequences of poorly conceived trade policies. Numerous other West Virginia industries have experienced similar trade-related adversity. The glass industry, clothing manufacturers, the makers of leather goods, and even apple growers, have seen their share of trade-induced difficulties. In too many cases, businesses have closed their

doors and the jobs that they once provided have been shipped overseas. Moreover, the communities that once were built around these industries have seen significant losses of revenue, decreases in population, and a decline in their ability to provide basic services for their citizens.

My disappointment in previous U.S. trade negotiations led me to vote against GATT and NAFTA, and spurred me to draft legislation establishing a commission to study and recommend steps to reduce our nation's growing trade deficit. Further, the evidence of the failings of our trade policies has hardened my opposition to fast-track negotiating procedures that would severely limit the Senate's ability to influence trade policies.

There is something to be said for free trade. But in my experience, free trade has rarely been fair trade where American manufacturers and American jobs are concerned.

Trade wars have scarred a long list of businesses, and currently the battle lines are drawn for skirmishes involving steel. This is a battle we cannot afford to lose, but, thus far, I am unimpressed by the Administration's pallid remedies. So, as the Administration considers further steps to address the steel crisis, I will keep up the pressure to ensure that our steel industry and our steelworkers keep working to forge the future of our nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Tax Credits for Education

As taxpayers begin the annual process of filling out their tax returns, they may notice that two new education tax credits are now available. These credits -- the HOPE Scholarship credit and the Lifetime Learning credit -- offer many people the opportunity to reduce the cost of their postsecondary education.

The HOPE Scholarship credit provides Americans with assistance for their first two years of postsecondary education. Available since January 1, 1998, the HOPE credit is equal to 100 percent of the first \$1,000 in qualified tuition and fees and fifty percent of the next \$1,000 that taxpayers pay for themselves, their spouse, or their children. In other words, a student with at least \$2,000 in postsecondary education expenses would be provided with a \$1,500 tax credit. To be eligible for this credit, which may be claimed for two taxable years for each student, students must be enrolled in a degree, certificate, or other program leading to a recognized educational credential and must carry at least one-half the normal full-time work load.

In addition, the Lifetime Learning credit provides additional postsecondary educational assistance. While the HOPE credit has received more publicity, the Lifetime Learning credit, available since July 1, 1998, offers po-

tentially greater tax benefits. This credit is equal to twenty percent of the first \$5,000 in qualified tuition and fees for individual taxpayers or their family members. Thus, for taxpayers with at least \$5,000 in postsecondary education expenses, the Lifetime Learning credit provides a tax credit of \$1,000. The credit can be claimed for any number of years for postsecondary education expenses and can apply to students enrolled in a single course or in a program to acquire or improve job skills.

It is important to note that both of these new credits cannot be claimed for the same student in the same year -- taxpayers must use one or the other. However, a taxpayer with two dependents in postsecondary education could claim the HOPE credit for one and the Lifetime Learning credit for the other in a particular year. Finally, both of these credits are only fully available to taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes up to \$40,000, or \$80,000 for married couples. The credits are gradually phased out for taxpayers above these income limits.

Anyone interested in obtaining more information on either of these two new credits can order a copy of IRS Publication 970 by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM or by going to the IRS Internet page at www.irs.ustreas.gov/forms_pubs/.

February 17, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Budget Priorities for West Virginia

I have long worked to ensure that West Virginia's needs are addressed as Administrations craft their annual budget requests. Consequently, the fiscal year 2000 budget includes funding for a number of initiatives important to West Virginia.

Education is fundamental to preparing our young people for the challenges of adulthood. In addition to increased funding to put more teachers in the classroom, the budget, at my request, includes full one-year funding of \$39.9 million for the merit-based national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship program. This scholarship recognizes many of the nation's best and brightest students for academic excellence. Since the program began in 1984, 520 West Virginia students have been named Byrd Scholars and benefited from this national scholarship.

Improving West Virginia's network of highways is crucial to the state's continued economic development. Last year, I helped to craft a six-year highway authorization bill that will improve our ability to address the nation's infrastructure needs in the next century by effectively using the funding available from gasoline taxes in the Highway Trust Fund. As a result of those efforts, the budget for the coming fiscal year contains approximately \$304 million for West Virginia highway construction, including \$69 million for continuing construction of West Virginia's Ap-

palachian Regional Commission Corridor Highways.

The budget proposal also contains \$311 million for operations of the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division in Clarksburg. This complex, which was constructed with \$185 million I added to an appropriations bill in 1990, is a cornerstone in the national effort to fight crime and make our communities safer places in which to live and work.

Mindful that international competition is making high technology an essential component of any state's economic plan for the future, several high-technology initiatives, with my support, are also slated to receive funding in the proposed budget. For example, three NASA initiatives based in West Virginia -- the National Technology Transfer Center and the Classroom of the Future, both located at Wheeling, and the Independent Verification and Validation facility at Fairmont -- are proposed to receive a total of \$25.8 million.

While West Virginia has reason to be pleased with many points in the budget request, that proposal is just the first step in the annual federal budget process. Ultimately, the Congress will craft the budget and appropriations bills that will serve as a blueprint for the nation's priorities over the coming year, and I shall continue to work to see that West Virginia's needs are addressed within existing budgetary constraints.

February 24, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Schools In Check

Today, we are living in an information age. With the click of a computer key, a screen is illuminated with charts, graphs, and research detailing the latest statistics in almost any given field. Data are literally at one's fingertips. Yet, when parents attempt to gather information on the public schools in their district, they often are met with little success.

Recently, the publication Education Week, in partnership with two public opinion research firms, published an issue entitled "Reporting Results" that discusses the new buzzword of 1999 -- accountability. In an effort to uncover its true meaning, a 50-state study was conducted to assess what it is that parents and educators most want to know about their local schools.

Against the backdrop of growing pressure for school choice and greater competition among educational institutions, Education Week reports that schools are slowly beginning to unearth statistics representative of their academic performance. Education Week expects that 36 states will have "report cards" on the performance of individual schools this year. However, less than half of these states will include the kind of information that parents most want and need, and only 13 of

the states, including West Virginia, ensure that the "report cards" are sent home to parents.

Making the decision where to send a child to school is perhaps one of the most difficult and thought-provoking decisions a parent can make, and parents should not have to rely on word-of-mouth to make these important choices. Parents want documentation of test scores and graduation rates. They want to know what is happening behind the schoolhouse doors. Their concerns are as fundamental as curriculum, the qualifications of the teachers instructing their child, and the safety of their child.

After decades of measuring schools by how many books are in the library or how many computers are in the classrooms, parents and policy makers alike are seeking yardsticks better equipped to gauge academic results. The road to achieving greater accountability on the part of schools is a long one, with many obstacles ahead. But I commend West Virginia's education community for striving to shed more light on the performances of schools in the state. I encourage parents to take advantage of the statewide school-report-card program as they navigate this challenging territory.

March 3, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taking Steps to Save Social Security

In 1935, President Roosevelt signed the law creating the Social Security system, saying that the program was designed to "give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age." From modest beginnings, Social Security has become an essential facet of modern life. Today, one in seven Americans -- some 42 million in all -- receives a Social Security benefit, and more than 90 percent of all workers are in jobs covered by Social Security.

Because of the changing face of America, reforms are needed to ensure that Social Security is solvent for many years to come. When the so-called "baby boomers" begin to retire, the number of retirees is projected to grow much faster than the number of workers paying into the program, placing a great strain on the system. Currently, three workers pay into the Social Security trust fund for every beneficiary, but, by the year 2030, that ratio is expected to drop to only two workers per beneficiary. Without Congressional action, the Social Security trust fund will begin to run a deficit in 2013, and will be depleted by 2032.

Everyone has a stake in the future of Social Security. It provides a safety net for families, for people with disabilities, and for children who have lost a parent. To millions of elderly citizens in West Virginia and across the country, Social Security can be the difference between living in dignity or living in poverty. In fact, across the country, Social Security is the primary source of income for two-thirds of all senior citizens. In the last 40 years, Social Security has helped to cut the elderly poverty rate from 35 percent to less than 11 percent.

The Congress is beginning to examine a number of proposals that would extend the financial solvency of Social Security. A number of Congressional committees, including the Senate Finance Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, and both the Senate and House Budget Committees, are working to find a bipartisan solution to ensure that the safety net of Social Security is not pulled away. Protecting the viability of Social Security is a high priority, and a solution must be crafted that works for all of America over the long term.

March 10, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fingering Criminals

Technology is a driving force in every occupation, from manufacturing to medicine to mining. In all fields, technology has left its stamp, including the effort to make West Virginia's streets and neighborhoods safe from crime. This year, at its new Fingerprint Identification Center in Harrison County, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) will initiate its automated system to speed local law enforcement agencies' access to data, keeping repeat criminals off the streets.

The Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) is a major step forward from the old, paper-based fingerprint identification process. Using computer links, the system will allow any police agency with the proper equipment to submit electronically scanned prints directly to the FBI database, which will then process the material to find out whether the person in custody has a criminal history, poses a threat to the community, or is wanted in another jurisdiction. The IAFIS will provide our nation's 72,000 law enforcement agencies with a rapid, ultramodern, computerized system for checking fingerprints, confirming criminal backgrounds, and tracking lawbreakers.

The revitalization of the fingerprint identification system was launched in 1990, when, in response to the failing conditions of the FBI's antiquated system, I added \$185 million to an ap-

propriations bill for construction of a new computer complex. Since then, I have obtained more than \$700 million to develop the highly advanced system.

While the multifaceted network promises faster, more efficient identification of criminals for law enforcement agencies, it cannot be fully effective if local, state, and federal authorities do not have the proper equipment to communicate with the new system. That is why, this past fall, I added \$1.5 million to an appropriations bill to help accelerate the process by which police departments in states like West Virginia create their own automated databases and purchase the computer equipment necessary to take advantage of the IAFIS.

When the IAFIS comes on line later this year, the nation's investment in the new FBI complex and its revolutionary computer system will bear fruit in the form of a better integrated national crime-fighting network, and, in turn, in safer communities for American families. West Virginia, which traditionally boasts one of the lowest crime rates in the nation, makes a fitting location for the FBI's new fingerprint identification complex, and all West Virginians have reason to be proud of the fact that their state is home to a world-class initiative geared toward helping other states realize a better, safer quality of life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Saving for College

As the costs of higher education continue to soar, the affordability of a college degree continues to grow as a concern for students and their families. To help alleviate the hefty burden of college bills, students and parents increasingly have been drawing upon financial assistance from a variety of sources. A recent study by the General Accounting Office revealed that 60 percent of seniors who graduated from a four-year public college or university in the 1995-96 school year had borrowed money at some point during their educational pursuit, a figure that is up from 42 percent in the 1992-93 school year.

To help students meet rising college costs, I am co-sponsoring legislation that takes a different approach to easing the sticker shock associated with higher education. This legislation would encourage saving for college by making state-sponsored savings plans entirely tax-free, provided that these monies are used for education. Under current tax law, distributions from these plans are partially counted when calculating a student's taxable income. Several states, including West Virginia, have established state-sponsored savings plans for higher education, and this legislation would help to make those programs more family

friendly.

The West Virginia Prepaid College Plan, which was launched last October, is one example of the state-operated programs that have recently been established throughout the country to help families save for college. Like programs elsewhere, West Virginia's Prepaid College Plan enables families to save for college while receiving special tax benefits. It also allows the family to lock in today's tuition prices for the date when the child actually enters a West Virginia college or university. Additionally, the plan provides flexibility in the event the student chooses to attend a private institution or a college or university in another state. Details about this option are available at the West Virginia Prepaid College plan Internet site at www.wvtreasury.com or by calling 1-800-307-4701.

As a firm believer in the importance of education, I can think of few investments as worthwhile as those that can make the dream of a college education become a reality. Prepaid college savings plans provide one option for families to reduce the burden of the high costs of college, and I am glad to support a piece of legislation that can help to make such programs more economically advantageous.

March 24, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Linking Up: Online Safety for Children

As more families, schools, and public libraries acquire computers, more children gain access to the Internet. At the same time, the use of the web by unsavory individuals attempting to lure children into threatening situations has also grown.

For parents, monitoring a child's Internet access and providing important safeguards can prove challenging, especially when that child, as is often the case, is the most computer savvy member of the family.

To help steer children toward positive experiences on the Internet and away from sites that parents may find objectionable, or even dangerous, the nation's largest Internet-service providers and leading education and children's advocacy organizations have joined together to develop commonsense tips and strategies that may prove valuable for busy families. The joint effort, called "America Links Up," has resulted in a wide-ranging campaign to deliver information and provide guidance to parents and others responsible for children, including the following recommendations.

Take time to be online with your children. When a parent or teacher is directly involved with a child's Internet activity, the potential for danger is greatly reduced.

Teach children to never give out personal information to people they

encounter while online. This type of information can be used to target the child or the family for criminal activity.

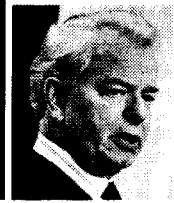
Instruct a child never to plan a face-to-face meeting alone with an online acquaintance. News accounts from across the country have highlighted the dangers of arranging meetings with strangers. While a child may think that an online acquaintance has become a friend, a computer can often mask the true intentions of a criminal.

Establish clear ground rules for Internet use by your children. As an added precaution, parental controls and protective software are available and can be installed, often at little or no cost, to help prevent a child from wandering into dangerous cyberterritory when an adult is not directly supervising Internet activity.

The Internet has rapidly become one of the most valuable learning tools available. People of all ages use the Internet everyday for research, for communicating with friends, and for entertainment. However, parents, teachers, and other caregivers need to recognize that, with all of its benefits, the Internet poses very real dangers.

That old maxim, passed down through generations of parents, still holds true in today's high-technology age; "Children need limits."

March 31, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Power of Poetry

Each year, I give a great number of speeches. During many, I recite from memory a poem that captures the spirit of the moment. To me, a poem is one of the best ways to learn about humanity. Whether they are as long as the "Aeneid" by Virgil, or as simple as the verses of Emily Dickinson, or whether they are written by a Greek, Scotsman, or American, the lines of a poem contain the timeless power of concentrated thought. Poetry is the language of the soul. Through words, it expresses what links us, troubles us, and makes us fully human.

Every day, the power of poetry is all around. It speaks of love, death, disappointment, and elation. Poetry is the laughter of children, the gentle breeze of spring, and the soft golden rays of the sunset.

April is National Poetry Month, a time that brings together poets, literary organizations, libraries, and schools to celebrate poetry and its place in American culture. Among the activities scheduled this year, the Children's Book Council will launch a new event called Young People's Poetry Week to highlight the value of poetry for young people and to encourage

more librarians and educators to present poetry to children. Public libraries throughout the nation will have information about local poetry events.

Over the years, I have cultivated the potential of my mind by memorizing prose, dates, names, quotations, and, particularly, poetry. During my frequent drives between Washington and West Virginia, I would memorize line after line, trying to capture the words, rhythms, thoughts, and lessons of the verses. Over time, my repertoire became quite lengthy. As a matter of fact, I came to be able to recite poem after poem for the entire length of my trip without repeating a single poem.

National Poetry Month presents an opportunity for parents and teachers to work with children and encourage them to take the time to read and truly understand good poetry, not just to see words on paper, but also to dig for the emotions, spirit, and core thought of the author. For adults, this is a good time to step away from the hectic pace of daily life and revisit the words of the soul. Through their words, poets give a voice to that which is great within every human being.

April 7, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Economic Wealth and Environmental Health

April 22 marks the national celebration of Earth Day, an annual event that first occurred in 1970. In the nearly three decades since that initial nationwide observance, Americans have learned much about the need to protect our precious natural resources and how to balance economic development with environmental stewardship.

Since the founding of Earth Day, America's public and private sectors have taken numerous steps to ensure that economic growth and natural resources conservation could occur simultaneously and cooperatively. From cleaning up our rivers and streams, to protecting forests and public lands, to developing technologies that can improve energy efficiency, the achievements of the last thirty years have proved that a prosperous, industrialized nation can also be an environmentally responsible nation.

With these principles in mind, I have worked to ensure that West Virginia has the resources to achieve the kind of balance that provides for a strong economy and well-paying jobs, while protecting and preserving the wonders of nature for future generations.

For example, I authored the Clean Coal Technology program, a federal initiative that supports research and development into cleaner, more efficient uses of coal, our nation's most abundant

energy resource.

I have also obtained funding in appropriations bills to establish the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Further, funding I have added over recent years has supported and strengthened the New River Gorge National River and the Monongahela National Forest, which hosts some of the state's most dramatic and sensitive lands, like Seneca Rocks and the Cranberry Glades. The federal designations of these lands not only ensure a special status for the resident flora and fauna, but also allow for recreational opportunities that benefit West Virginia's booming tourism industry.

Additionally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center, constructed at Shepherdstown with \$138 million I obtained in appropriations bills, is dedicated to educating professionals and the public about the value and methods of conserving our natural resources.

This Earth Day, as the nation renews its commitment to safeguarding the environment, we in West Virginia can rightfully celebrate the numerous ways in which we have improved our state's environmental record while enhancing our economic well-being. We are proving that economic wealth and environmental health can coexist.

April 14, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ending Downtown Decay

In cities in West Virginia and across the country, many downtowns are suffering from a great blight. Empty buildings spread like mushrooms, hinting at the decay within. After five p.m., downtowns grow quiet and lonely, haunted only by shades of their former bustling grandeur, while commerce and nightlife shift to the outer suburbs. Like a great old tree, a rot hollows out the center trunk even as the suburban branches flourish. This urban decay is a hard disease to fight, for it feeds upon itself. The less life there is in a downtown, the more life is driven away.

Reversing this trend is a great challenge, but many West Virginia communities are finding the answers. They are creating a vaccine against urban decay and downtown death. No miracle drug, it is penicillin distilled from caring and dedicated individuals who fight back -- first with dreams, then with plans, and finally with action.

One example of this drive and determination can be found in Wheeling, where a group of community leaders provided a spark of life by designing what has become the Wheeling National Heritage Area initiative. This joint federal government/local government/private sector initiative enables the Wheeling community to showcase its singular

qualities to attract increased numbers of tourists. Wheeling, the former state capital and gateway to the West, is particularly well-suited for this national initiative. I have been able to add \$15.4 million to federal appropriations bills to begin the work of preserving and showcasing Wheeling's historic treasures and clearing the way for even greater private investments. Today, private investors are staking out prime downtown real estate for various ventures, all designed to complement and build upon the vision for the downtown planned in the Wheeling National Heritage Area. The \$17 million in private investment within downtown Wheeling since 1994 is a tribute to the success of local proponents in bringing the vision of the Wheeling National Heritage Area to reality.

Just as life is repelled by empty and decaying buildings, it is drawn to the growth and energy of renovation and construction. Wheeling has proved, through its successes, that the blight of downtown decay can be reversed and the vibrancy of a community can be reborn. I applaud the efforts of Wheeling's citizens who are setting an example for others in creating a blueprint of growth and revitalization during the coming century.

April 21, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Honoring Rosa Parks

In the long line of our nation's heroes there stands a small-framed woman, who, through a simple act of conscience, proved that every person can make a difference. On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, 43-year-old Rosa Parks took the bus home after a long day in the department store where she worked as a seamstress. She was glad to finally be off of her feet when a white man boarded and demanded that Parks give him her seat.

In an act that today would seem quite unremarkable, Parks refused his demand, even though the segregation laws said she must. She was arrested, but challenged the segregation law in court. During the court battle, Parks was harassed, threatened, and lost her job. In the end, though, Parks won when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the segregation law unconstitutional.

Rosa Parks' actions were not staged for the television cameras. They were not part of a grand scheme to create a test case in the courts. On the contrary, they were the actions of a single individual determined to preserve her dignity as

best she could. They were the actions of a simple lady who, at that moment in her life, decided that enough was enough. She demonstrated the power of conviction and quiet dignity in pursuit of justice.

The U.S. Senate recently approved a resolution awarding Rosa Parks the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor that the Congress can bestow upon a private citizen. I cosponsored that resolution which, I believe, pays proper tribute to a woman who sparked an important change in this country. She displayed courage and a lifelong commitment to the Jeffersonian ideal that "all men are created equal."

Across the country, equality is the law of the land, but, in too many places, it is the law in name and not in spirit. Reports of violence against a person simply because of the color of his skin or personal beliefs dominate newspaper headlines far too frequently. I hope that all Americans can learn from the lessons of Rosa Parks, and work together to erase hate and discrimination from this nation.

April 28, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Celebrating the Strength of Mothers

I recently participated in a celebration in the small community of Webster in Taylor County, the birthplace of Anna Jarvis, the woman who founded Mother's Day. My wife, Erma, and I were invited to attend the Mother's Day festivities by a community group called "Thunder on the Tygart," which had named Erma its 1999 Mother of the Year. The organization is devoted to the preservation of the Anna Jarvis birthplace and home, a site that is especially important to West Virginians. At the home, visitors learn of the strength, determination, and devotion that Anna's mother, Ann, displayed throughout her life, qualities that she would need when faced with tragedies that would overwhelm most people.

In the first six years of her marriage to Granville Jarvis from 1850 to 1856, Ann lost four of her six children to childhood diseases so successfully treated today that we seldom hear of them. Rather than giving in to despair, she recognized the now widely understood link between sanitation and disease and took action. She organized Mother's Work Groups to improve the health of children throughout her community.

When the Civil War tore at the community, Ann Jarvis used her Mother's Work Groups as a force for

good, keeping relations between warring neighbors from spilling into violence. This woman sought to reconcile her embattled neighbors by organizing a successful community picnic that she called Mother's Friendship Day. She made a special point of inviting veterans from both armies with their families. For all of these acts, she deserves the accolade of hero.

There are mothers like Ann Jarvis across the nation. They know what their children are doing, and what their children's friends are doing. These mothers understand and respect their role as supervisors. If they see signs of trouble in their own children, or in their children's friends, they will act. They will talk to the parents of their children's friends, to seek help in identifying the cause of the problem and warning other parents of the danger signals. This is not being nosy or intrusive. It is being a good parent.

Let us honor the spirit of Ann Jarvis that lives on in all good mothers. I hope we can find ways to foster the caring, compassion, observation, and energy that infused the Mother's Work Groups of old in more of today's mothers -- and fathers, too -- for a parent's work never ends while a child still lives that needs protection and nurturing.

May 4, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Renewing the Gift of Life

Thanks to advancements in medical science, diseases that were once thought to be untreatable are so readily treated today that we seldom hear of them. However, those same advancements have brought with them new challenges and complications that doctors are working to overcome. One such challenge involves organ transplant recipients. Often, when a patient receives an organ transplant, special medicines are needed for the rest of his life to prevent his immune system from rejecting the transplant. But if the patient relies on Medicare for health insurance, the system will only pay for these drugs for the first 36 months after the surgery, even though they are needed for the rest of the recipient's life. To help address this problem, I am cosponsoring legislation that would ensure that patients receiving Medicare-covered transplants would be able to receive the drugs necessary for the rest of their lives to prevent their bodies from rejecting the new organs.

The Immunosuppressive Drugs Coverage Act of 1999 would provide for life-long coverage of needed immunosuppressive medicines for Medicare patients. In addition, the legislation contains a built-in safeguard to protect taxpayers' dollars.

The Act would ensure that, for those Medicare transplant recipients who also have private insurance coverage, the private insurance plan -- not Medicare -- would cover the cost of the immunosuppressive drugs. This legislation would help patients who cannot afford to pay for the life-preserving medicines, and, at the same time, would help Medicare to avoid the huge additional costs currently incurred when organs are rejected and a new surgery is then required.

In West Virginia, this legislation would make a difference. I have received letter after letter filled with individual stories decrying the Medicare system for its lack of foresight. These letters effectively make the argument that it is a senseless mistake for Medicare to cover expensive transplant operations, but then cut off payments for the medicines necessary to ensure that the transplanted organs work. The Congress can address that mistake by approving the Immunosuppressive Drugs Coverage Act that I am cosponsoring.

Each successful organ transplant carries with it a renewed gift of life for the recipient. That gift should not be jeopardized because of bureaucratic shortsightedness.

May 12, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting an End to Domestic Violence

Five years ago, the Congress approved one of the most far-reaching pieces of federal legislation ever devised to fight crime in the United States. That legislation sharpened the focus of the federal role in assisting law enforcement on the state and local levels -- the front lines of the war against crime. To help support the bill's many innovative programs, I created the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund, which authorized more than \$30 billion for such priorities as putting more officers on the beat, developing comprehensive community-based approaches to combat crime and violence, and involving citizens in crime-prevention efforts.

The Trust Fund also included funding for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which expanded women's and children's access to shelters where they can find immediate protection from violence and receive help in making the kinds of life changes that may be necessary to permanently break away from an abuser. It also supported training to better enable police officers to identify abusers and assist abuse victims. The VAWA instituted a fundamental change in the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes committed against women.

Since passage of the VAWA, the number of vic-

tims of domestic violence has been declining. In 1993, the year before the VAWA became law, more than one million women reported being a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault. By 1996, the last year for which complete statistics exist, that figure fell by 25 percent. In 1996, the number of women killed by someone with whom they had been in an intimate relationship saw a sharp reduction, down 60 percent when compared with 20 years earlier.

However, the news is not all good. In a nationwide survey of women in late 1995 and early 1996, a disconcerting 25 percent of respondents said that they had been raped or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, someone whom they dated, or a cohabitating partner at some point during their lives.

To help address this continuing problem, I am cosponsoring the second Violence Against Women Act, which would extend the program's funding and give law enforcement officials an expanded array of legal tools to help protect victims of domestic violence and improve legal services for victims.

Given the prevalence of violence in our culture today, working to end violence against women is an uphill battle, but it is a battle well worth waging.

May 19, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preparing for a High-Tech Future

Recognizing the need for economic diversification to compete effectively in the worldwide marketplace, West Virginia is enhancing its high-technology resources and identifying new ways to attract and expand the promising high-tech industry. Toward that end, I have been promoting infrastructure investment in West Virginia to help lay a solid foundation for high-tech growth.

Today, West Virginians are harnessing new manufacturing techniques, exploring alternative energy uses, and developing more efficient and environmentally friendly methods of producing the foods that Americans put on their tables. These and other cutting-edge advances have been made possible, in large measure, through partnerships between the private and public sectors, and I have helped to ensure that those partnerships can flourish through my work on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

However, while West Virginia is expanding its high-tech horizons, a recent report from the American Electronics Association (AEA) found that students across the country are losing interest in high-tech degrees. According to the AEA report, the number of students pursuing a high-tech degree -- including engineering, mathematics, physics, and computer science -- fell five percent between 1990 and 1996. Pre-

liminary data from 1997 and 1998 show that trend is continuing. Further, according to the AEA report, a significant proportion of the declining numbers of high-tech degrees being awarded in the U.S. are going to foreign nationals. In fact, 45 percent of the doctoral high-tech degrees in 1997 and 1998 were awarded to non-U.S. citizens. This is a disturbing trend which indicates that we may well be shipping our technological knowledge overseas, and failing to adequately cultivate it in our own young people.

Ensuring that West Virginians are educated to fill those jobs is critical to the continuing success of our state's high-tech endeavors. Knowing that, I have supported a number of initiatives which are answering that need and helping to more firmly implant high-tech enterprises in West Virginia's economic landscape. Through efforts like the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Flexible Manufacturing, headquartered at Marshall University in Huntington; the NASA-sponsored Classroom of the Future at Wheeling Jesuit University; the Science and Technology Center at Shepherd College in Jefferson County; and the Aviation Training Center at Bridgeport, operated by Fairmont State College, I will continue to build the necessary foundation to promote West Virginia's high-tech growth.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Opening the Tap on Clean Drinking Water

Across the country, in hundreds of rural communities, there is a serious lack of safe, reliable drinking water. Since 1995, federal data outlining the sorry details of the safe drinking water crisis have been available and, yet, year after year, adequate funding for water and wastewater projects that would solve this crisis is not provided. That is why I recently added, and the Senate approved, \$30 million to a federal appropriations bill to boost such projects. This money would benefit the neediest of rural communities that are affected by extreme conditions that increase the cost of constructing water and wastewater systems, that have a high incidence of health problems related to water supply and poor sanitary conditions, or whose residents are suffering from a high rate of poverty.

Most Americans take safe drinking water for granted. Most Americans simply assume that, when they turn on the faucet, clean water will automatically flow out. The terrible truth is that, in the United States, the health of millions of men, women, and children is made vulnerable by their reliance on a possibly contaminated water supply.

According to statistics from 1998, approximately 2.2 million rural Americans

live with critical quality and accessibility problems related to their drinking water, including an estimated 730,000 American citizens who have no running water in their homes. An additional five million rural Americans are affected by grave, although less critical, water problems, such as water sources that are over-taxed or poorly protected, and by antiquated distribution systems.

The funding provided in my amendment is desperately needed to address conditions in much of Appalachia and other rural areas like the Mississippi Delta or outlying Alaskan villages. In West Virginia, families in towns such as Pageton, Belington, and Crum are forced to deal with water that must be boiled before consumption, or with water that flows -- when it flows -- like opaque brown sludge from their taps. This is water that is not fit for washing a car, let alone for cooking or mixing with baby formula. That simply should not be, in a nation as rich in resources as the United States.

This \$30 million I added for clean water systems gives hope to rural Americans that a brighter future lies ahead, a future flowing as bright and clear as the water out of their taps.

June 2, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Rural Aging: A Global Challenge

A recent Census Bureau report labeled West Virginia the nation's "oldest" state, with more than 15 percent of its population being at least 65 years of age, a percentage that is expected to increase over the next several years. Population studies estimate that, between 1998 and 2025, the number of 65-year-olds will more than double worldwide. Such statistics underscore the need to take a closer look at how the needs of an aging population may affect West Virginia, the United States, and nations around the world.

To help address the challenges associated with aging, delegates from around the globe are slated to converge in Charleston next June for the international "Rural Aging: A Global Challenge" conference. Recognizing the special needs associated with a growing senior population, I secured \$500,000 from the National Institute on Aging to help fund that conference, which is being sponsored by West Virginia University (WVU) in collaboration with the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and the International Association of Gerontology.

The rural aging conference is planned to direct special attention toward

meeting the needs of the elderly residing in some of the least developed areas of the world. Organizers hope that the event will result in a stronger commitment to senior citizens by both the public and private sectors.

West Virginia University's role in this conference may seem surprising to some, but the University possesses valuable expertise in this field. WVU's Center on Aging has been focusing on rural aging issues for the past decade, examining the differences between aging populations in rural and urban communities. It is the only such center in the world devoted to studying these issues.

I have long sought to provide resources to aid West Virginia's seniors, safeguarding programs like Medicare and Social Security and providing funding for expanded health care and other special services for the elderly in our state. But I believe that the upcoming conference can help to identify new strategies, shape major policy, and promote programmatic enhancements that will better enable society to cope with the challenges it faces as the population of senior citizens living in rural communities continues to grow.

June 9, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Celebrating West Virginia Day 1999

This year marks West Virginia's 136th birthday. Since those early days, as the nation healed from the long and bitter struggle of the Civil War, our state has made great strides. I have been fortunate, over the course of my life, to witness many of these advancements first-hand, and I look forward to the opportunities presented to us as the new century draws closer.

I lost my mother when I was about a year old to the influenza pandemic of 1918 that killed an estimated 20 million people around the world. Today's medicines and medical technologies were hardly dreamed of then, and, indeed, some of them I can still barely believe possible. West Virginians are a tough and hardy people, but credit must go to the quality medical care available throughout the state for keeping so many of us healthy as the years add on. I have taken special pride in my efforts to help the state's teaching hospitals and medical centers to stay on the cutting edge of the health care revolution.

I have also been connected to coal my whole life, having been raised the adopted son of a coal miner and having also married a coal miner's daughter. I

have long been a supporter of clean coal technologies that will allow us to burn coal with increasing efficiency and less environmental impact. Most recently, I have been working on a package of targeted tax incentives to bring these new technologies into more widespread use, and I have been urging the Administration to look into ways to spread the use of these technologies abroad.

One area of life that has not, I fear, seen improvement over the course of this century is the notion of values. The erosion of strong family and moral values before an advancing sea of senseless violence and materialism can, however, be stemmed by a concerted effort on the part of each of us. We all must not only be mindful of our own children and what they see and learn, but we must also set an example that we would like our children and our neighbor's children to emulate.

As we prepare to enter a new century, we must not be beguiled by good times into letting down our guard. With an eye toward future possibilities, and our feet firmly planted in our values and history, we can meet the new century with confidence and security.

June 16, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taking Time to Read

One of the most important, and most basic, skills a man or woman needs in order to succeed is the ability to read. As we race toward a new century, high-tech skills will be increasingly in demand. But how can a person be expected to understand high-tech information without a basic ability to read?

A recent report by the National Institute for Literacy paints a very disturbing picture. The organization studied the literacy level of men and women across the country, and estimated that more than 40 million adults, including nearly 281,000 in West Virginia, have minimal literacy skills. Although many of these adults could perform some tasks involving simple texts and documents, all of them displayed difficulty using certain reading, writing, and computational skills considered necessary for functioning in everyday life.

Without basic reading skills, the task of understanding a map, filling out the information on a job application, or comprehending a doctor's written instructions for prescription medicine can be very difficult, if not impossible. Activities that are taken for granted by a majority of the adult population can prove major obstacles for the more than 20 percent of the adult Americans who lack basic reading skills.

Addressing this prob-

lem requires a comprehensive approach. To help, many local organizations pair literate adults with those who are illiterate in programs designed to teach reading skills. At the Literacy Volunteers of America West Virginia Chapter, for example, nearly 700 volunteers partner with about 675 adults to increase their literacy skills. The federal government has also been a partner in the effort to increase literacy. Last year, the government devoted \$360 million to adult education and literacy programs. Millions more were spent on adult education at state and local levels.

But we should not wait until a person reaches adulthood before we begin to address illiteracy. A love of reading must be nurtured in childhood. As I was growing up, my parents did not buy a toy pistol or a cowboy suit for me; instead, they bought books and encouraged me to read. They wanted me to learn and to develop my mind. That kind of encouragement is still needed today.

This July 2nd is National Literacy Day. I encourage West Virginians to mark this day by taking the time to read a book to a child. Educating children about the importance of reading establishes a firm foundation for their future. Share with them the joy of reading, and open their minds to the world of knowledge and wisdom.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Finding Ways to End Youth Violence

Across the country, parents, teachers, students, law enforcement officials, and church and community leaders are struggling to get a handle on the growing problem of youth violence. In light of the shootings at Heritage High School in Georgia and at Columbine High School in Colorado, and the statistics showing a dramatic rise in violent youth crimes, I recently introduced, and the Senate approved, legislation to establish a National Commission on Youth Violence. This Commission calls upon experts in parenting, school administration, and law enforcement to open their ears, listen, and begin to identify and reconcile the root causes fueling this epidemic of terror and violence rocking our nation's schools.

Given the breadth of this challenge, a Commission, consisting of a panel of men and women with broad experience and seeking input from an array of interests, seems a requisite component in the quest for a solution to school violence. No viewpoint can be summarily dismissed as we search for ways to protect our children.

Likewise, no player should be given a pass. The makers of video games, producers of movies, musicians, parents, teachers, administrators, civic groups, church leaders, and public officials all bear some of

this burden. But organizations like the National Rifle Association and law-abiding gun-owners throughout the nation must recognize that they, too, bear some of the responsibility to end this madness. This is no time to take to the sidelines.

Part of the cure, I believe, can only be found by digging deep into the soul of America. Talk of a lack of morals and values and of the way things used to be has long been cynically brushed off as old-fashioned and out of step with the world today. But the experiences of my long life have convinced me that something in our society is seriously wrong. We are missing something that used to be a basic component in our society, and we desperately need to rediscover it.

It is my hope that, in working together with a National Commission on Youth Violence, we can identify and implement many essential steps for ending the terror besetting America's school system. It is high time to restore the peaceful schoolhouse we once knew so well -- a school setting which fosters creativity and inspires learning, and, most importantly, which provides each student with a safe haven for obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary to lead America into the 21st century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Giving Small Businesses Y2K Help

In these complex times, our society increasingly relies on computers. From the scanners at grocery store check-out counters to the radars that monitor airplane traffic, computer technology plays a significant role in our daily lives. Unfortunately, because of the dominance of computers throughout our society, computer errors can have widespread, expensive, and potentially dangerous consequences. In recent years, a computer problem known as Y2K, for the Year 2000, has gained international attention.

The Y2K problem stems from the fact that, until very recently, computers and computer programs were designed, primarily for cost-saving reasons, to process date information by using just two digits, instead of four, to represent the year. For example, in many computers, "97" is used to represent 1997. Using this two-digit format, though, makes the year 2000 indistinguishable from 1900, and the year 2001 can be mistaken for 1901. Such a simple mistake could cause entire computer systems to shut down, with potentially catastrophic consequences for the programs, services, individuals, and businesses that are dependent on those systems. Fixing this problem can be very expensive, and for small businesses that operate on tight budgets, the

cost to repair the problem could prove prohibitive.

To help small businesses prepare for Y2K, legislation was recently enacted, with my support, authorizing the Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide loans to help companies become "Y2K ready." Two types of loans will be provided. Under the first, small businesses can borrow money to purchase the systems, software, and services they need to become Y2K compliant. These loans -- known as Y2K Action Loans -- are available now. After January 1, 2000, the SBA will make loans available to assist small businesses that suffer economic injury as a result of a Y2K-related problem.

Additional information on the SBA loan program can be found on the agency's Internet site at www.sba.gov/y2k. In addition, this site offers general Y2K information and guidance for small businesses. The SBA Answer Desk can be reached at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA for information on the SBA office nearest you.

Businesses, large and small, in West Virginia should take the Y2K problem seriously and examine their own readiness. The consequences and costs of ignoring the problem could be far more devastating than the expense of upgrading outdated systems.

July 7, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Guaranteeing Steel's Future

Recently, the Senate approved a key measure intended to address the steel import crisis caused by the illegal dumping of foreign steel into U.S. markets. As a result of the flood of steel imports from late 1997 through the end of 1998, 10,000 steelworkers across the nation were laid off from their jobs. Several domestic steel plants have closed or declared bankruptcy. With no assurances that steel imports would abate in the near future, financial institutions have been unwilling to restructure most U.S. steel producers' debt. Without financial aid, weakened steel producers are increasingly threatened by closure.

Clearly, American steel companies are reeling. Foreign steelmakers have not been fighting fairly. Those companies have been ignoring international trade laws, and the Administration has failed to intervene decisively to stop those low blows. To address this crisis in a short-term manner, I offered an amendment to a federal appropriations bill that would create a guaranteed loan program for steel companies adversely affected by this steel dumping crisis. The legislation states that the maximum aggregate amount of a loan that could be available to a single company would be \$250 million. The total amount of all guarantees would not exceed \$1 billion. All loans would have to be repaid within six years, with

interest. This loan guarantee program would give steelmakers access to an infusion of capital that could help them to recover from those unfair punches and fight back.

Opponents of this loan guarantee program claim that it is an excessively costly solution to a non-existent problem. It is neither. The federal government would not be making the loans. The loan guarantee program outlined in this bill would provide qualified steel producers access to loans through the private market that are guaranteed by the federal government in the same way that the federal government now guarantees loans made to homebuilders, farmers, and even to foreign nations like Mexico, Israel, and Russia. Similar federal programs have been implemented in past years for New York City, Lockheed, and Chrysler -- and have worked.

I am proud that the Senate has approved this program, and I hope that the House of Representatives will act on this legislation soon to provide important relief for thousands of steelworkers and their families who continue to face an uncertain future. Further delay by the Congress and the Administration will only lead to cold blast furnaces and fading hopes in steel towns across the country. This is an emergency. It requires urgent action.

July 14, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Commitment to Clean Water

West Virginians are benefiting from new drinking water systems and a better protected environment because of a very successful program at West Virginia University (WVU) called the National Onsite Demonstration Project (NODP). One of four nationally recognized environmental services and training programs housed at WVU, the NODP helps small communities to finance, implement, and demonstrate technologies to treat wastewater, prevent pollution, and protect public health. In 1993, I helped to initiate the NODP by providing funds in federal appropriations bills for the program. Since then, millions of dollars have been invested to help improve water quality.

Thousands of West Virginia residents, especially those in remote regions of the state, depend on on-site wastewater treatment systems. The NODP designs unique systems to meet the individual needs of each residence -- making clean and safe water both accessible and affordable. For instance, the NODP's Monongalia Management and Maintenance District will soon oversee systems for nearly 50 percent of the county's residents. Effective on-site systems will soon be installed in McDowell County as well, ensuring that the mountains of Southern West Virginia are no obstacle to the highest water quality for its citizens.

Because West Virginia is at the forefront in wastewater management and technology, experts from across the country, and as far away as South Africa and Uruguay, are traveling to NODP sites seeking solutions to their own wastewater problems. In addition to successes in McDowell and Monongalia counties, WVU has joined with Shepherd College, in Jefferson County, to establish a demonstration and training site at the Freshwater Institute in Shepherdstown.

Small communities far beyond our state's borders also benefit from the NODP. The program has additional sites in 12 other states, as well as a widely distributed research publication and toll-free hotline.

Throughout my career, I have worked diligently to prepare West Virginia for economic growth. To be competitive in attracting new business and industry, we must have the proper infrastructure in place. Like improved highways and bridges, effective wastewater management systems are vital to the continued expansion of West Virginia communities. The NODP is making development possible in regions of West Virginia where a central waste management system is not affordable or feasible. Due in part to the NODP's efforts, our communities are cleaner, safer, and prepared to move forward into the next century.

July 21, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Meeting Education's Needs Through Flexibility

Local education officials have often complained that restrictions on the use of federal funds are often short-sighted, making it difficult for schools to meet the special needs of their students. To address this problem and give the states greater latitude to develop competitive educational programs, the Congress recently approved, and the President signed into law, the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999, or "ED-FLEX." This measure extends to all qualifying states throughout the nation the same privileges currently available to just twelve states now participating in a pilot project. For West Virginia, this presents an opportunity for greater flexibility in exchange for increased accountability in school performance, a concept that I strongly support.

Through this new law, states and school districts will have expanded options in implementing programs that serve underprivileged children, train elementary and secondary teachers, and make schools safer. The legislation delegates greater authority to parents, teachers, and principals who are directly involved in the daily operation of schools.

ED-FLEX focuses on the important role of accountability at the state level to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to develop and implement challenging standards for educational content and student performance. In many circum-

stances, the details of running a school program can best be decided at the state and local levels. Increased flexibility, in these instances, can yield positive results. But in waiving federal education requirements, the impact that such action will have on student achievement must be taken into account so as to ensure that our nation's educational system is not weakened further.

ED-FLEX has received favorable reviews in states that currently participate. The flexibility the program provides has allowed those states and communities to pursue innovative initiatives for elementary and secondary education. For example, Maryland, a current ED-FLEX-designated state, has used its broader authority to provide one-on-one tutoring for reading students who have the greatest needs in the elementary grades, giving young students a firmer foundation for success in later educational pursuits. Other ED-FLEX states have been successful in reducing the average student per teacher ratio in mathematics and reading classes.

While preserving the intent of federal education programs and delegating greater flexibility to localities, ED-FLEX will help federal education dollars to be better targeted to meet the needs of particular schools and to prepare our nation's young people for the challenges of tomorrow.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Saving for a Rainy Day

Imagine going to work one day and being told by your boss that you will be receiving a bonus in each of the next ten years. What would you do with all that extra cash? You could wait until you actually receive it, then put some in the bank for retirement, and use the rest to pay off your bills. Or, you could throw caution to the wind, call the travel agent now, and start packing for that once-in-a-lifetime vacation extravaganza.

Believe it or not, that is essentially the predicament facing the Congress ever since government forecasters projected surpluses in the federal budget of almost \$3 trillion over the next ten years. Even setting aside the \$2 trillion that comes from overpayments to the Social Security system, and which everyone agrees will be needed to secure the long-term solvency of that system, Congress is still left with the question of what to do with nearly \$1 trillion. Before breaking out the suitcases and suntan lotion, though, let me offer two caveats.

First, the nation does not have an extra trillion dollars. Rather, what we have is a rosy prediction of an extra trillion dollars. And that is a whole different animal, particularly in light of the fact that, over the past 19 years, congressional budget forecasters have been wrong in their annual deficit/surplus esti-

mates by an absolute average of \$54 billion per year. Extend that average over the next ten years, and one can see that \$540 billion of the \$1 trillion projected surplus could melt away faster than a snowball in July.

Secondly, the projected surplus is not simply the result of additional treasury revenues arising from a growing economy. In reality, \$595 billion -- or 60 percent -- comes from draconian -- and as yet unspecified -- spending cuts in such things as crime prevention, veterans' health care, education, and airport improvements, to name just a few. Throw in the additional \$80 billion that experience teaches us will be needed to address natural disasters over the next ten years -- such as floods, hurricanes, and droughts -- and one can again see that the so-called surplus could be far less than anticipated.

This is not to say that the forecasters will not be right, or that the budget cutters will not prevail. But before we get too far along with grandiose plans, I hope that we in Congress can put aside our rose-colored glasses, provide for Medicare and Social Security, pay down the national debt, provide for the nation's investment needs, and put the welfare of our children and grandchildren ahead of our own self-indulgent inclinations.

August 4, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Disaster Relief for Farmers

As a result of the many months of drought that has gripped West Virginia, President Clinton has, at my request, designated every county in the state a federal agricultural disaster area. This designation opens the door to farmers to receive short-term financial help through low-interest USDA loans and other programs to help cover losses that resulted from the drought.

In West Virginia, this drought has devastated the lives of hundreds of family farmers, and I am deeply concerned about the fate of West Virginia's last 17,000 surviving small family farms. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit a farm in Jefferson County and to meet with farmers. I stood in what should have been a fertile cornfield with corn above my head, but the tassels barely reached past my knees. Ears of corn snapped too easily from the stalk and were no bigger than two rolls of quarters placed end to end. I saw the conditions of the cattle and pastures in West Virginia. I saw the dry, cracked fields. I heard the heartbreaking stories of farmers and their wives.

The federal disaster designation is a first step in helping farmers to survive financially during this drought. In addition to the low-interest loans, farmers can apply for assistance

from the Emergency Conservation Program, which provides emergency cost-share funding for water conservation measures; federal crop insurance; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, which provides compensation for crops for which crop insurance is not available.

Farmers have eight months from the date of loss to apply for the loans to help cover part of their actual losses. To be eligible, producers must have suffered at least a 30-percent loss of normal production in a single enterprise, be able to repay the loan and any other loans, be unable to obtain credit elsewhere, and have adequate security or credit history. Farmers and ranchers should contact their local USDA Service Center or Farm Service Agency county office for further information.

While this drought is primarily an inconvenience for most people in the mid-Atlantic region, it has stolen the life from much of the land and the livelihoods of many of our farmers. It is my hope that this federal disaster declaration, and the financial assistance that comes with it, will help farmers throughout West Virginia stave off devastation and survive until the rains return to the hills and fields.

August 11, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Back to School

With the new school year just around the corner, students are stocking up on school supplies for their upcoming classes and teachers are putting the final touches on their lesson plans. Yet, despite the excitement that accompanies the first day of school, there is an anxious feeling that parents, educators, and community leaders also share this time of year.

Just a few months ago, our nation witnessed the most tragic school shooting of all time. While Littleton, Colorado, continues to cope with the devastating reality of what transpired there last spring, our nation as a whole must work together to ensure that a recurrence of this event does not happen in another American schoolyard. Every step we take in this regard brings us closer to restoring the old-time serene schoolhouse that our children deserve.

West Virginia is one step ahead in creating targeted violence prevention programs. From the West Virginia State Police's "Operation Safe Schools" program to the West Virginia Safe Schools program that provides ongoing training for principals, teachers, and school personnel on crisis intervention and management, our schools and communities are working to maintain a peaceful environment in which teachers can teach and

students can learn.

However, there is no single cure-all to the problem of school violence, and it is important to remember that prevention should not solely begin and end on school grounds. The problem is pervasive, and protecting our nation's children ought to be a team effort of schools, families, communities, and churches, not simply a matter of public policy. Parents and educators are youngsters' role models, and often their greatest confidants. So, teach children the "old values" of integrity, honesty, respect, loyalty, and religious faith that will carry them through the highs and lows of life. And heed unusual behavior and warning signs before a bad day progresses into a violent outburst.

One's education is a lifeline to a strong and prosperous future. It begins at home as a child and should never truly end. It saddens me to think that the critical years of elementary and secondary education have been stolen from students caught in the line of fire. Bright futures as scientists, writers, teachers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders are within reach for many of our nation's children. Let us all work together to keep our schools safe, and to watch these visions and aspirations blossom into a reality.

August 18, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Opening the Workforce to All Americans

Despite the overwhelming growth and prosperity of our nation's economy in recent years, men and women with disabilities continue to struggle to live independently and become integral contributors to the workforce. According to a 1998 Harris survey, 72 percent of disabled Americans want to work, yet nearly three-quarters of the disabled adults in the country are unemployed. Given these staggering figures, I joined in cosponsoring S. 331, the Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999, which would make significant strides toward reforming federal disability programs and removing unfair barriers facing disabled persons who desire to enter or return to the workforce.

The Senate recently passed this important legislation by a unanimous vote, opening more workplace doors to greater numbers of disabled Americans and unleashing the creativity and talent of this dynamic population. For too long, men and women with disabilities have suffered from unfair penalties if they go to work. They have been caught between the option of accepting a paying job at the risk of losing medical coverage, or simply sitting idle so that they can retain their vital health care benefits.

Through the Work Incentives Improvement Act, disabled citizens would no longer have to contend with this difficult and unfair choice. This legislation would help to remove existing health care barriers and would bring the goal of independence within the reach of many disabled Americans. It would give adults with disabilities greater access to health care coverage once they enter the workforce, including opportunities to buy into Medicare and Medicaid at affordable rates. Moreover, it would phase out the loss of disability cash benefits as income levels rise and would broaden access to vocational-rehabilitation and the employment services necessary for disabled persons to become successfully employed today.

For too long, disabled Americans have been unfairly barred from the workplace by unrealistic restrictions. President Franklin Roosevelt once said, "No country, no matter how rich, can afford to waste its human resources." This legislation lives up to President Roosevelt's objective. As a result of this initiative, a brighter future is on the horizon for our nation's disabled community, and our nation stands ready to benefit from an infusion of capable and motivated workers.

August 25, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Seniors from Exploitation

Turning 65 years old is supposed to mark the beginning of a new stage in life, the "golden years," with more time for family, hobbies, and relaxation. Sadly, too many Americans in their "golden years" fall victim to gold diggers who seek to exploit senior citizens for personal gain.

Far too many Americans work hard for years, only to find that their retirement "nest egg" has been plundered through theft or fraud. Other senior citizens fall victim to telemarketing scams, in which con artists take advantage of their victims' often trusting natures. And, too often, seniors fall prey to health care fraud and nursing home abuse.

To protect older Americans from those who profit at their expense, I am co-sponsoring a bill that would crack down on a host of crimes which disproportionately target senior citizens. This bill -- the Seniors Safety Act of 1999 -- would direct the Attorney General to study crimes against seniors and to report back to Congress with suggestions on ways to reduce and prevent such crimes. It also would provide criminal and/or civil penalties for defrauding a pension, retirement, or medical savings plan, or engaging in bribery or corruption in administering such plans.

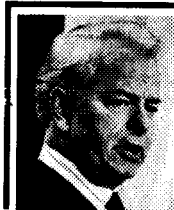
The Act would set up a

"Better Business"-style hotline to collect and provide information on complaints of telemarketing fraud, and would call for a computer database to be set up with information about companies that engage in telemarketing scams. These provisions would help senior citizens to make sure that the friendly voice on the other end of the telephone offering special deals or gifts is not just a smooth "con man" plying his craft. Upon notification by the Justice Department, telephone companies would have to discontinue or refuse service to perpetrators attempting to swindle seniors.

In addition, the bill would allow the Attorney General to bring actions in court against false claims or illegal kickback schemes involving federal health care programs. And it would penalize nursing homes that exhibit a pattern of health or safety violations which abuse the physical or mental health of residents.

I hope that the Congress will move forward with the legislation and create this important safety net to protect our older citizens from the unsavory criminal activity which so often afflicts them. The Seniors Safety Act would help older Americans to enjoy their golden years without fear. They deserve nothing less for their years of hard work.

September 1, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Digging Out of the U.S. Trade Deficit

The U.S. Department of Commerce recently released trade deficit figures for the first six months of this year. Unfortunately, those statistics were not encouraging. According to the report, for five of the first six months of the year, the gap between what U.S. companies and consumers spent on imports and the amount that foreign countries spent on American products reached record levels. This report is further proof that U.S. trade policies need serious examination and readjustment.

For too long, American industries have battled unfair trade practices by foreign competitors. This and past Administrations -- both Democratic and Republican -- have allowed the nation's trade deficit to soar. As a result of Administration policies that reflected State Department concerns about the economies of foreign nations, American industries and American workers have suffered.

To address this situation, and to find ways to reverse the trade deficit, I authored legislation last fall to create the Trade Deficit Review Commission. Recently, this 12-member, bipartisan body began the process of studying the causes and consequences of, and looking for solutions to, U.S. trade deficits.

Clearly, growing and persistent trade deficits have reached the point of requiring this kind of examination. Furthermore, conventional wisdom has been placed into question re-

cently concerning the trade deficits. For instance, the widely held assumption that trade deficits would disappear or become inconsequential when the national budget was put into balance is clearly wrong.

The Trade Deficit Review Commission, which has a one-year lifetime and is required to hold at least four field hearings outside of Washington, D.C., consists of an excellent mix of men and women, including business, labor, and investment executives. These men and women bring to the Commission a variety of perspectives. The members include academic figures of national repute, former Cabinet and Federal Reserve officials, and former Senate and House staff members who have been central architects of virtually every trade bill in the last 20 years.

The intersecting issues that this Commission will examine have been marching across the front pages of America's newspapers. Those issues include such topics as China, steel, technology, agriculture, trading blocs, foreign subsidies, and so on. These are important issues on which the country needs clear and thorough guidance. I have every confidence that this Commission, if it can forge a strong consensus on future policies, will perform a very valuable service. For the sake of our economic future, our immense trade deficits must be reversed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building Safe Schools and Healthy Communities

A new school year is underway, with all its bright potential for learning. And while most students welcome the chance to again immerse themselves in the business of learning and growing, we, as parents, educators, and legislators, cannot help but reflect upon the memories of sudden, violent death that have visited several American schools.

I consider school violence to be one of the most critical problems facing our nation. School violence can happen again, and it can happen anywhere. That is why I recently hosted a statewide forum with West Virginia University to further enhance our collective knowledge of the efforts underway throughout the state to prevent youth violence. Moreover, it is my hope that this symposium will spark an open, active discussion across the state about what more needs to be done to better protect our teachers and children from classroom violence. Results from the forum, as well as presentations made throughout the day, are being posted on my Internet site at <http://byrd.senate.gov>.

At the symposium, several ideas were presented by panelists and participants alike. Among those ideas were expanding after-school programs to all children, restoring art classes that have been subject to budget cuts,

and teaching conflict-resolution and peer-mediation skills beginning in the early grades. Parents, teachers, and students also proposed reducing class size as a way to make young people feel that they are receiving more personal attention from teachers, and, therefore, are more a part of the school community. The idea of engaging students in their school and community was the single concept that resonated with most symposium participants. Too many children feel like they are just a faceless number moving through school. By involving a student in extra-curricular and community activities, a student may feel a greater sense of self-worth and pride, and may be less likely to commit an act of violence in school.

I do not have the answers to preventing youth violence, nor does any single individual. None of us, alone, possesses the magic answer that will solve the complex problem of preventing youth violence before it starts. But across this great state of ours reside the dedication, the devotion, and the innovation to find solutions that work. The recent statewide symposium spurred that effort forward. We must continue to work together, and we must draw others to our task. The future of our state and our nation depends on it..



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Celebrating the VFW Centennial

This year marks the 81st anniversary of Armistice Day, designated to celebrate the signing of the armistice that ended the fighting of World War I. A generation later, 16-million Americans again answered their nation's call against aggression in World War Two. Since then, our nation's sons and daughters have served in Korea, Vietnam, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo. They have fought to protect our nation's interests and to ensure the freedom of others across the globe. Through the turmoil and change of the 20th century, one thing has remained constant: the dedication and commitment of our veterans to the survival and strength of this nation.

There is a unique opportunity this year to pay tribute to the men and women of the Armed Services with the 100th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) on September 29. This centennial anniversary presents an opportunity to recognize and honor the more than two million veterans of the Armed Forces represented by the VFW.

The VFW began when groups of veterans of the Spanish-American War of 1898 banded together in Ohio, Colorado, and Pennsylvania. These first VFW members aimed to secure

veterans' medical care and pensions, benefits for which I continue to work today. In addition to its national leadership on veterans' issues, the VFW supports America's Armed Forces by sending letters, holiday cards, and gift packages to servicemen; by sponsoring USO shows; by contributing to memorial funds; by helping servicemen to obtain benefits; by assisting with job placement; and by holding "welcome home rallies" for servicemen. Whether at home or abroad, VFW members are committed to improving the lives of veterans and their families.

In West Virginia, there are approximately 26,500 members of the VFW who attend meetings at 133 posts around the state. The VFW Ladies Auxiliary adds another 20,000 members to support veterans issues and community projects to which the VFW dedicates time and energy.

I am proud to say that I cosponsored a resolution that passed the Senate earlier this year recognizing the VFW's centennial, and providing that September 29, 1999, be designated as "Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day." I hope that West Virginians will mark this occasion by thanking a veteran whose sacrifices helped to secure the blessings of freedom in America.

September 22, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Turning an Ear to the Cosmos

Early next year, the final pieces of West Virginia's new eye on the universe will be put in place, and astronomers will begin the task of testing the world's largest fully steerable radio telescope, located in Pocahontas County. The new Green Bank Telescope will be an important resource to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the Milky Way galaxy, and beyond.

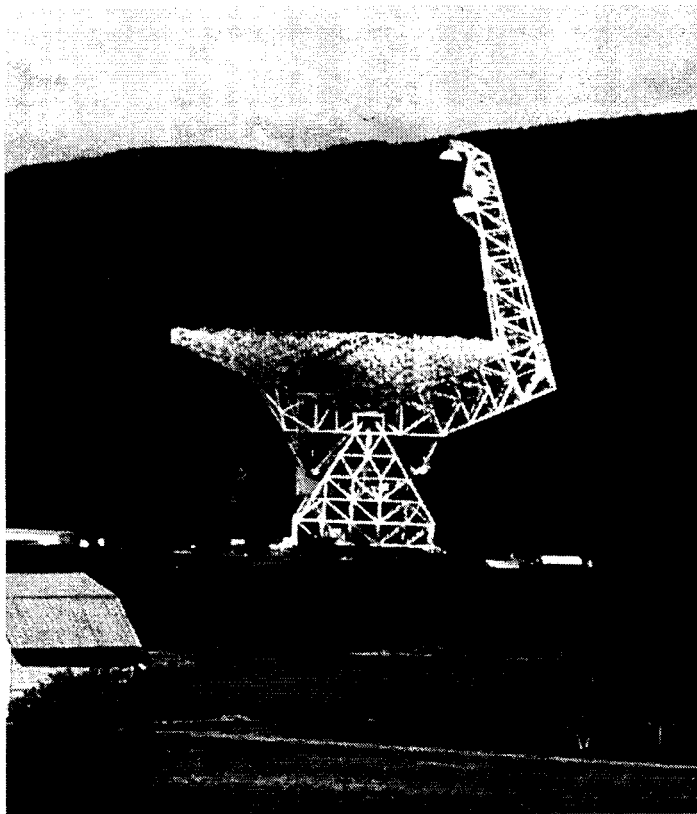
The new telescope replaces the 300-foot telescope that collapsed in 1988 after 26 years of service. In 1989, I added \$75 million to a federal appropriations bill for construction of the new telescope and, in 1991, I added another \$5.4 million to build the joint Navy-National Science Foundation Operations Center at the observatory.

The 300-foot Green Bank Telescope specialized in discovering pulsars. While comets are remnants of the beginning of a star and its planetary system, a pulsar is all that remains after the star suffers a massive explosion that removes most of its surface in a phenomenon called a supernova. Pulsars emit regular pulses of radio waves that act as a type of "celestial lighthouse." These waves can be detected by a very large radio telescope, like the Green Bank Telescope, and may some day be used by space explorers as light-

houses to navigate our galaxy. The telescope will allow astronomers to search for pulsars in the very center of the Milky Way, a region so distant from the Earth that any pulsars there are too faint to be found by existing telescopes.

Working with the original telescope, astronomers made many significant discoveries. For example, it was the second telescope ever to detect a group of pulsars, and through its detection of another group of pulsars, astronomers realized the association between supernovas and pulsars. Additionally, a significant number of all pulsars detected to date were found with the original Green Bank Telescope. With all of that success, the doors that scientists and astronomers will be able to unlock with the new telescope are beyond imagination.

Because of its unique design, astronomers will be able to position the telescope with an incredible degree of accuracy, even though it is larger than a football field and taller than the Statue of Liberty. Scientists will begin aligning and adjusting the telescope later this year, and expect to dedicate it officially next spring. I look forward to the day when astronomers map the vast reaches of our galaxy and others after traveling no further than Green Bank, West Virginia.



GREEN BANK, W.Va.... The world's largest fully steerable radio telescope is now under construction at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's site in Green Bank, Pocahontas County. Early next year, astronomers will begin the task of testing the new telescope.

September 29, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Victory for American Steel

Two of West Virginia's largest private employers, Weirton Steel and Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, are locked in a battle for survival. These companies, like so many other American steel producers, are fighting against a wave of illegal, below-cost, imported steel that has the potential to permanently cripple an industry that is vital to this country's economic base and national security.

The force of this wave can be seen in some disturbing figures. According to U.S. Department of Commerce data, in 1998, the U.S. imported more steel tonnage than ever before. In fact, last year's import levels were 83 percent higher than the annual import average for the previous eight years. Across the country, at the height of the import crisis, more than 10,000 steelworkers were forced off the job. At least six steel companies have filed for bankruptcy. Much of this damage can be linked directly to illegally dumped steel imports.

To help Weirton, Wheeling-Pitt, and other steel mills, I created a \$1 billion loan guarantee program specifically designed to provide some short-term relief to the American steel industry. Most recently, the President signed into law my initiative that will help domestic steel producers by providing access to an infusion of

capital to keep their furnaces burning and keep their employees on the job. The maximum aggregate amount of a loan available to a single company is \$250 million, and the loans will be guaranteed up to 85 percent of their total. My legislation establishes a three-member oversight board, consisting of the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, who heads the loan guarantee board, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The loan guarantees will not solve the steel crisis, however. There must be a long-term, permanent solution to this crisis to prevent waves of illegal steel imports from drowning the U.S. steel industry.

For 50 years, I have fought for American workers, for the men and women who earn their livings by honest, hard work, and who are playing by the rules as they seek to achieve the American dream. The U.S. steel industry has made the sacrifices and investments necessary to increase efficiency and compete effectively against foreign makers. Our companies are willing and able to play by the rules. As a nation, we must protect the viability of our steel industry. To do so, we must insist that foreign competitors are held to that same set of rules.

October 6, 1999



WEIRTON, W. Va... Members of the Independent Steelworkers Union thank U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W. Va., for his work on the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Act. Byrd's legislation, which was recently signed into law, creates a \$1 billion loan guarantee program specifically designed to provide some short-term relief to the American steel industry that has been struggling to compete against record levels of illegally dumped foreign steel.

October 6, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fighting for West Virginia Farmers

In the last year and a half, the worst drought in recorded history has struck at the mid-Atlantic region. Stretching from Tennessee to West Virginia to Vermont, farmers have been devastated by months of unrelenting drought, which dried up wells and ponds and left grazing lands parched and bare. Some farmers have had to make the painful decision to sell off their livestock or to give up farms that have been in their families for generations. This is nothing short of an emergency.

Recognizing the great needs of our farmers, I set to work, in my capacity as Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to boost funding in the Agriculture Appropriations bill this past summer for drought relief. Recently, that appropriations bill was amended in a Senate-House conference to provide more than \$1.2 billion in broad relief for farmers who have experienced losses due to natural disasters in 1999.

Moreover, since state agriculture officials identified aid for livestock losses as the West Virginia farming community's greatest area of need, I pressed for and won \$200 million specifically to help livestock farmers recover from drought losses. It was especially important to me that this aid be provided not as loans, but as direct cash

assistance, which would be of greatest help to financially strapped farmers, many of whom are already in debt. The bill also provides \$125 million for dairy farmers who have suffered losses.

Further, drought-stricken West Virginia farmers are eligible for other forms of aid in the bill, including revegetation and feed assistance; emergency cost-share funding for water conservation measures; federal crop insurance; and compensation through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

In West Virginia, there are approximately 21,000 small family farms. Yet, because of this record drought, more than half of these farms have been put at risk. Clearly, the funding contained in the Agriculture Appropriations bill is badly needed, now. But, it is also evident that the level of funding is not sufficient to address all of the needs of drought- and hurricane-stricken farms. Therefore, the legislation also contains language that I supported to lay the groundwork for additional emergency farm aid in the future.

Saving our small farms not only preserves an honorable way of life for thousands of families, but it also ensures that our nation can continue to enjoy the fruits of their labor for generations to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Miners' Health Care

In 1946, President Harry Truman and the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) struck a deal that opened the way for greater mechanization of coal mines in exchange for cradle-to-grave health care coverage for miners and their families. The deal created a health care fund paid for by a tax on coal mined by UMWA members. But gradually, as more and more coal companies employed nonunion miners, the fund's resources have declined.

In response, the Congress, in 1992, approved the Coal Act, requiring coal companies to cover retiree health benefits, even if the companies were not bound to union contracts, or had gotten out of the coal business altogether. But, because of rapidly rising health care costs and adverse court decisions impacting the Coal Act, the fund's trustees recently determined that the money coming into the benefits fund would not be sufficient to cover anticipated health care costs over the next year.

After I learned of the situation from Congressman Nick Rahall and UMWA President Cecil Roberts, I set out to find a short-term fix for the system in the Interior Appropriations bill. With the help of Congressman Rahall, who lobbied key House Members, I fought hard for and won a \$68 million transfer of fund-

ing to the retired miners' health care fund. This short-term fix is needed to ensure a continuation of health care benefits for the more than 66,000 retired miners and their dependents, including more than 19,500 West Virginia men and women who are mostly elderly and on limited incomes. In fact, according to the fund's trustees, the typical beneficiary is a widowed spouse with an average age of 78, and whose monthly income is the \$140 UMWA pension check, supplemented by a social security check.

My efforts have provided some breathing room. The solution that I was able to win is a short-term "Band-Aid" for the retired miners' health care fund. However, the problem requires a long-term solution -- the kind of fix that ensures that retired miners and their dependents will not have to worry from month to month whether their benefits will soon lapse.

It is now incumbent upon the House and Senate authorizing committees of jurisdiction, on which I do not serve, to work with coal companies and the UMWA to craft a fair, balanced, long-term solution. There needs to be a plan in place that will ensure that retired miners and their dependents will not again face a funding shortfall and looming benefits cuts.

October 27, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Standing Firm for Veterans Health Care

On November 11, 1919, our nation observed the first anniversary of the end of World War I. In 1926, Congress proclaimed that day Armistice Day, and passed a resolution that called for an annual observance of "thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through goodwill and mutual understanding between nations." In 1954, Armistice Day became Veterans Day, the holiday on which Americans now annually recognize the sacrifices that our nation's soldiers, sailors, and airmen have made to protect our freedoms.

Largely through the might of our Armed Forces, the United States enjoys an unprecedented position of international leadership. Yet, the promise of lifelong health care that this country made to our veterans has been threatened, not by the aggression of a foreign power but by inadequate funding. Across the country this year, veterans have been concerned about the Clinton Administration's proposed budget for veterans health care services. In fact, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) predicted that the Administration's proposed funding level of \$17.3 billion would result in significant reductions in medical care.

In response to these concerns, I worked to raise

the level of funding for veterans' medical care in an appropriations bill. During consideration of the bill by the Senate Appropriations Committee, on which I serve as Ranking Member, I added \$1.1 billion for veterans' health care, bringing the total funding level to \$18.4 billion. When the appropriations bill came to the Senate floor, recognizing that even \$18.4 billion was still not sufficient for veterans health care, I offered an amendment that added another \$600 million for their medical care. My amendment was adopted, and brought the total funding for veterans' medical care for Fiscal Year 2000 up to \$19 billion. This level of funding will enable the VA to continue to provide quality health care to veterans, and will prevent the kinds of cuts in services that many veterans feared would place their eligibility for care in question.

Throughout America's history, our sons and daughters have always been ready to answer the call to duty. In particular, West Virginians have a proud and enviable record of service to our country in perilous times of war and conflict. It is a matter of simple honor that the nation stand behind its promise to provide quality medical care for our veterans.

November 3, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia National Guard Named Best in Nation

I have always been proud of the men and women who serve in the West Virginia National Guard. These soldiers and airmen are ready to serve whenever they are needed, whether in response to floods or blizzards in the state, or in support of our Armed Forces around the globe. Regardless of the hour, the West Virginia National Guard is prepared to live its motto, "Always Ready, Always There."

The West Virginia National Guard is a community-based defense force. Our state's 32 armories and two air bases provide facilities for 1,200 full-time and 5,800 part-time National Guard personnel, with an annual economic impact of \$110 million on the West Virginia economy.

Recently, the West Virginia Army National Guard marked another impressive achievement. For the third year in a row, in each of four specific categories selected by the U.S. National Guard Bureau, West Virginia was ranked number one. Those four categories -- percentage of assigned personnel, percentage of available personnel, percentage of personnel who are qualified in a military specialty, and the number of units that are ready to be activated -- are designed to rate the overall readiness of National Guard units across the country. Through the

efforts of the West Virginia Adjutant General, Major General Allen Tackett, and the efforts of the dedicated personnel, West Virginia once again proved that its National Guard is the best in the nation.

To help the Guard keep this record for many years to come, I am working on a number of initiatives designed to maintain this high state of readiness. Of particular note, this summer, the West Virginia National Guard awarded a contract for construction of the new Regional Training Institute at Camp Dawson, Preston County. Last year, I obtained \$15.2 million for construction of the Regional Training Institute, which, when complete, will fill an important role in preparing members of the National Guard, Reserve, and active duty forces. Staff at this specialized complex will provide training in Special Forces, Engineering, selected Combat Arms, and basic leadership training to more than 2,000 men and women each year. It will be the only center of its kind in the Eastern United States.

It is through dedication and effort that the West Virginia National Guard is the highest rated Guard unit in the country. I applaud the Guardsmen for their commitment and hard work, and I know that they will always be ready to answer the call to duty.

November 10, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reaching Out to Autistic Children

One of our state's most exceptional educational resources is the West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall University. The men and women who work at this center provide education, training, and treatment programs for West Virginians who suffer from autism.

An estimated one in every 500 children born today will be diagnosed with autism or one of its related disorders -- mysterious diseases that affect brain and nerve development. Autism generally manifests itself in children in the first two years of life, severely impairing language and communication skills, and impeding social development. But its effects have implications for the whole family unit.

The Autism Training Center is a valuable resource for autism sufferers and their families. Through commitment, creativity, and a team approach, the center's staff helps families to provide autistic individuals with quality life experiences. Since its inception in 1983, more than 600 families of autistic children have benefited from the center's efforts. The demand was so great, in fact, that a satellite center was established in Fairmont so that services would be more readily available to families in Northern West Virginia.

Unfortunately, despite the fact that autism tragically leaves its victims pervasively disabled for an en-

tire lifetime, research into this disease has lagged. To help address that oversight, I am cosponsoring the Advancement in Pediatric Autism Research Act. This legislation would expand, intensify, and coordinate the various efforts underway to prevent and cure autism. The bill would authorize \$3.3 million for autism research and \$7.5 million for work by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that focuses on the incidence and distribution of autism, as well as ways to control it. Additionally, the legislation would authorize \$33 million for five National Institutes of Health centers of excellence to conduct extensive research into autism. The legislation must still win the approval of Congress, which I hope will occur next year.

At the core of the West Virginia Autism Training Center is the philosophy that individuals with autism can lead happy lives, and that they deserve to have the same quality of life as people without disabilities. By pairing these efforts with the research underway at the federal level, we can better understand the causes of autism, how to treat it effectively, and, hopefully, how to prevent it. In this age of such extraordinary progress on preventing, treating, and curing so many serious and debilitating illnesses, we cannot afford to miss this opportunity to make progress in the elimination of autism.

November 17, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Striking a Balance between Jobs and the Environment

Throughout West Virginia in recent weeks, much attention has been focused on a federal court decision in a lawsuit involving mountaintop mining. That decision, which found that some of the practices common in both surface and deep mining are illegal under two federal laws, sent shockwaves throughout the coalfields of West Virginia and beyond.

Immediately after the court issued its ruling in October, in which the judge pointed to Congress as the source of a remedy for the situation, the West Virginia Congressional Delegation set to work to address what the court saw as misinterpretations of federal law. Together, we crafted an amendment that struck a delicate balance between the environment and jobs.

After several weeks of diligent negotiations and working against the odds to have the amendment included in an appropriations package, I finally pressed for a vote on this amendment in the Senate during the waning hours of the session.

The Senate, approving the amendment by a vote of 56-33, sent a clear message about congressional intent in interpreting laws governing mining. Even though the House Leadership was unwilling to give the matter a vote, the Senate vote lays a strong foundation for action on this matter in the next session of Congress, which begins in January.

I appreciate the work of the other members of the West Virginia Congressional Delegation, who have been firmly committed to resolving this crucial issue. Senator Jay Rockefeller and the three House members -- Nick Rahall, Bob Wise, and Alan Mollohan -- worked tirelessly to win support of a legislative remedy to the mountaintop mining problem. Their determination was unflagging to the end.

Coal mining is a matter of striking a balance between environmental conservation and the nation's economic and energy needs. Both ends can be achieved -- implementing strict environmental controls on mining activities, while also protecting jobs that are vital to West Virginia -- if we work together.

West Virginia's coal miners respect the environment; they want clean air and clean water for their children and their children's children. I am equally confident that West Virginia's environmental leaders want to pass along to their children and grandchildren a strong and vibrant economy, fueled by abundant and affordable energy.

The recent court decision has presented this nation with a challenge: Can we be creative enough and wise enough to harmonize economic growth with environmental protection? I believe that we can and we must.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ensuring an Environmental Legacy

One of the greatest challenges facing our nation is the effort to balance the needs associated with protecting the environment while also protecting jobs. Over the years, I have worked to address this challenge by promoting initiatives that preserve the state's natural treasures, while advancing research to better utilize our resources in an environmentally sound manner.

The crown jewel of this effort is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Jefferson County. This center combines state-of-the-art technology and a professional staff to train men and women charged with protecting our nation's natural resources. This year, I obtained \$15 million for operations at the NCTC, which I initiated in 1989 and have, over the ensuing years, secured \$138 million for its further development.

Continuing my support of programs that protect West Virginia's natural treasures, I sought funds for land acquisition, operations, and improved facilities at the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Specifically, this year I added \$400,000 for land acquisition at the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, and \$150,000 for improved public facilities at the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

In 1989, when West Virginia was the only state without a national wildlife

refuge, I added the first funds in an appropriations bill for the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, clearing the path for the purchase of 13 islands to serve as the core of the refuge. The Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, which I started by adding the initial investment of \$2 million to an appropriations bill in 1993, was the nation's 500th federal wildlife refuge. The establishment of these wildlife refuges stands as tangible evidence of my strong commitment to the safeguarding of West Virginia's natural resources while also further developing the state's economy.

Moreover, funding I added to appropriations bills this year has supported and strengthened the New River Gorge National River and the Monongahela National Forest, which host some of the state's most dramatic and sensitive lands, like Seneca Rocks and the Cranberry Glades. The designation of these lands as federally protected not only serves to ensure a special status for the resident flora and fauna, but also allows for recreational opportunities that benefit West Virginia's tourism industry.

Over the years, I have greatly improved our state's environmental record while enhancing our economic well-being. The challenge in the years ahead will be to continue to expand on that record of preservation, even as we build a dynamic economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fulfilling Obligations to Our Veterans

In West Virginia, we are proud of our sons and daughters who have gone into battle to protect the freedoms and values that make America great. But the promise of lifelong health care and benefits for veterans has been too often jeopardized by funding shortfalls. Before adjourning this year, Congress approved two key measures designed to ensure the continuing availability of health care benefits to our veterans.

Congress approved an appropriations bill containing \$1.7 billion that I added for medical care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Last spring, West Virginia veterans began contacting me with concerns that the Clinton Administration's proposed VA budget was inadequate, and that, as a result, the VA would have to cut back the health care services it provides. It was, therefore, very important to add funding to an appropriations bill. With \$1.7 billion added by my two amendments, the enacted bill contained a total of \$19 billion to guarantee that Americans who have served in the defense of our nation would continue to have access to the range of medical services that the VA provides.

While ensuring that basic health care is available to our veterans, Congress also recognized that veterans' health care needs are

changing with the times, and with those new needs in mind, Congress passed and the President signed into law, the "Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act." The aim of that legislation is to enhance extended-care services for the expanding population of aging veterans by improving access to long-term care for severely disabled veterans and broadening the VA's authority to provide nursing home care alternatives for veterans.

Additionally, that legislation authorizes the VA to pay reasonable emergency care costs for services not provided in VA facilities. That new authority answers a critical need for veterans who require emergency services at a non-VA hospital or clinic.

Finally, the legislation provides the VA with the ability to move toward establishing six new cemeteries across the country, something that veterans groups have been seeking for many years.

Abraham Lincoln said very clearly that the nation has an obligation "to care for him that shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan." My efforts to protect medical care services at VA facilities, and the work of Congress to enhance many benefits for veterans and their families, are aimed at meeting those obligations.

December 8, 1999



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Water -- A Basic Element of Growth

Signs of economic growth are evident throughout West Virginia. Our state's unemployment rate is down. Its construction rate is up. But while we applaud progress and eagerly anticipate increased prosperity, we must recognize that brisk economic development brings its own set of problems -- notably, an increased burden on our aging infrastructure.

As new businesses spring up and new homes are built, for example, the strain on our already overburdened and outdated water and sewerage systems increases. When one considers the viability of a thriving tourism industry or a more diversified commercial base -- not to mention the potential consequences of unsafe water on the health of our citizens -- the need for such basic elements as modern water and sewerage systems is obvious.

One area of particular need is the network of "combined" sewers in West Virginia and across the country, which serve as some communities' single collection system to transport both sewage and storm water. During heavy rains, these systems may overflow, leading to the discharge of untreated or partially treated waste into rivers, streams, parks, and even backyards, an occurrence that poses potential health risks.

For affected communities, the effort to control these discharges will likely

constitute one of the largest public works projects they have ever undertaken. For example, the City of Wheeling estimates a need of \$400 million for such projects. In total, the estimated cost for upgrades of combined sewers in West Virginia over the next 20 years is at least \$1 billion, and could easily reach the \$3 billion range.

To help our state address this problem, I am co-sponsoring the "Combined Sewer Overflow Control and Partnership Act." This legislation would help communities to overcome the cost of improving combined sewers by authorizing \$1.5 billion in competitive grants for discharge control projects nationwide. Admittedly, this amount falls short of the anticipated need, but it does signal a growing awareness of the magnitude of the problem, and provides a solid foundation from which to tackle this challenge. In addition, the legislation would advance cost-effective, technology-based controls and would help communities to avoid installing unnecessary controls.

If left unaddressed, this problem of outdated, overburdened sewerage systems will only become a bigger financial burden for our state. This legislation, therefore, is a good fundamental step toward helping West Virginia continue to attract new businesses and develop its economy in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Don't Believe This E-Mail Hoax

In this age of information and technology, one of the most powerful and manipulated tools is the Internet. As Internet access has increased, more and more people have begun to rely on the service. But, unfortunately, some of the information disseminated over the Internet is inaccurate.

For several months, I have received constituent letters and e-mails regarding the so-called "Bill 602P," supposedly introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by a "Congressman Schnell," that would impose a 5-cent tax on every e-mail transmission, as well as a \$20- to \$40-per-month surcharge on all Internet e-mail activity.

According to the so-called legislation, the money would be collected by Internet Service Providers, and then turned over to the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to assist with recovery of any financial losses that the Postal Service may incur due to a growing preference for e-mail rather than hard-copy letters.

In reality, no such legislation has been proposed in Congress. As a matter of fact, no "Congressman Schnell" exists. Furthermore, the USPS has no authority to charge for e-mail messages sent over the Internet. Nor, according to Postal officials, would they

support such legislation. In fact, the USPS actually operated with a budget surplus last year.

The 602P tax is a hoax that has been propagated by a widespread e-mail chain letter. The origins of this chain letter are unknown, but it is speculated that it was first circulated throughout Canada, targeting the Canadian Parliament, and was subsequently modified to reflect agencies within the U.S. government.

The Internet is an amazing device that has the ability to quickly and easily disseminate needed information. Conversely, it can spread false information just as quickly and easily. The high volume of inquiries to my office about the so-called 602P bill is an interesting commentary on the tremendous influence that the Internet has come to have in our modern lives. While the Internet serves as a valuable communication tool, it is disconcerting that such hoaxes are being perpetrated on West Virginians.

I hope that West Virginians have suffered no adverse consequences as a result of this widespread hoax, and I urge all Internet users to view with a healthy skepticism future such e-mail chain letters. To find out more information about this Internet hoax, visit the USPS Internet site at www.usps.com.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Successful Year for West Virginia

Throughout 1999, I continued my efforts to advance a number of ongoing appropriations initiatives that are improving the lives of West Virginians. But much of my time and energy this year was also devoted to responding to three emergencies that threatened the livelihoods and well-being of thousands of West Virginians.

The first of those emergencies came in the spring, when one of our state's core industries -- steel manufacturing -- was reeling from the unfair actions of foreign steelmakers. Because record levels of foreign steel were being illegally dumped on our shores, domestic steel prices had plummeted, threatening thousands of jobs and leaving American steel companies in dire need of short-term relief. In response, I authored the \$1 billion Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Act to provide immediate assistance to American steelmakers who have had to cut jobs and close mills in the wake of the illegal dumping.

On another front, this past summer, when record drought conditions gripped West Virginia and the mid-Atlantic region, I worked for passage of a package of emergency aid for farmers. With my support, Congress approved \$8.7 billion in relief for farmers who had experienced losses due to natural disasters or depressed markets in 1999. Further-

more, because the West Virginia Department of Agriculture identified assistance to cattle farmers as the state's greatest drought-related need, I added \$200 million to that package specifically to help livestock farmers recover from drought losses.

In the fall, another emergency surfaced when I was alerted that retired miners and their dependents faced the possible loss of health insurance next year unless monies were added to a special federal health benefits fund. To help ensure continued health care coverage, I added an amendment to an appropriations bill that transferred \$68 million to the retired miners' health care fund. This short-term fix will continue health care benefits to more than 66,000 retired miners and their dependents, including more than 19,500 West Virginia men and women who are mostly elderly and on limited incomes, providing some time for the committees of jurisdiction to craft a long-term fix.

These three emergencies made this year perhaps one of the most challenging of my career of public service for West Virginia. But winning expeditious solutions to these emergencies also made 1999 one of the most rewarding. Fresh from the fray, therefore, I enter my 42nd year of service to West Virginia in the United States Senate with enthusiasm, prepared to tackle the new challenges that lie ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Millennium Mirage

There is good news for procrastinators who crossed the threshold of the year 2000 with trepidation, contemplating the long list of goals that had been set for the new millennium but left unfulfilled. And what is the good news? The third millennium does not start for another year!

That's right! In the midst of all the hype and the flying corks, celebrants seemed to have neglected the fact that the true beginning of the next century does not come until January 1, 2001.

I can understand the confusion many Americans must feel at the moment. Throughout 1999, our nation was immersed in a wave of advertising and public relations messages, generated by corporate giants and quoted by members of the media, who conveniently ignored historical and factual accuracy as they pushed Year 2000 products and futuristic messages in the hope, perhaps, of profiting from a manufactured millennium mirage.

In truth, it was 99 years ago, in 1901-- not 100 years

ago, or 1900 -- that newspapers across the country recognized the beginning of the 20th century. From the Chicago Tribune, to the Evening Times in the Nation's Capital, to West Virginia's own Charleston Gazette, editors nationwide marked the start of January 1, 1901, with reflections on the 1800's and predictions of technological advances and societal changes in the "new" century, which they recognized had just begun.

To call the year 2000 the beginning of the new millennium is a bit like marking a foot at 11 inches. Accuracy is far too important to miscount history by a whole year in the hunger for a good party or big profits.

Annoying as it has been to watch respected individuals falling all over themselves trying to find more and more ingenious ways to mark the turning of this particular calendar page, I have to admit that I will enjoy watching just what these creative minds might dream up next year to whip the nation into a second frenzy over the real beginning of the third millennium.

January 5, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Renewing America's Soul

Something is missing in America today. We seem to have lost touch with some fundamental underpinning of our national soul, and it has never been more apparent than it is today.

All too many Americans now, more than ever before, seem to lack an appreciation or even comprehension of the spiritual aspect in our daily lives. In fact, we appear to have gone so far afield in our quest to avoid offending anyone that we have all but banished any reference to religion from any public forum.

Moreover, rampant materialism, the likes of which we have become accustomed to seeing in recent holiday seasons, underscores the sad reality that, in our nation today, what one has too often defines our view of success, rather than what one is. In many circles, the state of one's bank account means more than the state of one's soul.

Despite this rather discouraging state of affairs, I believe that the flame of spirituality can be rekindled in America.

I sense in our land a deep hunger for something more than prosperity, something more than technology, something deeper than deep pockets -- something that sustains the human soul, that lifts it up, that transcends our baser natures. I hear the clanging of alarm

bells from parents who cannot come to grips with the state of our schools and the violence threatening our children.

I note a growing recognition of the dangers posed by a society which has evolved from a collective avoidance of religion and moral teachings.

These signals I see as evidence that the time is ripe for a return in America to the religious values that call forth the best of human nature.

I believe that we are experiencing a growing demand for a return to religious beliefs, and I echo the call to all of us who believe in a Supreme Being to put God back into the daily life of our nation.

West Virginia has, to its credit, managed to preserve its religious and moral underpinnings, but that foundation may be weakened if we who believe do not rededicate ourselves to the task of putting the Creator first in our daily lives.

Such a simple act -- putting God first -- may be difficult. It may demand courage. But faith has always had courage at its core.

So, as we stand at the crossroads of a new year, contemplating the path ahead, let us be guided by a Divine Providence to a future of renewed spirituality in America



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Challenge of China

The unlikely dateline of Shepherdstown, West Virginia, on worldwide news dispatches concerning the recent round of Middle East peace talks between Israel and Syria is but the latest example of how international events frequently have local consequences.

Indeed, it does not require the occurrence of peace negotiations on West Virginia soil to remind us that events occurring in far-flung corners of the Earth can have a direct and immediate impact on our daily lives.

In the last 50 years, it was the Soviet Union that preoccupied U.S. military leaders and foreign policymakers. Whether the coming years will produce a similar regional or global superpower remains unknown, but one nation that bears watching is China, a country with which the United States has a complex, and potentially pivotal, relationship.

Trade is a major component of that relationship. The U.S. trade deficit with China reached a record \$57 billion last year. As long as such deficits exist, domestic manufacturers, including West Virginia companies, are hampered in their efforts to participate in the budding global economy. Opening China to U.S. imports is central to correcting the trade imbalance between the U.S. and

China, and to developing a healthy, mutually beneficial trading partnership.

National security is another major point of contention between the U.S. and China, particularly in the wake of last year's discovery that China engaged in espionage to steal sophisticated nuclear weapons technology from the U.S. Not only does China possess limited numbers of nuclear weapons capable of reaching the American mainland, but U.S. intelligence also indicates that China is selling its nuclear technology to rogue nations such as North Korea and Iran, both of which pose potential national security threats to the United States.

Additionally, the national security concerns provoked by China are helping to fuel the push for a U.S. National Missile Defense system, a costly new program that will require a major investment of tax dollars -- dollars that will not be available to address local concerns, such as education, highways, health care, and the like.

West Virginia may never play host to high level government meetings concerning U.S.-China relations, but we would be well advised to watch China carefully, and to be mindful that we in West Virginia frequently have a personal stake in the actions of other nations.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tax Help Hitting the Highway

Once again, tax season is upon us. As tax forms arrive at the libraries and post offices, and the reminders spring up that tax filing deadlines are nearing, the unease that so many citizens feel about dealing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) returns. But, in response to customer suggestions, the IRS is trying to simplify the system and make it easier for taxpayers to file their returns.

The IRS, recognizing the need to cut red tape, is attempting to put the days of confusing forms and directions in the past. A keystone to this effort, and one with particular appeal to rural West Virginians, is the new "Highway 1040" initiative.

"Highway 1040" is designed to provide taxpayers who live in remote areas with first-hand assistance in the preparation of their federal income tax returns and the opportunity to sit and discuss their tax concerns face-to-face with IRS representatives. On February 5, 2000, at sites in Bluefield, Lewisburg, Logan, Sutton, Morgantown, Moorefield, and Romney, IRS officials will be available on a first-come, first-served basis to answer questions concerning the preparation of Form 1040, Form 1040 Schedules A, B, and R, Form 1040EZ, Form 1040A, and the Earned Income Tax Credit application. Those interested in participating should

call 1-800-829-1040 to learn about the location and times for the "Highway 1040" program closest to their home. Anyone interested in taking advantage of this outreach program should bring all of their tax documents with them, including W-2 forms, Social Security numbers, documentation of child care expenses, itemized deductions, and bank statements.

In addition, the IRS operates seven free, walk-in assistance centers across West Virginia, as well as toll-free assistance over the telephone at 1-800-829-1040. Five of these IRS centers -- in Bridgeport, Charleston, Huntington, Parkersburg, and Wheeling -- are open year round, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The Martinsburg center is open from 8:00 to 4:30 on Wednesdays, and the Sophia center is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, also from 8:00 until 4:30.

Tax time can be frustrating. The forms and instructions can be confusing and difficult to follow. But, by offering free assistance and working with taxpayers on a one-on-one basis, the IRS is working to make the tax season as pain-free as possible. West Virginians who have questions or concerns about their taxes may wish to take advantage of these free IRS initiatives.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting the Future of Social Security

For more than 60 years, Social Security has been instrumental in easing the financial burden on elderly citizens with limited incomes, and in protecting families after the death or disability of a breadwinner. But the system faces a financial challenge. By the year 2030, there will be twice as many Americans 65 years or older as there are today. Once the baby boomers begin to retire, the number of Social Security recipients will exceed the number of people paying into the program. If no action is taken to deal with this problem, the Social Security Trust Fund is projected to be exhausted by 2034.

Recognizing this, many West Virginians have written to me to ask about various alternatives to shore up Social Security's long-term solvency. Common sense suggests that the government should set aside the Social Security surplus -- which last year totaled about \$124 billion -- to pay future benefits. But this misunderstands how Social Security is financed.

Putting the Social Security surplus on a shelf would be the equivalent of hoarding cash in a mattress instead of putting it into a bank. If the Social Security surplus is not invested in bonds, stocks, or even a traditional savings account, it loses its earning power.

Social Security surpluses are, by law, invested

in Treasury bonds so that the money can grow and be used to build businesses and create jobs. These bonds are placed into the Social Security Trust Fund as government "IOUs." In 2014, when the number of beneficiaries is projected to be larger than the number of workers paying into the system, the federal government will have to buy back the bonds to pay benefits. The current debate among those interested in ensuring Social Security's long-term solvency focuses on how best to prepare for this eventual financial crunch. Debt repayment will help to ease the fiscal pressures, but that, by itself, may not provide the government with adequate funds to pay all of the anticipated beneficiaries.

In 1935, when President Roosevelt signed the law creating Social Security, he said that it would "give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age." As the various Congressional committees of jurisdiction continue to craft a plan for Social Security, I hope that they will keep that ideal in mind. The viability of the Social Security system -- one that works for all Americans over the long term -- relies on a sound plan for the future demands which will be placed upon it.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Dreams of Riches Turn to Rags

Every day, it seems as if another sweepstakes entry arrives in the mail containing another attractive promise for the recipient to "get rich quick." While many companies may use sweepstakes offers responsibly, others have used such offers as a ploy to bilk millions of dollars from consumers in West Virginia and across the nation.

One common approach of such companies is to falsely imply that a purchase is necessary to qualify for the sweepstakes or to increase one's odds of winning. Frequently, companies use clever typefaces, incorporate official-looking symbols and gimmicky labels, or personalize the mailing to make the addressee believe the solicitation is a genuine letter of congratulations for winning.

A recent survey by the American Association of Retired Persons revealed that the elderly are particularly vulnerable to sweepstakes fraud. Among other results, the survey found that 40 percent of seniors polled believed that there was a connection between purchasing a product and winning the sweepstakes.

In response, Congress recently approved, and the President signed into law, legislation to crack down on these deceptive tactics. This new law prohibits companies from using certain misleading language. A company's mailings, for

example, cannot tell the addressee that they have won a prize unless they really have. Sweepstakes companies will, by law, be prevented from printing envelopes with, "You are our next million-dollar winner," or "You have already won \$10 million," unless you truly have won.

In addition, the new law requires companies to clearly point out that no purchase is necessary to enter a contest, and that a purchase will not increase the chances of winning. The law also gives the U.S. Postal Service the power to impose tougher civil penalties on those companies that do not follow the new regulations.

Finally, the new law provides consumers with the opportunity to remove their names from a sweepstakes company's mailing list. Information on how to request removal of a name must be included in every mailing sent out by the company. Once contacted, the company has 60 days to remove the consumer's name from its mailing list.

Sadly, too many people are vulnerable to promises of fame and fortune, when all that is actually being delivered are false hopes and empty promises. I hope that this new law will eliminate much of the misleading information that West Virginians receive from sweepstakes companies.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Working to Simplify Tax Filing

Tax season is never fun. No one enjoys the annual ritual of filling out tax forms, and signing a big check can be downright painful. But, as tax deadlines approach, there is some good news for West Virginia's taxpayers.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), to its credit, is working to make the filing process as smooth and as simple as possible. One way that the IRS is trying to speed the filing and refund process is by allowing citizens to file their tax returns electronically. There are three ways that a citizen can file electronically: through a tax professional, through a personal computer, or over the telephone.

According to the IRS, filing electronically is the fastest and most accurate way to file a return, and it cuts the processing time in half. Additionally, for anyone simply more comfortable with real mail than with e-mail, federal tax forms and publications are available over the Internet at www.irs.gov.

West Virginians can find free tax-filing assistance at offices in Bridgeport, Charleston, Huntington, Martinsburg, Parkersburg, Sophia, and Wheeling. West

Virginians can learn the exact location and hours of operation of these offices, or receive free tax help over the telephone, by calling 1-800-829-1040.

On another tax note, thousands of West Virginians can benefit from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which is intended to offset some of the increases in living expenses and Social Security taxes. EITC eligibility is based on income. A working taxpayer is eligible for the EITC if that person earns an adjusted gross income of \$10,200 and has no children. If the taxpayer has children, that income level increases to a ceiling of \$30,580. The maximum amount of the tax credit ranges from \$347 for taxpayers with no children to \$3,816 for taxpayers with two or more children.

Taxpayers should take some comfort in knowing that free help is available from the IRS for citizens who are trying to wade through the sometimes complicated filing process. I hope that West Virginians will take advantage of these IRS services, and will avail themselves of information that can help them make the most of their filing options.

February 16, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taking Count of America

In Article I, Section 2, the U.S. Constitution mandates that, every ten years, the federal government undertake a count of the people, called the census. The first census, in 1790, counted just under four million people living in the United States. This year, the government will once again take on the arduous task of counting America's population, one by one, house by house, community by community, and documenting vital information about each person.

One of the first things learned from the census is how many people live in the United States. But there is much more to this process than merely counting heads. The census is the cornerstone of knowledge about the United States, and the demographic information provided by the census lays the foundation for much of the nation's future governance.

The census results will help to determine where roads, hospitals, and libraries are needed. The statistics will give municipal planners the ability to select the best locations for schools, senior citizens centers, and playgrounds. The information will help the government determine how best to serve the needs of the people on the local, state, and national levels. Every year, billions in federal dollars, and a significant percentage of state resources, are allocated by

formulas that are based on the information gathered during the decennial census.

In addition to the public uses, census statistics are also used by private-sector businesses to help locate potential markets and to reduce financial risks. Thus, the information gathered by this year's census can lead to economic opportunities, job creation, and the greater availability of goods and services.

In the spring, the Census Bureau will mail each household a census questionnaire form. Ideally, the census would be complete when 100 percent of these forms are returned. Unfortunately, the national response rate has fallen for the past three census counts, dropping from 78 percent in 1970 to 75 percent in 1980 to 65 percent in 1990. In an attempt to reverse this trend, the Census Bureau is carrying out an aggressive public information effort to heighten awareness about the 2000 census and encourage participation in the process. In addition, census takers will visit local neighborhoods to count those people who have not mailed back their forms.

Participating in the census is a civic responsibility with broad ramifications. I encourage West Virginians to take the time to complete a census form and return it to the Census Bureau. We all have a major stake in ensuring that every West Virginian is counted.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping the Promise to Retired Coal Miners

Last year, the United Mine Workers Combined Benefit Fund, which pays for the health care of retired coal miners and their families, faced a significant financial shortfall that, without immediate action, would have resulted in benefit cuts this spring. That shortfall, which resulted from rapidly rising health care costs and adverse court decisions impacting the fund, meant that there might not be sufficient funds to cover anticipated health care costs through the end of this year.

With the help of Congressman Rahall, who lobbied key House Members, I fought hard for and won a \$68 million transfer of funding to the retired miners' health care fund. This funding is critical because it means that there will not be any benefit cuts this year. But this solution is a short term remedy for the crisis facing the retired miners' health care fund. The problem requires a long term solution -- the kind of remedial action that would ensure that retired miners and their dependents would not have to worry from month to month whether their benefits would lapse after this year.

In its budget request of Congress, the Administration included \$346 million over the next ten years to ensure that retired coal miners and their families main-

tain the health benefits they have been promised. The funding would ensure the long term solvency of the Combined Benefit Fund. Retired miners and their dependents certainly deserve the security and peace of mind that would be provided by a more permanent fix.

Today, the typical beneficiary of the Combined Benefit Fund is a widow of approximately 78 years of age, whose monthly income is a \$140 UMWA pension check, supplemented by a social security check.

Now that the Administration has signed on to a long term solution, it is time for the Congress to follow through with necessary legislation. The committees with jurisdiction over this issue, on which I do not serve, need to move forward to craft a fair, balanced, permanent solution to the problems encountered by the Combined Benefit Fund.

In 1946, President Harry Truman and the United Mine Workers of America reached an agreement that opened the way for greater mechanization of coal mines in exchange for cradle-to-grave health care coverage for miners and their families. The federal government needs to act to ensure that the assurances provided to miners more than five decades ago are preserved.

March 1, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hearing from Students On School Safety

On April 8, high school students from across West Virginia will gather for the "Robert C. Byrd Youth Summit 2000," an event designed to give young people a voice in the effort to craft common sense ways to help end youth violence. This summit will be an opportunity to hear directly from students about an issue that directly affects them, and to gain a better understanding of their views and concerns.

The Youth Summit will be held at West Virginia University, and, through interactive televised links, at seven other sites across the state. The need for this type of event, and for a renewed effort to break the cycle of violence that has permeated our nation's schools, was made frighteningly evident recently when a six-year-old boy took a loaded gun to his school near Flint, Michigan, and shot and killed one of his classmates. This tragedy begs some very basic questions.

First, and perhaps most importantly, what has gone so wrong in our society that our young people are turning to guns as a way to solve their problems? How is it that so many children are finding easy access to guns? And what can be done to end

this cycle of violence?

In the time since the tragedy at Columbine High School last year, school violence has not stopped. The tragic scene of students and teachers pouring out of a school in fear has repeated itself in Atlanta and, most recently, in Michigan. For some reason that we cannot seem to get our arms around, children continue to injure and to kill one another.

That is why I think the upcoming Youth Summit is important. It is a chance to hear directly from students and get their thoughts on what is contributing to violent acts among their peers. It is an opportunity to listen and to learn about how such issues as drugs, alcohol, and violence in the media affect their lives. Student participation is a necessary component in any effort to curb school violence.

Putting an end to school violence will require broad participation from all sectors. No one can be given a pass. I hope that this nation will finally commit itself to take the difficult steps that are needed to break this cycle of violence, and to rebuild that serene school environment that every student and teacher deserves.

March 8, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Educating Consumers On Credit Card Dangers

At one time, credit cards were considered a luxury item, a symbol of the wealth and success enjoyed by a select few. But that is no longer the case. Banks and credit card companies have become more competitive as they try to attract new customers, and credit cards are now available to everyone from CEO's to college freshmen. As the credit card industry finds new ways to reach the consumer, the Internet and electronic mail are poised to play a greater role in soliciting consumers to become cardholders.

Federal law requires that consumers be properly informed of interest rates, fees, and consumer protections when credit card solicitations are sent through the postal system. But credit card companies can circumvent these disclosure requirements by sending their solicitations through electronic mail. Accordingly, a consumer who receives a solicitation on the computer may not even be aware of basic consumer protection information, although such information is often buried in a separate Internet site.

Consequently, I recently offered an amendment, which was unanimously adopted by the Senate, that would help to educate consumers, empowering them to act as responsible financial managers. My amendment would re-

quire that every credit card solicitation or advertisement that is electronically mailed to a consumer be accompanied by an electronic pamphlet, or an Internet link to a pamphlet, that provides consumer-friendly information on choosing and using credit cards.

This pamphlet, currently published by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), defines the various credit card interest rates and miscellaneous fees that may apply, explains how monthly statements are calculated, and outlines consumer rights. The pamphlet also provides a telephone number, mailing address, and an on-line form for consumers who wish to file a complaint with the FTC regarding a credit card solicitation.

Credit card companies give consumers all the information they need on the benefits and prerequisites of a credit card, but those companies need to balance that information with the costs and responsibilities of having a card. I hope that my amendment will help to better educate West Virginians who receive these Internet credit card solicitations. I urge consumers to read the information provided in the pamphlet and to make an educated and responsible choice when it comes to credit cards.

March 15, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Rocky Road Toward Peace in Kosovo

It was just one year ago, in March 1999, that NATO forces launched the first air strikes against Yugoslavia to stop the murderous assault of Slobodan Milosevic on Kosovo and the ethnic Albanians who live there.

The war ended 78 days after it began, but not before claiming thousands of Albanian victims, many of them killed by the Yugoslav soldiers and many more uprooted from their homes and forced across the borders into refugee camps in neighboring countries. The end of hostilities brought the beginning of a massive NATO peacekeeping effort. Currently, 37,000 soldiers from an array of NATO nations - including nearly 5,500 men and women from the United States -- are stationed in Kosovo in an effort to secure the region, resettle the people, and prevent the rekindling of hostilities.

The U.S. went into Kosovo with the best of intentions. Our men and women in uniform performed brilliantly. Although it was a joint NATO operation, America provided the military might and leadership to bring the campaign to a quick and decisive conclusion, without the loss of a single soldier in combat.

But now that the dust has settled, it is time to take a hard look at the future of the U.S. commitment to

keeping the peace in Kosovo. The Clinton Administration is seeking \$2.6 billion for U.S. peacekeeping operations in Kosovo this year. Meanwhile, the situation there remains tense, with regular flare-ups of violence between Albanians and Serbs.

The United States, along with our NATO allies, is finding that winning the war in Kosovo was a lot easier than winning the peace.

It is my hope that the Administration will closely examine the situation in Kosovo with an eye toward protecting our troops, accomplishing our mission, and bringing the American forces home. It may take time, but that must be our goal. America does not need another open-ended commitment of U.S. troops to peacekeeping in a troubled corner of the world that shows little sign of reconciling the deep-rooted differences among its own citizens.

West Virginians have always answered the call to duty and have served with distinction in U.S. military operations throughout the world, including in Kosovo. Our men and women in uniform are a priceless asset to this nation, and the President has a duty to make sure that America's military might is employed wisely.

March 22, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Commitment to Clean Power

America is the greatest nation on Earth, with power and influence almost without historical parallel. But the nation's continued strength ultimately depends upon the robust health of our domestic capabilities in technology development, manufacturing, communications, and transportation.

While the United States currently enjoys the benefits of an expanding economy, this sustained growth demands ever-increasing amounts of energy.

Over the years, the nation has wisely invested in the research and development of innovative, clean, and efficient technologies that will help to meet those growing energy needs. Much of the work to reach that worthy goal has long been underway at the Morgantown Energy Technology Center (METC) in West Virginia. In recent years, that facility joined a Pittsburgh Center under the umbrella name Federal Energy Technology Center.

Together, these facilities were recently renamed the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), becoming the fifteenth national lab in the country.

That action signaled a recognition by the federal government that fossil fuels -- especially coal and natural gas -- must continue to be an important part of the national and international energy reservoir. The scientists who work at the NETL are helping to light a

pathway for the new era of energy use that will be important to ensuring that a comfortable standard of living exists for generations to come.

As the work at this laboratory is proving, economic growth does not have to mean environmental retrenchment. We can both expand our job base and protect our planet.

Thanks to the laboratory's research into clean coal technologies, and through the demonstration and deployment of these technologies at power plants and factories, coal can continue to be a viable "cleaner and greener" fuel for power generation. Furthermore, such American-made clean coal technologies pack a twin punch because they not only can provide a variety of positive benefits for the U.S., but they can also provide other nations which may acquire these technologies with the resources to develop in more environmentally friendly ways.

If we are to continue to find new and better ways to strengthen our economy and protect our environment, we must also find ways to use fossil fuels cleanly. Skeptics may say that it cannot be done, but I believe that it can. Through the talent, dedication, and know-how in place at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Morgantown, we can work to solve the nation's energy-ecology conundrum.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ending the Social Security Earnings Test

During the Great Depression, when jobs were scarce, Congress put in place an earnings test on Social Security benefits that reduced the size of a person's Social Security check if that person's earnings exceeded a designated level. This earnings test was designed to encourage older Americans to retire and, thus, to open more jobs for younger men and women during a time when jobs were difficult to find. While that may have been the situation across the country during the Depression, it certainly is not the case today.

In this economy, where jobs are more plentiful, many Americans are choosing to work well beyond their 65th birthday. However, because of the Depression-era Social Security earnings test, seniors who choose to work have one dollar in Social Security benefits deferred until retirement for every three dollars earned over \$17,000 on the job.

In response to this situation, I supported, and Congress recently approved, the Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act. This Act eliminates the earnings test, and also allows Americans who have reached retirement age to continue to work without

a deferral assessed on their Social Security benefits.

Once this bill is signed into law, it will be retroactive to January 1, 2000. Refund checks will be issued by the Social Security Administration to affected seniors as early as this May. Beneficiaries will receive a mailing that will explain the changes in the regulations. The Social Security Administration predicts that this measure may add as much as \$6,700 to the income of each affected senior this year. The changes will help to ease the burden on seniors who supplement their fixed incomes with part- or full-time employment.

The Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act will help workers who are not receiving their full Social Security benefits. It will also help those seniors who want to work but are not doing so because they fear the earnings test would consume most of their earned benefits. As the baby-boomer generation moves closer to retirement, it is especially important that older Americans who want to work have the opportunity to do so. I am pleased that Congress has finally taken appropriate steps to remedy this problem to better protect working senior citizens.

April 5, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Getting Beyond Gas Prices

Across the country, gasoline prices have been on the rise. Primarily as a result of our nation's increased dependence on foreign fuel, the United States has been left vulnerable to the whims of other nations as they decide what level of crude oil to pump from the ground. I do not want the U.S. to be at the mercy of any nation, let alone those on which we rely for oil. That is why I believe it is long past time to renew the effort to implement a comprehensive national energy strategy, one that provides for the strategic uses of all our domestic energy resources, including the fossil fuels of oil, natural gas, and coal. The nation needs to explore the opportunities before us to increase America's energy independence.

Meeting this goal requires a strong commitment not only to research and development of new energy efficient and environmentally sound technologies, but also to their widespread commercial application. This can be an expensive endeavor. That is why I have coauthored the Energy Security Tax Act. The legislation would help to turn technological breakthroughs achieved in the laboratory into realities installed in the marketplace. Additionally,

the legislation would provide targeted tax incentives to encourage the demonstration and commercial deployment of many energy efficient technologies, some of which are under development at labs in West Virginia. Targeted tax incentives would help to capitalize on American research and development, and would remove a portion of the financial risk involved in the commercial use of energy efficient technologies.

An efficient, clean, and stable supply of energy is essential to the future growth and health of the American economy. The time has come for our nation to readdress our national energy strategy, taking a multipronged approach that looks at the whole range of available fuels and encourages the development and deployment of new technologies and conservation practices. America should not tremble each time foreign oil producing nations flex their muscles. The Energy Security Act will help to meet this challenge, serving as an underpinning for a new energy strategy that recognizes the importance of economic development and environmental protection at the same time.

April 9, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Earth Day 2000

April 22, 2000, marks the 30th anniversary of the celebration of the first Earth Day. Earth Day was established in 1970 and was intended to raise the consciousness of Americans to the plight of the environment. Since then, Earth Day has been celebrated annually by increasing numbers of Americans and is now observed in more than 140 countries around the world. The wonders of nature are truly amazing, and I have worked throughout my career to protect and preserve the beauty of West Virginia.

Growing up in Southern West Virginia, I was surrounded by all the blessings that the mountains of West Virginia can bestow. I remember fondly those long summer afternoons when I would traipse through the thick green undergrowth of the forests. I remember the sweet taste of mountain spring water and the call of the whippoorwill among the mountain laurel. I believe that there is nothing quite so extraordinary as the natural beauty that is the Creator's handiwork.

Consequently, I have worked tirelessly to preserve the flora and fauna of West Virginia. I initiated the appropriations a few years ago to construct the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Jefferson County. This cen-

ter trains men and women to protect our nation's natural resources and is dedicated to educating the public about the importance of environmental conservation. In fact, just this month, I secured the support of Department of the Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt for a new, three-story dormitory at the NCTC to utilize more fully the facility's capabilities.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added funds to establish the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, and the New River George National River. The federal designation of these lands not only ensures the protection of some of our state's greatest natural treasures, but it also provides for recreational activities that allow visitors to enjoy West Virginia's scenic wonders.

This Earth Day, as the world once again renews its commitment to the preservation of the environment, West Virginians can be proud of the efforts we have undertaken to protect the grandeur and beauty of our state. We have proved that economic prosperity and environmental preservation can coexist. The challenge for the years ahead is to ensure that this delicate balance continues.

April 19, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Students Speak Out on School Violence

In today's reality, it is unfortunately true: school shootings can happen anywhere, at any time. The challenge is in preventing them. Recently, West Virginia high school students took up that challenge during the Robert C. Byrd Youth Summit. Held at West Virginia University and seven other sites throughout the state, the summit was designed to include young people in the discussion on how to reduce youth violence.

When asked about the causes of youth violence, students pointed to peer pressure, a strong feeling of isolation, and an eroding home and family life. They said that too many parents fail to set strong examples for their children and do not play an active role in their child's life.

Delegates focused on the taproot of the problem. In this fast-paced society where family members often only meet when they pass at the front door, the sense of family and of belonging has been lost. There is a strong undercurrent of isolation among young people. Replacing this feeling of isolation with one of belonging is crucial.

Instead of parents setting their children's value structure, it seems as if the media have taken over that role today. When they come home from school, the first step for students seems to be clicking on the com-

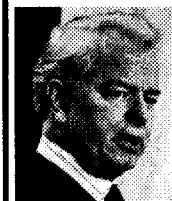
puter or television. By stepping away from family and community, the media takes over. As family relationships disappear, the media further isolate our children.

When asked what would best prevent youth violence, student-delegates identified the need for safe places where young people could gather after school. Delegates endorsed conflict resolution programs and peer mediation efforts as strong prevention initiatives. The students also felt that there should be a greater restriction on access to weapons in the home. They said that weapons should be locked up and kept away from children.

Part of the cure for youth violence, I believe, can only be found by digging deep into America's soul. Talk of morals and values has long been brushed off as old-fashioned and out of step. But, as the student-delegates pointed out, we are missing something that used to be a basic component in our society, and we desperately need to rediscover it.

For the sake of our young people, it is high time to restore the peaceful schoolhouse we once knew so well, a schoolhouse which fosters creativity, inspires learning, and, most importantly, provides each student with a safe haven for obtaining the skills necessary to lead America in the 21st century.

April 26, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Answering the Call of Our Firefighters

Fire is one of man's oldest friends, providing warmth, security, and comfort. Yet, fire also presents a constant source of danger if not kept in check and guarded against.

In much of rural America, the only protection against fire and other disasters is the local volunteer fire department. The men and women who make up these volunteer organizations are always ready to answer the call, whether it comes in the dark of night or in the middle of the workday. The front line of community protection has always been, and will always be, the vigilance and commitment of the involved citizens of the community. Yet, this vigilance carries a price tag that is growing too quickly for many rural communities to meet.

Volunteer fire departments are struggling to pay for the equipment and training that make the dangerous job of fighting fires safer. Too many volunteer fire departments cannot afford adequate protective clothing, safety devices, and proper training. At the same time, firefighters are asked to be prepared to respond to terrorism, hazardous materials accidents, and natural disasters, while also educating their communities on safety and fire prevention. These men and women who are always ready to answer the alarm bell cannot rely

solely on small fundraising efforts. Pancake breakfasts, bingo nights, and spaghetti suppers are good, but they are not enough. A greater commitment at the federal level is needed to help local departments provide vital emergency services.

That is why I am co-sponsoring the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act, which would authorize \$5 billion over five years for grants to local fire departments. These grants could be used for just about any purpose that is related to firefighting, including community education and prevention programs, firefighter training, equipment purchases, or hiring additional firefighters. This funding would be a significant investment in the effort to make rural communities safer places to live.

The work of volunteer firefighters takes grit, determination, courage, and energy. It also requires support. The Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act would provide that support, enabling local fire departments to equip and train their firefighters. The legislation would be an important step toward helping to provide those men and women who stand on the front lines of community protection with the resources necessary to do their jobs better and more safely.

May 3, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Throwing Out the TV Trash

Concerns about the declining standards of broadcast television, and the effect that this slide is having on our children, have been voiced for some time by parents across the nation. Parents are fed up with the rising tide of glorified violence and increasingly explicit sexual depictions flooding into their homes through the television set. Despite the calls for restraint, the broadcast industry continues down a path that includes more, rather than less, unsuitable programming.

My concern about television programming hinges on the effect that it has on children. America's young people are being brought up in front of a television set, too often left alone to soak up the images of gratuitous sex and violent acts. Opinion surveys make clear that the overwhelming majority of Americans continue to recognize the risk that inappropriate television programming poses to children. A 1996 poll found that 90 percent of Americans believed that the glut of sex and sexual references on television contributes to the alarming number of children who are sexually active. Since that time, as indecency on television has grown more graphic, a number of leading child development experts have voiced concern about the way in which television, in conjunction with the rest of the electronic media, is con-

tributing to increased sexual activity of children at younger ages.

When presented with this evidence and the concerns of parents, many broadcasters have routinely denied that a problem exists. In fact, some television network executives have admitted that their strategy is to increase the sex and vulgarity on television to compete with racier shows on cable channels. These responses raise real questions about the commitment of broadcasters to serve the public interest.

Consequently, I have sent a letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) chairman to urge him to reconsider whether, by airing such material, broadcasters are meeting their legal obligations. Broadcasters are granted licenses to use the public airwaves. But these licenses carry with them a responsibility to provide educational and informational programming for children. Steps should be taken to protect against the further erosion of broadcasting standards.

I hope that the FCC takes these concerns to heart and rededicates itself to this purpose. Children are impressionable; they can be easily led astray. We must work to ensure that tasteless television programming does not further contribute to the pollution of their minds and the moral decline of our nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Graduation Parties Safe And Alcohol-Free

In the coming weeks, high school seniors throughout West Virginia will complete final examinations, don cap and gown, and head off to college or career. But there is one important lesson that our students should be taught before graduation night: a few drinks can demolish years of effort in school, and erase whatever promising future may lie ahead.

All too often, it seems that the joy of high school commencement is marred by alcohol-related injuries and fatalities. At this time of year, newspapers too frequently print photographs of commencement ceremonies on their front pages, while also carrying tragic accounts of traffic accidents involving young people and alcohol.

Unfortunately, West Virginia is no stranger to this deadly combination. Our state has been ranked twelfth in the nation in the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities of individuals under the age of 21. But, with a concerted effort, such tragedies can be prevented.

As an essential part of this effort, parents should discuss with their children the dangers of alcohol. Nothing can replace a serious, heartfelt talk between parent and child. While this may seem obvious, a 1999 nationwide survey found that only 25 percent of parents talk with their children about the complete avoidance of alcohol. That statistic is much too low, es-

pecially considering the fact that alcohol is a major factor in the three leading causes of death among adolescents-- accidents, homicides, and suicides.

Also disturbing is the fact that underage drinking has been linked to date rape, teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases. Furthermore, it has been established that students who binge drink in high school are three times more likely than non-drinkers to engage in serious alcohol abuse while in college.

Parents are key, but they cannot successfully battle this combination of children and alcohol alone. Underage drinking is a community-wide concern that deserves a community-wide effort. School administrators, teachers, religious leaders, community leaders, restaurateurs, and others should be diligent in their efforts to keep graduation parties safe and alcohol-free. Instituting alcohol-free contracts, or planning safe and supervised events for young people to celebrate their graduation are options that have been found to work.

West Virginia's young people hold the keys to the state's future. It will be their vision and their initiative that will carry West Virginia through the next century. We all have a stake in ensuring that the promise of our young people is not destroyed by alcohol.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Talking Turkey in West Virginia

Over the past few years, the economy of West Virginia has been expanding. More jobs have been created and more people are working. Nevertheless, the economy can be improved. But to do so, we must continue to look toward new horizons for opportunities that may result in increased prosperity in the years ahead. For that reason, I recently kicked off a new trade initiative to strengthen ties between West Virginia and the other Appalachian states, and the Republic of Turkey.

The U.S. Department of Commerce has designated Turkey as one of the world's ten "Big Emerging Markets." Over the past decade, the Turkish government has fostered a fast-growing market economy and strengthened regional stability. It is my hope that this new Appalachian-Turkish trade initiative will take advantage of these advances. My goal is to foster a trade relationship that is mutually beneficial and that builds on the great economic potential of both the Republic of Turkey and the State of West Virginia.

According to an analysis by the Commerce Department and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, West Virginia products best suited to export to Turkey include coal, building materials, auto parts, and high-tech information systems. Other West Virginia business sectors that might benefit from a relationship with Turkey in-

clude general industrial equipment, mining machinery, specialty metal products, and industrial chemicals. In energy projects alone, an area in which West Virginia is a leader of fossil fuel production, as well as in research and development, the Commerce Department estimates potential market opportunities in Turkey at \$3 billion over the next 10 to 15 years. The prospects for investment, particularly from West Virginia companies, are impressive.

In an effort to spur this project forward, the Commerce Department, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the West Virginia Development Office plan to hold a trade seminar late this year in West Virginia to highlight Turkish market opportunities. In addition, the West Virginia Development Office is examining the possibility of a trade mission to Turkey next year.

The economic landscape in West Virginia and the Appalachian region is changing dramatically, and, with it, the prospect for increased growth and prosperity. Likewise, the Republic of Turkey is moving forward with its economic plan to create new opportunities for the future. The Appalachian-Turkish Trade Project offers a chance to expand trade, advocate West Virginia business interests, and build a lasting and beneficial relationship between West Virginia and the Republic of Turkey.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making Prescription Drugs Easier to Swallow

One of the major challenges facing the elderly of West Virginia is the ever-increasing cost of their prescription drugs. Many of these senior citizens live on fixed incomes, and many are unable to afford these high priced, but necessary, medicines. In fact, many senior citizens have been forced to make the troubling choice between paying for their medicine or paying for food, heat, or other necessities. To address this disturbing trend, I recently cosponsored the Medicare Expansion for Needed Drugs Act (MEND), a plan to offer universal voluntary prescription drug coverage to all Medicare beneficiaries.

Originally established in 1965, Medicare was designed to provide health care benefits to the most vulnerable segments of the population, the elderly and the disabled. Today, 38 million Americans, including 335,000 West Virginians, rely on Medicare to help provide for their medical needs. However, Medicare, as currently formulated, does not provide prescription drug benefits. Moreover, statistics show that three in five Medicare beneficiaries lack adequate, affordable prescription drug coverage.

MEND would change all of this. Under this plan, Medicare beneficiaries who do not currently receive prescription drug benefits

through a private insurer would be eligible to enroll in a voluntary prescription medicine benefit plan. Americans who have adequate, private coverage would not be required to participate. Those who lack such coverage could choose to pay a low monthly premium to receive prescription drug benefits and coverage of catastrophic drug costs.

The legislation calls for the federal government to subsidize 50 percent of the program's cost to ensure adequate participation and affordability. It is estimated that the monthly premium in 2002, the year the plan would take effect, would be \$25 a month. In addition, participants who have an annual income of approximately \$15,000 or less would be eligible for full assistance and free prescription drug coverage.

Seniors should not have to choose between paying for medicine or paying for other necessities. Statistics and studies show that the current Medicare program does not provide the coverage that Americans need today. The Medicare Expansion for Needed Drugs Act would help to address these shortcomings and fortify the Medicare program, allowing elderly and disabled West Virginians to rest assured that their prescription drug needs would be met.

May 31, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preparing for the Worst, Hoping for the Best

Last year, West Virginia and other states in the mid-Atlantic region were hard hit by drought. Months of lower than normal rainfall and higher than normal temperatures dried up wells and parched grazing lands. Many farmers were forced to sell off their livestock or risk losing farms that had been in their families for generations.

On the heels of last year's disaster come the predictions of continued drought this summer. A lack of winter snow and spring rain have failed to raise the water table, and weather forecasts do not offer much hope for significant rainfall in the coming months.

Recognizing the potential consequences for West Virginia farmers for another drought, I have met with U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman to discuss how federal aid might be expedited should another disaster materialize. I outlined for Secretary Glickman an initiative that I think would help to prevent a repeat of some of last year's drought-related losses.

Because of the mechanics of the budget process, the federal government, unfortunately, has a limited ability to deal with disasters, like drought, quickly. Last year, we found that despite our best efforts to press for expedited funding to

help farmers, in too many instances, aid came too late.

My initiative this year is really an ounce of prevention. It would set aside funding to be made available only if a drought occurs, but as soon as a disaster is declared. Secretary Glickman agreed that such a plan would be helpful in addressing drought more rapidly and, ultimately, reducing losses.

My plan would provide \$450 million for emergency livestock assistance this year. These funds would only be available for counties that receive an emergency designation by the President or the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. In the event that no emergencies are designated, none of these funds would be spent.

We have all heard the old saying, "Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst." That is my guiding philosophy as I work on this emergency fund. While no one can control the powers of nature, Congress can prepare to deal with the consequences of natural disaster. By providing the federal Department of Agriculture with the resources it needs to respond to severe drought, I am working to provide relief to our farmers in the most effective manner possible. We should not delay in preparing for what could be another summer of drought and disaster.

June 7, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making Progress on Corridor H

For many years, I have worked in support of the construction of Appalachian Corridor Highway H from I-79 at Weston, in Lewis County, to Wardensville, in Hardy County. In 1994, the section from Weston to Elkins was finished. But, since then, the remaining 114 miles have been the subject of studies and court challenges that have delayed further construction.

Recently, however, I joined Governor Underwood, Congressman Wise, and hundreds of West Virginians in Hardy County for the groundbreaking of a new 14-mile section of Corridor H, stretching between Moorefield and Baker. The resumption of work on Corridor H serves as reassurance that construction of this road is again on track, and that the economic and safety benefits promised by it are going to be realized.

Corridor H has, for too long, been unfairly derided by some critics. But this road, which is intended to connect the Washington, D.C., area with North-Central West Virginia, is a passageway for opportunity. It is an avenue for economic diversity. It may bring change, but I believe that, with vision and courage, we can manage that change and fashion it to meet our own demands.

It is expensive to build roads in mountainous Appalachia, but the effort is certainly worth every dollar. Since 1989, I have added \$270.5 million to appropriations bills for construction of Corridor H. In addition, I authored an amendment to the 1998 highway reauthorization bill to provide the entire 13-state Appalachian Corridor Highway System with a reliable and consistent source of funding through the federal Highway Trust Fund.

Of that funding, our state is expected to receive approximately \$410 million over the six-year course of the bill for construction of Corridor Highways in West Virginia.

When it comes to highway needs, the Appalachian states deserve to be treated equitably compared with the other states. Construction of these highways is a national responsibility.

Since 1965, much of Corridor H has been left only penciled in on the national highway map. It is now time to ink it in, to firmly and indelibly add it to the vast web of roadways that unite our fifty states into a single nation. It is the right thing to do for the nation, and it is the right thing to do for West Virginia. It is a road to progress.

June 14, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Challenges of an Aging Population

Recently in Charleston, delegates from around the world gathered for the first-ever International Conference on Rural Aging. These delegates worked to identify new strategies, shape major policy, and promote programmatic enhancements that will better enable society to cope with the challenges it faces as the population of senior citizens living in rural communities around the globe continues to grow.

The conference, sponsored by West Virginia University in collaboration with the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and the International Association of Gerontology, advanced an important discussion on how to meet the many challenges that come with a growing rural senior citizen population.

I had the opportunity to attend the conference, and to offer my thoughts on how, in many areas, the needs of West Virginia's rural senior citizens mirror the needs of rural senior citizens throughout the world. For example, around the world, seniors in rural areas may simply lack access to quality health care close to home. The problem of access is acute even in the most affluent nations. We know first-hand about the need for accessible health care in West Virginia.

With 60 percent of the world's elderly population living in rural and remote areas, there is a pressing need for medical personnel who are willing to leave the comforts and higher salaries of the big cities for rewarding work in smaller towns and communities. It is simply too difficult and too costly for many elderly people, particularly the frail elderly, to travel long distances for frequent medical appointments.

In addition, a rapidly aging population poses a great challenge to a society which is focused heavily on youth. While most of popular culture today focuses on the wants and aspirations of the young, a fresh appreciation of the not-so-young is beginning to emerge. There is a growing realization that the youth-centered society, and all of the material things that are paired with it, may benefit greatly from the insight and experience of our more mature population.

I applaud the work of the delegates at the International Conference on Rural Aging. Following their lead, we must rise to the challenges for our aging global population. They are a precious resource. Their contribution to the richness of all of our lives can be immeasurable, but their needs must be carefully tended.

June 21, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ensuring Local Satellite TV for West Virginians

For many months, West Virginians who rely on satellite dish receivers for their television signals have been concerned that they may no longer be able to receive network programming because of a dispute between local broadcasters and national satellite companies. At issue was whether these satellite companies could beam in network signals from faraway cities, or whether they should retransmit the broadcasts of local television stations.

In an effort to craft a compromise, Congress last fall approved legislation allowing satellite companies to retransmit local television station programming into homes in a local broadcast station's viewing area. This is called "local-into-local" service. This issue was particularly important in West Virginia, where 23 percent of the households have satellite services, but no West Virginia television station is available on a satellite system.

The legislation approved last fall allows a satellite company to carry the local broadcasts in any market the company serves, ensuring thorough local-into-local service. But convincing satellite companies to carry these local broadcasts is difficult because of the costs involved. It is costly for a satellite company to pick up the local station's signal and then retransmit that signal to the satellite receivers of area viewers.

For that reason, I re-

cently voted to create a loan guarantee program to facilitate the transmission of local broadcast signals to unserved and underserved areas. These loan guarantees would offset the cost to satellite companies as they install new equipment capable of delivering local programming to satellite service customers.

West Virginians would reap the benefits from this legislation because their satellite service would remain intact, while they also would be able to receive local and regional information. Access to local programming is important. Local broadcast stations provide weather warnings to the communities they serve. Broadcasters are an immediate source of information and instruction during local emergencies. Local news and public service programs help citizens participate in their government, assist their neighbors in need, and build stronger community bonds.

In West Virginia, high mountain peaks can make even the best efforts of local broadcasters and cable companies to reach rural residents very difficult. For households that are beyond the reach of cable and broadcast signals, satellite service has provided a reliable alternative. With the help of loan guarantees, I hope that more rural West Virginians will soon be able to rely on their television sets for local news, weather, and emergency information.

June 28, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Going from Sci-Fi to Reality in West Virginia

Imagine walking to your front door to unlock it but, instead of reaching for a key, you look into a scanner that recognizes your eye pattern before allowing the door to open. In the future, drivers may simply place their fingertips on a pad that, by examining their fingerprints, will verify their identity and start the engine. These may seem like impossibly futuristic technologies for daily life, but they have the potential of being put into place soon as part of new security protections for critical Department of Defense (DoD) computers. And the most exciting part of this story is that much of this development could happen in West Virginia.

Last year, recognizing the growing threat to important government computer systems by "hackers" or "cyber-terrorists," I started working with the DoD to develop a plan to combat a potential computer catastrophe. Realizing that the nation's most sensitive military and national security secrets could be accessed by an enemy nation or organization through covert computer attacks, I thought it was crucial that improvements be made to protect these computer systems. The DoD plan would replace the current computer security system of passwords and cards with the cutting-edge science, called biometrics. To date, I have added \$22 million to appropriations

bills to assess those biometrics efforts that are already underway and to create a prototype system for the Defense Department. Eventually, this biometrics technology could also benefit private companies which might adopt computer security systems for other non-military uses.

Biometrics utilizes unique individual "signatures," such as a fingerprint, the pattern of veins in one's wrist, or the network of nerves in the iris of one's eye. When a computer network has a biometric security system, the system authenticates the user's identity from previously saved patterns or distinguishable traits.

I have worked to put West Virginia at the forefront of this effort. Soon, the Defense Department plans to open an interim Biometrics Fusion Office in North-Central West Virginia. This office should provide West Virginia an opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a promising technology.

Not too long ago, biometrics was strictly the stuff of science fiction movies. But what some people can dream, others can invent. Biometrics is quickly moving from fiction to fact. West Virginia has demonstrated the foresight to embrace this state-of-the-art technology, and the Mountain State is well positioned to lead in its development.

July 5, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Catching Criminals on the Loose

In Harrison County, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) high-tech fingerprint identification system is proving to be a valuable tool in the nation's crime-fighting effort. Through the Clarksburg complex, the FBI is working with local police departments to make our communities safer places to live and work.

More than a decade ago, the FBI realized that its antiquated paper-based system of matching fingerprints was simply not working in the modern age. The FBI had 32 million cards on file -- enough that, if stacked one on top of another, they would be 13 times as high as the Empire State Building. Matching a local suspect's fingerprints with one of those cards was a daunting challenge that often resulted in the suspect's going free before the FBI determined that the suspect was wanted in another jurisdiction.

When the FBI approached me about the problem, I added \$185 million to an appropriations bill to construct an ultramodern FBI complex. Since that time, I have obtained more than \$750 million for computers and equipment. The return on that investment is impressive. Today, when a local police department submits a set of fingerprints to the FBI, more than 97 percent of the time the FBI can,

within two hours, determine if the suspect has a criminal history. That speed can make a big difference.

For example, a man who had been living in Louisiana for 20 years was arrested and fingerprinted for failing to pay a court fine. After his fingerprints were electronically submitted to the FBI, the FBI informed local police that the man had escaped from an Alabama prison in 1979, while serving a sentence for a teenage boy's murder.

The FBI system is also solving what, up until now, have been unsolvable cases. Through its modern technologies, the FBI has been processing latent fingerprints taken at a crime scene and matching them to suspects with prior criminal records, finally providing closure to some victims and families who have been haunted by long unpunished crimes. The State of New York, for example, has used the FBI center to solve eight homicide cases, seven burglary cases, and a number of other cases that otherwise may have sat on the books unsolved forever.

The Harrison County FBI Complex is revolutionizing our nation's crime-fighting effort. West Virginians can be proud of the fact that our state is home to a world-class initiative geared toward helping the entire nation to realize a better, safer quality of life.

July 12, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Cure for Mental Health Benefits

When discussions are held on the major health issues of the day, the conversation often focuses on physical ailments and life-threatening illnesses such as cancer or heart disease. But mental illness, which affects about 20 percent of Americans -- 55-million people -- often goes undiscussed. Recent medical breakthroughs have shed light on mental illnesses, showing them to be just as diagnosable and treatable as diseases like high blood pressure and diabetes. Despite this research, however, sufferers of mental illnesses continue to suffer from the stigma of old stereotypes and to be treated differently, even when it comes to health insurance benefits.

Many insurance policies unfairly limit doctor and hospital visits for mental health treatment while at the same time allowing patients to seek treatment for their physical health needs without restrictions. Private health insurers, in many cases, take advantage of loopholes in the present system by denying treatment, restricting benefits, and imposing higher co-payments for mental health services than for general medical care. Furthermore, since many insurance plans lack adequate mental health benefits, a substantial financial burden is placed on these victims. Instead of being able to invest in education and retirement, these pa-

tients too often find themselves having to remortgage their homes in order to pay for needed treatment.

To address this inequality, I have cosponsored the Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act. This measure would ensure greater parity in the coverage of mental health benefits by prohibiting limits on the number of covered hospital days and outpatient visits for all mental illnesses, and requiring greater parity with physical health benefits in terms of co-payments and deductibles. The legislation would inject a measure of fairness in the insurance industry, and prohibit discrimination against those people who require treatment for mental illness.

Untreated mental illness can be very costly, both to the individual and to society. Those who suffer from mental illness but who do not seek treatment often end up dropping out of society, becoming homeless, or resorting to crime. Moreover, patients who do seek treatment are too often overwhelmed by heavy financial burdens resulting from insurance policy gaps that continue to exist despite the advances in the understanding and treatment of mental illness. The Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act would break down the barriers to mental health insurance coverage and would allow patients to seek the medical help they need.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Learning from the Past

"To be ignorant of what happened before you were born," admonished Cicero, "is to remain always a child." If Cicero were to look at history lessons for America's schoolchildren today, he might conclude that they will never grow up.

Once again, a recent test of young people's knowledge of history -- in this case, the history of our own nation -- has demonstrated a sorry ignorance. What is particularly disconcerting about this most recent report is that it reflects the knowledge base of college seniors from some of the best colleges and universities in the nation, not younger children with many years of learning still ahead of them.

The test, sponsored by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, was given to college seniors at 55 top colleges and universities and consisted of questions from a high school-level American history test. I was very sorry to read that nearly 80 percent of those tested earned a grade of only a "D" or an "F." A mere 23 percent could identify James Madison as the principal Framers of the Constitution. More than a third of those asked did not know that the Constitution established the division of powers in American government. Just

60 percent could correctly select the 50-year period in which the Civil War occurred -- not the correct years, or even the correct decade, but the correct half-century! A scant 35 percent could correctly identify Harry S. Truman as the President in office at the start of the Korean War.

In light of such a dismal display of knowledge of our national history, in June, I added an amendment to an appropriations bill to provide a total of \$50 million in grants for schools that teach American history as a separate subject within school curricula.

Too many schools today are lumping history together with other subjects and offering them as courses broadly titled "social studies." This conglomeration certainly does not provide the kind of focused study that history deserves and requires. Moreover, it shortchanges our young people who will some day be the leaders of our nation.

It is my hope that my amendment and the funding it provides will encourage more schools to develop, implement, and strengthen classes in American history. If they are to have any hope of being prepared to lead in the future, America's students need a deeper understanding of our nation's past.

July 26, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Parents and Teachers: Education Partners

As teachers put the final touches on another school year's lesson plans and as students look ahead to the crackle of new textbooks and classroom adventures, it is important that parents take the time to become involved in their child's education. The start of the school year is an excellent time for parents to meet their child's teachers and principal, and to make the commitment to play an active role in their child's school activities.

Too often, parents see the teacher as the sole party responsible for their child's education. But parents play just as important a role as teachers play. Parents can reinforce the lessons from school and make sure that homework is completed. Parents can exhibit the importance of schoolwork by showing a sincere interest each evening in what their child did at school that day. Perhaps most importantly, parents can, through consistency, reinforce the values and lessons taught at school and those practiced at home. In essence, parents and teachers are partners in a child's education.

Earlier this year, West Virginia University President David Hardesty and I hosted a Youth Summit that brought together more than 250 students from across the state to discuss the causes

of youth violence and to provide a general snapshot of opinions about their schools. When asked, as part of that summit, "What do you feel are the main causes of youth violence in America today?" students pointed to a lack of guidance and attention from their parents. This opinion is echoed by a significant amount of national research.

Research also shows that parents can make a real difference in the importance that their child places on education. One analysis found that there are three factors over which parents have enormous control--student absenteeism, the variety of reading materials in the home, and excessive television watching.

From the local to the federal level, policymakers are working to find ways to improve our students' education. But one means of helping to achieve this goal has existed for generations. Parental and family involvement complements every initiative underway in schools to improve student learning. The task of connecting families and schools is formidable, yet attainable. Already, many families actively engage in their child's education and, with encouragement and help, I hope that many more parents will do the same.

August 2, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Decade of Progress for the Disabled

Ten years ago, disabled men and women who wanted equal access to buildings and public services commonly found their way blocked by such physical barriers as stairs, street curbs, and narrow doorways. Because of such structural impediments, disabled Americans missed out on job opportunities and day-to-day activities that so many of us take for granted, like going to the movies, shopping for groceries, or relaxing in the park. In 1990, responding to the long-time needs of disabled men and women, Congress, with my support, approved the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The passage of the ADA brought about numerous changes throughout the nation -- from advanced technology allowing for greater public accommodation at business and commercial establishments, to state and local government services and activities, to transportation and telecommunications technology for disabled Americans. For many disabled Americans, the Americans with Disabilities Act has meant a little more ease and comfort. For example, the ADA has facilitated easier access to restaurants and public restrooms, modifications to the aisles and entrances of supermarkets to allow for wheelchair access, assistive listening systems to help the deaf and hard of hearing, and large-print publications

for those with vision impairments.

Not only has the legislation reconfigured the way we think about architecture and our physical environment, it also has changed the way policies are formulated, helping to guarantee that our nation can benefit from the talent of all citizens. The Americans with Disabilities Act acknowledges that it costs our nation much more to allow the potential of millions of people to be lost than to make the modest accommodations that can allow all members of society to contribute fully. In a word, the ADA is about independence.

President Franklin Roosevelt once said, "No country, no matter how rich, can afford to waste its human resources." The Americans with Disabilities Act lives up to President Roosevelt's objective. For ten years now, this momentous, landmark legislation has opened new doors to disabled Americans. It has allowed handicapped individuals the opportunity and the access to have their potential recognized in the workplace and in the community. It has brought the American dream within reach for the millions of disabled citizens who, up until a decade ago, found that dream blocked, not so much by their own physical impairments, but by structural and societal barriers that the ADA is now tearing down.

August 9, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Turning Off Entertainment Violence

I have long been concerned about the effect that entertainment violence has on children. Whether through television programs featuring gun play and car crashes, or through video games that make killing humans a rewarding experience, I believe that such constant repetition of violence desensitizes children, and even makes such action in real life seem to be a more acceptable option for them. Consider these facts: by age 18, the average American child will have viewed about 200,000 acts of violence on television; and while still in their formative years, before they leave elementary school, children will see about 20,000 murders and more than 80,000 assaults.

Given these statistics, and the sheer volume of time that America's young people spend watching television -- 15,000 hours by the time they graduate from high school versus 12,000 hours in formal classroom instruction -- one might think that its influence would be a forgone conclusion. Yet, the entertainment industry has maintained that children can separate entertainment violence from reality.

But now, four major public health organizations -- the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Psychological

Association, and the American Medical Association -- have come together to document the negative impact of entertainment violence. Specifically, these groups have written a joint statement highlighting the link between entertainment violence and aggressive attitudes and behavior in young people. Notably, the statement says that children who see a lot of violence are more likely to view violence as an effective way of settling conflicts; that viewing violence can lead to emotional desensitization toward violence in real life; and that children exposed to violent programming at a young age have a higher tendency for violent and aggressive behavior later in life than children who are not so exposed.

There is no more denying the fact that entertainment violence does have a detrimental effect on children. More than 1,000 studies point to a causal connection between media violence and aggressive behavior in some children. I hope that the entertainment industry will take these findings into consideration. The best way to address youth violence is through strong families and parental involvement, but a more responsible entertainment industry that no longer glorifies violence would go a long way toward making that job easier.

August 16, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Doors to Rural Hospitals Open

Health care is one of the most important services that a community can provide for its citizens. Whether for routine check-ups or for more complex procedures, health care facilities that are close to home are important resources for local residents.

For many years, I have strived to help provide West Virginians with greater access to health care. From obtaining federal funding for clinics and outreach programs, to supporting federal policies important to the very special needs of rural medicine, I have tried to ensure that West Virginians have easy access to basic health care services.

In fact, I have recently supported legislation to correct the unintended funding challenges that resulted from the cutbacks in Medicare reimbursements made in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act (BBA). Originally designed to curb the uncontrolled growth in the Medicare system, the Act had unforeseen financial repercussions for many small, rural health facilities.

As designed, the BBA was supposed to tighten Medicare spending by approximately \$100 billion over five years. But the Act has not worked as intended. Instead of making small, incremental reductions, it resulted in Medicare cuts totaling more than \$200 bil-

lion. As a result, many rural clinics and hospitals are just barely surviving financially.

To soften these harsher-than-anticipated cuts, Congress last fall passed legislation containing the Medicare Beneficiary Access to Care Act, which I cosponsored, to restore \$27 billion to health care provider payments. That legislation addressed the most significant problems resulting from the BBA policies and focused payment adjustments on areas in which there were demonstrated problems.

But more work needs to be done. That is why I am cosponsoring the Health Care Access and Rural Equity Act, which I hope will further alleviate the financial crunch facing rural health care systems. The new legislation would restore inflation adjustment payments under Medicare to rural hospitals, and would provide rural hospitals with the chance to receive capital planning grants to be used for health infrastructure and technology improvements.

I hope that this legislation will be passed before Congress adjourns this year so that more rural clinics and hospitals will be better able to meet financial demands and, therefore, continue to provide health care service to West Virginia families.

August 23, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ending the Marriage Penalty Tax

Throughout the annals of human experience, in dozens of civilizations and cultures of varying value systems, humanity has looked to the permanent relationship between man and woman as a keystone to the stability, strength, and health of human society. Unfortunately, an anomaly in the U.S. tax code known as the "marriage penalty" undermines this principle by penalizing individuals who have vowed a lifelong commitment to each other through the sacred institution of marriage.

In the U.S. tax system, a marriage penalty occurs when married couples pay more in taxes than they would if they filed individual tax returns. In general, married couples whose joint income is split evenly between both spouses will suffer a marriage penalty. But married couples whose joint income predominantly comes from one spouse will typically benefit from a marriage bonus, which exists when a married couple has a smaller tax liability than they would if they filed as two singles.

I do not believe that our tax code should punish married couples. At a minimum, I think our tax code should be marriage neutral. However, the concept of marriage neutrality in the tax system has, thus far, proved to be an elusive goal.

The Marriage Penalty Relief Reconciliation Act of 2000, which was recently passed by Congress, correctly addressed this seemingly unattainable objective. That legislation, which I supported, was designed to expand the 15-percent marginal tax bracket and increase the standard deduction for all married couples, thus eliminating the most egregious marriage penalties in the tax code. Additionally, the legislation would have increased marriage bonuses and expanded an economic incentive for families who make the difficult choice to forego a second income or career so that one parent is able to stay at home with the children. Families in this situation ought to be extended tax incentives just the same as those families with a limited income or a child in the child care system.

Many West Virginians have contacted me to voice their opposition to a tax on married couples. I could not agree with them more. Although the Marriage Penalty Relief Act was recently vetoed, I continue to believe that it was legislation with an admirable objective. I voted for that Act because I believe in the institution of marriage, and that our government should do more to support the basic values exemplified by marriage.

August 30, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making American Steel Stronger

In 1998, American steel companies were caught in an avalanche of cheap -- often illegal -- foreign imports. As a result, the jobs of thousands of steelworkers in West Virginia, Indiana, Alabama, and several other states were threatened.

In response, I created the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee program to give steel companies in need of assistance access to an infusion of capital to help them dig out and keep operating until the surge in foreign imports could be controlled. While 1999 import levels did drop, the statistics for this year, so far, are not encouraging. The American Iron and Steel Institute reports that, from January to May 2000, year-to-date steel imports were 22-percent higher than for the same period in 1999, and almost 16-percent higher than in the crisis year of 1998.

With these statistics in mind, I recently met with new U.S. Commerce Secretary Norman Mineta to urge him to remain firm in his support of the American steel industry. I told the secretary of my continued concern about the future of U.S. steelmakers, and asked for his commitment to use the authority of his office to fully enforce U.S. trade laws and to protect American steel producers from unfair trade practices.

Secretary Mineta as-

sured me that he was committed to keeping America's steel industry strong. In fact, the secretary said that he intends to make foreign trading partners adhere to fair trade practices.

In addition to these personal assurances, the Commerce Department has released a 240-page action plan on global steel trade that identifies numerous factors that triggered the 1998 steel crisis and recommends steps that the federal government can take to protect the industry from future surges in foreign imports. Major elements of the plan include early warnings of import surges and of changes in industry conditions; faster relief for industries, workers, and communities when import surges occur; expedited antidumping investigations; steps to address the root causes of instability in global steel markets; and the reinvigoration of the international steel policy agenda.

Our nation learned some tough lessons as a result of the steel crisis of 1998. We have taken some corrective steps and identified protective measures, but we must remain vigilant to potential unfair trade practices by foreign manufacturers. This nation cannot afford to let down its guard and surrender the American steel industry to foreign predators.

September 6, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making Prescription Drugs More Affordable

The high cost of prescription drugs has been a primary issue of concern for many West Virginians, especially for those men and women living on fixed incomes who rely on Medicare for health care coverage. Currently, Medicare does not pay for prescription drugs and, as a result, too many West Virginians have to decide between paying for their medicines or paying for other basic needs, such as the mortgage or groceries. That is not a choice anyone living in the greatest country in the world should have to make.

The medical industry has experienced incredible advancements in the last several years. Technology is uncovering new treatments at an astounding pace. Medicines and drug therapy are major components of those advancements. Extensive research and development efforts are helping to create new treatments for a variety of illnesses, from the most common to the most deadly. Unfortunately, the medicines that Medicare recipients need are often unaffordable.

In an effort to help offset the high price of prescription drugs, I am cosponsoring legislation that would allow Medicare to pay at least part of the bill for essential medicines. The Medicare Expansion for Needed Drugs Act would help with prescription drug costs for seniors. The ini-

tiative would be strictly voluntary and would require the participating Medicare recipient to pay a monthly fee and a copayment in order to benefit from the prescription drug coverage.

This would be an important benefit for many of the 335,000 West Virginians who rely on Medicare for their health care coverage. In our state, the average Medicare recipient has an annual income of just \$10,700. Of that amount, an estimated \$2,100 goes to out-of-pocket medical expenses. An affordable, voluntary Medicare prescription drug initiative would keep at least some of that \$2,100 in their bank accounts and available for other needs.

Medicare was designed 35 years ago to be a safety net for those who, because of age or disability, did not have access to traditional health insurance. At that time, no one could foresee how the costs of research and new medications would spiral over the years. The time has come to address this shortfall and to create a Medicare system that is more responsive to the needs of the people. That is why I am cosponsoring the Medicare Expansion for Needed Drugs Act. I hope that Congress and the Administration can work together to help ensure that Medicare recipients do not have to choose between paying for medicine and putting food on the table.

September 13, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Trade Policy Trade-Offs

Over the more than four decades that I have served West Virginia in the U.S. Congress, I have seen one Administration after another -- both Democratic and Republican -- trumpet its latest trade plan as being good for America. The trouble with these trade plans, however, is that they are based more on the needs of the State Department rather than on the needs of working families.

For example, in 1994, when Congress considered whether to approve the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), supporters made great promises of economic progress. But, according to the U.S. Labor Department, since NAFTA was enacted, more than 440,000 jobs have left the U.S. because of that agreement. According to the Commerce Department, the United States had a \$1 billion trade surplus with Mexico in 1994. From January to July of this year, the trade deficit with Mexico already totaled more than \$11 billion. In 1999 alone, the U.S. trade deficit with Mexico totaled more than \$22 billion. This is not a track record of economic success.

Unfortunately, Congress pays no attention to that track record. The Clinton Administration has convinced Congress to approve permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with

China. I opposed this legislation for the same reason that I opposed NAFTA: this is not a plan that benefits working families. Rather, giving China PNTR, I think, will create even greater incentive for corporations to move more jobs overseas where labor is cheaper, where they do not have to contribute to Social Security, Medicare, and other benefits guaranteed to American workers, and where environmental and workplace safety regulations are not enforced.

I understand that today's marketplace is a global one, and that what happens in Beijing has as much of an effect on market conditions as do actions in Washington, D.C. But that does not mean Congress should abdicate its responsibilities to the American people and approve policies that put American workers at a disadvantage. Trade policy should not be dictated by State Department goals -- and big corporation profit margins. Rather, trade policy should be focused on the needs of the American people. Job losses in America must not be the price paid to expand job opportunities elsewhere around the globe. I will continue to push so that future trade policies take into consideration the needs of American workers, and so that profit margins are not put before working families.

September 20, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Marketing Violence to Children

I have long shared the concerns of many West Virginia parents that our young people are being exposed to far too much violence through the media -- movies, television, music, and video games. The entertainment industry, however, has generally rebuffed criticism about the content of its programs and products and about concerns that too much exposure to violence is harmful to our young people.

The industry, in fact, has repeatedly claimed to be making efforts to reduce the exposure of young people to violence, including instituting a program of labeling program content so that parents are better able to evaluate the programs, music, and video games that their children watch and play.

Now, however, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has released a report that found that the entertainment industry has been aggressively marketing violence-ridden materials directly to young people.

The FTC, the agency responsible for enforcing consumer protection laws, recently completed a year-long investigation into the entertainment industry's marketing practices. In its investigation, the Trade Commission found that movie studios advertised violent "R"-rated films during television shows with audiences primarily consisting of teenagers. Federal examiners also found that video games with violent content are regularly advertised in magazines designed

for young teenagers. And, the investigation determined, those much-heralded warning labels and content codes -- touted by the industry as evidence of its devotion to consumer protection -- are actually poorly enforced.

This investigation bears out many of the worst fears of those of us concerned about our impressionable young people. Additionally, it reinforces the fact that parents need to be vigilant when it comes to their children's entertainment options.

In an effort to address at least part of this problem, I have authored a legislative provision, currently under consideration by the Senate, that would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to consider imposing a new set of voluntary broadcast standards for television networks. An analysis of prime-time programming by the Parents Television Council, released in March, found that overall sexual content, foul language, and violence have nearly tripled over the past decade. I want the FCC to consider whether a new set of voluntary standards would help to improve the quality of programming that television stations broadcast.

Moreover, I hope that the Federal Trade Commission's findings will send a signal to industry executives that is strong enough to cause them to implement significant reforms, and to stop pushing violent programming on our children.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Smaller Classes, Better Schools

In the beginning of my school years as a boy in Mercer County, I attended small, two-room schools. In my graduating class at Mark Twain High School in Raleigh County, there were only 28 students. It was there, in those small classrooms, where I started to receive the education that prepared me for a long career of public service and an even longer devotion to learning.

In this new school year of 2000-2001, my thoughts turn to a meeting that I had this past spring with students from throughout West Virginia. At that Youth Summit, which West Virginia University hosted with me, students were asked to identify the main causes of youth violence. Among the responses, students pointed to large classes and schools as major contributors because they lead to a feeling of isolation and disenchantment.

Replacing that feeling with a sense of belonging is crucial to a student's well-being and academic success. With my support, Congress has appropriated funds to help school districts reduce class sizes to eighteen or fewer students in kindergarten through third grade. Providing these funds to the early grades is a good start in this overall effort to create smaller classes.

School districts throughout the nation are currently receiving funds -- a total of \$1.3 billion -- to recruit, hire, and train new teachers for the 2000-2001 school year. West Virginia's share, which is based on population, is more than \$12 million. Local school districts may use the funds to hire more teachers or to provide training opportunities to upgrade the skills of their teaching staffs.

Research shows that smaller classes offer both immediate and long-term benefits. In Tennessee, for example, researchers found that students in grades one through three who were in small classes were about half of a school year ahead of students in larger classes in their learning in reading, language arts, math, and science skills. Smaller classes also have led to increased student participation and improved behavior.

As West Virginia students have pointed out, and as the research backs up, smaller classes are important in making students feel that they have a stake in their education. I hope that West Virginia school districts will take advantage of the federal resources available, and help not only to reshape our classrooms but also to chart a brighter course for our students' education.

October 4, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Internet Safety Made Simple

October marks "Internet Safety Month" and provides parents with an opportunity to learn more about resources available to them to protect their children from inappropriate material available on the World Wide Web. With an estimated 5,000 new Internet sites coming online each month -- and with one-third of these devoted to material that is violent, obscene, or sexually explicit -- Internet Safety Month could not have come at a better time.

I recognize the valuable resource that the Internet can be for education, communication, and research. In just a few seconds, with just a few keystrokes, one can find out about medical breakthroughs, news reports, or historical events. But, at the same time, one can be exposed to pornography, vulgarity, and indecency. One way to avoid the negative material while promoting the positive is through filtering software. Often available for free or for a low price, filtering software can be a valuable tool for parents who want to protect their children from objectionable material but who cannot always monitor their children's Internet use.

Additionally, there are some basic "rules of the Web" that parents may want to consider for their children's Internet use. These commonsense tips may help set the ground

rules for children and may prevent them from accessing inappropriate material.

Take time to be online with your children. When a parent or teacher is directly involved with a child's Internet activity, the potential for danger is greatly reduced.

Teach children never to give out personal information to people they encounter while online. This type of information can be used to target the child or the family for criminal activity.

Instruct a child never to plan a face-to-face meeting alone with an online acquaintance. News accounts from across the country have highlighted the dangers of arranging meetings with strangers. While a child may think that an online acquaintance has become a friend, a computer can often mask the true intentions of a predator.

West Virginia parents need to make sure that their children will be safe while utilizing the Internet. The number of homes in West Virginia with Internet access continues to grow, and an increasing number of schools and libraries provide children with Web access. That is why it is important to set clear guidelines and utilize filtering software -- simple ways to ensure that children have positive experiences on the Internet while avoiding many of its pitfalls.

October 11, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Peace of Mind for Retired Miners

Each fall, for the last two years, more than 60,000 retired miners and their families across the country have faced the threat of significant cuts in their health care coverage. This threat is no fault of the retired miners, but rather the fault of Congress for failing to act to protect the financially threatened fund that pays for those health benefits. That is why, once again this year, I have fought to protect those benefits and to give Congress more time to settle on a long-term solution for the fund's financial problems.

As part of a 1946 agreement between the unions and the federal government, coal miners and their spouses were promised lifetime health care coverage. That agreement eventually led to the establishment of the Combined Benefit Fund (CBF), which worked well until adverse court decisions and rising health care costs began threatening the financial solvency of the health care fund.

In order to keep the CBF running despite Congress' inaction, I have, for the past two years, won major legislative battles to shore up the fund and to protect the vital health care services for retired miners and their families. In an appropriations bill recently signed into law, I offered an amendment to transfer to the Combined Benefit Fund

up to \$94.5 million in interest on the federal Abandoned Mine Land fund. That follows on a one-year transfer of \$68 million I provided last year. This latest transfer will keep the CBF fully afloat through the end of August 2001. But it is only a short-term solution. The funding gives Congressional authorizing committees additional time in which to devise a permanent solution to the fund's financial problems.

Winning the \$94.5 million transfer was not an easy step. It was a tough fight. My amendment was patterned on legislation authored by Congressman Nick Rahall. In addition to Congressman Rahall, my provision was supported by Congressmen Bob Wise and Alan Mollohan and Senator Jay Rockefeller. Our West Virginia Delegation is committed to ensuring that the promise of lifetime coverage, made to our miners more than 50 years ago, is not broken.

The challenge now is for Congress to settle on a permanent solution to protect the health benefits of these elderly citizens. Beneficiaries must not continue to be placed annually in limbo, not knowing from one year to the next whether their health care benefits will evaporate. For the security and peace of mind of these families, a long-term remedy must be found.

October 18, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building Prosperity in West Virginia

As many West Virginians know, rural communities have difficulty funding public works projects, such as water and sewer systems, roads, industrial parks, and business incubators. A lack of infrastructure in a community can be burdensome, and, in some cases, life-threatening to its residents. West Virginians, unfortunately, are all too familiar with this lifestyle.

For decades, I have worked to address these types of problems by adding funding to appropriations bills specifically for infrastructure projects throughout our state, in an effort to provide the basic necessities to West Virginia communities. These initiatives are not extravagances. They are necessities. And, mile by mile, piece by piece, we are making significant progress.

A major resource for community development in recent years has been the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). Created in 1965, the ARC channels millions of dollars each year to economically distressed communities in West Virginia and the 12 other states in the Appalachian region. That funding supports such projects as the ARC Corridor Highway System, water treatment plants, sewer pipeline extensions, health care centers, and a variety of other infrastructure initiatives.

While critics complain that this targeted investment

in Appalachia is unnecessary, I contend that it is vital. For too long, Appalachia has faced major obstacles to economic growth and as long as Appalachia lags behind, the entire nation suffers. That is why I have worked to continue the operations of the ARC. Through my work on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have obtained the funding necessary to allow the ARC to continue its mission of improving the economic conditions in our region. And this investment is paying dividends. A recent study found that, between 1990 and 1996, the investments made in infrastructure by the ARC alone have resulted in thousands of new jobs, millions of dollars in new wages, and a number of other benefits that significantly exceed the costs of the agency's investments.

I grew up in the coalfields of southern West Virginia. I have lived in houses without electricity and without running water. I know how difficult it can be to try to create opportunities for the future when the available infrastructure is mired in the past. In order to move forward, we need to continue to invest in those basic building blocks that constitute foundations for a brighter economy. By doing so, we will create the opportunities necessary to keep our children in West Virginia to raise families of their own.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting the Doctor-Patient Relationship

In West Virginia and across the nation, the number of people in managed care health insurance plans is increasing. Today, almost 60 percent of the nation's population is insured through managed care plans, up from only 13 percent in 1987. But while many Americans chose their health plan believing that medical decisions would be based on doctor-patient consultation, that is not always the case. That is why I continue to press for Congress to approve a Patients' Bill of Rights to help protect all Americans in managed care plans.

In managed care plans, an outside third party often makes decisions about a patient's health care regimen based more on cost than on need. I firmly believe that patients and their doctors -- and not an outside accountant -- should decide the best course of medical treatment.

The Patients' Bill of Rights that I support would ensure that patients with serious illnesses are allowed access to specialists without having to receive permission from an accountant who is without medical training. The legislation would give patients the power to go to any emergency room without waiting for pre-approval by their health insurance company.

The Patients' Bill of Rights would give women direct access to their obstet-

rician/gynecologist, and also would allow them to designate that physician as their primary care doctor. Finally, the legislation would ensure that patients can appeal medical decisions mandated by an insurance company to an independent reviewer. The reviewer would then make a ruling that is binding on the managed care plan.

The Patients' Bill of Rights has the support of the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, and every other major health organization in the nation. It is not extreme. In fact, many health plans already provide these guarantees. This legislation is aimed at those plans which choose to put profits before patients, thereby interfering with medical decisions that should be made between a doctor and patient.

When West Virginians enroll in managed care plans they should not be forced into a system that too often is more interested in lowering costs and increasing profits than in providing quality medical care. We need a Patients' Bill of Rights that guarantees access to medical care, protects the doctor-patient relationship, and provides accountability when managed care plans deny needed services. This is the best way to ensure that health care is based on a medical diagnosis, and not on an insurance company's profit margin.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Violence

In West Virginia last year, there were 11,534 reported domestic violence crimes that left 31 West Virginians dead. And those are just the cases reported to police. There were likely hundreds -- if not thousands -- of other incidents that went unreported. In an effort to combat domestic violence, and to help begin the healing process for victims of abuse, Congress, with my strong support, has approved the Violence Against Women Act of 2000.

This Act is one of the most critical pieces of legislation ever to come before Congress with regard to the safety and well-being of our nation's women and children. Specifically, the Violence Against Women Act calls for \$3.3 billion in federal funding during the next five years to expand women's and children's access to shelters where they can find immediate protection from violence and receive help in making the kinds of life changes that may be necessary to permanently break away from an abuser. The Act also supports better training to enable police officers to identify abusers and assist abuse victims.

Domestic violence has been on a steady decline in

recent years. Statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice show a 21-percent drop in domestic violence since 1993. Part of the reason for that reduction is the network of coordinated response teams in place throughout the country. These teams -- consisting of police, prosecutors, judges, victims' advocates, hospitals, corporations, and attorneys -- provide victims and their children the services they need in order to escape the violence and stay alive. The Violence Against Women Act reinforces these teams, giving them additional resources to draw upon to help victims. That is why I strongly supported this legislation.

Today, too many people view violence as the best way to solve problems and vent anger. Nearly one third of the women murdered each year are killed by their intimate partners. In 1998 alone, 307,000 women were raped and sexually assaulted, and approximately one-million women are stalked each year. The challenge ahead is to find a way to break this cycle of violence and abuse that has ruined tens of thousands of lives. While this is not an easy challenge to meet, it is certainly a battle worth waging.

November 8, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Giving Thanks

Autumn's leaves are falling, the days are growing short, and the first frosts have blanketed our lawns with a lacy tracery of white. Thanksgiving is upon us. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation for Thanksgiving began, "The year that is drawing towards its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies." Though in the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln was able to find something to praise. Currently, our nation is experiencing a time of peace and prosperity. This year, we must not take for granted our good fortune.

The first official Thanksgiving in America was celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621. Those early settlers had overcome great privation and difficulty. They had built their homes from the raw materials around them, from stones pried from the earth and logs painstakingly cut from the surrounding forest. They cultivated crops from the precious stores of seed carried with them from the Old World, but the pilgrims would not have survived without the help from the local Indian tribes, who introduced the settlers to native crops such as corn and pumpkins. Even with the

help of the Indians, only half of the original settlers survived their first year in the new land. Yet, despite that first year of hardship, the Pilgrims chose to celebrate what they did have with a day of Thanksgiving. And, like today's celebrations, they shared their feast with family and friends.

I learned the history of the Pilgrims as a child, but it is only as an adult that I have come to truly understand and appreciate both the hardships suffered by the Pilgrims and the great sense of relief and thankfulness that they must have felt to have come through that first year. It is sometimes easier to wish for things that could make our lives better than it is to pause and recognize all those things, however small, that already make our lives good.

This year, as West Virginians gather around their Thanksgiving feast, I hope that everyone will savor and thank the Creator for all of the love and friendship gathered there, as well as the turkey, pumpkin pie, and cranberry sauce that recall the Pilgrim's feast so long ago. Whether it be a person, thing, or simply the rights and liberties we enjoy as Americans, each of us has blessings to count this Thanksgiving.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Ways to Use Old Fuels

Because the United States is heavily dependent on Middle East countries for oil, we are too much at their mercy when it comes to fuel prices. This is but one example of how such dependence on foreign fuels carries consequences for our economy as well as our national security. Therefore, if we are to gain greater control over our economic circumstances and shore up our domestic security, we need to address America's reliance on foreign fuel sources.

The United States possesses plentiful coal and natural gas reserves to heat our homes in the winter and to cool them in the summer. But the expanded use of those domestic resources has long been stymied by concerns about the impact that fossil fuels have on the quality of our air. Those concerns led me to create the national Clean Coal Technology program in 1985. That initiative matches government and industry funding to develop innovative methods to use coal in more efficient and environmentally friendly ways. To date, more than \$5.5 billion has been invested in that Clean Coal effort.

To expand this initiative, I recently included \$95 million in an appropriations bill to support the upgrade of existing power plants with environmentally friendly technologies that

would allow for the continued and expanded use of coal. Since 56 percent of this nation's electricity is generated in coal-fired power plants, it makes good sense to modernize existing plants in ways that allow us to better use our own coal supply. Such an effort will help us to trim our overreliance on foreign fuel sources while also cutting emissions of greenhouse gases, which are believed to contribute substantially to the problem of global warming.

When considering the worldwide scope of the global warming problem, it becomes obvious, then, that our clean coal technology effort should not stop at our nation's borders. Scientists have identified several developing nations as some of the world's most prolific emitters of greenhouse gases, and experts estimate that these nations -- China, Brazil, India, and Indonesia, for example -- will only increase their emissions as they continue to grow. If the United States can market clean coal technologies to these nations and others, we may well strike a significant blow for the Earth's environment.

We must continue to work to find a balance between our nation's energy needs and commonsense environmental protections. Both are vital to America's -- and the world's -- future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Challenges for the Steel Industry

For three years, the steel industry in the United States has faced unrelenting pressure from foreign competitors. Much of that pressure has resulted from illegal activities by foreign companies and the governments which are subsidizing their steel production. As a result, these foreign companies are able to sell steel products in the United States at prices far below their production costs.

American companies have fought hard to stay competitive -- retraining workers, cutting costs, investing in new technology, and finding innovative ways to produce steel at a lower price. Yet, despite its efforts, the U.S. steel industry cannot match the unfair, below-cost prices offered by foreign competitors.

Since the import crisis began, at least six U.S. steel mills from across the country have declared bankruptcy. Now these imports have claimed another victim. Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, one of West Virginia's major employers, has filed for bankruptcy protection. The company has identified unfair imports as the root cause for its bankruptcy filing.

Further evidence of the trouble facing the American steel industry came recently in a report from the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission, a blue-ribbon panel appointed by Congress to explore the causes and con-

sequences of the nation's trade deficit. The commission agreed that government has to do a better job of protecting U.S. industries from unfair competition. In fact, the commission's chairman stated that the government needs to deal specifically with the industries, like steel, which have been struggling as a result of unfair, and often illegal, foreign trade practices.

We cannot sit idly by and watch this continuing crisis wipe out the rest of the U.S. domestic steel industry. With several other Senators' support, I have written legislation urging the President to initiate a comprehensive review of all steel imports. This review, called a "Section 201" investigation, would comprehensively address the massive surges of steel imports into this country and give the U.S. steel industry the reprieve it needs to get back on solid financial ground.

Steel has long been a driving force in the growth and prosperity of our nation. Instead of watching illegal steel imports erode our domestic industry, we must have a U.S. steel policy that helps to protect these good-paying jobs, generates a strong tax base, and supports the national security of all Americans. It is time to give these companies the support they need to survive and to thrive so that they can compete on a level playing field.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cutting Health Insurance Red Tape

When West Virginians enroll in managed health care plans, they should not be forced into a system that too often is more interested in increasing profits than in providing quality medical care. In managed care plans, an outside third party often makes decisions about a patient's health care regimen based more on cost than on need. I believe that patients and their doctors -- and not an outside accountant -- should decide the best course of medical treatment. That is why Congress should approve a Patients' Bill of Rights. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that such legislation will become law soon.

But that does not mean that improvements in managed care systems cannot be made. New regulations have been issued to strengthen the rights of more than 130-million Americans who have medical insurance through private, job-based health plans. These rules promise patients quicker processing of health insurance claims and grant them the right to an expedited appeal when insurance claims are denied or delayed by health plans.

The new regulations represent the first changes to the health insurance claims and appeals process since the creation of the 1974 Employee Retirement Income Security Act,

known as ERISA, which governs private health plans. Currently, insurers have up to 90 days to decide whether or not to cover a patient's medical needs. Under the new rules, when an individual asks a health insurer to cover an "urgently needed" treatment or service, that insurer will have 72 hours to make a determination. For medical procedures that need advance approval, insurers will have 15 days to make a choice, and 30 days to decide on reimbursement for medical care that has already been delivered. Additionally, if a health insurance company denies coverage, a patient will have 180 days, instead of the current 60-day allowance, to file an appeal.

These rules are important in providing West Virginians with the health care protections that they need. However, in order to guarantee every West Virginian in managed care plans with the right to see a specialist, to go to the nearest emergency room, and to hold insurance companies accountable when they cause harm, Congress ought to pass a real, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. This is the best way to ensure that health care is based on a medical diagnosis, and not on an insurance company's profit margin.

December 6, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Holiday Blessings

The holiday season is upon us. Decorations have been hung, candles and lights placed in frost-rimmed windows, and seasonal songs drift across the chill air. In stores, billions of dollars worth of goods are being sold, wrapped, and mailed to happy recipients. Steamy kitchens along quiet streets are perfumed with the scent of crisp cookies, fragrant fruitcakes, creamy fudge, and other family specialties being prepared by loving hands. Churches and synagogues are filled with regular visitors and with those whose worship centers around the holy seasons.

This season of the spirit is a good time to count our blessings. Americans are a fortunate people, blessed with a strong economy that offers opportunities for anyone willing to work hard. We are blessed with a strong military full of fine men and women who keep us and our interests safe around the world. We are blessed with a governmental system designed with enough foresight and care to provide a defined and orderly process for the transition from one administration to the next, in even the unusual circumstances in which we currently find ourselves. The Founding Fathers who established our Constitution were truly wise men, and their document for governance has proved to be a very pre-

vious gift, indeed.

Other nations experience such turmoil with every government transition, or live in the dark shadow of religious repression and sharply curtailed personal freedoms that we Americans can hardly imagine. In the light of that perspective, our own partisan rankling over elections and Congressional majorities pales in significance. We can all take heart from the calm manner in which the public has shown its confidence in the eventual, if delayed, decision and transition to the next administration.

I hope that the spirit of good will and the laying aside of our differences that usually accompanies the holiday season can be extended into the new year, and that Americans can draw together to celebrate the coming transition to a new administration, a new Congress, and a new opportunity to enjoy the blessings of liberty that we have inherited. Those blessings are a gift to every living American from the generations before us who fought to create and preserve our system of government. Those gifts are ours to treasure, ours to exercise and enjoy, and ours to safeguard for the next generation. As we celebrate the birth of His Son, let us remember and thank the Creator for all the blessings we share.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Unlocking the Secrets of Alzheimer's Disease

West Virginia is blessed with a number of fine colleges and universities. These institutions of higher learning are helping to prepare our students to lead the way in the new century. At the same time, researchers at these schools are seeking new ways to utilize energy sources, create new construction materials, and improve the quality of life for men and women throughout the world.

West Virginia University (WVU), is taking steps to address an illness that is both physically and emotionally taxing -- Alzheimer's Disease. Earlier this year, WVU and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, announced plans to create the Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute. The Institute is named for U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller's mother, who suffered from Alzheimer's until her death in 1992. When complete, it will be one of the world's major centers for research into Alzheimer's and other neurological illnesses.

In support of this endeavor, I recently added \$20 million to an appropriations bill to design and build this center in Morgantown. As planned, the Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute will be the largest scientific research venture in the history of West Virginia and the only major research institute in the world

to focus on human memory.

Alzheimer's is an agonizing disease both for the patient and for the patient's family. Slowly, almost imperceptibly at first, a person's mental capabilities erode. The memories of a lifetime are slowly stolen away by the illness. It is not uncommon in the late stages of the disease for the patient to fail to recognize even family members and close friends. It is my hope that, by utilizing the resources at the new Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute, scientists and researchers will one day be able to find a way not only to control the disease but also to prevent it. I am proud to have been able to provide the Institute with its design and construction funding.

WVU is developing into one of the nation's premier medical research institutions. The work at the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center includes, among other things, the development of new approaches to treat breast cancer, to avert strokes, and to make specialized treatment available through advanced technology to people living miles away from the nearest hospital. These efforts and investments are very worthwhile, and I hope that they will lead to the day when doctors are finally able to prevent debilitating diseases.

December 20, 2000



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Teaching Technology to Teachers

West Virginia is fortunate to have talented school teachers, many of whom have been at their jobs for years and some even for decades. Their experience has honed their methods of instructing children to make the lessons applicable to everyday life. But so many years in the classroom can also lead to at least one distinct dilemma. Computer technologies continue to change rapidly, and many teachers are not able to keep pace. As a result, some students may never have the chance to benefit from the educational opportunities that these new high-tech resources offer.

West Virginia has spent \$95 million over the past decade to install computers and software in each of the public schools in the state. However, nearly half of our schools report that their teachers are only at a beginner's level in terms of their technological skills.

I am very concerned about this shortfall in our teachers' knowledge base. If West Virginia students are not able to learn about real-world applications of computers and technology, they will be far behind students from other states and from around the world as they enter the workforce.

That is why I recently added an amendment to an appropriations bill to start to provide every math and science teacher in West

Virginia's elementary and secondary schools with advanced training in computers and classroom technologies. The \$2.5 million that I added to the bill will allow the Erma Ora Byrd Center for Educational Technologies at Wheeling Jesuit University to begin this training program.

This initiative is ambitious. Working with the school districts, Wheeling Jesuit first hopes to train 1,000 of the state's 10,000 math and science teachers who have a significant part of their career ahead of them. These teachers will be selected for intensive technology training leading to a Master's degree. Each of these 1,000 teachers will, in turn, train nine other teachers. In the end, by matching highly skilled teachers with high-tech resources, West Virginia's students will be better equipped to move ahead in a computer-driven marketplace.

Keeping up with the dizzying pace of changing technology is challenging. But it is a challenge that our teachers must meet if they are to prepare our students to compete in the rapidly developing global marketplace. I hope that this new training initiative will provide teachers with much-needed support and help them to utilize computer technologies in the most effective manner possible.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making High-Tech Medical Care Affordable

As we begin the new millennium, I marvel at the scientific advances in health care that make treating disease far easier than was the case when I was a boy. Today, West Virginians benefit from many advanced medical technologies, including one that allows doctors to make life-saving diagnoses without having to perform surgeries. Based at West Virginia University's Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center, the Positron Emission Tomography (PET) center allows doctors to analyze a patient and detect diseases without costly and painful invasive surgeries.

PET scanning is an imaging procedure that creates a three-dimensional image of a living organ such as a heart, a lung, or a patient's brain. The image provides physicians with a working model from which to make a diagnosis. This technology can be a powerful weapon in the battle against cancer, heart disease, and neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's disease and epilepsy. However, because of the high cost of this cutting-edge procedure, many patients are not able to take advantage of its benefits.

Until now, Medicare paid for PET scanning in only six different medical diagnoses. As a result, thousands of Americans have been shut out of advanced treatment and diagnosis. That is why I recently wrote to Donna

Shalala, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in an effort to expand Medicare coverage of PET technology. Along with a number of other Senators, I urged the Secretary to allow Medicare to pay for various PET procedures. I am pleased to report that Secretary Shalala has agreed to expand Medicare payments for PET to include a number of deadly cancers that can be detected at much earlier stages with this technology than is possible through more traditional techniques. Since early detection is the key to patients' survival in many illnesses, PET possesses tremendous life-saving potential. I also hope that the new Administration will consider an even broader expansion of Medicare payments for PET procedures.

Throughout my career of public service, I have strived to ensure accessible and affordable medical care for West Virginians. From the provision of funding for rural clinics and the support home health programs, to the launching of screening, testing, and research initiatives, I have tried to help meet the medical needs of West Virginians, many of whom live in rural areas without access to a nearby hospital. Expanding Medicare coverage of PET scanning is yet another means to improve the accessibility of state-of-the-art health care to patients in West Virginia and across the nation.

January 3, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cutting Red Tape for Black Lung Victims

Growing up in the Southern West Virginia coalfields, I saw the debilitating effects of occupational pneumoconiosis, better known as black lung disease. It is an illness that is caused by the inhaling of coal dust by miners on a long-term basis. The coal dust sits in the lungs, reducing a miner's capacity to process oxygen, and causes such significant breathing problems that death often follows. Even though there has been meaningful progress in the prevention and treatment of black lung, the disease still claims an estimated 1,500 lives annually.

In 1969, in an effort to provide some relief to miners, I urged Congress to create a fund that would pay benefits to those miners who had contracted black lung and to their families. Congress agreed with me, and approved the benefits program. But, in recent years, the law has not worked as originally intended. Because of various rules changes, it has become increasingly difficult for miners to prove their black lung disability.

When a miner with the disease sought to receive black lung benefits, that miner often had to follow a long claims procedure. Frequently, the miner was overwhelmed by the number of medical opinions from "outside experts" that a coal company could engage

against the claim. Lacking the financial resources to counter such opinions, black lung victims often were forced to forfeit their legitimate benefit claims. In fact, since 1981, the extensive litigation that miners have had to face in order to prove their claims has been extremely cumbersome.

Fortunately, new regulations will provide miners with some support. These new rules allow the miner and the coal company to submit only two pieces of evidence each unless a judge determines otherwise. These regulations also give greater weight to the medical opinion of the miner's attending physician than to the opinions of outside experts. Thus, the new rules should create a more balanced process for the proof of disability by miners with black lung in order to win their claims.

These new regulations represent a real victory for black lung victims as they seek the benefits to which they may be entitled. Those individuals who have paid the price of their health to dig the coal that powers our economy must be protected and compensated for their sacrifice. Black lung victims should not be forced to worry from month to month, from appeal to appeal, as to whether they are going to be determined eligible to receive benefits. Our nation's coal miners simply deserve better.

January 10, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Session, New Challenges

At the recent start of the new session of Congress, I took the Oath of Office to uphold the Constitution and to serve in the U.S. Senate for the eighth time. I am truly honored that the people of West Virginia have shown their faith in me once again, and I am committed to working hard so that they will always feel that their faith was well placed.

In this session, the Senate, for the first time since 1881, is evenly split. This split has brought with it an opportunity to forge a renewed spirit of cooperation. Toward that end, leaders from both parties have crafted an unprecedented agreement to work together, and I hope that their agreement will bear fruit. When I first came to the Senate in 1959, Lyndon Johnson was the Majority Leader. At that time, politics did not so overwhelmingly prevail over statesmanship. Leader Johnson worked with President Eisenhower, a Republican, in the best interests of the nation.

I hope that Members of the 107th Congress, and especially the Senate, will learn from past examples of cooperation. With 50 Democrats and 50 Republicans, the Senate has the opportunity to show that it can rise above the interests of party and accomplish something worthy of remem-

brance in the pages of history.

There are many issues that will come before the Senate this session, including discussions over taxes, Medicare, and Social Security. We will likely debate ways to improve access to health care and how to extend Medicare coverage to include prescription drugs. While there will certainly be differences between the parties on these issues, I hope that those differences will not result in extreme divisiveness. What is important to remember is that there is more on which we agree than on which we disagree. Whether it is increasing the minimum wage, improving classroom standards, or strengthening our nation's infrastructure, Senators should be able to find common ground on critical areas. If we fail to do so and put partisan agendas ahead of the people's interests, the nation will suffer.

I look forward to serving my eighth term in the U.S. Senate. There are many challenges ahead, both for the nation and for West Virginia. I will do all that I can, especially through my work on the Appropriations Committee, to meet those challenges and to help create a future with new opportunities for our children and grandchildren.

January 17, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Striving for a Balance

For years, I have been committed to finding a middle ground between environmental protection and economic security. When the Senate voted on amendments to the Clean Air Act in 1990, I pressed for compensation for miners who would lose their jobs due to the stringent provisions of that Act. When the Clinton Administration advocated the Kyoto Protocol to reduce global warming, I won Senate approval of a resolution that would help to ensure that the United States would not be placed at an economic disadvantage when compared with developing nations. Throughout these efforts and many others, I have worked to balance necessary environmental protections with the equally important economic needs in West Virginia and throughout the nation.

President Bush has said that he recognizes the challenges facing West Virginia. That is why I felt it was important to meet recently with two members of his Cabinet to discuss my efforts to balance the environment and the economy.

Incoming Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Christine Todd Whitman seemed to understand the challenge in striking that balance. As governor of New Jersey, she has dealt with similar circumstances. In our meeting, I explained to her that many people in West Vir-

ginia believe there is a bias against our state at the EPA because of our coal mining. Based on that meeting, I think that Christine Todd Whitman will be an EPA Administrator who listens and responds to our concerns.

Similarly, new Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham has agreed with me that coal is integral to any national energy strategy. When I met with him, we discussed clean coal technologies and other research that can utilize many of our fossil fuel resources without damaging the quality of our air. Since 1985, when I established the Clean Coal Technology initiative with a Congressional authorization of \$750 million, more than \$2.4 billion has been invested in this successful program. Secretary Abraham voiced Administration support for these efforts. By utilizing our nation's knowledge and resources, we can meet our energy demands while also improving air quality.

In the coming months, there certainly will be debate over how best to protect the environment without risking the economic security of communities across the country. Adopting a commonsense national energy policy that takes advantage of our advanced technologies while also utilizing our vast coal reserves can be a win-win situation for the environment and the economy.

January 24, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Marshall University: On the Cutting-Edge

Across America and around the world, science is opening new doors in medicine and exploration. In West Virginia, we are lucky to be home to several cutting-edge research facilities and universities, including Marshall University in Huntington and West Virginia University in Morgantown. These schools are setting a standard of excellence in the preparation of our young people for the challenges that they face in this new century.

For several years, Marshall University has been committed to the expansion of research and educational facilities. For example, the medical school, which opened in 1977, has attracted a dramatic increase in admissions requests and has raised the stature of the university. The John Deaver Drinko Library, constructed with the help of \$5 million that I added to an appropriations bill in 1995, provides students with a state-of-the-art learning resource.

Today, planning is underway for a new campus facility that once again will raise the standards for excellence at Marshall. The Biomedical and Science Center will provide students and faculty members with expanded scientific opportunities in a variety of fields including anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology, pharmacology, genetics, and immunology. These are some of the most demanding -- and most

promising -- areas of scientific research.

Additionally, this new center could be a significant boon to Southern West Virginia. Already in Cabell County, private companies are involved in the biotechnology industry. By specializing in related fields, Marshall can help to cultivate an exciting new industry for the Mountain State. While our industrial base for decades has relied on physical strength to mine coal and forge steel, our economy will rely more heavily on mental strength in the years to come. With this new investment, Marshall University will take a great step forward in training young people so that they can excel in a job force driven by technological know-how.

I contributed to the effort to construct the Biomedical and Science Center by adding \$25 million to an appropriations bill late last year, thus moving the center much closer to reality. With a final price tag estimated at \$36 million, university officials hope to begin construction next year.

Marshall University has a long-held devotion to service and an academic record of which to be proud. Today, the university is focused on the future, rededicating itself to high-quality education and technological sophistication. The drive to build and equip this state-of-the-art Biomedical and Science Center reflects Marshall's commitment to excellence in education.

January 31, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Meeting the Needs of Autistic Children

Autism is a little talked about, but surprisingly prevalent, illness affecting hundreds of children in West Virginia. This neurological disorder is recognizable through abnormalities in communication and social development generally during a child's first three years. Autism affects one in every 500 children and is the third most common childhood developmental disability. As these autistic children grow up, some are relatively high-functioning, with speech and intelligence intact. Others may suffer from mental disabilities, are mute, or have serious language complications. For some, autism makes them seem closed off from the world around them. That is why autism is such a frustrating affliction not only for the sufferer but also for the sufferer's family and friends.

In the Mountain State, we are fortunate to have an outstanding resource available for children and families who are dealing with autism. The West Virginia Autism Training Center, based at Marshall University, works to meet the needs of autistic children and their families. Since it opened in 1983, the Center's staff has worked with families in 53 of West Virginia's 55 counties. Through commitment, hard work, and creativity, the staff helps to train the people involved with the

autistic child so that the child can lead a happy, productive life.

For six years, I have assisted the Autism Training Center by adding funds to appropriations bills so that more resources can be devoted to the needs of autistic children. Most recently, in an appropriations bill late last year, I added \$313,000 -- for a total of \$1 million in the legislation -- for the Center. The money will be used to hire additional staff members and to provide more families with support programs. Currently, a ten-person staff works to meet the needs of the 600 West Virginia families with an autistic child. By expanding its staff, the Center will be able to provide an improved service to those in need.

Today, more than ever before, children with autism can be helped. Special education programs -- like those designed and implemented by the staff at the West Virginia Autism Training Center -- can expand the capacity of autistic children to learn, to communicate, and to relate with others while also reducing the severity of disruptive behaviors. By pairing these efforts with the medical research into autism at the National Institutes of Health, we can better understand the causes of the disease, how to treat it effectively, and, someday, how to prevent it.

February 7, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Truth about Tax Cuts

In Washington, lawmakers are rushing to embrace a proposed ten-year tax cut proposed by President Bush. The President's plan, appealing though it may be, is based on predicted surpluses of \$2.7 trillion over the next decade, excluding the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds. The numbers sound impressive, but the problem with budget predictions is that they are about as reliable as winter weather predictions -- reality rarely matches the forecast.

The Bush tax cut, when properly measured, is estimated to cost \$2.1 trillion, rather than the \$1.6-trillion figure regularly cited by the Administration. The \$2.1-trillion figure takes into account both the extra federal interest costs generated by the tax cut and other associated costs. And if the tax cut is made retroactive, as some suggest, the cost could reach as high as \$2.5 trillion.

That is the dilemma Congress faces. Do we harness a massive tax cut to uncertain budget forecasts or must we exercise fiscal caution until we have a better understanding of how the economic predictions will play out? If we pass a huge tax cut and the surpluses evaporate, how will we pay for imperatives such as education or Social Security or a Medicare fix or a prescription drug plan?

These concerns are not mere theoretical musings. Currently, 44.8-million Americans receive Social Security. That number is projected to grow to 82.7 million in 2030, yet the Social Security Trust Fund is expected to be exhausted in 2037. The Medicare Trust Fund is projected to run out of money in 2023. Since 1990, national spending on prescription drugs has tripled, yet Medicare does not provide a prescription drug benefit. How do we fund these needs if we have emptied the kitty with the huge Bush tax cut?

Finally, there is the matter of debt reduction. The nation is on the right course. We are paying down the public debt. But reversing course at this point would pass the burden of our national debt onto our children and grandchildren.

Tax cuts are appealing to everyone. Indeed, I support a moderate tax cut that would help to boost the economy and some specific tax cuts like the elimination of the marriage penalty. But, given our nation's needs and the uncertainty of the budget projections, we must proceed with caution when considering a massive tax cut. Congress ought to impose a reality check and turn the wishful thinking of the President into wise policy for the people.

February 14, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Your Stake in the Health Care Debate

This session, Congress is positioned to make decisions that would affect the ability of West Virginians to gain access to more affordable, more reliable health care. From debate on the federal budget to negotiations over strengthening patient protections, health care will be a front-and-center issue in many Congressional deliberations this year.

One of the major debates will center on the proposed "Patient's Bill of Rights." This legislation, which I am cosponsoring in the Senate, would address many of the health care concerns for the 160 million Americans enrolled in a managed care plan. At the core of this legislation is the basic tenet that medical decisions should be made by the patient in consultation with the doctor, and not by an accountant at the managed care company. In too many cases, however, the managed care industry's priority has become higher profits and not better health care. The Patient's Bill of Rights would protect the traditional doctor-patient relationship and ensure that treatment decisions are based on a medical diagnosis and not on an insurance company's profit sheets.

Additionally, the Patient's Bill of Rights would allow a person in an emergency medical situa-

tion to seek immediate care from the nearest hospital without receiving prior approval from the managed care company. In an emergency, when every minute is critical, a person should not have to waste precious time waiting for permission from the managed care provider.

Finally, the legislation would ensure that patients who are denied care by an insurance company can appeal the decision to an independent reviewer and receive expedited decisions that are binding on the managed care plan. It would guarantee that HMOs are held accountable in court if their decisions harm patients.

This legislation has wide support in both the House and Senate and also is endorsed by more than 200 different organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American Nurses Association. In fact, most of these provisions have been endorsed by the managed care industry's own trade association as voluntary standards that its members should follow. Since responsible plans already provide these protections to their members as a matter of course, I believe all managed care providers should be required to live up to these basic standards.

February 21, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Defense Starts at Home

There has been much talk in Washington about the need to increase defense spending, but little frank discussion of the role that our Armed Services will play in the new millennium. One mission that must be addressed is our nation's ability to defend against attacks from hostile states or terrorists using chemical or biological weapons of mass destruction.

Defense experts have found that our country is vulnerable to this type of danger. Due to the accessibility of high-tech equipment, there is an increasing likelihood that these weapons could be used against our citizens here at home. Law enforcement agencies work to stop would-be terrorists before they can implement their nefarious plans, but we also must be prepared to respond more quickly and effectively to the consequences of a successful attack.

I recently contacted President Bush about the need to implement a comprehensive homeland defense plan. One key to this plan must be to provide the right training and equipment for state and local authorities to respond to such emergencies. The other key to homeland defense is our National Guard. Our citizen-soldiers are experienced in responding to natural disasters. Many have the specialized knowledge that can be used to assess dangerous situations and to coordinate

the mobilization of the federal government's resources.

With this in mind, I have added appropriations for a number of counterterrorism initiatives that the National Guard is spearheading in West Virginia. These include \$5 million for the Memorial Tunnel National Counter-Terrorism Facility in Kanawha County which will help to train emergency responders in dealing with chemical or biological attacks; \$22.5 million for the Eastern Regional Training Center at Camp Dawson, Preston County, to provide the military with unique training to respond to a variety of scenarios; and the initial \$1 million for the Virtual Medical Campus at West Virginia University which will train emergency responders to identify the toxins used in attacks and to take steps to prevent significant loss of life.

With these initiatives and the other West Virginia National Guard facilities under development, our state can serve as a model for homeland defense efforts. The next steps are to make sure that our National Guard is ready to take on this mission and that our state and local officials know where to turn in the event of an attack. Taking action on these points now will help to assure the long-term security and safety of our citizens as we move forward in the new millennium.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Bush Back-Door Tax Hike

Over the next few weeks, there will be much debate over the Bush Administration's proposed \$1.6 trillion tax cut. But before joining in the rush to support the Bush plan, it would be well to examine the details of the proposal.

The most commonly held argument in support of the across-the-board tax cut is that it will benefit all Americans. But what we are not told is how a small minority of taxpayers will benefit greatly while the majority of taxpayers will see little benefit. According to an analysis by the accounting firm Deloitte & Touche, a millionaire would save \$47,000 annually in taxes under the Bush plan, while a worker making \$20,000 would save, on average, \$300 a year. In essence, a millionaire could pay the tuition bill for 34 semesters of education at West Virginia University, while the person with the more modest tax break could afford a student's books for a single semester. Congress ought not approve a tax cut that is so weighted against middle- and low-income families.

Additionally, those who have been quick to embrace this tax cut ignore the lessons of the not-too-distant past. In 1981, President Reagan proposed a tax cut based on projected budget surpluses. We heard that the Reagan tax cut -- which

I reluctantly supported -- would help to strengthen the economy. But the results of that tax cut were quite different. Instead of a stronger economy and projected surpluses, the Reagan tax cut resulted in massive deficits, higher unemployment, and increased interest rates. What the average taxpayer saved in reduced federal income taxes was spent several times over in higher interest costs on home mortgages, car loans, and credit cards.

I recognize the attraction of tax cuts. On the surface, reducing taxes seems a very easy thing to do, and there are tax cuts that Congress should approve. For example, I support some specific tax cuts like the elimination of the marriage penalty. But instead of buying into a massive tax cut, we ought to pay down the national debt, protect Social Security, and shore up the Medicare system. We ought to provide for a prescription drug benefit for Medicare recipients. And we should strengthen our nation's infrastructure needs, such as our roads, bridges, water and sewer systems, and airports. By addressing our nation's critical priorities and avoiding a return to the economic pitfalls of the 1980s, we can prove ourselves to be good stewards for our children and grandchildren.

March 7, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Call to Save Lives

The recent shooting at Santana High School in California forces us again to confront the issue of violence in schools. While it is easy to assign blame for the problem of school violence, pointing fingers does little to prevent future tragedies. Instead, it is important to learn from these events and to act to prevent them.

The U.S. Secret Service recently concluded a study of school shootings in an effort to find ways to stop these disasters before they happen. Analyzing 37 school shootings from the last 26 years, a noteworthy similarity was found. In almost three-quarters of all the incidents studied, the assailant told someone of his or her plan before carrying out the shooting. It would appear, therefore, that many school shootings could be prevented if only those with advance knowledge of the possible violence would share this information with a parent, teacher, or school administrator -- someone equipped to prevent the act.

West Virginia is one of several states with a toll-free school safety hotline. The hotline, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is

designed to alert authorities of any planned violence in a school. Anonymous calls to the hotline are forwarded to local authorities and investigated within one school day. Threats cannot be taken lightly. When they are made, they need to be investigated. If evidence of potential violence is found, the authorities need to act.

In the days since the tragedy at Santana High School, students across the country have found the courage to tell authorities of potentially dangerous situations in their own schools. That is a good step toward ending this violence. Parents should teach their children that calling the hotline is not tattling on someone; rather, it may be saving someone's life.

The hotline is not a cure-all for safety problems in our schools, but it can be an important resource for preventing violence. Just as terror crept into the small community of Santee, California, it can easily creep into West Virginia communities. Call the West Virginia School Safety Hotline at (800) 418-6423, extension 359, to report any threatening situation that may endanger a school.

March 14, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Soaring Cost of Medicines

The high cost of prescription drugs has been a primary concern for many West Virginians, especially for those living on fixed incomes who rely on Medicare for their health care coverage. This problem was recently highlighted in a study by the federal Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA).

The organization reported that, for the general population, prescription drug expenses will continue to rise at a faster rate than any other category of health care services over the next decade. HCFA predicts that drug costs will grow at an average rate of 12.6 percent a year through 2010. For those over age 65, the agency estimates that the average yearly bill will rise from \$1,989 per person next year to \$4,818 per person in 2011.

For West Virginia, which has the oldest per capita population in the country, this study is alarming. In our state, 335,000 people rely on Medicare for their health care coverage. Yet, even though most private insurance plans include a prescription drug benefit, Medicare does not.

I have cosponsored the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Act to help fix this deficiency in the Medicare program. The legislation would create a volun-

tary and universal prescription drug benefit. Importantly, for many West Virginians who live miles from the nearest health care facility, the Act would ensure access to medicines by providing bonus payments to rural pharmacies to ensure a rapid delivery of prescription drugs.

The costs associated with any Medicare prescription drug benefit necessitate a small premium for the voluntary program. But in the plan that I support, the premium would be affordable and based on a beneficiary's income. Additionally, to keep costs down, this new prescription drug benefit would give Medicare the ability to negotiate with drug manufacturers for lower prices. The resulting collective purchasing power would allow Medicare to receive the same drug price discounts that other large, private-sector insurance companies already possess.

Seniors should not have to choose between paying for medicine or paying for other necessities. The legislation that I am cosponsoring would provide an affordable remedy to that all-too-common scenario. Under a fortified Medicare program, elderly and disabled West Virginians could rest assured that their prescription drug needs would be met.

March 21, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Teachers: Uncle Sam Wants You

In West Virginia and throughout the nation, public schools face a teacher shortage that threatens to undermine an education system which is already overburdened by expanding enrollment and a crumbling infrastructure. In the next decade, two million teachers across the nation -- half of all the teachers in our schools today -- will retire. Coupled with a severe scarcity of teachers and principals in rural and urban schools and with the shortage of educators who focus on key subjects like math and science, it becomes apparent that action must be taken today to avert a crisis in our classrooms tomorrow.

Consequently, I have cosponsored the National Teacher and Principal Recruitment Act -- a measure that should help to meet these challenges head-on. The Act would create a national Teacher Corps and a national Principal Corps to attract qualified individuals to the education profession. The Teacher Corps would utilize \$500 million annually to fund scholarships and bonuses to recruit up to 75,000 new teachers to teach in high-need schools -- facilities that have a high percentage of students from families with incomes below the poverty line. Simi-

larly, the proposed Principal Corps would receive \$50 million annually to help recruit new principals for our nation's most disadvantaged schools.

To increase retention, both the Teacher Corps and the Principal Corps would provide mentoring and professional development to ensure that more educators remain in the classroom. The National Teacher and Principal Recruitment Act would also authorize a \$1 million annual public service campaign -- similar to the recruitment promotions utilized by the U.S. Armed Forces -- to inform interested individuals about the resources, incentives, and support available to those who wish to enter the education field.

A quality education is the foundation of our society. Dedicated educators are crucial to building that foundation. It is imperative to the future of West Virginia and the nation that we address the shortages of teachers and principals in areas where their skills are needed most. It is my hope that the National Teacher and Principal Recruitment Act would help to attract more individuals to the education profession so that all American children may receive the quality education that they deserve.

March 28, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping the Commitment to Clean Coal

In 1985, I started the federal Clean Coal Technology initiative with an amendment authorizing \$750 million for the program. Since then, the initiative has expanded through a joint government-industry investment of more than \$6 billion. This investment has led to cutting-edge projects in 18 states, including an array of high-technology initiatives that can spearhead a new era of clean, efficient power plants fired by our nation's abundant coal resources.

During his presidential campaign, George W. Bush pledged \$2 billion for the clean coal technology effort over the next decade. After having to fight year after year to protect funding for clean coal technology, I welcomed Mr. Bush's commitment.

But in its recently released budget blueprint, the Bush Administration indicates that the President will carry through on his promise of \$2 billion for the clean coal technology effort at the expense of fossil fuel research programs – natural gas, oil, and other coal research. Because of this budgetary shell game, many of the promising fossil fuel research initiatives already in progress would be severely underfunded or eliminated. This budget strategy is akin to robbing Peter to pay Paul.

The President has stated that America is in the midst of an energy crisis. In

order to avoid future crises, we need a more diverse fuel resource base with domestically produced natural gas, oil, and coal as the foundation.

I have talked with the President about my concerns. I also recently met with Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham to voice my objections to reductions in fossil fuel energy research funding. The Administration talks about the need to increase the supply of domestically available fuels. Yet, how can we increase supply if we are going to cut back on the fossil fuel research that makes it possible to produce and more efficiently use more oil, more natural gas, and more coal? While I appreciate the budgetary increases for clean coal technology, it is shortsighted to pay for that technology by subtracting from other valuable fossil fuel initiatives already underway.

If this Administration walks away from fossil fuel energy research, it may well set our energy future on a course of rolling blackouts throughout the nation, and an increased reliance on foreign nations for the fuels needed to keep our economic engine running. Investment in both fossil fuel energy research and clean coal technology must be expanded if America is to be in a strong position to avoid energy crises in the future.

April 4, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Clean Water Should Not Be a Luxury

When I was growing up in Southern West Virginia in the 1920's, my family did not have running water in our home. Instead, I had to take a pail to the nearby pump to fetch water for the household. Today, 80 years later, in many parts of West Virginia and throughout rural America, the pattern that I followed as a young boy is still repeated. In many areas, clean, safe drinking water and an operational sewer system simply do not exist.

Earlier this year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a new study on unmet drinking water needs across America. The agency reported that a total of \$48 billion is needed to address serious deficiencies in the water systems of rural communities of 10,000 or fewer residents. Of that total, \$33.5 billion has been identified as an immediate need. In 1997, the EPA released a similar report on rural wastewater that found nearly \$20 billion was needed to avoid serious threats to public health.

In order to confront this problem, I successfully offered an amendment to add \$1 billion in federal funding

to the Budget Resolution for the construction of clean drinking water and wastewater systems. In some cases, this will mean extending water and wastewater lines from one community to the next. In other cases, it will mean substantial construction projects that will, for the first time, provide many families with clean drinking water and sanitary wastewater systems.

In a nation as advanced as ours, where technology has moved us to places that once were only the stuff of science fiction, families should not have to worry about the safety of their water supply. In all parts of America, there are men, women, and children who live every day without the basic necessities of clean, safe, drinking water or sanitary wastewater disposal. Certain functions of government go straight to the fabric of the social contract. Those that help to provide all Americans with the basic necessities of life are paramount among them. We are in the 21st Century; it is high time to bring our water and sewer systems out of the 19th Century.

April 11, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Model of Community Health Care

Throughout my Congressional career, one of my priorities has been to expand West Virginians' access to health care. In many rural areas, the nearest doctor is miles and miles away. Moreover, specialized care too often is limited to bigger cities or available only out of state. That is why I have always worked to fund local, community-based health centers. While some specialized or surgical care is still limited, these community-based facilities provide an important health resource for rural West Virginians.

One such center recently received national recognition for its efforts. For the third consecutive year, the West Virginia School for Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) in Lewisburg has been ranked among the top 50 primary care medical schools in the nation, according to the magazine *U.S. News and World Report*. The school, which was created in 1972, rapidly became an important resource for West Virginia, as its graduates often went to work in the state's southern coalfields that, for too long, had been plagued by a distinct lack of medical professionals. Expanding primary medical care has always been a goal of the WVSOM. In fact, according to the magazine, in the last three years alone, 92 percent of the school's graduates have

entered the primary care fields of internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, or family practice.

In addition to its important role of training new physicians, the WVSOM is very involved in the medical treatment of Southern West Virginians. Through the Robert C. Byrd Clinic, the faculty of physicians provides medical care to residents of Greenbrier, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Fayette, and Summers counties. I added \$4 million to an appropriations bill in 1995 to help fund the clinic's construction. Since the clinic opened, the number of patient visits has grown by an impressive 42 percent. But to handle the substantial demand for its services, the WVSOM needs even more space, which is why, last fall, I added another \$249,000 to a bill to help expand the clinic's ambulatory care unit.

Community health centers provide the kind of comprehensive, quality primary care services that are so urgently needed in underserved, rural areas. Facilities like the Robert C. Byrd Clinic at the West Virginia School for Osteopathic Medicine give qualified physicians the opportunity to serve people who need their help the most. I congratulate the school for its record of achievement, and look forward to its continued success in the future.

April 18, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preventing Medical Mistakes

America has one of the most advanced health care systems in the world. Yet, despite the best intentions of medical professionals, studies have found that as many as 98,000 lives are lost annually in the U.S. due to mistakes made by health care providers. This ranks medical errors as one of the nation's leading causes of death. In addition, medical errors each year leave thousands of patients with permanent disabilities or unnecessary suffering. As a result of these errors, the nation incurs an estimated \$29 billion in lost income and disability and health care expenses.

While the most publicized medical errors occur in hospital settings, mistakes can occur throughout the health care system, in nursing homes, pharmacies, clinics -- even during home health care visits. While doctors and nurses are certainly trained to recognize and guard against mistakes, and while these professionals and the facilities in which they work take numerous precautions to prevent error, the practice of medicine, as the old adage goes, "is not an exact science." Caregivers and their patients are human, and humans make mistakes.

Of course that is not to

suggest that we cannot and should not reach for improvement -- especially when lives are at stake. For that reason, I supported the addition of \$50 million to an appropriations bill last fall to study the problem of medical errors. The funds will be used to collect data related to patient safety, to test practices aimed at reducing medical errors, and to determine ways to improve the training of health care providers. It is my hope that this research will result in practical solutions for a serious concern.

This initiative is an effort by government and the health care community, working together, to reduce mistakes. But patients, themselves, can play an important role in preventing medical errors. By becoming educated about medical conditions, medications and treatment options; by asking questions and insisting on answers; and by talking candidly with a doctor about any and all relevant medical history, a patient can help to ensure the quality of his or her care.

Good health is a precious commodity. The better we understand how medical mistakes are made and how to prevent them, the more we can ensure the good health of Americans.

April 25, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Coast Guard's West Virginia Success

West Virginia has no oceanfront property. Our state does not boast of scenic Atlantic sunrises or Pacific sunsets. Yet the Mountain State is home to a crucial facility that helps to ensure the safety of ships traveling around the globe.

The Coast Guard Operations Systems Center in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle is the computer nerve center for the United States' maritime rescue and environmental protection activities around the globe. In the 1980s, the Coast Guard had outgrown its original computer center in New York and started the search for a new, more advanced facility. Because of West Virginia's high-quality workforce and cutting-edge fiberoptic network, I saw that the Mountain State could be an excellent place for the Coast Guard's new facility. Working with Coast Guard officials, I secured \$4.7 million in federal appropriations bills to facilitate the establishment of the new Operations Systems Center in Martinsburg. Today, the Center has about 260 employees with an annual economic impact of approximately \$22 million.

In the decade since it opened, the Operations Systems Center has become the Coast Guard's primary computer and data networks center. It runs computer programs for search and rescue, marine safety, maritime law enforcement, military

personnel, logistics, and network security for the Coast Guard. If a ship issues a distress signal, Coast Guard officials can utilize the Operations Systems Center in West Virginia to find nearby merchant vessels that can assist in a rescue effort. Since 1990, this system is credited with saving over 2,000 lives. If a vessel is overdue in port, West Virginia Coast Guard staff can use another program to calculate the most likely position of the vessel, based on wind and ocean currents, dramatically increasing the chance of a quick rescue. This critical search-and-rescue information and support is available to Coast Guard units around the clock, every day of the year, from the Operations Systems Center.

I have endured more than my fair share of criticism for my efforts to meet national priorities with facilities in West Virginia. However, as the Coast Guard Operations Systems Center in Martinsburg exemplifies, these partnerships can be beneficial to everyone. In West Virginia, we can fulfill national needs while also providing important jobs for our state's citizens. I applaud the staff and contractors at the Coast Guard Operations Systems Center in the Eastern Panhandle and look forward to many more years of continued success.

May 2, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting a Cork in Teenage Drinking

As the school year draws to a close, thousands of young people throughout West Virginia will put on tuxedos and dresses, buy flowers, and nervously wait for the arrival of their dates to the high school prom. Soon thereafter, these same young men and women will mark the completion of their high school educations surrounded by friends and family at graduation ceremonies. These events can form memories that last forever. Too often, however, these events turn to tragedy as young people use alcohol to celebrate their milestones.

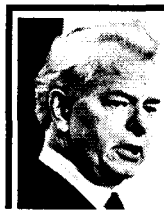
In an effort to avert future alcohol-related tragedies, I recently added an amendment to legislation that would set aside \$25 million for local school districts to promote alcohol prevention efforts in our nation's high schools. Of this amount, \$5 million would be targeted specifically toward low-income and rural school districts. Our nation has taken elaborate measures to combat drug use. We have tightened our border patrols, increased funding for both police and prosecutors, and even sent military advisors to Colombia to assist in the international war on drugs. But alcohol -- Americans' most favored drug -- is widely available and extensively promoted.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol

Abuse and Alcoholism, the extent of consumption of alcohol by children ages 9 to 15 is startling. Consider these facts: three million children ages 14 through 17 are regular drinkers; 24 percent of eighth graders have used alcohol in the last 30 days; and more than 100,000 twelve- to thirteen-year-olds binge drink every month. Additionally, ninth graders who drink are almost twice as likely to attempt suicide as are those who do not drink, and 40 percent of children who begin drinking before the age of 15 will become alcoholics at some point in their lives. These statistics make the case for mounting a national effort to combat underage drinking.

Local government agencies and community groups commendably have been battling the problem for sometime. But with limited resources, they are simply outgunned by the profitable alcohol industry. I hope that the \$25 million that I have set aside will help to enhance and expand local efforts aimed at the prevention of underage drinking. As the statistics show, too many promising lives are lost to alcohol at an early age. By providing these dollars to implement anti-drinking programs, we may truly fulfill the old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

May 9, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Relief from Rising Prescription Drug Costs

A recent report by the National Institute for Health Care Management shows an alarming increase in the cost of prescription drugs. The Institute -- which is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of America's health care system -- found that the price of prescription medicines jumped by 19 percent between 1999 and 2000. In fact, the group's analysis found that doctors last year issued 2.9 billion prescriptions totaling \$131.9 billion. Many of the medicines responsible for the price increase are those used to treat illnesses more common in an aging population, such as arthritis, diabetes, and high cholesterol.

This report bears out the need for a prescription drug benefit as part of the Medicare program. When Medicare was created in 1965, it was modeled after the private insurance plans of the time. Very few of those plans included a prescription drug benefit. But today, while most private insurance plans include a prescription drug plan, Medicare has not kept pace. As a result, Americans who rely on Medicare for their health care coverage, especially those living on fixed incomes, are seeing more of their family budget swallowed up by the rising cost of medicines.

In an effort to provide

Medicare recipients with some relief, I am cosponsoring legislation that would create a universal, voluntary prescription drug benefit in the Medicare program. The legislation would provide all Medicare beneficiaries with affordable coverage for drug costs. Those who choose to participate in the prescription drug initiative would be responsible for an affordable premium and a copayment for their medicines.

West Virginians can learn more about the proposed Medicare prescription drug benefit by visiting my Internet site at <http://byrd.senate.gov>. Recently, I unveiled a new section of my site that takes a closer look at the issue and provides detailed information about the legislation that I am cosponsoring.

As the report by the National Institute for Health Care Management points out, the cost of medicines will likely continue to increase at a pace well above inflation. As new drugs and treatments become available, it is important that they be affordable. The legislation that I am cosponsoring would help to open the doors to these new medicines for Medicare recipients in West Virginia and across the country. It would help to fortify Medicare, allowing elderly and disabled West Virginians to rest assured that their prescription drug needs would be met.

May 16, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pride through Service

In schools throughout West Virginia and the nation, hundreds of children are expelled or suspended from class for disruptive, violent, and sometimes dangerous behavior. Too often, expelled or suspended students are then left to their own devices, without supervision or guidance, during the time that they are away from school. An amendment of mine that recently won Senate approval would begin to change that situation by encouraging states to create community service programs for suspended and expelled youths.

Specifically, my amendment to the education bill would provide \$50 million to encourage states to develop programs that put suspended and expelled students to work in community service activities. Whether picking up litter, whacking weeds, painting fences, or mowing the grass, public service programs would provide these young people with alternative activities that would help to better their communities and their lives.

It is said that idle hands are the devil's workshop. I think that we should put those hands to work. Too many students use suspension or expulsion as a means to avoid their classroom responsibilities. My amend-

ment would provide these youths with new duties. Instead of hanging around on street corners or roaming around the local shopping malls, these young people would be required to participate in community service activities that give them structure, promote a work ethic, and send the message that suspension from school is not a vacation.

These programs would also allow youths to give something back to their communities. Many young people of the "me" generation do not consider themselves members of society. They have no notion of social responsibility. By performing community service, these young people would make a contribution to their neighbors. This also might open their eyes to the problems of those around them.

I know that there is no magic wand to wave when it comes to instilling a sense of responsibility in children. If such a wand existed, teachers and parents would have used it years ago. But I hope that by encouraging community service for those who have erred in their ways, we can build a foundation of community spirit in these young people and, possibly for the first time, give them a sense of pride in themselves.

May 23, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Economic Assistance for West Virginia Communities

As the marketplace has changed and old industries have given way to new, West Virginia has been confronted with new challenges in economic development. To help meet those challenges in an innovative way, I have supported federal legislation to continue a targeted program of support for communities struggling to realize a new vision for the future. The Community Renewal Tax Relief Act authorizes more than \$25 billion over the next decade to ensure the continued success of a federal initiative that encourages economic development.

The act continues the Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC) program, which provides EZ and EC designations to select localities. With such a designation, these areas get a leg up on obtaining special tax incentives, grants, and loans to make community improvements, enhance infrastructure, and expand business opportunities.

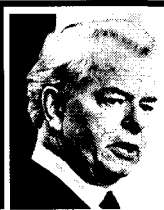
Since the program was first established in 1993, more than 146 communities throughout the United States have benefited from EZ and EC designations. In West Virginia, the City of Huntington, McDowell County, the City of Charleston, and the five-county region of Clay, Roane, Braxton, Nicholas, and Fayette, currently participate in the program. The Community Renewal Tax Relief Act calls for the establishment of nine new empowerment zones and 40 new renewal com-

munities nationally over the next ten years.

Once designated as an enterprise community or empowerment zone, a local area receives special advantages, including increased weight in competition for federal grants and loans as well as assistance in strategic planning and design. In some cases, these communities may also receive waivers from federal regulations that otherwise can make it difficult for cash-strapped towns to pursue development opportunities. The EZ/EC designation also helps to cut through federal agency red tape so local communities can more quickly solve their economic-development problems.

To qualify for one of these designations, localities must satisfy several requirements. Communities must partner with private or non-profit organizations or with state or local government entities. They must develop strategic plans for growth and revitalization and they must also act in concert with their partners and the federal program to bring those plans to fruition.

The EZ/EC initiative is an example of the kind of innovative thinking that is needed to help struggling towns and rural areas improve their economic fortunes in this era of stiff international competition. It proves that old-fashioned bureaucratic red tape can be cut for the benefit of forward-thinking communities and for the welfare of the nation as a whole.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Our Vision Clear

As I drove through the Mountain State earlier this month to attend the dedication of the new West Virginia University (WVU) Eye Institute, I looked upon the marvelous wonders of nature that our Creator has bestowed upon our beautiful state. Who among us, with the good fortune to have vision, can conceive of living in West Virginia without the ability to see the verdant hills, the fuchsia mountain laurels, or the orange-purple glow of a summer sunset on the horizon?

Unfortunately, in West Virginia, more than 100,000 people have visual problems that hamper their enjoyment of life and threaten their independence. It is estimated that the total annual cost of West Virginia's visual problems, including medical bills and lost wages, is \$282 million, according to the WVU Department of Ophthalmology. Over the last five years, the number of eye patients seeking care at WVU has grown by 50 percent, creating a desperate need for more space and more resources.

To help address that growing need, I added \$3 million to a federal appropriations bill in 1999 to make possible construction of the West Virginia University Eye Institute. With the recent completion of the facility, West Virginians will have easy access to eye

care, no matter how complex or challenging their medical problem.

The new Eye Institute will provide one-stop consultation and high-quality clinical care, with specialists of all kinds to serve the needs of every patient in just a single visit. With the latest in modern technology, the Institute will also promote cutting-edge research and education on the causes and treatments of many kinds of vision problems.

To assist those with "low vision," whose needs cannot be met through standard medical procedures, I added \$1 million to an appropriations bill last year to establish, equip, and staff the Appalachian Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation at the WVU Eye Institute. The center will provide "low vision" patients with rehabilitation counseling, occupational therapy, mobility training, and links to available social services.

The WVU Eye Institute deals with vision, but vision is certainly much more than eyesight. The facility is part of a vision for a future when basic health care is available to all West Virginians. I applaud those at WVU involved with the long planning process for the new Eye Institute, and I look forward to the improved access to eye care that it will provide for West Virginians for decades to come.

June 6, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Cupboard Is Bare

The recent decision by Vermont Senator James Jeffords to leave the Republican Party sparked an unprecedented event in history. For the first time, in the middle of a Congressional session, control of the U.S. Senate changed from one political party to another. This shift returns me to the chairmanship of the Senate Appropriations Committee. While I welcome the job, I wish that this sudden change were accompanied by the financial resources needed to address our nation's many pressing challenges. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

For more than a decade, Congress has tightened the federal fiscal belt in order to pare down the deficit, pay down the national debt, and protect Social Security and Medicare. With the help of a strong economy, that exercise in fiscal restraint has resulted in projected surpluses which ought to be used to address current and future national needs.

But the predicted surpluses are being swept away by the Administration's massive, \$1.35 trillion tax cut, which I vigorously opposed because it devours the surpluses and reduces Congress' ability to address many outstanding problems. According to a report card issued earlier this year by the American Society of Civil Engineers, these problems loom large. The engineers graded the country's roads at D+, our schools at

D-, and our drinking water systems at D. Because of the colossal tax cut and the resulting budgetary constraints, those poor marks are unlikely to improve anytime soon.

To pay for the \$1.35 trillion tax cut, the Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Resolution -- Congress' spending blueprint -- mandates a \$5.5 billion cut in funding for transportation, education, health care, veterans, and a host of other important programs. President Bush later this year also plans to send to Congress an additional budget request for increased military expenditures which will likely require even more cuts in funding for our national infrastructure needs.

I am proud to have regained the title of Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. My dilemma, however, is how to meet the needs of West Virginia and of the nation, such as to shore up Social Security and Medicare and to fund a prescription drug benefit, when so many dollars will be needed for the tax cut.

This colossal tax cut will siphon off the funds necessary to confront the foregoing challenges. It has tied the hands of the Appropriations Committee to a considerable extent. And to top it off, the American taxpayer will be called upon to bear the cost -- a whopping \$116 million! -- of mailing out the tax rebate checks.

June 13, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Patients' Rights

Today, approximately 180 million Americans are enrolled in managed care health plans. While there is general agreement that managed care has helped to reduce medical costs in recent years, there is also evidence of a troubling and growing trend among health insurance plans to move medical decisions out of the doctor's office and into an accountant's office.

For five years, there has been a bipartisan effort to return medical decisions to the doctor and patient. Congress has worked to pass a Patients' Bill of Rights -- one that protects all Americans in all health plans, guarantees access to needed health care specialists, and includes an enforcement mechanism to make sure that these rights are administered. But, for five years, special interests have blocked such legislation.

In the coming days, Congress will renew this debate. Specifically, we will examine legislation that represents a balanced approach toward ensuring patient safety and health plan accountability without significantly raising health plan premiums or employer costs.

The Patients' Bill of Rights would ensure that patients with a serious illness are allowed access to a specialist without having to get the permission of an accountant who does not have medical training. The bill would give patients the authority to go to any

emergency room during a medical emergency, when every minute is critical, without waiting for preapproval by their health insurer. The proposal also would provide women with direct access to their obstetrician/gynecologist, and would provide children with direct access to their pediatrician. Finally, the legislation would hold managed care plans accountable if those plans are found to be responsible for a patient's disability or death.

This bipartisan initiative has the support of nearly 600 consumer and health care organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American Nurses Association. In fact, most of these provisions have been endorsed by the managed care industry's own trade association as voluntary standards that its members should follow.

Five years is long enough to wait for these protections. According to a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation, each day of delay leaves 35,000 patients without access to the specialized care that they need. Each day of delay results in 10,000 doctors treating patients who have been harmed because a managed care plan, for financial reasons, refused to approve a simple diagnostic test. It is time to end the delay. It is time for doctors and patients to make medical decisions again, not accountants and bureaucrats.

June 20, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Better Late than Never

The Bush Administration has finally heeded the urgent call from communities across West Virginia and the nation to initiate an investigation into the continuing surge of foreign steel products into the American market. This decision to launch what is termed a "Section 201" investigation into the steel import crisis is welcome, but long overdue.

Since late 1997, the American steel industry has been decimated by a flood of below-cost and subsidized foreign imports. These import waves have washed away thousands of jobs and forced at least 18 U.S. steel companies into bankruptcy, including Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel.

The Section 201 investigation, which is perhaps the most powerful trade tool that the United States has, can help to level what has become an increasingly tilted playing field. After thoroughly reviewing the steel import crisis and its damaging effects on U.S. companies and workers, the International Trade Commission will make recommendations to the President on how to remedy the trade imbalance. I am hopeful that the investigation finally can lead to the kind of remedies that will provide long-

overdue relief to domestic steel producers.

Travel through West Virginia's Northern Panhandle and you can see how vital the steel companies are to the area's economy. Those plants provide thousands of jobs directly, and even more indirectly. On a national level, a healthy steel industry is critical to our security. Our military relies on steel for its ships, tanks, and fighter jets. American steel keeps our military strong. But if the domestic steel industry disappears, our national defense and the economic health of many communities could collapse.

Last year, I included an amendment to an appropriations bill that called on the President to initiate the Section 201 probe. I will continue to urge the Administration to provide relief to the beleaguered steel industry. It is past time for the Executive Branch to take an active role in defending American steel from unfair trade. It is my hope that the Section 201 investigation is the first step toward providing domestic steel producers, their employees, and the communities that rely on the steel industry, the reprieve necessary to get back on solid ground.

June 27, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Haste Makes Waste on Missile Defense

The President recently concluded a trip to Europe where he attempted to convince foreign leaders of the need for an American missile defense system. It seems that our allies in Europe have reservations about this apparent rush to judgment on a missile shield, and I can understand why.

The challenges of deploying an effective missile shield remain great. The last two anti-missile tests, performed in January and July of 2000, were failures. Military officers involved in the project have called the Bush Administration's 2004 deployment date "high risk," meaning that there is no guarantee that a system deployed by 2004 would provide any useful defense at all. I cannot support the deployment of a multi-billion-dollar scarecrow that would not be an effective defense if a missile were actually launched at our shores.

This year, the U.S. will spend \$4.3 billion on all of the various programs related to missile defense. But that is just a down payment. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that a limited missile defense system would cost \$30 billion, while a more comprehensive defense shield could range in cost from \$60 billion to a colossal \$120 billion. The

Brookings Institution reported that, since 1962, the federal government has spent \$99 billion on missile defense. For all of that money, I do not believe that our national security has been increased one bit.

The simple fact of missile defense is that it will always be of limited use. While there are those who equate a national missile defense system with a safe and secure nation, such a system will never detect a lone terrorist who crosses our borders armed with a chemical or biological weapon or with a portable nuclear bomb. That is why I continue to urge the Administration to pay greater attention to these immediate dangers. The flashy idea of missile defense should not distract us from other, perhaps more serious, threats to our national security.

There may be a road that eventually leads to an effective missile defense system, but that road must be paved with common sense. We must engage our friends, and listen to our critics; learn from the past, and invest wisely; test carefully, and assess constantly. But most of all, we must avoid haste. We cannot afford to embark on a quixotic quest that could damage our national security and waste billions of dollars in the process.

July 4, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Derail Fast Track

Once again, a President is pressing for special authority to ram through international trade agreements with little input from Congress. As supporters of this so-called "fast-track" authority, many members of the House of Representatives, and some of my colleagues in the Senate, advocate a wholesale surrender of Congress' Constitutional authority over foreign commerce.

Although the President is given the power to negotiate with foreign governments, Congress has the responsibility to accept, reject, or modify any proposed trade agreements. Under fast track, Congress would forsake its duty and would agree to consider most trade legislation under mandatory deadlines, with limited debate and no amendments. This blurs a very clear line that separates the Executive and the Legislative branches of the federal government.

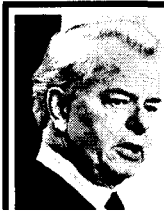
Fast-track authority could also very easily allow the principles of fair trade to be undermined. In the new world of international trade, our trading partners often come to the table proposing elaborate changes to U.S. laws that could harm American industries and close factory doors. The domestic workers who would suffer by such proposed modifications are given no voice in this process. Under fast-track authority, the voice of Congress is also essentially

muted. The House and Senate would become mere rubber stamps for potentially flawed trade laws.

I oppose any such efforts that would tie the hands of Congress and deny the people fair representation. I am against fast track. Too many American workers, companies, and communities have felt the sting of unfair trade for too long. Let the Administration proponents of fast track come to West Virginia and talk to the steelworkers who lost their jobs because of illegal trade practices. Let the advocates of fast track attempt to explain how their plans will help communities -- like those in our state that once boasted garment and shoemaking factories and glass and pottery plants that have gone out business as a result of unfair trade practices.

Although I support increased international trade, it must be fair trade. Fast track certainly does not guarantee a level playing field for U.S. industries. Instead, it puts American industries and workers at a disadvantage. Fast track invokes on the Senate a gag rule. It violates Senators' constitutional liberties of freedom of speech and the right to amend. We cannot permit this odious authority to weaken our voices, to sap the vigor of our democratic institutions, and to blind us to the needs of American communities.

July 11, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Entertaining the Notion of Responsibility

The entertainment industry has greater influence today than ever before on young people. Children are bombarded by movies, television programs, music, and electronic games with adult-oriented themes. Although this industry in the past has resisted government regulation by instituting voluntary ratings systems, recent evidence proves that these voluntary efforts have not gone far enough.

Last fall, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) released a report which concluded that the entertainment industry routinely targets children under the age of 17 for products that the industry's own ratings systems deem inappropriate, including those that warrant parental caution due to violent content. The FTC found evidence of marketing schemes that expressly focus on enticing young people to indulge in adult-oriented entertainment. These marketing plans included the purchase and placement of advertisements that hock music, videos, and electronic games in media outlets likely to reach children.

Although the entertainment industry promised to clean up its act, the FTC released a follow-up review six months after its initial report, which found that many of the objectionable practices continue. The review indicated that the motion picture and electronic games industries had "made some progress both in limiting advertising in popular teen media and in providing rating information in ad-

vertising." However, the report stated that the music recording industry, unlike its counterparts, had not made any real efforts to shield children from adult products.

Because entertainment companies have repeatedly violated the public's trust, focusing more on profits than on the well-being of young people, I have co-sponsored legislation that would help to prevent these businesses from marketing adult-rated products to children. This bill would expand the FTC's authority to crack down on companies that engage in "false and deceptive advertising practices." Businesses found to be peddling adult material to minors would be subject to fines of up to \$11,000 per day.

This legislation would not affect all entertainment companies. Those businesses that actively enforce the voluntary rating systems and do not market adult-rated materials to children will not face any penalties. But for those companies that continue to market inappropriate material to minors, this legislation would hit them where it hurts -- in their wallets.

The job of raising young people in today's culture is difficult enough without the entertainment industry's overwhelming them with inappropriate, adult material. By holding accountable the companies that target children, I hope that this legislation will make the job of parents a little easier.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Commitment to Disaster Recovery

Once again, West Virginians are cleaning up from severe flooding that exacted a heavy toll from our people and our state. It is an almost indescribable scene for many families who have watched their homes and belongings washed away by the flood. For many, the July flood comes just weeks after they finished cleaning up from May's heavy rains that prompted a federal disaster declaration.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates that it will take at least \$180 million for West Virginians to recover from this flooding. This is far too much for any county to handle on its own without much-needed federal assistance. To help West Virginians affected by flooding, I recently secured Senate Appropriations Committee approval of \$2 billion for FEMA's disaster contingency fund for the coming fiscal year. In addition to responding to West Virginia's flood, FEMA will be able to use the money for other natural disasters across the country.

The grants that FEMA can provide to individuals and businesses affected by natural disasters can be crucial to the local attempts to rebuild. This funding should help many West Virginians who face the diffi-

cult task of reclaiming their homes and communities in the months ahead.

In an effort to provide more immediate assistance, I have added \$16 million to legislation signed into law by the President to alleviate the flooding devastation in West Virginia. Of that funding, \$8 million would assist the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service in its efforts to remove debris and obstructions to waterways that pose a threat to property or human safety. The remaining \$8 million would assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in restoration of streams and crucial public infrastructure, such as water and sewer facilities. This is just a small step in the recovery process, but it is an important step to take.

Despite the tragedy caused by the flooding, West Virginians have pulled through for their own. I thank the thousands of National Guardsmen, firefighters, law enforcement officials, Red Cross volunteers, State Office of Emergency Services personnel, and countless others who have worked to save lives since the crisis began. Their efforts have helped to prevent this disaster from taking an even larger toll on West Virginia.

July 25, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Accountable Accounting at the Pentagon

The United States has the most powerful military in the world, with highly trained and disciplined men and women who use the most sophisticated technology available to defend our country and deter our adversaries. But this power comes with a considerable price tag: in Fiscal Year 2001, we will spend more than \$310 billion to maintain our national security.

However, no one knows for sure how the military spends its money, what exactly it owns, and, consequently, what it really needs. This is because the accounting systems of the Department of Defense are in such disarray that investigators cannot even begin to audit its books.

One recent investigation found that, out of \$1.1 billion in emergency funds that Congress appropriated in 1999 for the Pentagon to purchase urgently needed spare parts, 92 percent was transferred to an account that can pay for anything from aircraft repairs to administrative expenses. Once in that account, the military's bookkeepers could not track where the money went or how it was spent. It is disgraceful that the Department of Defense could spend more than \$1 billion, but not show the American people so much as a receipt for what was purchased.

Balancing the military's books is not as exciting as designing or purchasing the next generation of airplanes, tanks, or ships, but it is just as important. Every dollar wasted on unimportant programs is one less dollar available for training, increased pay, or improved housing for military personnel.

I first brought this issue to the attention of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld when he appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee for his confirmation hearing in January. After my questioning, and upon taking office, Secretary Rumsfeld began a review of the Department's financial management systems. He has pledged to formulate a plan to address these massive accounting problems.

Because of the size of our Armed Forces, it will take many years before the military's books are sorted out. But that reform must begin immediately. As a first step, I included a provision in an appropriations bill recently approved by the Senate to require the Pentagon to report to Congress on its future purchases of spare parts. As we have seen, even a seemingly minor component of our national security, like spare parts, if left unchecked, can become a major waste of taxpayer dollars.

August 1, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Safe Schools: A Shared Responsibility

As the days of summer draw to a close, parents soon will send their children back to the classrooms for the start of another school year.

In an effort to find new methods to protect students and teachers, I added \$100,000 to a federal appropriations bill last year to support a collaborative approach toward preventing violent schoolhouse tragedies, visited upon other states, from occurring in West Virginia. This funding, which was recently released by the U.S. Department of Education, will assist the West Virginia University (WVU) Extension Service to develop training materials for specialized workshops to be held at three pilot middle schools or junior high schools throughout the 2001-2002 school year. As a team, WVU Extension agents and on-site school coordinators from each pilot school will conduct specialized training seminars for teachers and other school personnel.

This project will take advantage of the knowledge and insights of those closest to the problem -- namely, the teachers, administrators, and students who spend at least eight hours a day in the schools.

It will pair their experiences with the technical and research expertise at WVU to create thorough, creative approaches for the prevention of school violence. The results of the pilot project will be evaluated at the end of the school year.

This initiative builds on the success of a pair of school violence prevention conferences that I cohosted previously with WVU President David C. Hardesty. In August 1999, we welcomed parents, teachers, lawmakers, police officers, and faith leaders to the first-ever statewide symposium on school safety. That event was followed by a students-only Youth Summit, held in April 2000 at WVU and seven other sites across the state. The recommendations from these events have helped to shape this new pilot project.

Tragedies can occur at any school at any time. Ending this problem is a shared responsibility. It will take a concerted effort, like the one under way at West Virginia University -- which blends the insights of teachers, students, parents, and community organizations -- to develop and institute the comprehensive measures that are necessary to ensure classrooms remain safe.

August 8, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hitting the Brakes on Unsafe Mexican Trucks

Seven years after the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect, the costs associated with that misguided agreement -- which I opposed -- are becoming increasingly clear. In February, a NAFTA dispute panel, examining a Mexican challenge to U.S. trucking restrictions, concluded that Mexican trucks must be allowed to enter the U.S., despite the danger that these unregulated trucks could cause to the safety of American citizens.

In accordance with that recent decision, the Bush Administration announced its intention to lift the crossing gate to Mexican trucks sometime before January 1, 2002. I believe that we ought not to take that step without, at least, establishing measures to prevent the hazards that these trucks could pose to Americans on the road.

Mexican truck- and driver-safety standards are nearly nonexistent. There is no truck-safety rating system in that country, nor are there comprehensive truck equipment standards. Mexican law fails to require many of the fundamentals of highway safety that are mandated by U.S. law and regulation, such as restrictions on daily hours of service that can prevent an overworked truck driver from risking his life and the lives of others.

I opposed NAFTA because I felt that it was bad policy. Like so many other

such agreements, I felt that it subverted the needs of our working families to the free trade agenda of the White House. I was concerned that NAFTA would make it easier for Mexico to attract American companies and jobs to go south of the Mexican border. Not only is that prediction coming true, but also NAFTA now is allowing Mexico to export danger onto our highways with these unregulated, unsafe trucks.

In February, I contacted U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick and Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta to urge that the Bush Administration not compromise the safety of America's highways. Recently, the Senate approved legislation, which I supported, that would implement stringent standards for Mexican trucks crossing into the U.S. The Senate Transportation Appropriations bill would require border inspections of trucks and on-site safety audits of Mexican trucking companies. The legislation would also mandate that Mexican trucks cross the border only at facilities manned by U.S. inspectors.

Until the U.S. and Mexico can agree upon comprehensive standards for trucks, and until those standards can be enforced effectively, we must stand against efforts that would compromise the safety of Americans traveling on our nation's roads.

August 15, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Casting a Vote for Election Reform

The right to vote is fundamental to our Republic. It is the central means by which the American people express their views, and thereby direct the future of the nation. But, as we saw in last year's Presidential election, casting one's ballot is not the end of the process. Votes must be verified and counted quickly and accurately, so that the American people have confidence in our election process. Preserving the integrity of the voting system is critical to the preservation of our representative form of government.

Over the years, the percentage of eligible voters who take the time to go to the polls has declined. I find it disappointing that American citizens would fail to exercise this precious right and important responsibility. Yet, I well understand how the spectacle of last year's elections and the irregularities that were widely reported can exacerbate a common misconception that one's vote does not count. The federal government should do more to reignite a passion for citizen participation if we are to pass on the principles of our representative democracy to future generations.

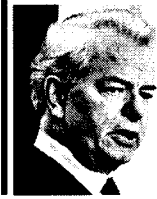
To this end, I have co-sponsored the Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act -- legislation aimed at reform-

ing the elections process in order to avoid the types of problems which were highlighted in the 2000 elections. This bill proposes three basic electoral reforms. It would require states to adopt uniform statewide standards for election machinery by 2004; it would require states to allow provisional voting -- that is, voters whose qualifications are challenged at the polls could vote, on the condition that their eligibility would be confirmed later; it would also require states to send all voters a sample ballot at least ten days prior to all federal elections, starting in 2004.

The bill would also establish a 12-member bipartisan commission to study possible improvements in voter registration, participation, and election technology. Additionally, the act would create a grant program, administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, to provide funds for states and localities to purchase updated technology, improve voter registration systems, and educate voters and poll workers prior to the 2004 elections.

I think it is critical that Congress work to enact election reform. This is the first important step in restoring confidence in our election process.

August 22, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Figuring in Fair Trade

I support increased international trade. However, I do not believe that increased trade should come at the cost of fair treatment for American workers and industries. That is why I have voted against trade pacts that would carry a heavy price tag of lost U.S. jobs and businesses. I have opposed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with China, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and other agreements that I thought did not serve the best interests of most American workers and their families. Workers in the garment industry, the steel industry, the glass and pottery industries, and certain other trades in West Virginia and across the nation have seen their livelihoods shipped to foreign countries because of misguided U.S. trade policy.

The Constitution gives Congress the exclusive authority to "regulate commerce with foreign nations." But, for too long, Congress has taken a back seat to Presidents bent on ramming through trade agreements that focus more on our foreign trading partners than on our interests at home. As a result, the American people have less input into trade agreements than they should have.

To help produce more balanced trade pacts, U.S. negotiators ought to have more input from the public's Congressional representatives. Expanded Congressional participation will help

to reinforce the framework of fair trade. It will give trade agreements greater legitimacy and increase public understanding of the costs and benefits of globalization. The Constitution demands that Congress make this effort, and the people expect it.

That is why Senator Max Baucus of Montana and I recently introduced legislation to create a Congressional Trade Office (CTO). This nonpartisan trade office, modeled on the Congressional Budget Office which provides Congress with unbiased budget data, would allow Congress better access to information about trade negotiations and the impact of trade agreements on the U.S. economy. The CTO would provide Congress with trade data and analyses, observe negotiations, evaluate trade dispute resolution proceedings, and monitor international compliance with major trade agreements.

It is Congress's duty under the Constitution to make sure that American interests are properly reflected as marketplaces around the world become more interconnected. The Congressional Trade Office would provide Congress with the information necessary to act as a watchdog for the interests of U.S. workers and industries. Establishment of such an office would help to ensure that the wrecking ball of unfair trade does not continue to topple the hopes and dreams of American families.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Coarsening of Our Culture

Television can have a profound impact on young people. Children all across the country have benefited through the years from educational programs such as "Sesame Street" and "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood." But it seems that, in recent years, television broadcasters have turned a blind eye to their influence on children. Bad programming has far outweighed good programming, and we are seeing the woeful results in our society. A recent report from the Parents Television Council (PTC) delivers some sobering news. The study confirms that shows broadcast during hours when children are most likely to watch television continue to be more vulgar, more sexually explicit, and more violent. The study showed that between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. -- the so-called "Family Hour" -- objectionable material on television had risen 24 percent in just two years.

Between the 1998-1999 and the 2000-2001 television seasons, the PTC found that the use of vulgar language on television shows had increased 78 percent and that violence had jumped 70 percent. According to the study, 15 percent of all violent incidents in these shows involved a gun. The PTC examined six weeks -- nearly 200 hours -- of programming on ABC, CBS, Fox, NBC, UPN, and the WB networks.

The influence that these vulgar and violent images have on our children is of great concern to me. That is why I am cosponsoring legislation that would promote voluntary decency standards within the entertainment industry. The proposed Children's Protection Act would permit entertainment companies to devise voluntary codes of conduct for television programming, movies, video games, Internet content, and music.

According to the Television Bureau of Advertising, the average child watches more than three hours of television a day -- and one of those hours is usually the Family Hour. By the time that this child has reached the age of 18, he or she has seen 13,000 killings and 100,000 violent acts. In an age when children who commit violent crimes often model their acts after characters on television, in the movies, or in video games, it is long past time for entertainment executives to accept responsibility for their actions.

It is a shame that what passes these days for entertainment is so polluted with violence and vulgarity. It is an even greater concern when this profane "entertainment" is directed toward children. The Children's Protection Act, and the decency standards that it hopefully initiates, can be a first step toward reclaiming the airwaves for families.

September 5, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Quarter Century of Hope

On December 6, 1907, explosions at a coal mine at Monongah in Marion County claimed the lives of 362 men and boys. Although this event stands as the worst mine disaster in American history, it is only one of many tragedies that have befallen U.S. coal miners through the years.

As a boy growing up in the coalfields of Southern West Virginia, and later as a public official representing coal miners and their families, I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of coal mining on the health and safety of miners. It was this concern for miner safety that prompted me in 1969 to suggest that the federal government create a mine safety training facility. After many discussions, and my efforts to obtain \$29.5 million in federal appropriations through the years, the National Mine Health and Safety Academy was formally established and dedicated on August 17, 1976.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Academy, located in Beaver, Raleigh County. Coal mining remains one of the most dangerous occupations in the country. But thanks to the efforts of the Academy over the last quarter century, the U.S. has made great strides to reduce the risk of

injury and death to coal miners. In the year before the Academy was dedicated, 155 miners were killed on the job. Last year, the number had dropped to 38.

The Academy has become the world's largest educational institution devoted solely to safety and health in mining. Thanks to the Academy's dedicated staff and first class training facilities, America is the world's leader in the promotion of mine safety. Miners, mine inspectors, and others involved in coal mining from Bulgaria, China, South Africa, Peru, Ukraine, Russia, and other nations have all come to the Raleigh County facility to study cutting-edge mine safety techniques.

While we can look back with justifiable pride over the accomplishments of the National Mine Health and Safety Academy over the past 25 years, we must renew our determination to do even better in the years ahead. Accidents will always occur in coal mines and there will always be tragedies that we cannot foresee or prevent. But vigilance, knowledge, and training -- as provided by the Academy -- remain the miner's best weapons against accidents. Training and education can mean the difference between life and death.

September 12, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Stands Determined

From coast to coast, Americans watched in disbelief as hijacked airplanes crashed into a pair of our nation's most recognizable landmarks -- the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. The terrorists may have believed that their attack would undermine our nation, but they were wrong.

America stands strong. America stands united. America stands determined.

We are certainly a nation in mourning. We mourn those who were killed in the brutal and heartless terrorist attacks on America. We grieve for their families, friends, and coworkers. We pray for those who were injured.

Above all, we pray for peace, and we vow to leave no stone unturned as we search for a solution to the extremism and the intolerance that led to the massacres at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the plane crash in Pennsylvania. We shall seek out those responsible for these acts of terrorism, but we shall not seek to perpetuate a cycle of violence.

In an effort to provide assistance to the people who were victims of the attacks as well as to provide the President with the immediate financial resources he needs to fight back against terrorism, Congress has approved \$40 billion in emer-

gency funding. Immediately following the attacks, I met with President Bush to discuss how best to respond. We agreed that this emergency funding is an important first step.

Like most Americans, I am astonished by the sophistication, organization, and complexity of the terrorist attack on the United States. These attacks took elaborate planning, significant manpower, and detailed knowledge of U.S. aircraft and aviation systems. While I have great admiration for our intelligence agencies, it is frankly beyond belief that such a massive assault on our nation could be executed without any discernable signals. It is beyond belief that our nation, with its vast network of worldwide intelligence resources, could be caught so utterly unprepared.

That is why we need to rebuild our intelligence capabilities, improve security at our airports, rebuild the Pentagon, and repair the devastation of New York's financial district.

America is certainly a changed nation as a result of this terrorist assault. We have entered a new and unfamiliar era. But one thing will not change. American resolve and American confidence will remain, strengthened by our renewed commitment to one another and to the ideals of the great country we all love.

September 19, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Proud Heritage, a Bright Future

Even as West Virginia communities move forward with efforts to modernize and revitalize their economies, preserving the heritage of the Mountain State remains a top priority. The activities underway in the City of Wheeling, which combine economic development with historic appreciation, could serve as a model for others to follow.

The history of Wheeling, West Virginia's first capital, is America's history. The story of the community and its river port, which played a key role in the early industrial development of the United States, not only provides a glimpse into America's past but can also provide insight into where we are going as a nation. This is the mission of the Wheeling National Heritage Area project -- to preserve the lessons of history for future generations so that they are better prepared to lead.

The heritage project, which is a joint federal-local initiative, seeks to revitalize Wheeling's historic downtown area while also showcasing the city's rich cultural traditions. I recently participated in the dedication of the Wheeling Heritage Port, a component in the overall development plan. Throughout much of its history, the Wheeling port served as the crossing between the civilized East and the wild West. Thousands passed through this portal searching for their destiny, filled with dreams of fortune, energized by the

call of the unknown. The restored port, with its interpretive displays, will allow visitors to see firsthand the important historical and natural resources that made Wheeling a 19th-century hub of transportation, commerce, and Victorian culture.

I have supported Wheeling's efforts to rejuvenate its downtown through the National Heritage Area initiative by adding more than \$23 million to appropriations bills for the various heritage projects, including \$9.1 million for construction of the Robert C. Byrd Intermodal Transportation Center, which was dedicated in 1998 and houses the Wheeling Visitors Center; \$5.1 million for construction of the Artisan Center, dedicated in 1999 and featuring retail space that focuses on West Virginia artists; and \$6.7 million for development of the Heritage Port.

Wheeling's endeavors are an example of the hard work of Northern Panhandle residents in transitioning from a solely industrial economy to a diversified economic base, while at the same time retaining the cultural and historic character of the region. The Wheeling National Heritage Area initiative has put the community's traditions and treasures on display for the world to see, while at the same time propelling the city toward a brighter future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Righting Rural Wrongs in Health Care

Across West Virginia, especially in our more rural areas, there is a serious shortage of doctors. Too often, families must travel long distances to see a physician, and even farther if specialized care is required. That is why, throughout my career of public service, I have worked to expand the reach of our medical facilities.

One such effort is the Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health, based at Marshall University. This center, constructed through \$4.5 million that I added to appropriations legislation in 1992, serves as the base for Marshall's rural medicine outreach programs, which serve counties throughout Southern West Virginia.

The West Virginia School for Osteopathic Medicine, located in Greenbrier County, is another important rural health care provider. Through the Robert C. Byrd Clinic, the school is very involved in the medical treatment of rural West Virginians. I added \$4 million to an appropriations bill in 1995 to help fund the clinic's construction.

My most recent effort to improve the accessibility of health care is underway at West Virginia University (WVU). WVU is in the process of developing a new medical campus to serve residents in the Eastern Panhandle. The new Eastern Clinical Campus, made pos-

sible through \$3.4 million that I added to legislation last year, will work with medical institutions, health care providers, and communities across the region. In addition to housing primary and specialty care physicians, the campus will train young people to become medical professionals.

The new medical campus will fill a large gap in West Virginia's health care network, specifically in the Eastern Panhandle. While that region is one of the state's fastest-growing areas, it is plagued by a terrible doctor shortage. The state averages 16.8 physicians for every 10,000 residents, but the Eastern Panhandle has only 9.26 doctors per 10,000 residents, according to WVU. The national average is about 20 physicians per 10,000 people.

West Virginians are proud of their history, their heritage, and their mountains. But that same rugged, rural terrain has been an obstacle for access to quality health care close to home. I hope that the funding that I added to legislation over the past decade will help West Virginia University, Marshall University, and the School for Osteopathic Medicine to overcome the obstacles that prevent many West Virginians from receiving the quality medical treatment that they deserve.

October 3, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Ounce of Prevention

In the wake of the brutal and heartless terrorist attacks on the United States, federal officials have started to reassess the strengths and weaknesses of the nation's emergency response capabilities. One area that has received increased attention is the threat of chemical or biological weapons, such as anthrax or smallpox, and America's ability to respond effectively to such an assault.

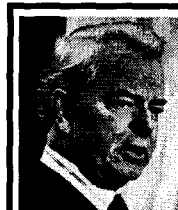
While our firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical personnel have shown that they can respond quickly to any emergency, these rescue workers will need the rapid support of trained specialists and scientific professionals in the event of a chemical or biological attack. If such an attack occurs, quick and accurate information for emergency personnel will be the first line of defense.

Following the tragedy of September 11, it is clear that our public health system must become part of our national defense. I discussed these very issues in a recent letter to the President and during a Senate hearing on bioterrorism with Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson. Unfortunately, the public health infrastructure in this country has not kept pace with the potential threat.

While there is much work to be done across the country, an innovative approach that can benefit the entire nation is already underway in the hills of West Virginia. I added \$1 million to appropriations legislation last year and an additional \$4 million to Fiscal Year 2002 appropriations bills to create the Virtual Medical Campus at West Virginia University (WVU). The Virtual Medical Campus will be the computer network and national information delivery service of the National Training Center for Homeland Security that is being developed collaboratively by WVU and the West Virginia National Guard. The Virtual Medical Campus will link doctors and emergency personnel who respond to chemical and biological attacks with specialists who can immediately identify the steps that must be taken to protect the public.

As the old saying goes, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." I am proud that West Virginia, through the Virtual Medical Campus, is at the forefront of efforts to prevent further tragedies. By providing crucial knowledge to the public health community and other disaster response groups nationwide, this initiative will help to protect the lives and health of all citizens.

October 10, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reclaiming the Safety of Coalfield Communities

For decades, West Virginia miners have extracted the coal that has powered our nation. The fruits of this labor brought about an industrial expansion that catapulted the United States to economic dominance in the last century. But in some cases, after the mines were no longer useful, they were left in such poor condition that they threatened the safety of coalfield residents.

In West Virginia and across the country, the backlog of abandoned mines is growing to dangerous levels. The federal government's Office of Surface Mining reports that West Virginia has more than 2,300 abandoned coal mine sites, the most of any state in the nation. That is more than \$766 million worth of mine reclamation needed in the Mountain State.

These old mines have posed health and safety threats to nearby residents for many years. In some instances, children have died after falling into abandoned mine shafts. Other mines stand on the verge of collapse. And, in many cases, acid mine drainage threatens water quality for nearby communities.

To address these concerns, Congress, in 1977, created the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation program. This initiative provides states with funds

to repair mined lands left in dangerous condition. Through the years, as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have fought to secure proper funding for these areas that have remained safety hazards for far too long.

To help West Virginia and the nation meet this challenge for Fiscal Year 2002, Congress recently approved the Interior Appropriations bill, which includes \$203.5 million for the Abandoned Mine Land effort. These funds include more than \$36 million that I added to the legislation to make up for short-sighted budget cuts by the Bush Administration that would have increased the already severe backlog of mines awaiting reclamation. We should not shortchange the health, safety, and environmental protections for West Virginia residents that mine reclamation provides.

Those in West Virginia and across the country who live near these abandoned mines have the right to be safe and secure. It is my hope that the funding provided to the Abandoned Mine Land initiative will help to address this very serious health and safety shortfall. The people of America's coalfields, who have been so crucial to our nation's economic progress, deserve no less.

October 17, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Homeland Security: A Sound Investment

As the nation struggles with a slowing economy and the lingering fears from the unprecedented terrorist attacks of September 11, America remains committed to recovery. The best way to cure our economic and psychological ills and to place the nation back on the road to prosperity is a commitment to America's homeland security infrastructure.

By investing in measures that strengthen our ability to guard citizens here at home, we can take an important step toward removing the paralysis that results from living in fear. The surest way to stabilize the economy and to encourage Americans to get back on airplanes, back into the shopping malls, and back to visiting automobile dealerships, neighborhood restaurants, and movie theaters is to take aggressive steps to address fears about future terrorist attacks.

I doubt many Americans find comfort in learning that the Immigration and Naturalization Service cannot account for how 6 of the 19 hijackers involved in the September 11 attacks entered the United States. Likewise, how much comfort do the American people find in knowing that the U.S. Customs Service inspects only 2 percent of the cargo entering the United States?

Our nation's transportation network and chemi-

cal and biological terrorism response capabilities face similarly daunting upgrades. In the days immediately following the September 11 attacks, airport security was improved, but much more remains to be done. And the recent anthrax scares have shown us that we must expand our nation's reserve of vaccines and antibiotics and provide our local health departments with access to the nation's computerized networks of medical response information.

The same case can be made for improvements to roads and bridges, railroads, water and sewer systems, and law enforcement capabilities. Due to years of neglect, we have allowed our infrastructure in these areas to become antiquated. With the threat of further violence on American soil, everything from dams to nuclear power plants to the method of transporting the nation's food supply must be examined in terms of its potential vulnerability.

Unless we take immediate and serious steps to address the various infrastructure shortfalls, then all of the rhetoric about normalcy is just hot air. By renewing our commitment to investments in our own country, we can help to mend the holes in America's homeland security. This is the surest way to remove the nation's psychology of fear, and we need to begin now.

October 24, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Guaranteeing the Future of American Steel

As the steel industry restructured itself throughout the last quarter of the 20th Century, the dogged determination of American companies and steelworkers allowed the United States to maintain its status as the most efficient and effective steel producer in the world. But, despite their best efforts to remain competitive, the working men and women of the American steel industry have come under assault from the forces of unfair trade.

Since late 1997, foreign nations have continued to flood the American market with subsidized and below-cost steel products. As the flood tides of cheap imports have risen, U.S. steelworkers and their families have suffered. To date, thousands of steelworkers have lost their jobs and more than 20 steel companies have declared bankruptcy.

It was with this situation in mind that I created an initiative in 1999 to provide short-term relief to the beleaguered American steel industry through the form of federally guaranteed loans. The \$1 billion Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Act allows for a much-needed economic boost to steel companies damaged by unfair trade. Unfortunately,

domestic steel producers have had a difficult time receiving the financial assistance intended for them through this loan guarantee program because of the continuing steel import crisis.

To help increase the effectiveness of this important initiative and to make it more responsive to industry needs, I successfully amended the loan guarantee program. In October, Congress gave final approval to my changes, which include increasing the federal guarantee on loans, extending the period of repayment, and increasing the lifespan of the overall initiative. It is my hope that these amendments will spur private lenders to assist this industry that has been so vital to the growth and well-being of our nation. For too long, steelworkers, their families, and the regions that rely on steel for their survival have been devastated by wave after wave of unfair imports. It is long past time to avert disaster and support the domestic steel community. If we do not take every action that we can to support this crucial industry, I am concerned that American steel as we know it will cease to exist.

October 31, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Compassion and Caution: Avoiding Scams

West Virginians stood with the rest of the nation united in grief following the terrorist attacks of September 11. Those heartless, planned assaults are certainly different from the natural disasters that too often strike West Virginia, but the feeling of loss and despair and the need for recovery are the same.

As residents of the Mountain State understand all too well from their struggles against floods, blizzards, and other natural disasters, rebuilding and recovery are made possible by the support and assistance of friends and strangers. In a real spirit of national community, Americans have risen to the challenge to help those in need through donations of blood, money, food, and other goods and services.

Unfortunately, there are scam sharks that swim through the turbulent tides of society waiting for just such an opportunity to strike. In the aftermath of the terrorist assaults, a slew of Internet sites and telemarketers began to seek contributions for families of missing or injured firefighters, children orphaned by the tragedy, and pets left homeless. While some of these pleas were from legitimate charitable organizations that have raised more than \$1 billion to assist the victims of the attacks, other pleas were the work of scam artists bent on taking advantage of good-hearted Americans.

Officials at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) have been on heightened alert looking out for consumer scams in the wake of September 11. In an effort to counter the con artists, they have issued helpful guidelines for charitable giving. These precautions are available on my Internet site -- <http://byrd.senate.gov>. By taking simple steps, such as refusing to give out credit card or bank account numbers over the telephone, individuals can stop scam artists in their tracks.

In this digital age, it is also important to know that these crimes are not only perpetrated over the telephone. In Fairmont, officials at the Internet Fraud Complaint Center (IFCC) have reported a sharp increase in national e-mail solicitation scams since September 11. The IFCC has suggested that computer users seek information on charities independently, and not respond to unsolicited appeals for donations on the Internet.

Just as officials have preached caution in the aftermath of terror, I remind West Virginians to stay alert when donating to relief efforts. Those who are intent on defrauding the public are no less despicable than the terrorists that have assaulted our country. By exercising prudence and following the FTC's tips, donations will truly go toward helping those in need, and not end up lining the pockets of thieves.

November 7, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Our Food from Contamination

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, the confidence of the American people has been shaken in a variety of areas, from transportation to public health to food safety. The response to the attacks has focused attention on the many shortcomings that exist in our food safety and inspection networks.

For instance, of the approximately 7,000 known food-borne illnesses, 85 percent are linked to diseases and bacteria that Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspectors monitor. However, the FDA has sufficient personnel to inspect less than one percent of foods coming into the United States. Similarly, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for the safety of our nation's meat, poultry, and egg products. Yet, because of the porous state of our nation's borders, the USDA is not able to properly inspect the food entering our country.

To help the United States meet the many challenges confronting these important public health organizations, I have authored a homeland security package that includes critical funding for food safety. This initiative contains \$100 million for the FDA to hire and train new inspectors and to purchase more advanced equipment to better ensure the safety of our nation's food supply.

My proposal also in-

cludes \$636 million for the USDA. These funds would be used for expanded border and import inspections of food. In addition, the money would boost the efforts of specialists who monitor our nation's grain supply for possible contamination. Inspections, especially at the border, should be considered a front-line defense to counter possible terrorist attacks.

Because the USDA also operates many research facilities that house biological agents which could pose a serious public health threat, this funding would tighten security at these facilities. In addition, it would expand the federal investment in the research and development of new ways to protect against and respond to future biological or agricultural acts of terrorism.

For too long, we have failed to invest adequate resources in food safety, in public health, and in so many areas that are invaluable to our homeland security. As a result, we are understaffed, underequipped, and underprepared to handle the variety of threats that the nation now faces. Congress needs to take concrete steps immediately to address these gaps. Investment in our homeland security is the surest way to provide for the safety and rebuild the confidence of the American people.

November 14, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Time for Thanks

It is time again to count our blessings, to sit together at a table surrounded by family and friends, and to offer thanks to the Creator. Thanksgiving can be one of the few times that generations have the chance to gather around a crackling fire to ponder photographs from the past, to slice carrots and mash sweet potatoes, to hear the laughter of children and the gossip from the kitchen, and, of course, to smell the sweet temptation of a juicy turkey slowly roasting. It is a time of gentle companionship around a sudsy sink. These shared experiences are ties that bind families together.

This year, in light of the tragic events of September 11 and the ensuing military action overseas, Thanksgiving will have an even deeper meaning for thousands of families. Many chairs will be empty at the dinner tables. Despite the tragedies that have stricken our nation, we should recognize that there is so much for which we should be thankful.

I am thankful that the American people have the steadfastness and the determination to move forward from the September 11 tragedies. I am thankful that we live in a country that can

confront a crisis with strength and moral certainty without abandoning the very principles and values that we hold most dear.

Like President Washington, who issued a "Thanksgiving Proclamation" for his new nation, we are thankful for "the many favors of Almighty God." Like President Lincoln, who called for a day of Thanksgiving on the third Thursday in November, we are thankful for the "gracious gifts of the most high God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy."

I hope that during this Thanksgiving, West Virginians will take the time to rediscover what it is that makes them a family. A shared address and a designated spot before the hypnotic television set do not make a family, but a group of loving individuals who share laughter, tears, chores, and fun make a true family. So, before devouring that lovingly prepared feast, families should take the time not only to express thanks for the bounty that is set out before them, but also for the opportunity to gather in kinship and to thank God for His manifold blessings.

November 21, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia: How Majestic and How Grand

"Oh, the West Virginia hills! How majestic and how grand." These words, from "The West Virginia Hills," one of the Mountain State's official songs, capture the sentiment not only of many West Virginia natives, but also of the thousands of tourists who flock to the state to view its scenic wonders. From its mountains to its rivers, from its flora to its abundant wildlife, West Virginia is blessed with natural beauty.

I have long sought to preserve our state's God-given treasures. This year, I was successful in adding funds to appropriations legislation that was recently signed into law for two of West Virginia's scenic gems: the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the New River Gorge National River.

As the home to 40 different wetland and upland plant communities which support more than 580 species of plants, the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge is one of the largest and most diverse freshwater wetland areas in central and southern Appalachia. The diversity of plants and habitats supports an equally varied wildlife of more than 290 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

The \$7.8 million that I added to the legislation will allow the Canaan Valley Refuge to expand by more

than 12,000 acres, providing the refuge with important new resources and broadening what is already one of the nation's most diverse ecological communities. The legislation also provides the refuge with \$875,000 for repairs to dilapidated infrastructure, such as roads and parking areas.

Equally impressive is the New River Gorge National River. Tens of thousands of people from across the country annually visit the area's 70,000 acres, which run along one of the continent's oldest rivers. The \$6.8 million that I added to the bill will allow for the expansion of this West Virginia wonder by 6,800 acres. An additional \$1 million will allow for improvements to visitor access and facilities, such as upgrades to the river's Grandview Visitor Center.

It was West Virginia's natural wonders that inspired these words: "If o'er sea o'er land I roam, Still I'll think of happy home, And my friends among the West Virginia hills." I am proud to have added the funding that will help to preserve the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the New River Gorge National River -- just two of the many examples of our state's scenic beauty that lie nestled within the West Virginia hills.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Victory for American Industry

In the complex world of Washington, commonsense solutions to our nation's problems sometimes are overlooked. When it came to penalties levied against foreign companies charged with unfair trade, the simplest and most equitable remedy fell victim to this tendency. For years, the penalties were collected and deposited in the U.S. Treasury, while the American companies and workers who lost profits and wages from unfair trade did not receive a nickel of compensation.

I was successful in changing this unfortunate situation in legislation that became law last year. Under the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act, which has come to be known as the Byrd Amendment, the fees collected from foreign companies charged with unfair trade are deposited in a new U.S. Customs Service account and then made available as grants to the domestic industries that have been harmed. These funds would be used for targeted expenses, including health care and pension benefits, personnel training, environmental activities, and production upgrades.

The first round of Byrd Amendment grants was recently awarded and two West Virginia businesses that were injured by unfair trade practices are among the first grant recipients. Ames True Temper of Parkersburg, with 750 em-

ployees, and Warwood Tool Company of Wheeling, which employs 22, will receive crucial funding from the Byrd Amendment account. Ames True Temper, the largest manufacturer and distributor of non powered lawn and garden tools in North America, will receive \$2.3 million through the Byrd Amendment, while Warwood Tool, which produces heavy-duty hand tools, will receive \$200,000. The U.S. International Trade Commission had previously ruled that these companies suffered direct financial losses because of illegal Chinese trade activity.

Currently, the Byrd Amendment is being challenged at the World Trade Organization (WTO) by several nations, including Canada, Mexico, and the 15-nation European Union. These foreign competitors want to flaunt the very trade laws that they negotiated with our government. I hope the WTO will knock down this backdoor attempt to undermine fair trade practices and remind our foreign trading partners that, if they simply follow the laws and agreements that are in place, penalties will never be assessed and Byrd Amendment grants will not be available. Until then, it is my hope that additional injured companies, like Ames True Temper and Warwood Tool Company, will continue to receive the compensation that they deserve.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Constant Vigilance for Steel

After a comprehensive investigation into steel imports that resulted in part from an amendment that I included in legislation last year, the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) has determined what many in West Virginia already know: namely, that imports have caused serious injury to the American steel industry. To help remedy this situation, the ITC recently recommended substantial tariffs for many categories of steel products, including those that are essential to West Virginia integrated steel producers.

While a step in the right direction, some of these proposed penalties fall short of addressing the needs of our steelmakers. The President, who has the authority to accept, reject, or modify the ITC recommendations, should not only act quickly to implement relief to the American steel industry, but also should increase the tariffs levied against steel imports. Only then will American steelmakers gain the breathing space that they so desperately need to improve their precarious financial positions.

Across the country, dozens of steel companies have filed for bankruptcy protection, while thousands of steelworkers have been laid off from their jobs. Since 1980, the industry estimates that nearly 400,000 steel jobs have disappeared. West Virginia has not been immune from this bloodlet-

ting. In the Northern Panhandle, both Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel and Weirton Steel have suffered great financial harm as a result of illegal foreign trade practices. Wheeling-Pitt has filed for bankruptcy, while Weirton Steel, in the first nine months of this year alone, dropped into the red by more than \$353 million.

Enough is enough. American steel producers — the most technologically sophisticated and efficient in the world — have been singled out for elimination by predatory foreign competition. Steelworkers around the country have paid the price for this unconscionable attack on an industry that is vital to our national defense and our economic security. We should not allow that attack to continue unabated.

In 1997, when the waves of foreign steel imports began to crash upon our shores, American steelworkers adopted the motto, "Stand Up for Steel." Never has the need been so great as it is today. With the ITC's recommendations in hand, President Bush has the opportunity to stand up for steel, to stand up for American workers and American companies, and to put in place a fair tariff system that provides our industry with the chance to recover from illegal trade. The livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of steelworkers and a key American industry hang in the balance.

December 12, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Real Story of Christmas

For many, Christmas brings to mind thoughts of stockings, candy canes, mistletoe, and presents wrapped in red and green bows. To be sure, Christmas is a time for children to rush down the stairs in anticipation of the bonanza of presents waiting under the tree. But there is another story that has nothing to do with Santa Claus or snowmen or eggnog. It is the tale of a family who found no shelter but a manger, and also the story of a newborn child who would become the savior of the world.

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn," Luke wrote in his Gospel. "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,

which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

I worry that too many of us have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas. The story of the birth of Christ has been overshadowed by the pressures and strains of a commercialized holiday. Families will spend hours at shopping malls, waiting in long lines, rather than in the company of loved ones or in church celebrating in song or prayer. Sadly, the Christmas season has become the shopping season.

During this holiday, as families mourn those lost to terrorism and pray for the safety of those fighting abroad and defending our homeland, I urge West Virginians to reflect on their families and their faith and to read the story of Jesus' birth in the Gospels. Perhaps, then, the materialism that has come to dominate the season will fade and we can begin to truly understand the great and glorious story of Christmas.

December 19, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In God's Hands

I have long encouraged Americans of all ages to learn about the rich and colorful history of our country. I firmly believe that the study of events and figures that helped to shape the world's greatest republic is essential to the continued preservation of our nation. Recently, at the invitation of film director Ronald Maxwell, I was provided the unique opportunity to help bring a small piece of American history to life.

Early in the morning of my 84th birthday, on a farm in western Maryland, I made my movie debut as General Paul J. Semmes, an advisor to General Robert E. Lee, during the filming of the Civil War movie, "Gods and Generals." On that day, I stepped out of the reality of representing West Virginia in the Senate and into the cinematic account of the real-life history that gave birth to our state.

In the days since my cameo appearance as General Semmes, I have reflected on our nation's experiences during the Civil War and the lessons that we can draw from our past during the current conflict at home and overseas. I hope that America's public officials will exhibit the same strength of character and dedication to duty that were shown by our nation's leaders during the Civil War.

President Abraham

Lincoln, who led the nation with such courage in a time of turmoil, wrote to a mother who had lost five sons in battle: "I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

It is clear that the American people will also need steadfastness and determination to deal with the aftermath of the September 11 tragedies. I pray that we have the fortitude, the willingness to sacrifice, and the patience that will no doubt be necessary during what I continue to believe may be a long struggle against terrorists.

The final words in scene 158 of "Gods and Generals" -- the scene in which I appeared -- come from General Lee. After hearing from his advisors about the preparations and planning for the upcoming battle, General Lee commends them and says, "The rest is in God's Hands." We can say the same today. We are making preparations and planning for the future. The rest is in God's Hands.

As written in Psalm 127: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

December 26, 2001



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preserving the Legacy of Our Veterans

West Virginians have a long history of distinguished service to their country in times of war and national crisis. From the first mountaineers who raised their muskets in defense of their new homeland to those Mountain State residents who currently battle the scourge of terrorism in the mountains of Afghanistan, West Virginia's men and women in uniform have made their state and nation proud. Through the years, the brave acts of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines have been remembered and honored by their fellow West Virginians.

One such remembrance, the Kimball War Memorial in McDowell County, is a unique tribute to the 400,000 black Americans who served their nation during the first World War. The war memorial, the first of its kind in the United States, was erected by the McDowell County Commission following a petition by veterans to honor black American patriots of that war. Hassle T. Hicks, one of Southern West Virginia's most prestigious architects, designed the monument building, which features four large columns.

For decades following its dedication on February 11, 1928, the Kimball War

Memorial also served as a community building, providing space for local celebrations and civic activities. But, in recent years, the memorial has fallen into disrepair. Already a victim of the typical wear and tear of age and weather, the building was gutted by fire in 1991.

To help reverse this unfortunate situation and to preserve a lasting tribute to these veterans, I added \$700,000 to an appropriations bill that was signed into law late last year. These funds will help to restore the historic Kimball War Memorial, ensuring that the sacrifices of these members of our Armed Forces are never forgotten. The latest funding is in addition to the \$462,500 that I added to a bill in 1999 for the renovation work.

Reportedly, 1,500 black residents of McDowell County alone served in World War I. Their patriotic contributions to our state and to our nation will live on in a newly renovated Kimball War Memorial. It is my hope that the funding which I added for this worthwhile endeavor will help to preserve the war memorial as a constant reminder to future generations of the price of freedom and of the sacrifices made by West Virginia's veterans.

January 9, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Music Industry Out of Tune

One year ago, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) released the results of an investigation into the entertainment industry's marketing practices. The Commission found that entertainment companies aggressively marketed violence-ridden materials -- even those specifically rated for adults -- directly to young people.

In the year following that initial report, the FTC worked with entertainment companies and monitored their efforts to inject a measure of responsibility into youth-centered advertising plans. Specifically, the FTC examined whether the entertainment industry, despite the Commission's initial report, continued to advertise violent, R-rated movies, explicit-content labeled music, and mature-rated (M-rated) electronic games in popular teen media. The Commission examined whether the industry included rating information in its advertising and it also reviewed internal documents provided by nine entertainment companies, including marketing plans for certain adult-rated movies, music, and electronic games.

The FTC's follow-up study, which was released recently, reports some good news. The Commission found that the motion picture and video game manufacturers have made

progress when it comes to halting marketing practices that peddle inappropriate material to children. But, regrettably, the follow-up study also shows that the music industry has been sorely lacking in these efforts. The Commission's review of ad placements by the music industry found that "it has continued to advertise explicit-content recordings in most popular teen venues in all media."

Those in the entertainment industry who continue to market adult material to children need to clean up their act -- and they need to do it now. This investigation underscores the need for parents to be vigilant when it comes to their children's entertainment options. It also should send a signal to industry executives, a signal that causes them to implement significant reforms and to stop pushing violent material on our children.

Some in the entertainment industry may claim that they are simply providing the material that the public wants. But a line must be drawn when it comes to luring children toward these adult-oriented products. The issue of marketing standards, which can have a substantial impact on children, is too important for any entertainment executive to dismiss.

January 2, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Lessons from the Past, Wisdom for the Future

As Americans move forward and rebuild -- both physically and emotionally -- from the devastating terrorist attacks of September 11, a renewed sense of pride in our great nation has emerged. People have begun to reflect upon the ideals on which the United States was founded, and upon the unique individuals who helped to make the dream of America a reality.

America's heroes have been individuals born into wealth and into poverty, during wartime and in peace, in the largest of cities and in the smallest of rural hamlets. As a boy, I found strength and inspiration in the conviction and ideals of the great Americans of the past, men such as George Washington, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin. These men were outspoken in their passion for independence and they risked their lives to ensure freedom for their new nation.

It seems that in recent years the popular definition of "hero" has changed for the worse. The Founding Fathers have been replaced in the imagination of America's youth by sports figures, rock-and-roll singers, and movie stars. Aspirations to serve have been replaced by shallow desires for quick and easy fame and fortune.

I fear that our schools have done little to curb this disturbing trend. Too often,

the study of the important figures from our past has been lumped in with other school subjects in a broad course called "social studies." To help correct this unfortunate situation, I successfully added provisions to both the education authorization and appropriation bills recently that should bolster the education of students about American history.

In the year 2000, I created the "Teaching American History" initiative with a \$50 million appropriation. In 2001, I strengthened that initiative with an additional \$100 million. This project seeks to deepen teachers' understanding of history so that they may impart this knowledge to their students. A West Virginia organization -- the Regional Education Service Agency III, which serves Boone, Clay, Kanawha, and Putnam counties -- was among the first in the nation to receive one of these history grants.

I am hopeful that West Virginia schools will continue to benefit from this much-needed effort to further students' education about, and appreciation for, this great land. At a time when terrorists have called into question the American way of life, it is important for our young people to learn about the people, places, and events that helped to create the greatest republic that the world has ever known: the United States of America.

January 16, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

From Brownfields to Greener Pastures

A byproduct of the industrial development that, through the years, helped to create millions of jobs across America has been a legacy of polluted industrial sites known as "brownfields." Throughout West Virginia, there are hundreds of these properties that could pose potential hazards to local residents and which serve as obstacles to economic development.

According to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, more than 450,000 brownfields sites exist in rural and urban areas across the nation. These sites, if cleaned up and redeveloped, could provide new opportunities for manufacturing, housing, and parks and recreation. The nation's mayors estimate that brownfields redevelopment could create more than 587,000 jobs across the country, which would provide a boost to local communities struggling with recession.

To help breathe new life into these aging industrial sites and to provide the opportunity for an economic rebirth in so-called Rust Belt communities and beyond, I cosponsored legislation that would assist local leaders with the reclamation of brownfields. Cleaning up these areas can promote economic development and can help to return crucial dollars to local tax rolls.

The Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act, which passed Congress and recently was signed into law by the President, provides \$250 million a year over the next five years for assessment and clean-up grants for local governments, states, and Indian tribes. The bill also creates an economic development incentive by granting legal protections for three groups -- contiguous property owners, prospective purchasers, and innocent landowners. It also outlines the parameters by which the Environmental Protection Agency may reenter a site to protect health and safety and the environment.

This law is the result of years of work by many members of Congress who have been concerned with the negative effects of brownfields on our states and localities. By providing funds to help reclaim these polluted sites and to reduce liability concerns for those who would seek to purchase and redevelop these properties, this new law will serve as an incentive for economic development. Cleaning up hazardous industrial sites not only can lead to increased dollars flowing through the smallest of towns and the largest of cities, but also can provide for a cleaner, safer environment for those who call industrial communities home.

January 23, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Plugging Leaks in Immigration

The terrorist attacks of September 11 highlighted a number of gaping deficiencies in our homeland security, including serious loopholes in the U.S. immigration system that allowed terrorists to enter our country posing as students and tourists or, in some cases, by simply walking across an unpatrolled Canadian or Mexican border.

There are currently between 7 million and 13 million illegal aliens living in America. Six out of ten of these aliens crossed a U.S. border illegally and, therefore, were not subject to background checks by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) or the State Department to determine if they had a terrorist or criminal history.

Another immigration concern is the nation's inability to keep track of those foreign nationals who enter our country legally as students. More than 500,000 international students are registered at 15,000 universities, colleges, and vocational schools across America. Some of these are nuclear engineering scholars, biochemistry students, and even pilot trainees who have access to highly advanced technology, training, and information.

To counter these dangerous shortfalls in our border security, I successfully included provisions in a recently approved antiterrorism bill that would fill some of the holes in our border

security and tighten our immigration regulations. My amendment provides funds for the Justice Department to enact a tracking system that requires every university, college, and vocational school to submit the name, address, and enrollment status of international students who are in this country on these special visas. Without a monitoring system in place, there is nothing to prevent someone from entering the U.S. on a student visa and then simply disappearing.

My provisions also require the State Department to review how it issues visas and to take steps to end "consulate shopping" — a practice in which foreign nationals seek out a U.S. consulate that does not have stringent background checks. Consulate shopping allowed a terrorist who was involved in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing to obtain a visa from the U.S. consulate in Sudan after being denied a visa from the consulate in Egypt.

For too long, our lax immigration and border security regulations allowed foreign nationals to enter this country illegally or to disappear after arriving on student visas. These new antiterrorism measures should help to fill the cracks that enabled dangerous individuals to slip through our immigration system. I am hopeful that this new law can help to prevent future terrorist attacks.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Price of Peace

With American troops on the ground in Afghanistan, as an uneasy coalition of nations confronts an unprecedented war on terrorism, it is time for America to rethink its policy regarding financial aid to foreign countries.

September 11 was a wake-up call on many fronts. As a result of the terrorist attacks, we have made sweeping changes to our concept of national security. We are now aware that we live in an age of global instability, of disenfranchised and desperate peoples, and of widespread proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

And yet, in many ways, the major instrument of our foreign policy -- monetary aid -- reflects a distressing attitude of business-as-usual. If September 11 has taught us anything, it is that America must move away from using dollars to symbolize the strength of our relations with other countries, and instead focus our energies and our resources on a new foreign policy that complements and enhances our global war on terrorism.

Nowhere is this more true than in the Middle East, where renewed violence has brought Israel and the Palestinian Authority to the brink of open warfare. The U.S., like the rest of the world, has looked on this ceaseless carnage in horror.

We have wrung our hands in despair and have condemned the violence in the strongest terms. But we have not matched our words with any meaningful action.

Legislation was recently signed into law that this year provides \$5.1 billion in foreign assistance to Middle East nations, with the majority, \$2.7 billion and \$1.9 billion, heading to Israel and Egypt, respectively. It is as if nothing has changed since September 11. The money goes to these countries with virtually no questions asked. There is no requirement that either country exert itself to end the hostilities in the region in order to receive the funding. That is a missed opportunity on our part. By not using our foreign assistance as an instrument of pressure to bring about change, we are inadvertently helping to fuel the continued cycle of violence in the Middle East.

These are strong words, but we live in perilous times. As we have seen all too clearly, allowing hatred to rage unfettered in that volatile region places our own shores in jeopardy. Doling out astronomical sums of money with no strings attached is a recipe for disaster. We must use our foreign assistance dollars as an instrument of positive change or else end this international welfare program today.

February 6, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pull the Plug on Foreign Energy Dependence

The United States has an enormous appetite for energy. Our homes, appliances, and cars consume an incredible amount of power. This hunger for energy has led to a great dependence on foreign oil -- a dependence that needs to be reduced.

One way to ensure a domestic power supply is to focus our efforts on developing new, cleaner, more efficient ways to burn our abundant fossil fuel resources.

The Senate soon will consider legislation that seeks to enact a comprehensive energy strategy for our country -- one aimed at creating new energy sources while also investing critical funds in utilizing our existing resources in an efficient, environmentally friendly fashion.

For West Virginia, this national energy strategy is of great importance. Our state is the leading producer of coal in the Eastern United States. Coal -- our most abundant fossil fuel -- is the source for 51 percent of our nation's electric power. Coal and its related industries employ more than 17,000 West Virginians.

In an effort to enhance the long-term viability of coal, I have included a \$2 billion authorization in energy legislation that would boost the development of clean coal technologies. In 1985, I launched the national Clean Coal Technology Program to help create cutting-edge ways to

burn coal while significantly reducing emissions of pollutants. These technologies -- many of which are being created in conjunction with the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Morgantown -- can help to reduce our country's dependence on foreign oil.

At the same time, the Senate legislation contains another provision that would create a national framework to address climate change. This proposal, which I authored with Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, creates a comprehensive strategy, based on credible science and economics, to guide America in addressing climate change issues in its own backyard. My provision also establishes a major research effort to promote the development of advanced technologies that will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. We must invest in cutting-edge technologies, such as those that capture and sequester greenhouse gases, and we must develop renewable technology that is practical and cost-effective.

The U.S. needs a national energy strategy that continues to utilize our vast energy resources and also improves their efficiency and protects the environment. I hope that the President will support our efforts and will work with the Senate to move our country much closer to energy independence.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Search for Lighthouses in the Skies

Pocahontas County is home to one of the world's premier astronomical research facilities -- the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope. This telescope and its neighboring observatory work to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the Milky Way galaxy and beyond.

Dedicated in the summer of 2000, the telescope is already leading the way in space research. Recently, scientists at the Byrd Telescope announced the discovery of three new pulsars that will help to unravel more of the mysteries of the universe. The recently discovered cluster of pulsars is 22,000 light years from Earth, near the center of the Milky Way Galaxy.

A pulsar is all that remains after a star suffers a massive explosion that removes most of its surface in a phenomenon called a supernova. Pulsars emit regular pulses of radio waves that act as a type of "celestial lighthouse." These waves -- which are intercepted by the Byrd Telescope -- may some day be used by space explorers as lighthouses to navigate our galaxy.

Scientists plan to study these pulsars so that they can gain greater insight into the galaxy's growth. And the fact that these pulsars were uncovered in a part of the sky that has already been studied extensively demonstrates how valuable the

Pocahontas County facility will be to that effort.

At the same time, work is underway to make the resources of the Byrd Telescope available to West Virginia students. Legislation recently signed into law included \$5 million that I added to complete construction of the planetarium and science center at the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences in Charleston, as well as for related equipment to link the Clay Center to the Byrd Telescope. This funding will help to further the educational experience of young people interested in astronomy and the sciences. Connecting the telescope to the Clay Center will bring cutting-edge scientific knowledge directly to the young people of West Virginia, and will help to fulfill the center's mission to inspire learning through the exploration of the sciences and technology.

Providing our young people with a solid foundation of education in science and mathematics is crucial to the future of our state. By joining our students' classroom experience with the high-tech astronomical resources in place at the Byrd Telescope, we open doors to new opportunity and exploration for our young people. I hope that this unique collaboration will spark a greater interest in our students of the world around them, and help to create a brighter future for our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

True American Heroes

In the weeks and months that have followed September 11, we have witnessed dramatic acts of heroism in response to the terrorist attacks. We have listened to stories of the brave police officers, firemen, and emergency medical teams who were first to respond at the World Trade Center Towers and at the Pentagon. We have learned of the courageous acts of those passengers who battled with their hijackers in the skies above Pennsylvania and gave their lives to foil the terrorists' nefarious plans.

But there are also people who, through their everyday actions, are heroes. These quiet heroes do not often garner newspaper headlines. These heroes are from various walks of life. But, despite their differences, they share a similar motive for their actions, namely, to serve and sacrifice for others. Everyday heroes give of themselves to help make their communities better places to live. They lead our society to a greater good; these men and women speak to the better angels of our nature.

The works of these

everyday heroes remind me of the "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" by Thomas Gray: "Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife their sober wishes never learned to stray; Along the cool sequestered vale of life they kept the noiseless tenor of their way."

To me, my old coal miner dad was a hero. He was a hero because of the example he set for me -- one of humility, dedication, strenuous toil, honesty, and constant love that he gave to me and to the noble woman who was his companion for 53 years. West Virginia is a better place because of heroes like him.

America has memorialized those heroes who lost their lives on September 11, and saluted those who survived. But we should not fail to recognize those heroes who work quietly, day in and day out, to improve the lot of their fellow citizens and whose quiet contributions lift the spirits of their neighbors and the quality of life in their communities. I thank them. They stand among the true heroes of West Virginia and our nation.

February 27, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Slim Down, Shape Up

A recent report by the U.S. Surgeon General highlighted what is quickly becoming a major health concern for Americans. Our society -- dominated by fast food, television, and sedentary behavior -- is rapidly becoming obese. Beyond just being overweight, obesity is a dangerous condition that carries with it other profound medical dangers, including, heart disease, hypertension, stroke, liver disease, certain cancers, and diabetes, among others.

In children, there is a strong correlation between obesity and time spent watching television. Some children watch as many as six hours of television each day. Children increasingly play computer and video games and surf the net. These hours of sedentary behavior, when combined with the prevalence of high-sugar, high-fat foods, are a dangerous combination.

The statistics are staggering. Each year, according to the U.S. Surgeon General, approximately 300,000 deaths across the nation are associated with being overweight and obese, and these conditions accounted for health-related costs of \$117 billion in the year 2000. Since 1980, obesity has doubled among adults and tripled among adolescents.

Unfortunately, in West Virginia, the prevalence of obesity has been among the highest in the country in 14 of the past 15 years. In fact,

the incidence of obesity in West Virginia has trended upward from 25.7 percent of the adult population in 1984 to the present high of 43 percent. We need to take steps to address this situation before it becomes a dangerous epidemic. We cannot ignore the health risks related to obesity.

In an effort to provide new resources in this effort, I recently added \$2 million to legislation to create a Center on Obesity at West Virginia University. This center will enable health care professionals and researchers to work with community groups, schools, and medical professionals to find innovative ways to prevent obesity and improve the nation's health. Center experts will have the skills and resources to help educate West Virginians about the dangers of obesity while assisting those who want to live a more healthy lifestyle.

These resources are only a part of the solution to obesity. Much of the effort needs to be made by individuals. West Virginians must not allow themselves or their children to be shaped by an environment of fast food temptations and electronic distractions that often foster unhealthy eating habits and sedentary behavior. I urge each Mountaineer to help reverse this dangerous health trend. Eat healthier. Exercise. Slim down, shape up, and break this cycle of obesity.

March 6, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Working for Middle East Peace

Over the course of the past weeks, peace in the Middle East has seemed very far off, as news reports almost daily account for more deaths among the Palestinian and Israeli citizens. Despite international calls for a cease fire, the violence only seems to escalate.

In an effort to see what hope there is for peace in that volatile region of the world, I recently met in my U.S. Capitol office with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. President Mubarak will be one of the key figures in any peace talks, with an ability to utilize his friendship with both the Israeli and Palestinian governments to broker what all sides hope will be a lasting end to the region's violence.

President Mubarak described very plainly what he sees as the gap in this area, namely, the lack of involvement by the United States. Several months ago, our government pulled out of efforts to create a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinian leaders; now is the time to return to those negotiations.

An idea that I broached with President Mubarak is

one that ties American foreign assistance to Middle East nations with progress toward peace. Currently, the United States provides \$5.1 billion in foreign assistance to Israel and Egypt without a link to progress on peace. Both countries receive that funding, no questions asked and no strings attached. I think that the United States ought to use its financial assistance as an instrument of pressure to bring about peace in the Middle East. Not to apply such restrictions is a missed opportunity on our part.

Crafting a lasting peace between and among Middle Eastern groups is not a simple task. But, as I pointed out to President Mubarak, the status quo of sitting back and hoping that all sides will voluntarily put down their weapons has not worked. The United States ought to give serious consideration to the idea of attaching strings to our foreign assistance. As a nation, we should press every advantage that we have to break the cycle of violence that has gripped the Middle East for so long.

March 13, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cultivating A New Farm Safety Net

As farmers have prepared for the planting season, the Senate has crafted a new farm policy to better reflect the needs of rural areas throughout the United States. The new farm bill, which the Senate recently approved, could not have been developed at a better time. Since Congress passed the last farm bill in 1996, farmers have seen prices drop each year and many rural communities have witnessed hard economic times. Without new legislation, such difficulties would only worsen.

In past years, farm policy has favored large corporate farms while smaller farms, like those throughout West Virginia, have struggled to compete. The new farm legislation would apply more balance to agricultural assistance. One key provision for West Virginia farmers is the expansion of assistance for producers who grow non-commodity crops -- crops like apples, peaches, and many of the vegetables that are grown in our state. Another key provision would include West Virginia dairy producers in the Northeast Dairy Market Loss Assistance Program, and ensure a more stable future for dairy producers.

In addition to assistance specifically for farmers and ranchers, the new farm bill also aims resources toward rural communities. Critical to West Virginia are the farm bill's conservation pro-

grams that would help the efforts of farmers and communities to be good stewards of the land. Expanded nutrition programs would help families when they face tough economic times. Rural development provisions would continue programs that develop water and sewer systems in areas where such systems do not yet exist but are so desperately needed.

At the same time, the government should plan for natural disasters, such as drought, that may threaten farm production and rural communities in the future. Forecasters are already warning of desperately dry fields and low water tables. With that in mind, Congress ought to make provisions that would speed help to communities hit by drought or other natural disasters instead of waiting until after the damage has been done.

Agriculture provides over \$1.3 trillion to the nation's economy, and accounts for 24 million jobs. Rural America comprises 80 percent of our nation's land mass and 20 percent of our population. Yet, rural America is hurting like never before. The new farm bill passed by the Senate would help farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. I hope that the House and Senate can quickly resolve any differences so that a new, stronger, and more balanced farm policy can take effect without delay.

March 20, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Understanding Homeland Defense Needs

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, it has been made evident that more needs to be done at the state and local levels to prepare for potential attacks. To begin to address those needs, last December I worked to craft the first significant federal investment in homeland defense. As a result, Congress approved \$8.3 billion to fund the most critical initial needs.

In the coming weeks, I will convene a series of hearings of the Senate Appropriations Committee to learn what progress is being made with the initial funding and to determine what steps should be taken next. The Appropriations Committee will hear from mayors and governors about the challenges they face in order to prepare for a variety of threats. We also will hear from those men and women who would be on the front lines in responding to any future terrorist attacks -- police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, doctors, and nurses. The committee will listen to those who best understand the security needs of the nation's communities with one simple goal in mind, namely, to determine how best to protect against, and respond to, future terrorist attacks.

The Appropriations Committee then will meet with those men and

women in the federal government charged with implementing federal homeland security efforts. Through testimony from Administration experts and Cabinet secretaries to military officials, my committee will examine the Bush Administration's plans to coordinate efforts with state and local emergency response teams. Cooperation must exist on all levels if the United States is going to be truly prepared for future terrorist attacks.

We cannot protect ourselves if we focus on our vulnerabilities only after they have been exploited by terrorists. A focus on every aspect of our homeland defense is essential in order to reveal and repair every weakness that we may find.

We can take preemptive measures to combat terrorism on the home front with a health care system prepared to respond to bioterrorism, a safer food and water supply, more secure airports and railroads, stringent border security, and state and local law enforcement officials who are trained and prepared to handle a terrorist attack. These critical efforts will help to ensure that all Americans have confidence in their state and local emergency response preparedness should, God forbid, another attack occur on our shores.

March 27, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bush Road Budget Detours Job Growth

Across West Virginia and throughout the nation, we have learned a simple lesson in economic growth: where there are four-lane, divided highways, there is job growth; where there are safe roads and bridges, communities grow and prosper.

Our transportation network of roads, runways, and railways has always been central to the health of our national economy. Yet, as I review President Bush's budget request for the Department of Transportation for the coming fiscal year, I am greatly disappointed by its lack of balance.

In its recently released budget request, the Bush Administration has slashed funds for road and highway construction by a whopping 27 percent. The reduction to the highway program, if enacted, would result in West Virginia's road and highway construction funds being cut from \$308 million this fiscal year to \$235 million in the coming fiscal year. Funds available for continued construction of the Appalachian Corridor Highway System in our state would drop from \$62 million to \$45 million. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials estimates that such a loss of funding would result in as many as 3,300

lost jobs in West Virginia.

Those cuts can be avoided. The Bush budget fails to take advantage of available funding within the Federal Highway Trust Fund -- dollars obtained from federal gas tax receipts -- which has an unspent balance of more than \$18 billion. The majority of this balance represents tax dollars that were paid by the traveling public at the gas pump but are not being utilized for highway construction or renovation. If there ever is a time to consider tapping a portion of this balance to keep our highway construction program moving forward, now is the time.

While the investment in highway construction throughout the country has risen in recent years, we have not yet begun to reverse the trends of road deterioration and worsening congestion. The federal government should be looking for ways to move the investment in highways forward, not backward.

The nation's economy is slowly moving out of recession. But by slashing road and highway construction, by jeopardizing the jobs of thousands of West Virginians, the Bush transportation budget is a massive pothole to progress.

April 3, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Celebrating West Virginia's Natural Beauty

This month, the nation will mark the 32nd anniversary of Earth Day — a day to renew our commitment to preserve the natural beauty of the world around us. In West Virginia, we have been blessed by the Creator with some of the most unique flora and fauna in the Eastern United States.

One of the largest and most diverse freshwater wetland areas in central and southern Appalachia is the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Tucker County. I secured the initial funding to create the Canaan Valley Refuge — the nation's 500th National Wildlife Refuge. Opened in August 1994, the Refuge is home to 40 different wetland and upland plant communities which support more than 580 species of plants. In turn, the diversity of plants and habitats support an equally varied wildlife of more than 290 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

Recently, First District Congressman Alan Mollohan and I joined to announce the expansion of this crown jewel of West Virginia. Utilizing \$16 million that I added to federal appropriations bills, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has acquired 12,000 acres of land adjacent to the Refuge from Allegheny Energy, Incorporated. This property transfer will expand one of our state's most beautiful trea-

tures. It will provide important new resources for the facility and broaden one of the nation's most diverse ecological communities.

Earth Day also provides an opportunity to celebrate other sites across our state that have a rich environmental heritage. I am proud to support these natural jewels with federal appropriations. Just last year, I added \$6.8 million for the expansion of the New River Gorge National Scenic River. These funds will help to make the visits of the tens of thousands of people from across the country who travel to the New River safer and more enjoyable. Further, funding I have added to appropriations bills in recent years has supported the Monongahela National Forest, which hosts some of the state's most visually dramatic and sensitive lands, like Seneca Rocks and the Cranberry Glades.

This Earth Day, as the nation once again renews its commitment to the preservation of the environment, West Virginians can be proud of the efforts we have undertaken to protect the grandeur and beauty of our state. We have proved that economic prosperity and environmental preservation can coexist. The challenge for the years ahead is to ensure that we sustain this delicate balance.

April 10, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia a Leader in National Defense

At a time when U.S. troops are engaged in a fight against terrorism overseas, West Virginia's role as a leading supplier of cutting-edge defense products grows ever more critical. Manufacturers across our state make significant contributions to national security and to the economic health of West Virginia. West Virginians provide our nation's soldiers, sailors, and airmen with the tools they need to protect America's interests around the world, and I am proud to have supported these efforts through the appropriations process.

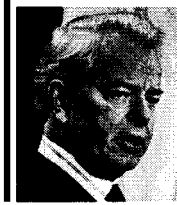
Aircraft equipped with parts produced in Harrison County currently are employed in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. The Bridgeport-based manufacturer, Aurora West Virginia, produces the tail sections and structural parts on the fuselage of the Global Hawk reconnaissance airplanes and fabricates full-scale models for Northrup Grumman, the prime contractor that provides Global Hawks for the Air Force. These unmanned planes are proving to be a valuable asset for American military efforts overseas.

The U.S. Navy-owned Allegany Ballistics Laboratory (ABL) in Mineral County has a long history of providing support for the U.S. Armed Forces. ABL is a major supplier of defense products, including warheads, rocket motors, and other vital military components, to the nation's mili-

tary services and to U.S. allies. I have added funds to appropriations bills to improve the ABL facility and to ensure the Laboratory's ability to compete in the high-tech environment of precision weaponry production. ABL now operates in four areas of excellence to support the U.S. military -- tactical propulsion, precision ordnance, missile defense, and composite structures -- all of which contribute to the superiority of the U.S. Armed Forces.

A new generation of Naval guns used to protect ships offshore soon will be developed at the Mason Technology Center in Mason County, scheduled to reopen this summer. The Combustion Light Gas Gun will be created and tested at the Center's advanced gun testing facilities. Mason Technology Center is on track to become a Center of Excellence for the development of advanced long range gun systems.

Our country's current military action and heightened focus on homeland security preparedness only strengthens the ever growing need to design and build advanced, innovative defense weaponry. I take great pride in West Virginia's thriving defense initiatives and will continue to work to provide the men and women of our country's Armed Forces with the technology, equipment, and training they need to successfully defend our nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

School Safety: Continuing the Search for Solutions

Three years ago, two students at Colorado's Columbine High School walked into their school carrying several fully loaded weapons and opened fire on their teachers and fellow students. They killed 13 students and a teacher before taking their own lives. Their actions sparked a renewed assessment of our own schools in an effort to prevent such tragedy from striking close to home.

To include many voices and ideas in this assessment, West Virginia University (WVU) President David Hardesty and I started a series of meetings and projects to identify and expand effective strategies for safe schools.

The first meeting, held on WVU's Morgantown campus in August 1999, brought together educators, specialists, lawmakers, police officers, parents, and the church community to focus on efforts already underway throughout the state to combat school violence and on further steps that must be taken to better protect our teachers and students from classroom violence.

That first event led to a Youth Summit, held in April 2000, which gave students throughout the state a voice in shaping initiatives that would be implemented in their schools. The summit provided an opportunity for these young people to express their opinions on important issues such as violence, drugs and alcohol, and the media's influence on their lives.

The specialists at WVU's Extension Service took the ideas generated at these sessions, shared them with educators, and developed several new strategies that target school violence and aggression. At the start of this school year, these pilot projects, which were initially funded through \$100,000 that I added to a federal appropriations bill in 2000, were implemented at 42 schools. The strategies include various character education programs and the School-wide Positive Behaviors Supports Program.

With almost a full year of program experience to evaluate, President Hardesty and I, together with the West Virginia Department of Education, soon will share the results of the pilot programs with teachers throughout the state. The WVU Extension Service will discuss the lessons learned so far and seek the advice of teachers as to how best to apply these strategies in the classroom.

The lesson of the Columbine tragedy three years ago was that school violence can happen anywhere at any time. Solving this problem is a shared responsibility, one that requires strengthening basic values, teaching children right from wrong, and instilling in them a respect for others. Coordinated efforts by schools, parents, and community organizations can lead to proactive, comprehensive approaches to classroom safety.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Bright Future for America's Energy Policy

Our nation's quality of life and economic well-being are tied to energy, and, in particular, to electricity. Electricity powers our computers, home appliances, factory equipment, and life-saving medical technologies. The majority of America's rapidly growing energy appetite is fed by coal -- the country's most abundant natural resource. That is why I am particularly proud of the fact that the Senate recently approved an energy policy that will help to ensure the long-term use of coal in a more efficient, environmentally sound manner.

One of the key provisions that I included in this legislation is an incentive for electric utilities to install clean coal technologies in their power systems. In 1985, I launched this effort with a \$750 million appropriation. Since then, more than \$5.5 billion has been invested in clean coal research by the federal government and private industry to develop innovative methods to use coal in more efficient and environmentally friendly ways. This investment has led to a new suite of technologies to help power plants meet tougher environmental standards.

However, moving these technologies from the laboratory to the marketplace can be very expensive. That is why I have supported the inclusion of tax incentives to encourage companies to install these cutting-edge innovations at new and exist-

ing facilities.

These technologies also can help to meet another challenge that we can no longer ignore, namely, global climate change. Climate change and energy policy are two sides of the same coin. Energy use creates the vast majority of man-made greenhouse gas emissions, which scientists have concluded are a chief contributor to the problem of climate change.

To address this problem, Republican Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska and I crafted a climate change strategy that not only meets today's needs but also can adapt to the environmental issues that the country faces in the coming decades. Our provision, which the Senate has approved, would invest \$4.75 billion in advanced technology research while also creating a structure within the federal government to move toward a long-term, comprehensive climate change plan.

For the United States to remain a global economic leader, we must address these important energy issues. Now is the time to come together and craft an intelligent, responsible, bipartisan energy policy. With the enactment of this legislation, the nation can take another step toward improved energy production and conservation. The journey is just beginning, but the future is bright for a truly comprehensive national energy policy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Saluting Our Armed Forces

Since 1950, the United States has celebrated Armed Forces Day on the third Saturday of May to honor members of the military for their patriotic service to the nation. The celebration replaced separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force Days when the Armed Forces unified under one department, the Department of Defense.

This year, especially, we are obliged to pause and give thanks to those who proudly wear the uniforms of the United States military. America's fighting forces work hard every day to keep our nation strong and free. They leave family, home, and hearth behind in the dedicated pursuit of this mission, and they are prepared, like legions of heroes before them, to make the ultimate sacrifice. Congress will continue to work to ensure that our military has the resources needed to protect our interests around the globe.

At the same time, Members of Congress have the added responsibility to ensure that the lives of the nation's sons and daughters are not jeopardized needlessly. We must ask questions of those crafting plans for war. Without defined objectives and solid planning, the war could drift into a haphazard campaign

that does not attack effectively the core elements of the global terror network. We would do far better to hear clear explanations and detailed justifications in the war on terrorism.

We are a powerful country, but we cannot hope to eliminate terrorism from the world without other nations by our side. We are a rich country, but we can never spend our way into perfect national security. Our resources are finite and choices must be made. And there will always be forces and circumstances in the world which are unpredictable and beyond our control. But we can strive to be a wise nation — one that understands its extraordinary possibilities as well as its very real limitations on the global stage.

I applaud the men and women of America's Armed Forces. They are engaged in very difficult missions where tensions are high and dangers abound. As they always are, West Virginia's sons and daughters are on the front lines of this effort. I will give them my full support in the U.S. Senate. At the same time, I will continue to ask questions and seek information to ensure that their willingness to serve their country, and perhaps sacrifice their lives, is not in vain.

May 8, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Recovering from Floods

West Virginia once again suffered tragedy at the hand of Mother Nature as heavy rains prompted severe flooding in the southern part of the state. The damage has been so extreme that a federal disaster declaration has been declared for five counties, opening the door to financial assistance for residents and businesses. To apply for federal help, affected West Virginians should call 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

As West Virginians begin to put their lives back together, there may be unsavory individuals who will offer insincere help only to help themselves to the hard-earned money of unsuspecting people in need. Posing as skilled laborers, these scam artists promise to repair damage to homes and businesses, but never deliver on those promises. To guard against such scams, West Virginians should keep in mind the following smart consumer tips.

Check the contractor's background and reputation. Call the West Virginia Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-368-8808 to determine the contractor's complaint history.

Always ask for references. Contractors should be willing to provide names

and telephone numbers of previous customers.

Make sure the contractor is insured. Be sure the contractor has workers' compensation and disability insurance. The home or business owner could be liable for accidents if the contractor is not properly insured.

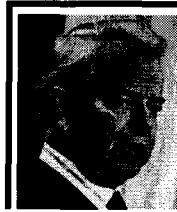
Ask for a written estimate. Make sure that the estimate includes all work to be done by the contractor.

Ask for a contract. It might be worthwhile to obtain legal advice before signing any contract.

Do not pay in advance. Hold all or a substantial portion of the payment until work is completed and approved.

Despite the all-too-familiar damage and deaths caused by the flooding, West Virginians have once again pulled through with the help of their own. I thank the thousands of National Guardsmen, firefighters, law enforcement officials, Red Cross volunteers, and State Office of Emergency Services personnel who have worked to save lives since the crisis began. I also commend the countless family members, friends, and neighbors who have come to the aid of their fellow citizens and shared burdens too great to bear alone. Thanks to these efforts, West Virginians are repairing, rebuilding, and renewing their hope for brighter days.

May 15, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening Our Defenses at Home

For many West Virginia residents, homeland security may seem like an obscure concept which does not bear upon their daily lives. Border security is an imminent concern for those states adjacent to Canada and Mexico. Port security is a critical issue for coastal states like Maryland, South Carolina, and Louisiana. But neither threat pertains directly to non-border, land-locked states like West Virginia.

However, a surprisingly high number of danger zones exist across the country. Therefore, each state has a vital interest in homeland security. That is why I have worked to ensure that the investments the government makes in homeland security result in substantial improvements in the security of all Americans.

In West Virginia, we have many areas that potential terrorists could perceive as vulnerable targets. For instance, chemical plants in Kanawha and Wood counties pose inviting opportunities for those who want to jeopardize lives. Attacks at the dams in Summers County or Nicholas County could cause significant loss of life and property. A plan to poison water systems anywhere in the state could endanger the health and lives of people who drink that water.

These statements may seem alarmist. But after listening to hours of testimony from terrorism experts and

Administration officials about vulnerabilities in our society, I believe these statements are simply pragmatic. We need to examine each vulnerability, assess potential threats and consequences, and take steps to protect against possible attacks.

To that end, the Senate soon will consider legislation that I have written to fund numerous homeland security initiatives. This legislation addresses many of the critical vulnerabilities throughout the country, from borders to airports to nuclear laboratories and power plants. The legislation takes immediate steps to bolster local police and fire departments. It provides critical funding to train and equip health professionals to detect and treat cases of biological, chemical, or nuclear attack. It provides funds for the Postal Service to protect postal workers and to purchase equipment to make our mail safer. By approving this package, the Senate can take immediate steps to protect Americans and to try to prevent future tragedies like the one we witnessed last September.

Despite West Virginia's distance from our nation's borders and ports, we should not close our eyes to the threat of terrorism. We should be actively involved in proactive, preventive efforts which can make a significant contribution to the safety of all West Virginians.

May 22, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Fast Track to Fewer Jobs

The Senate recently passed legislation to provide the President with trade promotion authority -- better known as 'fast-track authority' -- which allows the Administration to negotiate international trade agreements without input from Congress. I am disappointed by the outcome of the Senate's lengthy trade debate, during which I strongly advocated my position that Congress not relinquish its Constitutional right to amend trade agreements. This authority is vital to the protection of American jobs, which are being lost due to unfair trade practices allowed under current trade agreements.

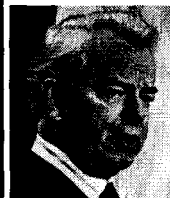
Clearly, Congress should be able to debate, amend, and, if necessary, reject trade agreements if such agreements harm certain U.S. companies and workers. The goal of these trade agreements should be to help all American workers by raising their standard of living and improving the quality of their lives. Otherwise, there is no reason for the United States to agree to them. This seems obvious. Yet, past experience shows that many of these trade agreements simply pave the way for companies to leave the United States and go to foreign lands where labor is cheaper and industries do not have to comply with the environmental and safety standards

that exist in the United States.

West Virginia has been particularly hard hit by this new economic reality. The latest example is in Wood County, where Ames True Temper has announced plans to close one of its plants and layoff approximately 160 employees. Ames' parent company plans to move the Parkersburg operations to China, where raw materials and labor are cheaper and environmental standards are virtually non-existent. This is devastating news for the employees and their families who relied on these jobs to put food on the table and children through college.

For too many American industries and the people who work in them, so-called "free trade" has been nothing more than a long and frightening slide to financial disaster, and Congress, by simply going along with Administration trade deals, has been a willing contributor to that decline. For too long, Members of Congress have stood by and allowed the interests of the workers and certain industries in their states to be sacrificed upon the altar of the false promise of "free trade." The American people deserve better. That is why I will continue to fight to preserve the duties and responsibilities of Congress and to protect the best interests of America.

May 29, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Removing Rewards for Illegal Immigration

The United States is undergoing an unprecedented wave of immigration. Even at the peak of the last great wave of immigration in the early 20th century, the number of immigrants entering the country was only 850,000 per year, compared to at least 1.3 million immigrants who annually settle in the country today.

Illegal immigration is a driving force behind this wave. The Census Bureau recently estimated that there are as many as 8.7 million illegal aliens in the United States -- more than two times the number of illegals estimated in 1990. During the last decade, illegal immigration added between 6 million and 7 million people to the nation's population -- a net increase in the illegal population of about 500,000 immigrants per year.

While the United States is a generous nation when it comes to immigration, Americans are justifiably concerned about the current record levels of illegal immigration. Combined with our post-September 11 concerns about tracking who crosses our borders, this kind of population growth is placing tremendous strain on the infrastructure network, especially on education and health care systems.

Instead of cracking down on illegal immigration, President Bush has urged Congress to provide amnesty to those people who break the law. In doing so, the government effectively relinquishes control over those who cross the nation's borders. Moreover, such amnesty is not fair to those who abide by the rules and enter and remain in the country legally.

I find the President's amnesty proposals to be grossly irresponsible. That is why I blocked an amnesty provision from inclusion in border security legislation that recently was passed by Congress, and why "Americans for Better Immigration" recently honored me with an "A+" grade for my efforts to reduce illegal immigration.

The United States is a compassionate nation when it comes to immigration, but that does not mean that the nation should turn a blind eye to those people who illegally cross our borders. The federal government certainly should not encourage that kind of unlawful behavior with amnesty initiatives. Given the nation's financial constraints and heightened security concerns in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, we cannot afford to allow this dangerous practice to continue.

June 5, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protection Against Flooding

In recent years, the summer months have brought devastating rains to the mountains, resulting in lost lives and millions of dollars in property damage. Just a few weeks ago, heavy rains and flooding in Southern West Virginia took several lives, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that individual and public property damage will total at least \$38 million. Each summer, this loss of life and property has become the expectation rather than the exception.

Words cannot describe the tragic experiences of families who have watched their homes and belongings washed away time and time again by flood waters. We have seen mountain streams and peaceful rivers change character with amazing rapidity, rampaging through mountain valleys and nearby communities. The challenge for West Virginians is to develop an action plan that can help to prevent this destruction and save lives.

Utilizing \$1 million that I added to appropriations bills, Governor Bob Wise and other local, state, and federal officials have worked to draft the first-ever comprehensive flood strategy for West Virginia. To date, regional meetings have been held to gain a better understanding of the specific flood control and pre-

vention needs in communities across the state.

Later this summer, the task force charged with compiling the information and crafting the prevention strategy is expected to release its first report for public comment. This report will focus on Southern West Virginia -- the region that has been declared a federal disaster area three times in the past year. This initial framework will be adaptable for other regions of the state.

The dangerous cycle of flooding-recovery-flooding needs to be broken in a thorough, concerted manner. This new statewide strategy should offer the opportunity for local communities, in conjunction with state and federal partners, to take specific steps to save lives and protect property.

For too long, West Virginians living near rivers, creeks, and streams have shuddered at each forecast of heavy rain. Through the development and implementation of a statewide flood prevention plan, residents will be able to minimize some of the severe destruction we have experienced in West Virginia for so many years. By building on our experiences and learning from them, we can help to prevent such destructive forces from destroying homes and communities in the future.

June 12, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Quick Action to Fight Terrorism

Not for 137 years has this nation faced war within our borders. The Civil War was a turning point in our history. Now we are facing another turning point as the nation is challenged once again by war on our shores. Today's violence has roots in a cultural clash of worldwide proportions.

We know terrorists live among us. Yet, we do not know where they will strike or when.

With endless warnings in mind, and with a clear realization of our many homeland security gaps, the Senate approved legislation that I authored totaling \$31.5 billion that could help to prevent future tragedies like the one we witnessed last September.

The legislation fully funds the President's \$14 billion request for the military and \$5.5 billion for New York in response to the events of September 11. The legislation also contains \$8.3 billion for critical homeland security efforts.

Within the legislation, \$4.7 billion is directed to the Transportation Security Administration to tighten protections at our airports and seaports. More than \$1 billion is directed to local first responders, including \$300 million for firefighters and \$174 million for police officers. The legislation includes \$723 million for the Coast Guard and

Customs Service to target and inspect suspicious shipments before they reach U.S. ports. Another \$387 million would help to expand lab and medical capacity to respond to bioterrorism threats. And \$200 million would protect against "dirty bombs" by better securing our nuclear labs and material.

Anthrax. Dirty bombs. Border security. Nuclear labs and power plants. Cybersecurity. Food safety. Airport security. Drinking water. We understand the gaps in our security structures. And if we know where those gaps exist, certainly the terrorists know as well.

Recently, the President announced a massive governmental reorganization to respond to terrorist threats. I support a Department of Homeland Security. But that department alone will not protect Americans from terrorism. There are many details to be worked out and we cannot wait to address gaps in our nation's defenses while this new department is crafted. Terrorists will not wait to attack anew.

We cannot afford delay. The Senate has passed this critical legislation; now it requires the approval of the entire Congress. This bipartisan legislation must move quickly to bolster our weaknesses, address our shortfalls, and protect American lives.

June 19, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Recognizing a Special School

In the hills of Randolph County sits the smallest public school in West Virginia. At that school, students and teachers have aptly demonstrated that small cannot only be better, but also be among the best.

I recently traveled to Pickens School to deliver the commencement address to the three-person graduating class. I wanted these students to know that their achievements have not gone unnoticed. Just because one lives off of the beaten path does not mean that hard work should go unheralded.

Pickens School is one of only five high schools in West Virginia to which the state awarded "exemplary" status last year based on attendance, Stanford Achievement Test results, and writing scores. For six straight years, every graduate has gone on to college. While Pickens educates only about 1/10,000 of one percent of the students in West Virginia, two of 18 winners in this year's premier statewide writing contest are from this wonderful little school. What a roster of achievement!

But as important as the school's stellar academic feats, Pickens has no metal detectors, no armed guards patrolling the corridors, no graffiti on the walls, and no drug or alcohol problems. It is no coincidence that safety in schools often goes hand-in-hand with academic excellence. The small, rural

nature of Pickens School is, no doubt, a key factor in its success.

The graduating class is small, but its opportunities are immense. Who can fathom what greatness may lie ahead for these three young souls? One of the graduates may discover a cure for cancer or unlock a great mystery of our universe. The students at Pickens believe in themselves and strive toward bright futures because their school and their community have believed in them.

The quality of the education imparted to the youngsters who are fortunate enough to attend Pickens is due in large part to the excellent and committed teachers who devote their talents to the school. Good teachers should be the most important role models in the lives of students, but, unfortunately, they often do not receive the respect and acclaim that they so richly deserve.

If our country is to continue to have the cohesive society that we have traditionally enjoyed, our educational system must reinforce the basics that undergird our way of life: compassion, humility, and morality. This is the quality of life and learning taught to the gifted and successful students at Pickens School. "Good kids" and good students are no accident, and the incredible students at Pickens are both.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keep Amtrak on Track

Congress created Amtrak, the nation's passenger rail service, in 1970, and coast-to-coast operations started a year later. In West Virginia, Amtrak stops in several communities including White Sulphur Springs, Montgomery, Charleston, Huntington, and Martinsburg. For many rural communities, Amtrak represents the only public transportation connection to the rest of the nation. But today that connection is in danger of being severed.

Because of growing financial pressures and accidents which have destroyed track and equipment, Amtrak needs an infusion of funding soon or else it faces bankruptcy. The Administration has taken a first step, agreeing to a \$100 million loan that will allow Amtrak to keep operating into early August. However, by forcing \$100 million in loans on the railroad, the Administration has made Amtrak's road to financial health an even longer one. Amtrak already carries nearly \$4 billion in debt. Congress ought to recognize this critical need and provide sufficient funding, both in the short-term and in coming years, to maximize the railroad's potential.

If Amtrak closes, the nation's transportation system will be thrown into chaos. All of Amtrak's

68,000 daily riders will be without service. Commuter railroads from east to west will be shut down. Thousands of vacation passengers who already have purchased Amtrak tickets will be left at the station.

Amtrak also plays a vital role in homeland security, providing a viable transportation alternative to highways and airways. To allow Amtrak to close its doors now, when the terrorist threats and attack warnings come almost daily, would be irresponsible.

To prevent any closing, I have proposed to include \$205 million in an appropriations bill that is in negotiations with the House of Representatives. That funding would allow Amtrak to repay its loan and keep trains running into October.

Last September, when the airline industry was shut down, Americans turned to Amtrak for transportation. Because of the continuing concern about air safety, Americans are turning to Amtrak in record numbers. At a time when the country is turning to Amtrak, the federal government ought not turn its back. We must find sufficient funding to keep the passenger rail system running. Amtrak needs emergency funding, and it needs this funding now.

July 3, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Defending the Pledge of Allegiance

In 1954, I was a young member of the House of Representatives from Raleigh County. On June 7 of that year, I cast a vote that I have been proud of ever since. I voted to include the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. No other current Member of Congress cast that vote, a distinction that I value.

This is one reason why a recent federal appeals court decision in California disturbs me so greatly. That court ruled the Pledge of Allegiance to be unconstitutional because the majority of the court claims that the words "under God" run counter to the intent of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

During my many years in office, I have heard critics attack the words "under God" as they exist in the Pledge of Allegiance. They have implied that the Founding Fathers were essentially "neutral" about religion. These individuals assert that America's fundamental origins are basically devoid of religious meaning, and that this was the intent of the Founding Fathers.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

I believe that the intent of the Framers was to keep the new government from endorsing or favoring one religion over another, but it was never to prohibit any voluntary expression of re-

ligious faith. Religious faith always has been a basic tenet of American life. This is evident throughout the history of our nation.

The First Amendment in particular is one of the greatest legacies of faith bequeathed by the Founding Fathers, but I believe it is one that is little understood and sometimes distorted -- as it was in the recent court decision. In 1791, Congress passed the first ten amendments to the Constitution, called the Bill of Rights. The First Amendment recognized the importance of religion in American life, stating that, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The purpose of this tenet was to allow religious faith to flourish, not to suppress it.

The connection between God and America is long established in the minds of most Americans. We should not erase that connection under the pretense of protecting the so-called constitutional rights of non-believers or atheists. I hope that this recent court decision is thrown out and that proper recognition is given to the history of our nation and to the role of faith in our society. The United States is, and always will be, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

July 10, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Ohio River Islands: A Natural Beauty

West Virginians take great pride in the many natural treasures across the state. The need to preserve these precious resources is more important now than ever as West Virginia's tourism industry grows and as the commercial traffic on our waterways increases.

One of those natural treasures is the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Headquartered in Parkersburg, this refuge was the first national wildlife refuge established in West Virginia. In 1989, I secured funds in an appropriations bill to create the refuge, and over the last 13 years, I have provided additional funds for the refuge's land acquisition and operating expenses. Most recently, I included \$1.1 million in an appropriations bill for construction of a much needed new headquarters and visitors station.

The refuge presently includes 21 islands and encompasses more than 3,200 acres of valuable fish and wildlife habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service eventually plans to acquire additional islands, for a potential total of 35, along a 400-mile stretch of the Ohio River between Pennsylvania and Kentucky.

Most of the refuge's islands are within West Virginia's segment of the river, stretching from the Northern Panhandle in Hancock County to south of Point Pleasant in Mason County. These jewels of na-

ture include a rich mosaic of bottomland hardwoods, wetlands, and life forms which are rare to the area, including migratory birds and freshwater mussels. The pink mucket mussel, a federally designated endangered species, is found among the islands along with at least 20 other species of plants and animals on the state's rare species list. Experts have long recognized the biological importance of the islands and recommended that they be protected and maintained in their natural state.

The refuge helps to preserve a declining ecosystem. Since the turn of the century, approximately 19 of the Ohio River islands have disappeared because of both environmental and man-made causes. That is one of the reasons why it is important to support this refuge. In addition to sustaining valuable wildlife, preservation of these islands will protect natural vistas and open areas for the recreational enjoyment of visitors. The islands are popular areas for nature study, hunting, fishing, camping, and boating.

Preserving wildlife in areas such as the Ohio River Islands Wildlife Refuge is an investment in future generations of West Virginians. It ensures that our children and grandchildren will have the opportunity to experience the immense beauty of their state and to learn the valuable lessons of nature's wonderland.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Affordable Medicines for Our Elderly Citizens

Thirty-seven years ago, in 1965, Congress created Medicare to serve as a health care safety net for Americans who, because of age or disability, did not have access to medical services. Since then, the health care industry has made giant strides in medical treatments and quality of care. At the same time, health care costs have increased significantly -- especially the cost of prescription medicines -- but Medicare has not kept pace. In fact, Medicare offers no prescription medicine coverage. The time has come to address this shortfall and to create a Medicare system that is more responsive to the needs of Americans.

Prescription medicines are one of the fastest growing sectors of the health care industry. According to the National Institute for Health Care Management, spending on these medicines jumped by 17 percent in 2001. The Congressional Budget Office projects that, over the next 10 years, drug costs for senior citizens alone are expected to total \$1.8 trillion. Such hikes threaten to make medications unaffordable for far too many Americans.

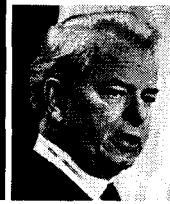
This harsh reality is why I have long supported legislative proposals to create a voluntary, universal Medicare prescription drug benefit. Congress should

craft an initiative that includes a co-payment system, modeled on the system used by many private insurance plans. A new initiative should also provide additional protections for low-income beneficiaries. Medicare beneficiaries should have the peace of mind that comes with understanding exactly what prescription medicine costs they would incur and what benefits they would receive.

In West Virginia, there are more than 335,000 Medicare beneficiaries, many of whom lack dependable, affordable coverage for prescription medicines. Many of these senior citizens live on fixed incomes and cannot afford these high priced, but very necessary, medicines. In the most unfortunate situations, seniors are forced to choose between paying for medicines that their doctors prescribe and paying for food and other basic needs. That should not be the case in the richest, most advanced nation in the world.

I hope that Congress will act to make Medicare more responsive to this unfortunate circumstance and craft a responsible, voluntary prescription medicine benefit. By doing so, Congress can help to improve the health of Americans and give peace of mind to millions of Medicare beneficiaries across the country.

July 24, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Childhood Reading: A Door to Lifetime Adventure

In West Virginia and across this nation, too many children have poor reading skills. The most recent national round of reading achievement tests showed that only 29 percent of West Virginia's fourth grade students were "proficient" readers. The state's eighth grade students scored even worse, with only 27 percent receiving a "proficient" score. This means that only slightly more than one in four West Virginia students preparing to enter high school can read at an adequate level to succeed in the classroom.

In an effort to encourage more children to read, I recently partnered with the national Public Broadcasting Service and West Virginia Public Broadcasting (WVPB) in a new public service campaign to promote child literacy. This campaign, called "Ready to Learn," is designed to encourage children and parents to read to each other. The public service announcement will air on WVPB stations in the coming weeks.

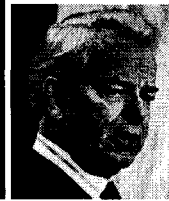
Reading with children is one of the easiest and most enjoyable ways that parents can help to build the foundation in their children for a lifetime of learning. If children master reading skills at an early age, studies show that it significantly

increases their chances for later academic success.

WVPB has made childhood reading a priority in its programming. The network's early childhood education outreach efforts provide valuable instruction and training for our state's students and teachers. In addition to specialized educational programming, WVPB has conducted reading workshops for nearly 600 kindergarten and first grade teachers and has trained more than 50 childcare providers to utilize public broadcasting programs to support childhood literacy. More than 50,000 children across West Virginia have been instructed by adults who received this training. The WVPB approach has been recognized as a model initiative for the rest of the nation.

Reading opens doors to great adventures. It can take children on a journey to the center of the earth or around the world in 80 days. Reading can transport one backward in time to ancient Rome or encourage one to dream about the future. Reading teaches; it illuminates; and it challenges. I hope that more parents will instill in their children a love for reading. It not only increases a child's classroom achievement, but it also leads to a lifetime of thrilling adventure.

July 31, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Roads to Economic Strength

The nation's infrastructure is the foundation of our economy. The country's roads, bridges, highways, airports and seaports, water and sewer systems -- these are core elements of a healthy, productive economy.

During my almost 50 years of service in Congress, I have focused on investing in the economic engine of infrastructure, believing that such investments not only improve the quality of life for those who directly benefit but also help to spur job growth and economic development. Whether in West Virginia or in any other state, a stronger infrastructure means a healthier, more productive economy.

That is why I found the Bush Administration's proposed budget for road construction and repair to be so baffling. The Administration is proposing a devastating \$8.6 billion cut in federal highway construction funding for the next fiscal year. According to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, that massive funding cut would result in more than 350,000 lost jobs across the country, including nearly 1,300 jobs in West Virginia.

Underfunding infrastructure investments and forcing hundreds of thousands of Americans off the job is a poor excuse for an economic assistance plan, but that is exactly what the

Administration's highway proposal would do. We have not yet begun to reverse the trends of accelerating road deterioration and worsening congestion. We should be looking for ways to move our investment in highways forward, not backward.

Recently, I won committee approval of legislation that rejects the Bush Administration proposal and, instead, advances investment in road construction. The Fiscal Year 2003 Transportation Appropriations bill restores the \$8.6 billion proposed cut and provides a total of \$31.8 billion for critical highway construction projects across the nation, thus funding backlogged repairs and upgrades while protecting hundreds of thousands of jobs. This transportation appropriations bill puts forward a responsible plan to invest in the nation's economic health.

At a time when there is great unease about the stock market and corporate financial misdeeds, it seems obvious to me that Congress should invest in initiatives that strengthen the economy instead of following Administration proposals that would accelerate its deterioration. This transportation appropriations bill will be good for the economy and for the safe travel of Americans in West Virginia and from coast to coast.

August 7, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Haste Makes Waste for New Department

As America battles terrorism around the world, the Bush Administration continues to push for the rapid creation of a new federal department tasked with protecting citizens within our borders. The President's plan would constitute the largest government reorganization since the creation of the Department of Defense in 1947. His plan would shift 170,000 employees from at least 22 different agencies, shoehorning these agencies, with their widely disparate missions, into a single unit.

For instance, the President's plan would shift the Customs Service into the new Department's Border and Transportation Security division. But the Customs Service has a broader mission than simply guarding our ports. The Customs Service also is tasked with ensuring the rapid transfer of goods from port to market. That part of its mission -- expediting commerce -- runs counter to its security responsibilities. These conflicts are not limited to Customs, nor will they be easy to rectify. Congress should take sufficient time and give these problems broader consideration. We should ensure that, when this new Department opens its doors, its various agencies have a seamless mission and will provide true protections for the American people.

No lawmaker wants to be seen as delaying efforts to protect the homeland. But, in trying to avoid be-

ing labeled as obstructionists, we must not ignore even the most basic questions about the proposal -- such as will a Homeland Security Department actually make Americans safer from terrorists?

While I support the concept of a new Department, I fear that, by acting in too great a haste, the country will be more vulnerable to terrorist attack, not less. It would be far easier for terrorists to exploit loopholes in our defenses because of the chaos that will reign in the domestic security agencies during such a massive shake-up. We need to do this job right, not rushed.

Already this fiscal year, Congress has taken significant steps to strengthen the nation's security, investing \$15 billion to protect Americans from another terrorist attack and to better respond should, God forbid, another attack occur. But we should not rush in the course of a few days to create a brand new department that will have ramifications for decades to come.

Homeland security is a serious matter involving the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans. The Administration and Members of Congress ought not offer the American people a quick bureaucratic fix but, instead, should take the time to work thoughtfully and carefully on an effective and lasting plan for the protection of the nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Progress Toward Lower Prescription Costs

Because of the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs and because Medicare, which funds the health care for many senior citizens, does not provide a drug benefit, too many seniors must decide each month whether to pay for food and shelter or the life-sustaining medicine that their doctor has prescribed. That should not be the case in a country as advanced as ours.

The Senate recently approved legislation that takes a first step toward ensuring access to more affordable prescription medicines. While this legislation does not include the Medicare prescription drug benefit that I long have supported, it does provide the pharmaceutical industry with a desperately needed dose of competition.

The legislation would overhaul the laws governing the way prescription medicines are brought to market. Loopholes in current law allow brand-name drug companies to prevent less expensive generic drugs from reaching pharmacies, forcing seniors and other prescription drug users to pay top dollar for medications. This new legislation would close those loopholes.

For instance, since the patent laws were enacted, major drug companies have stifled low-cost competition with a host of tactics -- including filing frivolous patents on the color of a pill bottle and paying generic drug manufacturers not to sell their less expensive

drugs. By following such tactics, companies can charge high prices for their drugs while also delaying the arrival of less expensive alternatives for several years.

Drug companies should profit from their hard work and innovation but, once a patent expires, consumers should have the opportunity to save money by choosing cheaper generic versions of the medicines. The recently passed legislation would eliminate a number of the legal hurdles that major drug companies have utilized to keep the less expensive generic competition off the market.

For example, a drug provider charges \$115.80 for a 30-day supply of the heartburn medicine Prilosec, but the generic alternative costs only \$10.80. Similarly, Vioxx, prescribed to treat arthritis and joint pain, costs \$73.29 for a 30-day supply, while its generic version costs \$7.99. The savings for patients who are able to purchase generic versions of their medicines are substantial, while the profit motivation for major drug companies to keep these medicines from the market is obvious.

As advancements in medicines become available, it is important that they be affordable. By opening the pharmaceutical industry to greater competition, the Senate legislation begins to address the rising costs of prescription drugs that is cutting into the pocketbooks of many of West Virginia's 335,000 Medicare recipients.

August 21, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Helpful Hotlines

Due to the vast number of regulations and options affecting federal programs and services, West Virginians often have questions regarding specific problems or concerns. In response, the federal government has established a system of toll-free telephone numbers that can assist West Virginians in receiving answers to their questions. With the thought that it might be helpful, I am listing some of the most commonly requested numbers.

Auto Safety Hotline ----- 1-800-424-9393
CDC National AIDS Hotline ----- 1-800-342-2437
Consumer Product Safety Commission --- 1-800-638-2772
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
 Cancer Hotline ----- 1-800-422-6237
DOT-Auto Safety Hotline ----- 1-888-327-4236
Eating Disorders ----- 1-800-931-2237
Energy Efficiency Clearinghouse ----- 1-800-290-8202
Federal Scholarship Information ----- 1-800-433-3243
Food & Safety Tips on Meat and Poultry - 1-800-535-4555
Hill-Burton Free Hospital Care Hotline--- 1-800-638-0742
Medicare Information ----- 1-800-633-4227
Narcotics Anonymous ----- 1-800-766-4442
National Domestic Violence Hotline ----- 1-800-799-7233
 Hearing Impaired ----- 1-800-787-3224
National Drug & Alcohol Treatment
 Referral Service (HHS) ----- 1-800-662-4357
National Flood Insurance Program ----- 1-800-427-4661
National Health Information Center ----- 1-800-336-4797
National Runaway Switchboard ----- 1-800-621-4000
 (For parents and runaways to leave messages)
Pesticide Emergency Information ----- 1-800-858-7378
Safe Drinking Water Hotline ----- 1-800-426-4792
Small Business Administration ----- 1-800-827-5722
Social Security Administration ----- 1-800-772-1213
Suicide - National "Hopeline" Network -- 1-800-784-2433
Veteran Benefits Information ----- 1-800-827-1000

August 28, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

First Responders Prepare for Terrorism Threats

With the realities of today's world, communities both large and small need to be prepared for the possibility of a terrorist attack. At the local level, the front line of counterterrorism efforts is composed of first responders -- the police officers, the firefighters, and the emergency medical personnel. As they have always been, the men and women who serve in these departments are constantly on the job, always prepared to fulfill their duty when their neighbors call for help. But the new threats of terrorism have forced these departments to refocus their training and restructure their budgets to respond to these threats.

In many cases, these departments rely on small fundraisers to pay for equipment and training. However, expanded missions and continuing threats are pushing the price of security too high for many rural communities to afford. That is why I have worked through my position as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee to provide funds for local first responders. In legislation this year, I have added \$610 million in emergency funds for local law enforcement and firefighters. These dollars are making an important difference in West Virginia and across the nation, assisting police and firefighters in their efforts

to prepare for the possibility of terrorism close to home.

In West Virginia, several fire departments already are benefiting from these funds. In fact, departments in 16 counties are sharing in more than \$1 million, and more grants will be announced in the coming weeks.

Terrorist incidents are primarily local events. The immediate response to the attacks at the World Trade Centers came from the police and firefighters in New York City. The immediate response to the attack at the Pentagon came from the first responders in the neighboring communities. These events bear out the critical need for well-prepared, well-equipped local emergency response teams. The ramifications of an ill-prepared local community, in today's world, are too large.

First responders likely will act alone in the initial critical moments of any emergency, no matter how large or small. In those moments, lives will be saved. But these first responders cannot be expected to fund the fight against terrorism with bake sales and bingo nights. That is why the support of the federal government, both in terms of funding and training, is so important for local police, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Corridor Highways: Roads to Progress

In 1965, the Appalachian Regional Commission crafted a plan to build a network of roads to link interstate highways and to bring economic opportunities into the hills and hollows of the Appalachian states. I supported the creation of the Appalachian Regional Commission, I supported the creation of the Appalachian Corridor Highway System, and I have supported, and added hundreds of millions of dollars to, appropriations bills in order to promote the completion of that system of Appalachian highways.

Recently, Governor Bob Wise and I dedicated the latest sections of the Corridor system, opening the first miles of Corridor H east of Elkins. These miles in Randolph County and in Hardy County represent the first progress on Corridor H since 1990, and they bring West Virginia that much closer to an integrated system of safe, modern roads.

In 1947, when I served in the West Virginia House of Delegates, there were only four miles of divided four-lane highway throughout the entire state, and even these did not show up on a West Virginia road map. A Saturday Evening Post story in 1960 stated that West Virginia's highway system was "decades behind that of its neighbors." Those words were seared into my memory, and I have made

it a mission of mine to obtain funding to improve West Virginia's transportation network.

With the eight new miles of Corridor H, there are now more than 1,000 miles of divided four-lane highway throughout West Virginia. These new miles represent not just safety and efficiency. They are not just concrete ribbons connecting community to community. This road and highways like it are also seeds which feed prosperity and nourish a better life for all West Virginians. They provide jobs, link rural communities to hospitals and clinics, and promote tourism.

Much work is still to be done to complete the Corridor Highway system in West Virginia. The Corridor D bypass in Wood County is still under construction, and Corridor H will not be completed until 2010. But we are making progress.

I look forward to the completion of each mile of these roads because they provide a safer, more modern route for the West Virginians who live along it and for visitors who come to discover the beautiful scenery of our state. But also, and more personally, I look forward to their advancement because, upon completion, they will connect the nation to the heart of our state with four-lane roads that travel through -- not around -- West Virginia.

September 4, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Renewed Determination on Mine Safety

This summer, the nation was captivated by an amazing story of survival and determination. Nine miners managed to endure being trapped in a flooded Pennsylvania mine for nearly 72 hours until they were brought to safety by a crew of relentless rescue workers who were resolved to beat the odds. People from coast to coast watched events unfold until, thankfully, the last miner safely reached the surface.

Communities in West Virginia and across the nation know all too well these tense vigils. They know the dangers that accompany coal mining. There will always be tragedies that can neither be foreseen nor prevented. In fact, the Department of Labor reports that last year there were 43 coal mining fatalities nationwide, including 12 deaths in West Virginia. That is why it is so important to train miners in the best ways to handle potential life or death situations.

Recognizing the importance of mine safety, in 1969, I suggested that the federal government create a mine safety training facility to better prepare miners for the risks they face on a daily basis. In 1976, what is now known as the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Academy opened in Beckley. Since its inception, I have obtained more than \$30 million for the

Beckley mining academy, which played a crucial role in the rescue in Pennsylvania.

Not only was the specialized rescue equipment used in Pennsylvania housed in Beckley, but many of the experts on the scene received their training from the Raleigh County facility. In fact, each year, the Mine Safety and Health Academy trains more than 3,000 men and women in mine rescue and survival techniques. The successful Pennsylvania rescue exemplifies how the proper training can bring a happy ending to even the most treacherous of situations.

Early in the 20th century, coal mining took the lives of 1,000 to 3,000 coal miners each year. In the year before the academy was established in Beckley, 155 coal miners were killed in work-related tragedies. While Americans can look back with justifiable pride over the accomplishments of the National Mine Health and Safety Academy over the past quarter-century, we must not become complacent. Instead, we must renew our determination to do even better in the years ahead. I am thankful for the many lives saved by the skills taught at the mine safety academy, and it is my hope that the academy will continue to do the good work for which it was originally created.

September 11, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginians' Voice in the Iraq Debate

In the coming days, Congress, the Bush Administration, and the entire nation will engage in the debate surrounding whether to commit American military forces to battle against Iraq. For a Member of Congress, there is no discussion more somber, no decision more critical as the decision whether to send the nation's sons and daughters to war. It is a decision which should never be left solely to an elite few in Washington. This decision should be studied and discussed by all Americans.

Every West Virginian should play a role in the national debate concerning whether our country should launch an unprovoked attack on Iraq. Consider the crucial questions. Does Saddam Hussein pose an imminent threat to the United States? Should the United States act alone? Should Congress grant the President authority to launch a preemptive attack on Iraq? What would be the repercussions around the globe? These and other questions are not simple to answer.

Without a solid foundation of knowledge upon which to analyze the serious issues involved, Americans will be buffeted this way and that way by spin doctors, by politicians seeking to follow the latest opinion polls, and by talk shows which often have an edito-

rial agenda. Americans should arm themselves with information so that they can cut through the fog, discern the truth, and recognize attempts at manipulation.

The American constitutional system of government has an inherent system of checks and balances which the Framers crafted to keep the American people free and to protect our liberties from being arbitrarily swept aside. The power of the purse, which resides with the Legislative Branch, is the ultimate check on an overreaching Executive and a prime guarantor of the people's freedoms. But there is another power which can serve as a check against abuses by overzealous government officials and that is the power of the informed citizenry -- a citizenry that is well equipped to judge truths from falsehoods. An informed citizenry is essential to preserving a republic such as ours.

This is a nation "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Never in our history has the role of a knowledgeable people been more important than in these turbulent days. An informed citizenry has to participate, ask questions, and demand answers and accountability. It is up to each American to do what he or she can do to provide the all-important check on power -- the wisdom of the people.

September 18, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Fuel for Innovation

During the last century, coal powered dynamic innovations in technology development, manufacturing, communications, and transportation. However, as the United States prospered, Americans have become more concerned about the environmental impacts of coal. In response, the federal government and private industry have forged a research partnership that is leading to more efficient, environmentally friendly methods to utilize coal for many decades to come.

Coal now competes with a diverse mix of energy sources. Rather than be supplanted by solar arrays or wind farms, coal has relied on new technologies to become increasingly cleaner and more efficient, producing only a small fraction of the emissions that it did just 25 years ago. Many of these new practices are designed and developed at the National Energy Technology Laboratory, based in Morgantown. The laboratory's scientists are lighting a path for a new era of energy use. In fact, the federal investment in clean coal technologies has led to 40 first-of-a-kind projects in 18 states, including an array of high-technology ideas that can spearhead a new era of clean, efficient power plants which will continue to burn the nation's abundant coal resources.

But this is not enough. The challenges facing fossil fuels in general and coal in particular are great. That is why, in the Senate, I have consistently sought new opportunities that can help to ensure a bright future for coal. As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I secured \$150 million for new clean coal initiatives last year. I authored another measure that added nearly \$2 billion in tax incentives to assist in the deployment of clean coal technologies in the marketplace. The Senate adopted my proposal as part of a national energy strategy approved this summer.

Coal is a part of the shared heritage of West Virginia. Coal is the most abundant, affordable, and accessible fossil energy source in the United States. That is why I continue to work to fund programs that will allow for the production and consumption of cleaner coal.

America witnessed great advancements over the course of the 20th century, and the new century promises inventions that one can only dream about today. But one fact will remain constant during the coming decades, namely, coal will remain the cornerstone of the nation's energy strategy and will continue to power innovation and change.

October 2, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Awareness Saves Lives

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to encourage all women to take an active role in their health and well being. Knowledge is power and, in the case of breast cancer prevention, knowledge can save lives.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States. In West Virginia, the American Cancer Society estimates that this year 1,500 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and nearly 300 women will die from the disease. Nationwide, one of every eight women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. More than 39,600 women will lose their battle with the disease this year, while 203,500 will begin their fight.

Advancements in treatments and detection are giving women a better chance of surviving breast cancer and leading a happy, active life. But finding the disease early is the most important step to improving a woman's chance of long-term survival.

According to the American Cancer Society, the most effective way to detect breast cancer is through a combination of clinical breast exams, regular self-exams, and routine mammograms. A mammogram is a simple and fast procedure available at many of the clinics and hospitals across West Virginia. Women should consult with

their physicians to determine which method of detection is most appropriate for them.

For many years, I have supported increases in cancer research funding and the development of new facilities. The statewide breast and cervical cancer prevention, education, and screening project, launched in 1990 with funds I added to an appropriations bill, offers screenings to West Virginians who otherwise might not have access to such tests. I was also a cosponsor of a new law that allows Medicaid coverage for the treatment of low-income women diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer.

Scientists at the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center, home of the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center at West Virginia University, are constantly searching for new cancer treatments. The Cancer Center is West Virginia's first statewide cancer research and treatment facility.

I hope that these efforts, combined with research underway across the country, will one day lead to a cure for cancer. But, until there is a cure, the battle against cancer must be waged in every home in West Virginia. Encourage loved ones to take the necessary steps to detect signs of the disease. Prevention and early detection are the keys to beating the odds.

October 9, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Elections Matter

Two years ago, the nation watched closely as the last votes were counted in the election for president. The race went down to the wire. At the end, with more than 105 million votes cast across the nation, the election came down to the results of a single state -- Florida. In that state, when the final ballots were counted, George W. Bush won by a mere 537 votes and thereby won the national election.

This November, candidates across the country will seek election to Congressional, state, and local offices. Whether the nation will witness another race as close as the last presidential contest remains to be seen. But what should be clear from that recent history is the importance of every single vote. By voting, a person plays an active role in the government. One plays a role in determining what policies will be debated and implemented. This is as true for a city council or a county school board election as it is true for the election of a Member of Congress. Each vote counts. Each vote makes a difference.

Unfortunately, in the last presidential election, only 60 percent of the registered voters in West Virginia took the time to vote. Nationally, 67 percent of the registered voters cast ballots. It is beyond disappointing that American citizens would fail to appreciate and exercise this important responsibility. Participation in elections is the central means by which the American people can influence the future of the nation.

These are critical times for our state and for our country. Issues involving war and peace, the economy, retirement benefits, health care, education, Social Security, Medicare, and so many others are at stake in this election. Participation is key. This election will set the agenda for the next two years at all levels of government.

West Virginia is a very patriotic state. Our state's residents have never flinched in the defense of our country. Let West Virginia also show the nation that true patriotism requires us to do our duty at the ballot box. On November 5, go to the polls and vote.

October 17, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Staying True to West Virginia Workers

The U.S. steel industry continues to falter beneath unprecedented economic strain. The industry's longevity hangs in the balance as companies struggle to keep their doors open and maintain precious jobs for American steelworkers. West Virginia's steelmakers have not been immune to these pressures. They have cut hundreds of jobs in an effort to remain solvent. That is why I have worked so hard to provide critical assistance to American steel producers to see them through this crisis.

For example, two years ago I championed a trade law called the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act that has been particularly important to U.S. steel and manufacturing companies. Under this law, more commonly known as the "Byrd Amendment," the U.S. Customs Service collects duties on products that have been unfairly subsidized or dumped in the American market. The duties assessed against the foreign products are then provided to U.S. companies to reimburse them for the costs associated with acquiring new equipment, implementing advanced technology, and providing workers' health and pension benefits.

Recently, the World Trade Organization (WTO) claimed that my initiative violates international trade agreements and wanted the

Byrd Amendment to be repealed. This ruling ignores the fact that the only reason that the Customs Service collects these fines is because foreign countries break the very trade agreements that they negotiated with the United States. Quite simply, if foreign nations would stop breaking trade agreements, then they would not be assessed fines.

The WTO's Byrd Amendment ruling is so clearly wrong that U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick personally has assured me that he is appealing the ruling and will fight it vigorously. Unless reversed on appeal, the WTO panel's ruling will undermine America's competitiveness and diminish the ability of U.S. companies to invest in their workers' futures.

For the next few years, America will be involved in international trade negotiations with more than 140 other WTO members. At the top of the American demands ought to be an insistence that our foreign trading partners operate without subsidies and without granting their own companies unfair advantages. Until they do, I will continue to back initiatives like the Byrd Amendment which help to provide some assistance to American companies that have suffered for too long because of unjust foreign trade practices.

October 23, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Teaming to Protect Communities

West Virginians are blessed to live in one of the safest states in the country, according to national crime statistics. That fact is a credit to West Virginia's citizens and law enforcement agencies which work together to prevent crime in our neighborhoods. Local police and private citizens team up to ensure that West Virginia's communities remain safe havens in which to work and play.

But protecting our populace is not an easy nor an inexpensive undertaking. Police forces struggle to fulfill their duty under tight budget constraints. That is why I have worked in the Senate to provide new resources for law enforcement. In various federal appropriations bills this year, I have included hundreds of millions of dollars to help train and equip police departments and other emergency responders as part of their expanded homeland security efforts.

Another key federal support for local law enforcement is the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant initiative. Established in 1994, COPS grants help to hire new officers, to purchase new equipment, and to develop school safety programs. In that same year, I authored legislation to establish the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund to guarantee that COPS and other crime-fighting initiatives receive federal funding. Most recently,

my Senate Appropriations Committee crafted legislation providing \$1 billion for the COPS program.

West Virginia police departments credit the COPS initiative for enabling them to implement innovative crimefighting strategies and to build strong partnerships between law enforcement officials and the communities which they protect. COPS grants allow police departments to tailor their crimefighting efforts to the specific needs of local communities.

Since its inception, the COPS initiative has invested nearly \$40 million in 165 West Virginia local and state law enforcement agencies. COPS grants have helped to hire more than 690 new police officers and sheriffs' deputies who are on the job protecting our homes and businesses. These grants also have provided funds to improve school safety in West Virginia schools. By empowering school districts to prevent crime, the COPS program helps to maintain schools as institutions dedicated to teaching and learning, and not as places where violence rules the day.

There is no single answer to the problem of crime. But strong partnerships between local law enforcement agencies and the communities that they serve are key. By working together, we can continue West Virginia's long tradition as one of the safest states in the nation.

October 30, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A National Crime-Fighting Tool in West Virginia

The Mountain State is home to one of the most advanced and most widely used law enforcement facilities in the nation. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Criminal Justice Information Services Division in Harrison County provides state-of-the-art identification and information services to local, state, federal, and international criminal justice communities. Through the Clarksburg complex, the FBI is working with state and local law enforcement agencies to make our communities safer places to live and work.

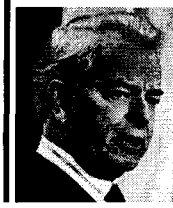
Criminal identification by means of fingerprints is one of the most potent factors in apprehending fugitives who might otherwise escape arrest and continue their criminal activities indefinitely. More than a decade ago, escape was much more likely because the FBI relied on an antiquated paper-based system of matching fingerprints with suspects. That system simply did not work in the modern age. The FBI had 32 million fingerprint cards on file -- enough that if stacked one on top of another would be 13 times as high as the Empire State Building. Matching by hand a local suspect's fingerprints with one of those cards was a daunting challenge that often resulted in the suspect going free before the FBI determined that the suspect was wanted in another jurisdiction.

When the FBI approached me about the problem, I added \$185 million to an appropriations bill to construct an ultramodern FBI complex. Since that time, I have obtained more than \$800 million for development of the computerization. The return on that investment is impressive. Today, when a local police department submits a set of fingerprints to the FBI, more than 94 percent of the time the FBI can utilize its new technology to determine, within two hours, if a suspect has a criminal history. That speed can make a big difference.

At the same time, because of this system, the FBI is solving what, up until now, have been unsolvable cases. Through its modern technologies, the FBI has been processing latent fingerprints taken at a crime scene and matching them to suspects with prior criminal records, finally providing closure to some victims and families who have been haunted by long unpunished crimes.

The Harrison County FBI Complex has helped to revolutionize the nation's crime-fighting effort. West Virginians can be proud of the fact that our state is home to a world-class initiative geared toward helping the entire nation to realize a better, safer quality of life.

November 6, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Telling the Story of West Virginia Veterans

West Virginians have never flinched when called to military service, always answering the call of their nation to duty. The experiences of these veterans are shared through tales of sacrifice and courage, of hardship and danger, of loss and survival. Their stories are the stories of veterans across the country.

The Library of Congress has undertaken the mission of preserving those stories for generations to come. Through its Veterans History Project, the Library is collecting the memories, accounts, and documents of war veterans and of those who served in support of them during World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf conflicts. This national collection of artifacts will be available for use by all Americans, including students, teachers, researchers, and other veterans.

The Veterans History Project is only possible with the help of others. Various organizations in West Virginia have agreed to partner with the Library of Congress to record veterans' stories. West Virginia University, the West Virginia National Guard, and Marshall University are among the organizations which are gathering veterans' histories in the Mountain State. A full list of partners is available on my Internet site, <http://byrd.senate.gov>, or on the Library of

Congress site, <http://www.loc.gov>. As more organizations join in this effort, those lists will be updated.

Across the country, there are more than 19 million veterans, including approximately 202,000 in West Virginia. Each has a unique story to tell of service to country. In just the short time since its creation, the Veterans History Project has started to amass a remarkable collection of interviews and documentary materials that spans much of the 20th century. The collection includes compelling accounts of wartime service from men and women representing many ranks, jobs, branches of service, and theaters of war. I encourage West Virginia veterans to contact one of the partner organizations and ensure that their stories and recollections are saved for posterity.

The nation's veterans have repeatedly risked life and limb to defend the values that Americans hold dear. Veterans can pass on the lessons that they have learned to a younger generation, thereby ensuring that their experiences will extend long into the future. The men and women who serve in the Armed Forces are nothing short of heroes who have helped to shape history. The fabric of our nation is made richer when the embodiment of history, our nation's veterans, share their knowledge.

November 13, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Giving Thanks for a Year of Blessings

Once again, Thanksgiving is upon us and West Virginians are preparing to give thanks to the Creator for His many blessings on our land. After the scares of last year and with the possibility of war looming ahead of us, the Thanksgiving feast, the epitome of family tradition, is more precious and appreciated than ever.

The nation, too, feels stronger. We are more aware of ourselves as citizens of one land rather than as an eclectic mix of communities with little connection to each other. This year, as a nation, we feared the sniper that stalked the national capital area. As a nation, we pulled for the miners trapped underground in Pennsylvania. As a nation, we follow the hunt for terrorists and mourn for the victims of terrorist acts committed around the world. The flags that have flown in yards nationwide since September 11, 2001, are still flying in our hearts.

Our military, with the National Guard and Reserve forces, is more unified this Thanksgiving. All are under the strain of extended deployments, but all are working together. I am thankful for their efforts and offer a prayer for each of the nation's men and women in uniform and their families. We ought to re-

member and be thankful for their efforts.

We also should remember the firemen, police, and lifesaving crews who have performed so heroically during the crises of the past year and more. People are alive today because of their efforts, and their future diligence may make the difference for all of us in the future.

At the first Thanksgiving, the settlers thanked Providence for seeing them through a difficult year. It is a daunting task, to carve a homestead out of the wilderness thousands of miles from anything familiar. Each log had to be cut with an axe, dragged to the site, and lifted by hand into place. Fields had to be cleared, planted, and tended, and game had to be hunted and cured, or there would be no food, let alone a Thanksgiving feast.

This year, we gather with our loved ones, each house a glowing lamp of civilization in an increasingly hostile world. But for a day, we can easily push our nagging fears aside and find comfort in the warm bonds of family affection. As we polish the silverware, set the table, and prepare and serve the delicious food, we should give thanks for life's greatest gift -- our families.

November 20, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Developing a New Industry in West Virginia

At a time when concerns about security are constantly growing, the Mountain State is poised to help lead the country in the development of cutting-edge technologies that help to make computer networks safer from cyberattack. These technologies, called biometrics, protect information as large as electronic military networks or as personalized as one's banking or medical records. Biometrics utilize characteristics that are unique to an individual -- such as the pattern of the iris of the eye or the shape of one's hand or face -- in order to verify the identity of that individual.

West Virginia's role in biometrics began four years ago when the Department of Defense (DoD) approached me with concerns that terrorist organizations and rogue nations were attempting to break into the Pentagon's electronic networks. DoD officials believed that biometrics could provide the necessary security to protect critical information from would-be attackers. Since then, I have included \$92 million in appropriations bills to test biometrics identification systems and to develop a prototype security network for the Defense Department.

As it moved ahead, the DoD looked to those running the nation's largest biometrics repository for guidance. At my request, DoD officials toured the FBI Complex in Harrison County, which houses thousands of fingerprints electronically, and saw first-

hand the expertise that already called West Virginia home. After the visit, the DoD decided to open an interim Biometrics Fusion Center in Harrison County in 2000 to test various security approaches. That center has performed so well that the Defense Department is considering various West Virginia locations for a permanent testing facility.

The biometrics effort is not limited to the Defense Department. Recently, I announced that West Virginia University and five other companies and non-profit organizations in the state have been selected to lend their high-tech expertise to the critical work underway at the Harrison County center. This work will contribute to the country's ability to defend its electronic and computer information -- ranging from national security secrets to electrical grids or to drinking water systems -- from cyberattack.

As new technologies develop, the Mountain State is well-positioned to help lead the way. With the Biometrics Fusion Center and the combined expertise of WVU and several West Virginia companies, the state is gaining significant momentum in this young field. Not long ago, biometrics was strictly the stuff of science fiction. But what some people can dream, others can invent. West Virginia has demonstrated the foresight to embrace this state-of-the-art technology and is well positioned to lead in its development.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Steer Clear of Drunk Driving

The holiday season is upon us, bringing many opportunities to celebrate with family and friends. While many of the memories of this season will be bright, for some West Virginians the holidays will be filled with the tragedy of a loved one killed by a drunk driver. It is a scene that is played out far too often across the country.

A recent report card by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) found that, while alcohol-related traffic deaths dropped by 40 percent between 1980 and 1993, progress has stalled. In fact, during the past three years, the declining trend of drunk driving deaths has reversed course and climbed by five percent. Last year, 17,448 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes throughout the nation. In West Virginia in 2001, 36 percent of all traffic deaths were alcohol related. That translates to 135 lives that could have been saved in West Virginia -- if a driver had the sense not to drink before climbing behind the wheel of the car.

The holiday season is one of several higher-risk periods when people need

to be aware of the dangers of mixing alcohol with driving. Last year nationally, between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, 2,053 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes, representing 41.5 percent of the people killed in vehicle crashes during that period. Of all traffic deaths across the country during the New Year's holiday, more than half were alcohol-related.

The statistics are sobering. They should remind all of us of the dangers of drinking.

Throughout this special season, it is important to remember what is truly important: family and friends. This season of the spirit is a good time to be thankful for the blessings that the Creator has bestowed upon us. But the holidays are not an excuse to drink and drive. 'Tis the season to be jolly, not drunk.

I offer my deepest hope that, in these last days of 2002, West Virginians show thoughtful concern for themselves and for the safety of others before taking to the highways. Cork the wine bottle. Cap the beer. Celebrate the season, but celebrate it sober.

December 4, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Roads to Progress

In 1965, Congress adopted the Appalachian Regional Development Act which promised a network of highways to connect Appalachia to the rest of the nation's highway network and to the rest of the nation's economy. While the country has virtually completed the Interstate Highway System, the people of West Virginia and the rest of the 13-state Appalachian region are still waiting for the federal government to live up to its promise on Appalachian Corridor Highways. That system is 78 percent complete throughout the region but, in West Virginia, only 72 percent of the Appalachian Corridor Highway system is open to traffic.

In 1998, Congress passed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). This legislation signaled a new day for Appalachian Corridor Highways. Because of a provision that I championed in that bill, TEA-21 took a great leap forward by authorizing direct contract authority from the Highway Trust Fund to the states for the construction of these roads. Until that point, funding for Corridor Highways had struggled with uncertain and inconsistent resources. By providing the states of Appalachia with a predictable source of construction funds, I reinvigorated efforts to honor the promise made to the people of the Appalachian region.

Soon, Congress will be-

gin debate on a new transportation bill. How this legislation is written will be key for West Virginia's future. This bill again will authorize funding for the Appalachian Corridor Highways. Congress, in concert with the Administration, needs to finally complete that highway system.

From the time they were first planned more than 35 years ago, Appalachian Corridor Highways have been recognized as essential pathways for prosperity in an economically challenged region. They provide for a freer flow of commerce which is essential to opening new opportunities to the people of Appalachia -- opportunities that have largely bypassed the region for decades. These four-lane highways also provide safer and more modern alternatives to what have been among the most dangerous roads throughout the state.

I have always believed that a modern, efficient highway network is one of West Virginia's most pressing needs and is necessary for promoting economic development and job creation in our state. While it will be extremely difficult to accomplish under this current national Administration, I will work in the coming months to provide sufficient funding for Appalachian Corridor highways and to ensure that West Virginians, who have been waiting for these better, safer roads, can begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Christmas Story

Today, Christmas is filled with deadlines, shopping lists, and Santa Claus. In the rush to wrap presents and decorate the tree, though, it is easy to lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas.

The focus on material gifts underscores the sad reality that, all too often in our nation today, what one has is more important than what one is.

In this holiday hustle and bustle, it is good to return to the Bible and remember the true meaning of Christmas. Luke, in his Gospel, writes:

"All went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keep-

ing watch over their flock by night.

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

This Christmas season, let us stop to ponder the true meaning of those simple and beautiful passages.

Let us appreciate anew the miracle of small children, the joy of family, and the peace that comes with closeness to one's God and kindness toward one's fellow men. Erma and I wish for you a safe, happy, and holy Christmas and New Year.

May God continue to bless this wonderful country and guide each of us toward a deeper sense of the spiritual in our lives.

December 18, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Welcome to a New Year

As West Virginians turn the page on another year, it is a good time to recall the memories of the past while also looking ahead with hopeful eyes to the future. Reflecting on the five decades that I have served West Virginia in Congress, I have seen the state grow in magnificent ways. We have witnessed a dramatic expansion in opportunities for our young people. We have created innovative energy technologies that are helping to power the world. We have developed new medicines that are curing and preventing previously untreatable illnesses. Yet, with all of the advancements and changes, West Virginians have never lost sight of the old values that make our state unique.

Today, faith resides in the West Virginia hills just as surely as it did when I was a youth living in her southern coal mining communities and in the hills of Mercer County. Faith is what has kept us going when hope has been in short supply. But it is hope that shapes our vision of the future, and drives us to achieve our dreams. The

Bible teaches us, "Remove not the ancient landmarks which thy fathers have set." I hope that West Virginians will continue to preserve and honor the old values that guided and sustained our fathers and mothers and more distant ancestors in their daily lives and in the life of our state from its earliest beginnings.

As we cross the threshold into a new year, I urge my fellow West Virginians to build their futures on the development of the human mind and the rock of the human spirit. I hope that more West Virginians will understand the necessity of education and the value of our schools. Our state's future in fields of business, industry, science, and medicine waits for bright West Virginia intellects to open doors to those fields.

I extend to everyone my best wishes for a happy and safe new year. With God's will, West Virginians will continue to cherish and strengthen the traditional values that have served us so well, while we continue to build our state and prepare to meet the challenges that surely await us in the months and years ahead.

December 25, 2002



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Innovation: Engine for Job Growth

When I was growing up in Southern West Virginia, there was no computer line running to our home. I literally had to crank the telephone hanging on the wall in order to call a friend down the road. Coal was king. For many West Virginians, the coal company owned the house, the local store, and the doctor's office. If one ran out of U.S. currency, company scrip paid for the groceries. When the coal company pulled out of a town, the town, often, disappeared, too.

Today, while West Virginia's economy still relies on coal and the state's other core industries, we are witnessing a transition to a high-tech economy.

For example, the Touchstone Research Laboratory in Triadelphia is making great strides in the development of new materials using West Virginia coal. Just recently, I announced that Touchstone and the U.S. Navy are developing new materials for the construction of ship bulkheads. Using a Touchstone product called carbon foam, which does not burn, the Navy is hoping to build safer, lighter, and less expensive ships. Touchstone, which started as a small business in the basement of a house in Wheeling, has developed into a cutting-edge research and development firm that is helping to create new economic oppor-

tunities in West Virginia.

HGO Technology is another example of success. HGO has been a part of Wheeling for 15 years. Today, the company has more than 60 employees who specialize in computer network engineering, consulting, and software development. The U.S. Census Bureau utilizes software developed by HGO to encode its data. As a result, software designed in West Virginia is tabulating and analyzing every one of the 275 million questionnaires that the Census Bureau collected in 2000. The company's expertise is also benefiting groups like the U.S. Air Force and NASA. HGO is applying local know-how and superior capabilities to streamline and improve vital government functions.

I look forward to continuing my efforts in the Senate to promote these and other innovative efforts. From unprecedented advances in medicine, to new manufacturing techniques, to breakthrough computer technologies, the nation is in the midst of a technological revolution, and West Virginia is helping to shape this revolution. The foundations that we build and the opportunities that we create certainly will provide benefits for us today. At the same time, these foundations will help to develop new industries and new economic possibilities for many decades to come.

January 1, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pressing Ahead for Autism Research

A new federal study is raising the awareness of parents about an often misdiagnosed childhood illness. Autism is a mysterious disease that affects brain and nerve development. Autism and its related diseases are generally manifested in children in the first two years of life, severely impairing language and communication skills, and impeding social development. The cause of these illnesses has not been found. However, doctors are pressing forward aggressively not only to treat the symptoms but also to find a cure.

In a just-released study, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found a marked increase in the number of diagnosed cases of autism and related conditions in American children over the past two decades.

The CDC study found an incidence of 3.4 cases per 1,000 children, age three to ten. That result is ten times higher than rates from previous U.S. studies that measured the prevalence of children with autism and pervasive developmental disorders in the 1980's and early 1990's. Some of the increase is the result of expanded definitions of the disorder and better diagnosis, but the explanation for the rest of the increase is unknown.

The Mountain State is fortunate to be a national leader in autism treatment. The West Virginia Autism

Training Center, based at Marshall University, provides valuable services and training for sufferers and their families. The center's staff helps autistic individuals and their families to improve the quality of their lives. Since its inception in 1983, hundreds of families of autistic children have benefited from the center's efforts. In fact, the demand for services was so great that a satellite facility was established in Fairmont in 1997 and another just outside of Weirton last year. Now, autism treatments are much closer to home for families in Northern West Virginia.

I am proud to have played a small role in the success of this important center. Beginning in 1994, I championed Congressional approval of federal funds for the Training Center. Now, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes the center's commitment to the treatment of young people and, with my support, includes critical funding for the West Virginia facility in its annual budget.

By learning from the West Virginia Autism Training Center and investing in federally funded research initiatives throughout the country, we can begin better to understand the causes of autism, how to treat it effectively, and, with hope one day soon, how to prevent it.

January 8, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sustaining the Steel Industry

The American steel industry continues to struggle beneath ongoing financial strain caused by unfair foreign trade practices. A special investigation by the International Trade Commission found that the domestic steel industry has been seriously injured by the dumping of cheap foreign steel into the U.S. market. As a result of that finding, the federal government, beginning last March, placed tariffs on imported steel in an effort to make American steel more competitive. I support this effort and have worked throughout my career to stand up for steelworkers in West Virginia and across the country. I will continue to speak out for steel, especially as the future of the industry hangs in the balance.

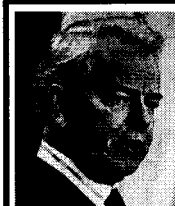
In 1999, I created the \$1 billion Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee initiative to provide domestic steelmakers with access to funds to help alleviate the financial damage caused by foreign steel dumping. This program provides short-term relief for U.S. companies in a vital sector of the national economy. The initiative needs to be fully funded to give steel companies the greatest flexibility possible to restructure their operations, improve their productivity, and sustain themselves amidst prolonged financial difficulties.

Despite the demonstrated need for the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee program, President

Bush's most recent budget cut \$96 million from the initiative. If Congress rejects this short-sighted Administration proposal, which I hope it will, the President is expected to push for an even larger cut in next year's budget request. By advocating such cuts, the Administration ignores the needs of the country's steelworkers when they are most in need of support. While the Bush Administration provides lip-service support for steel in its rhetoric, its policies are far from friendly to the American steel industry and its workers.

Together with 16 other Senators, I recently wrote to the President to express strong opposition to these ill-timed cuts which would effectively gut the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee program. Eliminating these guarantees would leave financially distressed steel companies with nowhere to turn and would contribute to the demise of steel communities in West Virginia and across the country.

At a time when the nation's economy is hurting, we should not walk away from an industry that employs tens of thousands of Americans. The steel loan guarantees, coupled with other federal efforts, are imperative to the nation's long-term economic health. I urge the Bush Administration to end its efforts to dismantle this critical initiative.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Energy Future Begins in West Virginia

In Congress this year, one priority must be the completion of a comprehensive national energy strategy. This is critical for West Virginia, which is one of the nation's leading producers of fossil fuels, particularly coal and natural gas.

Because of political agendas, the chance to complete energy legislation evaporated last year. But the issues of America's energy independence and the realities of climate change, which invariably result from energy use, are too important to let wither on the vine of partisan intransigence.

A comprehensive energy plan requires an understanding that energy, economic, and environmental goals are not mutually exclusive. If the United States is to be more energy independent, we must intensify the use of domestic energy resources in an economically and environmentally sound manner.

As part of the new national energy plan, I proposed legislation last summer to ensure a key role for fossil fuels in an energy diverse future. My initiative contains a \$2 billion, ten-year clean coal technology demonstration program to help speed these enhancements from the laboratory to the marketplace. Finally, my proposal calls for clean-coal tax incentives which will help industries to install clean coal technologies around the country.

I also have authored an

initiative that would address the long-term challenge of climate change. Based on scientifically, technically, and economically sound principles, my plan would put in place a coordinated climate change strategy, including a renewed commitment to develop the next generation of innovative energy technologies. This effort would commit more than \$4 billion during the next decade to vastly expand American technologies that can help to reduce the threat of global climate change. The bipartisan package I authored also provides for the creation of an administrative structure within the federal government to coordinate and implement a national climate change strategy. While some people may still debate the science of climate change, the fundamentals are obvious. The world is warming, and the increasing appetite for energy is a key contributor.

As Congress resumes work on energy legislation, it is critically important for that legislation to be balanced. Only legislation that commits to critical research and development of new fossil fuel technologies and also commits to address the problem of climate change can begin to place America on the road to a sustainable and environmentally sound energy future. By utilizing a full range of energy resources, technologies, and ideas, that future is possible.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Resources to Counter Obesity

Obesity is a serious disease which concerns much more than outward appearances. Being severely overweight is both a health risk and a growing epidemic which threatens the lives of many Americans. Doctors report that obese Americans have a much greater chance to contract heart disease, diabetes, some cancers, hypertension, respiratory disease, arthritis, and a host of other medical ailments. But the risks associated with obesity can be decreased with innovative research and prevention programs, which soon will be easier to access in West Virginia where prevalence of the disease is particularly high.

Utilizing \$2 million that I added to a federal appropriations bill last year, a new Center for Healthy Communities is being established at West Virginia University (WVU). The center will work with community health professionals and researchers to initiate effective programs to fight obesity throughout the state. I also have pushed for increased federal funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's efforts to create nutrition and physical activity programs that address obesity and other chronic diseases. These efforts will help to meet an important national health objective for

the year 2010: namely, to reduce the prevalence of obesity among adults from its current 21 percent to 15 percent.

Meeting this target will have critical health benefits for Americans. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, approximately 300,000 premature deaths across the nation each year are associated with being overweight and obese. Furthermore, these conditions account for health-related costs of more than \$100 billion annually.

As a nation, we cannot ignore obesity-related health risks and repercussions. Americans must not allow themselves to be shaped by an environment of fast food temptations that often fosters unhealthy eating habits. It is essential that local communities promote regular physical activity and healthy eating. The experts and resources at WVU can help in this effort.

There is no quick fix cure for obesity. The WVU Center for Healthy Communities' programs will be an important tool for people in the Mountain State and across the nation who want to break the dangerous cycle of obesity. I hope that West Virginians will take advantage of these resources that are so close to home and begin to make permanent changes for healthier living.

January 29, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Unlocking the Future of High-Tech Security

West Virginia is poised to become a national center for the testing and development of high-tech security systems that promise to revolutionize the protection of computer and other electronic networks. The Department of Defense has selected Harrison County as the home for its permanent Biometrics Fusion Center (BFC) -- a move that is expected to bring 150 to 175 jobs to North Central West Virginia by the end of the year, infuse between \$18 million and \$20 million into the state's economy annually, and open the door for new private sector investments.

The BFC will provide the Defense Department with unmatched ability to test and evaluate biometric technologies. While there are many variations in the technologies, they all share the common practice of using a person's unique physical characteristics for identification purposes. The technologies record these characteristics, whether from a fingerprint or facial design or hand contour. Those characteristics are then stored and available for comparison and verification when a person seeks entry to a location or to a computer network.

A few years ago, this technology was the stuff of science fiction. But today, biometric technologies are on the leading edge of innovation. Not only can these technologies protect military information networks,

but they also can protect Americans' banking information, medical records, or any other material stored in a computer network. In fact, the International Biometric Industry Association predicts annual industry sales of \$2 billion by 2006.

In addition to the BFC, I have worked to develop other biometrics initiatives in the state including West Virginia University's (WVU) nationally unique Biometrics and Forensics Degree program and the FBI's fingerprint database in Clarksburg, which is the largest biometrics repository in the world. In addition, WVU and five other companies and non-profit organizations in the state have been selected to lend their high-tech expertise to the work underway at the Biometrics Fusion Center.

The decision by the Defense Department to house its primary testing facility in Harrison County, combined with these other initiatives, places the Mountain State at the forefront of the burgeoning biometrics industry. The BFC can serve as a potent magnet for West Virginia's growing high-tech sector.

Cutting-edge technologies are climbing the mountains and bridging the rivers that once were obstacles to new jobs and economic growth. I look forward to the completion of the Biometrics Fusion Center and to the new opportunities that surely will accompany it.

February 5, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Courageous Discoveries

Throughout the course of history, exploration has been a hallmark of mankind. Human beings have always wondered what is on the other side of the river, the mountains, the oceans, the stars.

It was that spirit of exploration that led George Mallory to climb Mount Everest. When asked why he wanted to climb that mountain, he responded, "Because it is there."

It was that sense of discovery that pushed John Glenn to orbit the Earth in Friendship 7 in 1962. After his voyage, the future Senator from Ohio said, "My flight was but one step."

It was that determination that led Neil Armstrong to take the first steps on the moon and say, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Not all exploration is on such a grand scale. In 1953, Francis Crick and James Watson delved into the smallest of creations with the greatest of possible horizons. Crick and Watson discovered the molecular structure of DNA, the genetic structure that determines everything from the color of our eyes to the shape of our fingernails. In presenting the Nobel Prize to Crick, Watson, and another colleague, a professor of the Royal Caroline Institute said, "We can, through (your) discovery . . . see the

first glimpse of a new world."

The seven astronauts on the Space Shuttle Columbia shared this desire to glimpse a new world. Theirs was a desire to peel back the layers of the undiscovered, to see what lies beyond the moon, beyond the international space station, beyond the furthest reaches of our solar system. When orbiting Earth, those astronauts did not see a map with borders. They saw one world, and they gave their lives in an effort to advance the knowledge and ability of this world.

Back when Francis Crick, the DNA scientist, was a little boy, his parents bought him an encyclopedia. It was after reading this volume that Crick decided to become a scientist. But he told his mother that he worried that, by the time he grew up, everything would have been discovered. She replied, "Don't you worry. When you grow up, there will be plenty left for you to discover."

Each venture into space is another step toward discovery. Each scientific experiment is another step toward unlocking the secrets of our world. There will be obstacles in our path; advancement is never easy. But it is a journey that we must continue, for there is, as Mrs. Crick acknowledged, plenty left to discover.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Your Special Deliveries

More than a year has passed since the terrorist attacks and the anthrax tainted letters in the fall of 2001, yet many facets of our daily lives have not yet returned to normal. An endless stream of government-issued warnings continues to cause unease both at home and abroad.

Due to the high-alert environment, many activities in the nation's Capital continue to be subjected to increased security measures in an effort to better prepare for, and respond to, potential terrorist assaults. The police presence remains heightened at national monuments, and security at federal government buildings continues to be elevated.

Another such preventive step helps to ensure the safety of the mail which is sent to Members of Congress. Each piece of mail goes through an irradiation process which subjects items to intense heat in order to kill harmful toxins. While the process is critical to the safety of government officials, the unfortunate consequence is that some mail items are damaged by the high temperatures.

I encourage my constituents to be actively involved in the political process, and it is important that the mail sent to me arrives unharmed. Letters, in the main, are unaffected by the irradiation process and can be sent either to my Washington office or to my

Charleston office. Letters can also be faxed to 202-228-0002 (Washington) or to 304-343-7144 (Charleston). Another option for contacting me is my Internet page at <http://byrd.senate.gov>.

Mail consisting of more than a letter, such as packages with photographs, compact audio disks, or digital video disks, should be sent to my Charleston office. Please do not send the original copy of material, and never send anything that is irreplaceable.

My mailing address in the U.S. Capitol complex is 311 Hart Building, Washington, DC, 20510.

My mailing address in Charleston is 300 Virginia Street East, Suite 2630, Charleston, WV, 25301.

I have noted that some West Virginians are skeptical that their concerns ever reach my desk. Some have written, "I know that this letter will never be read by you," or, "This letter probably will not get past your secretary." Be assured that I place great importance on the letters and other correspondence that I receive from my fellow West Virginians. I endeavor to answer each letter promptly and address whatever issue or question is raised in the letter. While the security measures in place sometimes slow down the mail process, they are not a barrier to open lines of communication between my constituents and me.

February 19, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting the Promise to Retired Miners

In 1946, President Harry Truman and the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) struck a deal that opened the way for greater mechanization of coal mines in exchange for cradle-to-grave health care coverage for miners and their families. The deal created a health care fund paid for by a tax on coal mined by UMWA members. But gradually, as many coal companies ended operations, the fund's resources declined.

In response, the Congress, in 1992, approved the Coal Industry Retiree Health Benefit Act. Under this act, coal companies pay premiums into the Combined Benefit Fund (CBF). Those premiums are then used to pay the health benefits of retired miners and their dependents.

That 1992 Act also provides for transfers of interest accrued in the Abandoned Mine Land Fund (AML), as necessary, to cover the costs of so-called orphan miners. These are retired miners whose former employers have gone out of business and cannot pay their share of the cost of benefits to these retired miners.

But because of skyrocketing health care costs, adverse court decisions, and plummeting interest rates that sapped the CBF's resources, 50,000 beneficiaries across the country -- including 15,000 in West Virginia -- faced a potential

summer cutoff of their health benefits.

When I learned of this imminent health care crisis, I went to work to ensure that the promise of medical care made to these families in 1946 would remain unbroken. To that end, I included a provision in a new law that allows the transfer of an additional \$34 million in AML interest to the Combined Benefit Fund. The \$34 million will supplement the regular payment to the health care program in the fall. CBF trustees have indicated to me that this funding will protect benefits for the rest of the year.

My legislation is a short-term fix for a problem that requires a long-term solution -- the kind of solution that ensures that retired miners and their dependents will not have to worry from month to month whether their benefits will soon lapse. The responsibility for this solution rests with the authorizing committees of the House and the Senate, working together with the UMWA and the coal operators.

The men and women who receive this health care coverage helped to power the nation in the 20th century. Their work in dangerous, often deadly, conditions lit the lights, fueled the locomotives, and powered the factories that opened the doors to today's modern America. In return, they were promised lifetime health coverage. It is a promise that should be kept.

February 26, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Celebration of Discovery

This year marks the bicentennial commemoration of the travels of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and their team, the "Corps of Discovery." Reflecting on the journey reminds us that discovery of the unknown is one of the most profound traits of the American people. During the coming months, West Virginians will have an opportunity to learn about these adventurers and the time that they spent in the Mountain State.

In 1803, President Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark on a historic expedition through the lands gained from the Louisiana Purchase in order to find a navigable water route from the eastern states to the Pacific Ocean. During the trip, the two men and their team traveled thousands of miles, experiencing lands, rivers, and people that no American had seen before.

West Virginia played an important role in the Corps of Discovery's success. The U.S. Armory at Harpers Ferry supplied weapons and equipment for this great expedition.

Captain Lewis stayed in Harpers Ferry from mid-March until mid-April of 1803. While there, he purchased fifteen muzzle-loading, flintlock, long-barreled rifles which were among the first designed for the U.S. Army. The expedition would depend on these firearms for hunting food and for self-defense. Lewis returned to Harpers Ferry in July to test the guns and col-

lect his supplies. During his subsequent travels on the Ohio River, Lewis stopped in Wellsburg, Wheeling, Parkersburg, Belleville, and several other West Virginia communities.

One Corps member returned to West Virginia after the expedition. Patrick Gass, one of the few men on the trip who could read and write, spent his later years in West Virginia and died in Wellsburg in 1870. His diary serves as a key record of the journey.

The Harpers Ferry National Historical Park has planned an extensive schedule of Lewis and Clark commemorative activities between March 28 and 30, 2003, featuring music, drama, living history displays, and the opening of the park's new permanent exhibit on Meriwether Lewis. The weekend also will showcase a national traveling exhibit, "Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future." The exhibit will tell the story of the expedition and its significance as part of our history. A complete list of commemorative events throughout the state can be found at the website <http://www.callwva.com/lewis-clark>.

I encourage West Virginians to learn about the Lewis and Clark expedition. Their journey led to the opening of the American West. More importantly, the lessons they learned can help the next generation of Americans to chart their own course through history.

March 5, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Road to a Stronger Economy

The foundation of a strong economy is a solid infrastructure. Through my service on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have worked to fund improvements to West Virginia's infrastructure -- the roads and highways, the water and sewer systems -- with the goal of creating an environment that can support new jobs and opportunities. In an appropriations bill that recently became law, I continued these efforts.

Corridors H and D are the only unfinished Appalachian Corridor highways in West Virginia. Corridor H, when complete, will stretch from Weston almost to the Virginia state line. Corridor D will run from I-79 in Harrison County to the state line at Parkersburg. I added \$108 million to the legislation to advance construction of those highways.

U.S. 35 runs from Mason County to I-64 in Putnam County and is one of West Virginia's busiest yet most dangerous stretches of two-lane highway. Governor Wise wants to widen the highway to accommodate increased traffic and improve safety. To move this project forward, I added more than \$4.1 million to the legislation for upgrades.

In Southern West Virginia, residents anxiously await completion of three major projects -- the Coalfields Expressway, King Coal Highway, and Route 10. In a changing

economy, it is important to provide the crucial improvements that will allow the area to compete for new jobs and growth. That is why I added \$26 million to the appropriations bill for these roads.

In the Eastern Panhandle, similar anxiety has gripped residents fighting for the completion of Route Nine. For many years, I have worked to fund this project and I continued that effort this year, winning \$10 million to move this road closer to completion.

Overall, my efforts on this legislation will translate into more than \$379 million for highway and road construction throughout West Virginia. These dollars represent a significant boost for West Virginia's economy. For every \$10 million that is invested in highway and road building, not only is the safety of travelers improved, but also 420 people get jobs in construction and related fields. That means, for West Virginia, the construction dollars in this legislation will help to provide jobs to nearly 16,000 men and women.

Improved roads provide safer, more modern routes for the West Virginians who live along them and for visitors who come to discover the beautiful scenery of our state. I look forward to their advancement because, when complete, they will connect our state to the nation with four-lane roads that travel through -- not around -- West Virginia.

March 12, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bracing for a Budget Battle

Each spring, the President unveils his budget proposal for the coming fiscal year, outlining the Administration's plan for each piece of government spending both at home and overseas. For West Virginia, this year's budget is filled with bad news.

Several proposals buried within the budget pose a direct threat to the financial security and quality of life of citizens in the Mountain State. Key economic development programs in the state are targeted for significant reductions or, in some cases, outright elimination.

For example, while the Administration has stated that it is a friend to American steelworkers, the Bush budget undercuts two initiatives that are critical to the financial health of the nation's steel companies.

The budget proposes to eliminate all funding for the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee program, which I authored in 1999 to help alleviate the financial damage caused by foreign steel dumping. The proposal also calls for the repeal of the Byrd Amendment, which collects duties from foreign companies that commit unfair trade practices and then distributes those funds to U.S. companies which are most adversely affected.

The President cannot claim to support steel while pushing policies that would make ghost towns of steel communities.

The President's budget also cuts in half funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission, jeopardizing critical water, sewer, and other infrastructure projects. This effort to slash initiatives which boost economic growth in some of the nation's poorest areas is a far cry from the economic security that the President is so quick to trumpet. Instead of giving these areas a helping hand, the Bush budget gives them the back of the hand.

In addition, the President's budget cuts \$20 million from Clean Coal Technology initiatives and shaves \$14 million in salaries from the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Morgantown. During his campaign, Candidate George Bush traveled to West Virginia and pledged to commit \$2 billion over 10 years to the Clean Coal Technology program, yet President Bush has not made good on his promise. Rather, he proposes to gut the very initiatives that allow fuels to be utilized in an efficient and environmentally friendly manner.

In the coming weeks, Congress will debate the Administration's budget plan. Members will pour over the details and work to fix the holes in the Administration proposal. For my part, I will work to correct the shortfalls which most directly affect West Virginia and try to ensure that those federal initiatives that are so important to the Mountain State are protected.

March 19, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Primed for New Security Post

As military activity continues in Iraq, the concern about terrorist attacks on U.S. soil increases. If the nation's homeland security efforts are to have a real chance to protect citizens from harm, they need greater support from the federal government. As the top Democrat on the new Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, I will work to provide security forces with adequate resources to carry out their critical duties.

The subcommittee has the awesome responsibility of balancing the funding priorities for, among others, the nation's police, firemen, emergency medical personnel, border guards, and airport security teams. The subcommittee has the additional duty to conduct strong oversight of the new Department of Homeland Security and ensure that the plans the department is crafting will truly meet the protection needs of the American people.

Congress has a responsibility to protect the nation. It must focus on the country's many serious vulnerabilities and invest dollars where they are needed most. I have tried repeatedly to provide additional dollars for homeland security that would have helped to plug critical holes in our defenses. But my efforts have been thwarted by the Bush Administration.

If there is one lesson that we should have learned

from September 11, 2001, it is that Americans are vulnerable here at home. When it comes to protecting this nation, there should be no distinction between providing the necessary resources for troops overseas and for first responders at home. Sadly, the White House appears not to have learned that lesson. When it comes to fighting in distant lands, the Administration's attitude is spare no expense. But when it comes to fighting the war on American soil, the Administration prefers to shop in bargain basements.

All Americans, whether they live in rural communities or big cities, want to know that, if there is a terrorist attack close to their homes, local doctors and nurses are trained to treat the injured. Americans want to know that local firemen have the capabilities and equipment to handle a chemical or biological attack. Americans want to know that local police officers are trained in identifying and responding to the wide-ranging terrorist attacks that we could face.

This new appropriations post will provide me with the opportunity to continue to lead in the protection of Americans here at home. It is my hope that the new subcommittee will step up to the plate and work to invest the necessary dollars to keep our people safe.

March 26, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Amtrak Trains Running

While much has changed in America's modernized transportation network, one constant remains. A web of winding train tracks still connects the country from top to bottom, from coast to coast, from bustling metropolis to sprawling countryside. Amtrak, the nation's passenger rail service, provides dependable, economical travel. Amtrak's whistle sounds in several West Virginia communities, including White Sulphur Springs, Montgomery, Charleston, Huntington, and Martinsburg.

For too long, Congress and presidential administrations have set unrealistically high standards for Amtrak while providing terribly low funding. Amtrak is showing the wear and tear of its 33 years of operation and is suffering the effects of a beleaguered national economy. Despite \$1.2 billion which I was able to secure for Amtrak in last year's appropriations process, the cash-strapped rail service is in need of further investment from the federal government to sustain its long-term viability. Fortunately, that help is on the way.

The U.S. Senate recently adopted legislation that I authored to authorize an additional \$1.8 billion for Amtrak, a funding level that will ensure that the railroad keeps chugging throughout all of 2004. The Bush Ad-

ministration proposal only provided \$900 million for Amtrak, targeting the rail system for one of the largest funding cuts in the federal budget. The proposed cut would have bankrupted Amtrak, terminated the entire Amtrak rail system, and shut down commuter railroads that depend upon the continued operation of the rail service.

In addition to subsidizing the rail service's significant operating costs, the funding I obtained will allow Amtrak to make long-deferred capital investments to improve reliability and ensure the continuation of safe and timely rail service. These investments include the replacement of Amtrak's aging track infrastructure and the rehabilitation of a number of railroad bridges that are several decades old and in desperate need of renewal.

Amtrak is integral to the country's transportation network. For many rural communities, Amtrak represents the only public transportation connection to the rest of the nation. But without Congressional action, that connection is in danger of being severed. With continued support, Amtrak will have the time and opportunity to craft sound plans for the future. That is the best way to keep Amtrak on track for many years to come.

April 2, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Prescription for Health Care Disaster

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a budget resolution that requires an estimated \$92 billion in cuts to Medicaid during the next ten years. Neither the Senate budget resolution nor the Administration budget includes any such cuts to Medicaid. These massive cuts in Medicaid funding, if enacted, would threaten the health care for millions of Americans, including approximately 300,000 West Virginians.

This is the worst possible time to enact such draconian cuts to Medicaid, a critical safety net program. States are currently facing the most severe budget crisis since World War II, and nearly every state has proposed or enacted cuts to its Medicaid program, including West Virginia. Any reduction in federal Medicaid funding would place millions of vulnerable Americans now receiving Medicaid in jeopardy of losing their health coverage. Federal funding reductions would force states to implement even deeper cuts by restricting eligibility, eliminating or reducing critical health benefits, and severely cutting or freezing reimbursement rates for health care providers. As a result, Medicaid funding cuts would add millions more to the ranks of the uninsured.

Medicaid was originally intended primarily for poor children and the disabled, but

most states, including West Virginia, have expanded it to include the families of the working poor or near-poor and elderly people who could not afford to fill in the gaps in their Medicare coverage. It is now the largest health insurance program in the country.

I recently sent a letter, along with several of my Senate colleagues, to the leaders of the Senate and House Budget Committees strongly urging them to reject the inclusion of any Medicaid cuts as part of the final budget resolution. It is unfortunate that Congress must divert attention to preventing mindless cuts to Medicaid when, instead, we should be focusing on ways to increase funding for this critical program. Legislation is needed to enhance federal funding levels for Medicaid to provide cash-strapped states with some fiscal relief and to shore up the health care safety net during this time of economic hardship.

I am deeply committed to ensuring access to needed health care for all West Virginians, and I am proud to have helped provide health care facilities and services throughout our state. In the coming weeks, I will continue to work to correct the budget shortfalls for Medicaid and other vital health care programs which most directly affect West Virginia.

April 9, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Training the Nation's Finest

First responders from across the nation are coming to West Virginia to prepare for catastrophe. Firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, and members of the National Guard are among those who are receiving real-world counterterrorism training at the West Virginia Memorial Tunnel, now known as the Center for National Response (CNR).

The one-of-a-kind training facility is located near Standard in a tunnel that was once part of the old West Virginia Turnpike. Operated by the Department of Defense, the center served more than 3,000 first responders in the last year alone. Groups ranging from East Bank's fire department to elite units of the U.S. Marine Corps have trained at the facility. These groups return to their communities and share knowledge with their peers to help prepare an ever larger pool of safety personnel for potential attacks on American soil.

The CNR's success lies in the fact that it recreates a wide range of disaster scenarios that first responders could encounter, including hazardous materials, bomb blasts, radiological devices, and subway attacks. It utilizes true-to-life settings, complete with the sights, sounds, and chaos of terrorist attacks, to best train first responders for any possible attack.

I am pleased to have

contributed to the creation of the CNR, working closely with then-Congressman Bob Wise and Adjutant General Allen Tackett to launch this initiative. Even prior to September 11, 2001, West Virginia recognized that America was vulnerable to terrorist attack and began to plan and implement programs to better respond to emergency situations. Since the Center for National Response was launched, I have worked to obtain \$21.5 million to convert the Memorial Tunnel into this state-of-the-art counterterrorism facility. When joined with other key homeland security efforts in the Mountain State, notably the Virtual Medical Campus at West Virginia University and the National Guard's Camp Dawson Regional Training Institute in Preston County, Mountaineer leadership and know-how play critical roles in the defense of our homeland.

The tragedies in New York City and at the Pentagon proved the absolute importance of well-trained first responders. These men and women form the front line of defense here at home. The Center for National Response and its employees help to ensure that our police officers, firefighters, and other emergency responders are well prepared should, God forbid, another terrorist attack strike America.

April 16, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Presidential Threat to West Virginia Jobs

One of the most recognized West Virginia products is the Fiesta brand of kitchen and restaurant china. The unique Fiestaware is one of many products manufactured by the Homer Laughlin China Company in Hancock County. Founded in 1871, Homer Laughlin is the country's largest pottery manufacturer, employing more than 1,000 skilled workers at its 37-acre facility.

But today, those jobs are in jeopardy as the Bush Administration wants to eliminate long-standing safeguards provided to the American china industry against unfair foreign competitors. As part of ongoing international negotiations on trade agreements, the Bush Administration has put forward a "zero tariff" plan for imported restaurant china. The Bush plan would erase tariffs on imported restaurant china, opening the door to a potential flood of subsidized goods priced at less than their cost of production.

If accepted as part of the international negotiations, the Bush Administration proposal has the potential to destroy the U.S. restaurant china industry. Indeed, if the U.S. tariff scheme were adopted, it could wipe out the 1,000 jobs at Homer Laughlin and immediately affect the ability of other companies to attract and maintain employees.

Recently, I joined a bipartisan group of House and Senate lawmakers to write the President to state

our opposition to this "zero tariff" plan. The U.S. restaurant china industry is a prime example of a sector that anchors small communities. These companies, and the people they employ, have long been an integral part of our communities. We must continue to support them.

The President and his Administration provide a great deal of lip service to traditional American industries that have been threatened by unfair foreign trade practices. But this "zero tariff" plan would further threaten American jobs in the name of free trade. I hope that the President will rethink this proposal. Free trade should not carry the price of bankrupting entire American industries.

During the more than five decades that I have served West Virginia in Congress, I have seen one Administration after another trumpet trade plans as being good for America. The trouble with these trade plans is that they are based more on the needs of international relations rather than on the needs of working Americans.

Job losses here must not be the price paid to expand job opportunities elsewhere around the globe. I will continue to push so that future trade policies take into consideration the needs of West Virginia workers, and so that international corporate profit margins are not put ahead of working families.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Importance of Clean Drinking Water

Turn on the tap in the kitchen and look at the water that comes out. For most Americans, the water is clean and safe. But for far too many people, the water is dirty and filled with dangerous bacteria. In fact, according to studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), more than 16 million Americans lack access to safe drinking water. In 21st century America, safe and reliable drinking water should be a staple of everyday life -- not just a benefit of living in metropolitan areas.

The costs associated with ensuring a safe and secure supply of drinking water are staggering. The EPA has estimated that there will be a \$534 billion gap between the current spending and the projected needs for water and wastewater infrastructure during the next 20 years, if additional investments are not made. This troubling projection comes at a time when communities are already less able to meet their financial needs due to a sustained economic downturn.

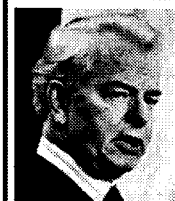
Funding is desperately needed to keep the current systems in working order, and that is to say nothing of the need for new systems to reach those without drinking water service. By failing to make the proper investments

today in public utilities, we allow a multibillion dollar problem to snowball into a clean water crisis.

In my position as the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I continue to work to secure federal funds to bring clean water to rural communities across West Virginia. In a recent appropriations bill, I provided nearly \$14.8 million for the final design and construction of a water supply reservoir in Southern Randolph County. The reservoir is expected to benefit residents in several Randolph County communities including Mill Creek, Huttonsville, Beverly, Daily, Mingo, Valley Head, and Elkins. This project will bring the promise of clean water closer to reality for at least 16,000 West Virginians. Yet, while this is an important milestone, there remains much work ahead.

Most Americans take safe drinking water for granted. Most Americans simply assume that, when they turn on the faucet, clean water will automatically flow out. The terrible truth is that, in the United States, the health of millions of men, women, and children is made vulnerable by their reliance on a possibly contaminated water supply. Safe drinking water is not merely an option. It is a necessity.

April 30, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal for America's Future

In the coming weeks, Congress is expected to move forward on a new national energy plan. At the core of this strategy should be the one energy source that is responsible for more than half of the electricity generated in the nation, namely, coal. While coal is the nation's most abundant natural energy resource, it is also one of the most controversial because of the pollutants that can be emitted when it is burned.

That is why it is so important to invest in new technologies that can allow coal to be utilized more efficiently and in a more environmentally friendly manner. In 1985, I started the federal Clean Coal Technology initiative with an amendment authorizing \$750 million for the program. Since then, the initiative has expanded through a joint public-private investment of more than \$6 billion. This research and investment has opened the door to a new generation of technologies that are beneficial for both coal and the environment.

I have recently introduced legislation that would build on this investment and help to spur a new generation of clean coal technologies. Specifically, my legislation authorizes \$2 billion over the next decade to speed advanced technologies from the laboratory to the marketplace. This

bipartisan bill also aims to improve air quality and the efficiency of the current fleet of coal-fired power plants by providing targeted tax incentives for the installation of these technologies at new and existing coal-fired facilities. Quite simply, this legislation will open the door to better power plants that produce more electricity with lower emissions and fewer pollutants.

In the wake of the military conflict in Iraq, concerns about our nation's current and future energy needs are on the minds of citizens across the country. By working to better meet America's demand for electricity, we help to secure the nation's economic and environmental future. My legislation will ensure that an abundant supply of clean coal will remain the cornerstone of the nation's energy strategy and will continue to power innovation and change.

Coal was integral in America's advancements in the 20th century. As Congress creates a new national energy policy, it is crucial to ensure that coal, burned in cleaner more efficient ways, is key to the nation's fuel diversity mix for the 21st century. By investing in this natural resource, future generations will be rewarded with cleaner, more versatile, and more efficient energy.

May 7, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting the Right to Know

As the nation moves forward in a concerted effort to prevent another terrorist attack here at home, it is important that we continue to protect the Constitutional rights and liberties that have served us so well for more than 200 years. One of these rights is the right to know what the government is doing.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) was enacted in 1966 and gives any person the right to request access to federal agency records or information. All agencies of the U.S. government are required to disclose records upon receiving a written request for them, except for those records that are protected by exemptions or exclusions.

When Congress last fall adopted legislation to create the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS), it also adopted a new exemption to FOIA, allowing private companies to hide information from the public as long as they voluntarily submit this information to the DHS. The exemption applies to any information about the facilities that make up our country's "critical infrastructure" -- such as privately operated power plants, bridges, dams, ports or chemical plants -- that could be targets of a terrorist attack.

The FOIA exemption that Congress enacted is too broad. It allows the Department of Homeland Security to cloak too many of its activities in secrecy. The current law does noth-

ing to encourage companies to address vulnerabilities, nor does it require the DHS to fix the problems. Potential dangers are effectively swept under the rug. To make a bad law even worse, the Department recently proposed new rules that would broaden the exemption even further.

To close these loopholes, I am cosponsoring legislation called the Restore Freedom of Information Act.

This legislation would exempt only records relevant to protecting private facilities, correcting the blanket protection given to industry for anything labeled "critical infrastructure information." The Restore FOIA bill would allow access to such information in order to hold companies accountable for wrongdoing or to protect the public. Simply, this legislation would prevent companies from using the label homeland security as a smokescreen to hide information from the American people.

Increased security concerns call for prudent changes to, not blanket exemptions in, the information available to the public. If the government is allowed to operate in secrecy, without scrutiny, then the people's liberties easily can be lost. We ought to strengthen the Freedom of Information Act, not undercut it. The American people ought to have access to information that directly impacts their freedoms and safety



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Woman for All Times

Many decades ago, I was a young boy growing up in the coalfields of Southern West Virginia. I attended Mark Twain High School in Raleigh County. It was in the halls of that school where I met my future wife, Erma Ora James.

She was not dazzled by my family's wealth; we had none. She was not swept away with our home; it was quite modest. Actually, what Erma saw in me then I still do not quite know. But on May 29, 1937 -- 66 years ago -- she became my wife.

Marriage is never easy. There are, from time to time, challenges and difficult moments. But it is how we respond to those moments that can strengthen a marriage and lead to a long and happy union.

Together, Erma and I have seen great changes in the world. We have experienced the highs and lows of family life -- the delight of two fine daughters growing up, marrying, and having children of their own; the tragedy of the loss of a grandson; the indescribable thrill of holding newborn great-granddaughters in our arms. For two hillbillies from Beckley, it has been a wild ride. I am glad that I

have shared it with Erma.

Erma has always been an equal partner in our marriage. Her domain is the home, where she rules as a benevolent dictator. When the duties of the Senate fill all my waking hours, she keeps the home fires burning. She took the lead in bringing up our two daughters, teaching them to be the fine women and mothers that they are. Without her help and support, I could not have put the level of effort into my Senate work that the people of West Virginia deserve and have come to expect. She proves the old adage: "Behind every successful man is a successful woman." Together, Erma and I are complete and whole, a total that is more than the sum of its parts.

To me, Erma is a priceless treasure, a multifaceted woman of great insight and wisdom, of humor and common sense, a fountain spring of serenity at which one can slake the thirst of a stressful day. As we celebrate our 66th wedding anniversary, I can only thank her that she has put up with me for so many years, and I thank the Creator for His guiding hand that has brought us to this glad day.

May 21, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting America with Smart Thinking

Whether through innovative first responder training techniques or specialized National Guard facilities, West Virginia has taken a leading role in the national effort to prevent or respond to terrorist attacks. Even before the traumatic events of September 11, 2001, West Virginians were engaged in critical homeland security training and prevention initiatives that benefit the entire country.

Now, a new chapter is being written, this one by NASA's National Technology Transfer Center (NTTC), based at Wheeling Jesuit University. The NTTC works to strengthen the competitiveness of U.S. industrial companies through identifying, developing, and commercializing marketable research and technologies. The experts at the center are working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to make the best technologies and products available to the emergency response community.

Because of that foundation, a partnership between a small Northern Panhandle company and the NTTC has the potential to provide the country's first responders with an affordable technology that can help to save lives. What began as a sketch on a napkin just six months ago has developed into a groundbreaking product which alerts first responders to potentially life-threatening hazardous environments. The "HazMat Smart-Strip" is a cost-effective warning badge which detects the presence of toxic chemicals

or other weapons of mass destruction in the air.

Before the Smart-Strip was developed, first responders' protective equipment did not provide immediate chemical detection capability, and the high cost of electronic monitoring equipment was too expensive for most emergency response services. But the Smart-Strip is both affordable and easy to use.

The \$15 strips, which work for 12 hours once activated, detect hazardous chemicals in eight of the most common toxin categories. The strips will enhance the security efforts of police and fire departments, emergency medical teams, hospital emergency rooms, military forces, and hazardous waste workers.

The HazMat badges are manufactured by Printech, a family-owned commercial printing business in Ohio County. Because orders for the revolutionary warning strips are pouring in from around the world, Printech has hired additional employees to help meet the great demand for the product. In addition, NTTC has started to assess several more products which West Virginia companies could help to develop.

West Virginia ingenuity is opening the door to a safer nation. Whether through the development of products like the HazMat Smart-Strip or through the unique first responder training programs already in place in Kanawha, Monongalia, or Preston counties, the Mountain State is an integral piece of the nation's homeland security network.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Contracting Away West Virginia Jobs

The Bush Administration is pursuing a plan to privatize at least 850,000 federal jobs. Such a policy, euphemistically referred to as "competitive sourcing," could mean severe cutbacks at federal facilities in West Virginia affecting more than 3,600 workers. The Administration's policies encourage unfair treatment of dedicated public servants, many of whom are being forced into early retirement or the prospect of reduced benefits and lower pay.

For example, a recent letter that I received from Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Computing Center employees in West Virginia, Tennessee, and Michigan expressed strong concern with a privatizing initiative at the computer facilities in these states. The Administration plans to cut 10 percent of the federal workers at these centers and downgrade 75 percent of the remaining employees.

While the new IRS Commissioner has stated that "competitive sourcing" is not an effort to cut the federal workforce but rather an effort to increase efficiencies for the taxpayer, I disagree. West Virginia's federal workers have proved to be efficient, hardworking public servants. Mountain State employees regularly exceed the standards that they are charged to meet, and their dedication and experience cannot be measured in dollars alone. Mandating that their jobs go to private

firms is not based on merit, but rather on politics.

Other federal agencies in West Virginia also have announced plans to turn over government jobs to for-profit companies. The FAA wants to contract out air traffic control in Elkins and other critical air safety jobs throughout the state. The Coast Guard is considering privatizing the National Vessel Documentation Center in Falling Waters. Even the General Services Administration is turning over care of federal facilities to private contractors.

My efforts to locate federal agencies and offices in West Virginia have been much like matchmaking -- matching the needs of the federal agencies with the attributes offered by West Virginia. When I have learned that federal agencies had particular needs, I have urged them to look at West Virginia and see if there might be a site that would meet their criteria. Our state provides fertile ground for the sound investment of taxpayer dollars.

By arbitrarily forcing agencies to downsize without regard to mission or accomplishment, the Bush Administration may spoil that investment and, in turn, cost the taxpayers more in the long term than would be saved in the short term. "Competitive sourcing" is nothing more than an ill-advised budgetary shell game in which the real losers are the American people.

June 4, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Flying Toward the Future

The West Virginia National Guard is among the best trained, best equipped Guard units in the country. The thousands of Mountaineers who give of their own time to be part of the National Guard are always ready to answer the call, whether in response to flooding or severe storms in West Virginia or in support of the active military around the world.

To stay on the leading edge, the West Virginia National Guard has undertaken a significant upgrade in its training and support. New readiness centers have been built throughout the state. Maintenance facilities have been modernized to keep the state's fleet of planes, helicopters, and trucks in top condition.

I have worked closely with Adjutant General Allen Tackett, the Guard's officers, and the enlisted men and women to move these new facilities from the planning stage to construction and completion. Through my positions on the Senate Appropriations and Armed Services committees, I have obtained millions of dollars required for these projects.

A major effort underway in Martinsburg will result in a new, demanding mission for the National Guard's 167th Airlift Wing. An extensive upgrade at that airbase will prepare the site

to house a fleet of 10 C-5 aircraft.

Recently, I won Senate authorization of nearly \$26 million for construction of new airport infrastructure, including a new control tower, for Martinsburg as part of this upgrade. This authorization is the first step toward a modernized Martinsburg airport. These renovations will ensure that the 167th Airlift Wing is ready and able to take on this expanded responsibility in the nation's security efforts.

When the work is completed, West Virginia will be home to one of the largest Air National Guard bases in the country. The upgrade will require more than \$200 million in construction and renovations at the airport. Once the C-5 fleet arrives, total personnel at the Airbase is expected to expand from the current 1,160 men and women to approximately 1,340, while the economic impact will increase from \$34 million to near \$50 million each year.

The men and women of the West Virginia National Guard are a vital part of our state. They truly live up to the motto, "Always Ready, Always There." At any hour of any day, the Guard is standing by, ready to help. We should be proud of their efforts, and continue to support them in the future.

June 11, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Improving Access to Mental Health Care

According to the National Mental Health Association, more than 54 million Americans suffer from a mental disorder in any given year but fewer than eight million seek treatment. These numbers paint a troubling picture. For far too many individuals, debilitating mental disorders go untreated because sufferers lack the financial means to obtain much needed care.

While individuals afflicted with physical ailments such as cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure can rely on health insurance to lighten the financial burden of their illnesses and speed their paths to wellness, those with mental disorders are often left to fend for themselves. Destructive stigmas are being eliminated as more people understand mental health issues, but health care policies are not keeping pace. Many private health insurance plans discriminate against mental health patients by imposing caps on doctor visits and hospital stays and charging higher co-payments and deductibles.

The country's health insurance system has neglected people who suffer from mental disorders for far too long. That is why I am cosponsoring legislation which would break down the barriers to mental health insurance coverage and allow patients to seek the medical help they need. The Mental

Health Equitable Treatment Act would ensure that mental health disorders receive the same insurance coverage as physical illnesses. The bill, which renews and improves upon a mental health parity bill enacted in 1996, calls for full parity for all categories of mental health conditions listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition.

Fears that parity would cause insurance premiums to skyrocket are unwarranted. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that this legislation would raise insurance rates by less than one percent, a cost that pales in comparison to the significant costs of untreated or mistreated mental illness, including lost work productivity, lost earnings due to illness, and social costs. Expanding health care access for mental health patients makes sense both medically and economically.

By allowing mental health suffers to obtain treatment when it is medically necessary, the legislation encourages early intervention, appropriate care to avoid relapse, and the opportunity for a healthy, happy life. The time has come to bring first-class health care to millions of Americans who have been second-class patients for too long.

June 18, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Caring for Gulf War Illness

Twelve years since the end of the first Persian Gulf War, many of its veterans are still deeply affected by the physical repercussions of their service. One in seven Gulf War veterans have reported suffering from undiagnosed illnesses. While this fact has largely disappeared from newspaper headlines, there remains a critical need to provide Gulf War Illness victims with proper medical care.

These veterans suffer from unexplained conditions characterized by a variety of symptoms including fatigue, joint pain, skin rash, and memory loss. Exposure to low levels of chemical agents ranks among the most common theories to explain the mysterious illnesses. Following the war, U.S. and British troops destroyed chemical weapons in Iraq using large amounts of explosives, releasing huge clouds of smoke and nerve agents which could be the source of veterans' unexplained sickness.

In 1998, I sponsored the Gulf War Veterans Act which opened the door to health care and compensation for veterans affected by Gulf War Illness. But the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) had to estimate how many veterans may have been affected by the destruction of chemical weapons. To do that, the departments constructed computer

models of the toxic plumes and determined that as many as 100,000 soldiers might have been exposed to the dangerous chemicals. I and other Members of Congress questioned that estimate and requested a General Accounting Office (GAO) review of the studies to find out whether the models were right or whether they fell far short of the mark.

The results of the GAO study are, in one word, shocking. The GAO found that the computer models have no solid basis in fact. It is increasingly clear that several hundred thousand troops may have been exposed to low levels of chemical warfare agents. But, despite the unreliability of the models, they are still used to judge whether a veteran of the 1991 war who suffers from an undiagnosed illness should have priority access to the VA health care system. I am deeply troubled that ailing veterans have been forced to wait for health care services based on these flawed models.

This glaring mistake must be corrected. Many veterans of the first Gulf War continue to live with illnesses that are attributable to their great service to their country, and they deserve access to adequate health care. This nation stands behind our troops when they take to battle; we also must support veterans who return home with injuries or illnesses.

June 25, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Simple Justice for Steel Workers

For several years, American steel companies, employees, and their families have stood against constant waves of unfair foreign trade practices. They have done their best to withstand pressure applied by foreign countries and companies to bend -- and sometimes break -- the very trade agreements that their governments signed with our own. I have worked to find ways to support Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, Weirton Steel, Steel of West Virginia in Huntington, and the entire U.S. steel industry. But my efforts have been undercut by empty promises from President Bush's Administration.

In 1999, I created the \$1 billion Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Program to provide U.S. steelmakers with access to funds to overcome harm suffered as a result of unfair trade. That program serves as the lifeline to steel companies facing imminent financial difficulty. Today, however, the Bush Administration is threatening to cut that lifeline by eliminating all funds for this program and refusing to extend its authority. No federal loan guarantees means no access to capital for steel companies that have nowhere else to turn.

In 2000, I wrote a law known as the "Byrd Amendment." Under this law, companies like Weirton Steel receive funds from duties imposed on imports found to be unfairly subsidized or

dumped in the U.S. market. This law simply encourages our foreign trading partners to play by the very rules that they negotiated with the United States. If they follow the rules, there is no negative consequence; but if they break the rules, then they must provide a remedy. Inconceivably, the Bush Administration is recommending that this law be taken off the books.

When George Bush was a candidate for President, he claimed that he recognized the value of West Virginia's steel companies and workers. Dick Cheney pledged that the Bush-Cheney ticket would always be a friend of West Virginia steelmakers, claiming, "We will never lie to you. If our trading partners violate trade laws, we will respond firmly and swiftly."

Now, three years later, West Virginia's steel companies are in serious trouble largely due to the unfair trade practices of our trading partners. But the Administration's reaction has been anything but swift and strong.

I and others have called on the Bush Administration to make good on its promises. Our effort has reached across party lines. But, to date, there has been no response. The silence has been deafening. I only hope that the President will fulfill the promises made to West Virginia's steel workers before it is too late.

July 4, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Prescription for a Modern Medicare Plan

Congress is in the midst of an important debate on Medicare -- a debate that will shape the health care choices of millions of seniors for years to come.

Today, 40 million Americans, including 335,000 West Virginians, rely on Medicare to help provide for their medical needs. With more than one-third of all Medicare beneficiaries lacking insurance for the cost of needed medications, finding affordable prescription drug coverage is a critical issue for our nation's seniors. Prescription drugs are an essential tool for treating and preventing many acute and chronic conditions, but Medicare fails to cover them on an outpatient basis.

In West Virginia, the average annual income of a Medicare beneficiary is a mere \$10,800. Too many seniors, especially those living on fixed incomes, are forced to choose each month between paying for food and shelter, or buying the essential medicines that their doctors have prescribed.

Legislation that recently passed the Senate is intended to address that problem, but falls miserably short. Instead of a comprehensive, voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit, the Senate legislation would force Medicare beneficiaries to rely on a private, untried, untested, drug-only insurance market for their prescription drug coverage.

The Medicare plan, as it stands, does not provide

the real, guaranteed, defined benefit that seniors desperately need and does little to address the high cost of prescription drugs. Under this legislation, some seniors would still be forced to split pills to make medicines last longer. Older Americans would end up shortchanging their own health by foregoing medicines that their doctors have prescribed.

Congress should do better for our seniors. That is why I have supported an alternative to create a Medicare prescription drug benefit with no deductible, lower cost-sharing, and no gaps in coverage. My plan would have reduced drug costs by allowing Medicare to negotiate group purchasing agreements with pharmaceutical companies. This proposal would have allowed seniors to choose for themselves how to best meet their prescription drug needs -- either through a private plan drug benefit or one offered through traditional Medicare.

Medicare was designed to be a safety net for those who, because of age or disability, did not have access to traditional health insurance. When created, no one could foresee how the costs of medications would spiral over the years, nor was it apparent how integral prescription drugs would be to health care. The time has come to address this shortfall, and to create a Medicare system that is more responsive to the needs of America's seniors.

July 9, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Paycheck Fairness for Overtime Hours

For many West Virginians, a 40-hour workweek is just the beginning of their time on the job. These men and women from all walks of life work extra hours and, rightly, expect extra pay for their effort. But the Bush Administration is considering changes to overtime regulations that would take away those well-deserved dollars. The Administration plan would have people working more hours for less money.

The President's proposal would modify the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 which standardized the 40-hour workweek and guaranteed that many non-managerial employees would earn time and a half for extra hours worked. The Bush plan would eliminate overtime pay protections for as many as 8 million American workers who currently are eligible for overtime pay.

It is not just hourly workers in factories and restaurants who would be affected by the President's plan, but they are in a variety of fields -- computer engineers, paramedics, secretaries, grocery clerks, and delivery route drivers. These employees depend on overtime pay for housing, food, and health care.

Recently, I joined with 42 other Senators in contacting Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, urging that the Bush

Administration step back from its plan, and we are not alone. The Labor Department has been flooded with more than 75,000 letters debating the merits of the proposed overtime changes -- the most mail that the agency has received on any wage-and-hour topic in at least a decade. Even business groups, which have pressed for a revision of the overtime rules because they have lost millions of dollars in overtime lawsuits, have concerns with some of the rule changes.

American citizens work longer hours than ever before -- longer than in any other industrial nation. Protecting the 40-hour workweek is vital to balancing work responsibilities and family needs. It is certainly not family friendly to require employees to work more hours for less pay.

Since President Bush came into office, more than 3 million Americans have lost their jobs. More than 400,000 Americans are filing initial jobless claims each week. The nation's unemployment rate has jumped to its highest level in nearly nine years. And now, for those workers who still have jobs, the Bush Administration wants to cut their pay. The Administration would do better to find ways to put more people back to work.

July 16, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Working for New Opportunities in Appalachia

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) was created by Congress in 1965 to boost the quality of life in West Virginia and portions of 12 other states where mountains and isolation long have inhibited progress. I voted to create the ARC, and today, 38 years later, I have taken on the effort to ensure that the ARC continues to provide quality services to West Virginians.

The ARC is probably best known in West Virginia for the Corridor Highways that stretch throughout the Mountain State: Corridor G between Charleston and Logan and on into Kentucky; Corridor D between Parkersburg and Clarksburg; Corridor L from Sutton to Beckley; and Corridor H between Weston and, Elkins, and eventually, Wardensville. These Corridor Highways have brought with them new job opportunities while replacing some of the most dangerous two-lane roadways in West Virginia.

But highways are only part of the ARC mission. The commission also helps to fund education and workforce training programs, water and sewer system construction, small business start-ups and expansions, and development of health care resources. The ARC enables many of our most vulnerable citizens to pull themselves up by their own boot straps.

Since the ARC was founded, the 13-state Appalachian region has made considerable progress in overcoming its isolation. Yet, the region still lags behind the nation in many respects. The cycle of poverty remains all too prevalent in Appalachia. Too many children go hungry. Too many families have no access to nearby health care. With the many challenges before us, there clearly is much work to be done by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Despite the overwhelming need, the Bush Administration has proposed to cut in half the non-highway budget for the ARC. If accepted, the Bush budget could set progress in Appalachia back by years. I do not intend for Congress to accept the Bush Administration's proposal. As a first step, I won unanimous approval from the Senate Appropriations Committee of my amendment to restore the ARC budget and provide \$71 million to the commission. The next step is for the full Senate to vote on the legislation.

The Appalachian Regional Commission's comprehensive and sustained effort is making a difference. But the job is not yet done. Congress should reject the Administration's shortsighted budget proposal and keep progress in Appalachia moving forward.

July 23, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Rewarding Classroom Excellence

When I was a student at Raleigh County's Mark Twain High School in the 1930's, a commitment to academic excellence was the standard, not an exception. My graduating class of 28 students had learned from some of the most dedicated and demanding teachers who I have ever known. Those teachers inspired me to study and to apply my best talents toward my school work.

That early encouragement placed me on a path that has led to a lifetime of learning, whether in the classrooms at Morris Harvey College or Marshall University, or among the tall stacks of books at the Library of Congress. Solon, one of the seven wise men of Greece, said, "I grow old in the pursuit of learning." That philosophy has inspired me to continue to study and develop my mind while also applauding those young people who have started on the same path of lifetime learning.

Not enough acknowledgment is given to the achievement of individual excellence in the classroom. That is why, in 1969, I started an annual tradition of presenting a certificate and a U.S. Savings Bond to

a valedictorian from every West Virginia high school.

This year, I had the honor of presenting bonds to 158 young men and women who excelled in the classroom. In the more than three decades since I launched the Scholastic Recognition Awards, 9,527 students have received more than \$221,000 worth of bonds from me because of their outstanding effort in the classroom.

Plato long ago wrote, "Excellent things are rare." Indeed, excellence is uncommon, and excellent acts, because of their remarkable nature and the effort they require, are entitled to respect and admiration. Each of these Scholastic Recognition Award winners has displayed academic excellence worthy of praise.

While the seed of intelligence may be planted at birth, it requires cultivation, care, and hard work to blossom into culture and wisdom. Together, the dedicated teacher and the eager student possess the magic to make brilliance. I applaud the valedictorians of West Virginia's Class of 2003, and wish them continued success in their pursuit of education in the years ahead.

July 30, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Improving Treatment of Citizen-Soldiers

Nearly each day of the ongoing military occupation in Iraq brings news of the death or injury of American soldiers. President Bush's May 1 declared end to major combat operations has not stopped the bloodshed. Thousands of West Virginia Guardsmen and Reservists still serve in Iraq and Afghanistan, and more could be called to serve in a growing number of international hot spots.

I have heard from many families anxious to know when their deployed loved ones might return home. All of these families expressed a deep frustration with the open-ended, unfocused deployment of Guard and Reserve units. After reviewing what some of these units have experienced, I understand the frustrations.

One West Virginia National Guard engineering unit, after shipping out in January 2003, advanced deep into Iraq with front-line fighting forces, bridging a river under heavy Iraqi fire. I have several reports that unit members are able to call home only once every several weeks, and that they now are only helping to haul Iraqi ammunition.

Another Guard unit has struggled through back-to-back-to-back deployments. This unit was mobilized for state duty in response to flooding in West Virginia in the summer of 2001. After September 11, 2001, this unit spent one year performing homeland se-

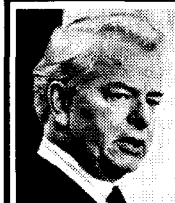
curity missions. Then, after a three month rest, the unit was sent to the Persian Gulf in February 2003, where it remains. There has been no word as to when this unit will return home.

While the nation's citizen-soldiers are proud to serve their country overseas, they also have obligations at home. These part-time soldiers are full-time doctors, firemen, policemen, and a host of other roles which are critical to the security of American communities.

I recently contacted Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to ask that he review and address the extended deployments, lack of well-defined missions, and reported rationing of basic supplies. Uncle Sam ought to better serve the interests of Guardsmen and Reservists who lay their lives on the line each time they are called to duty.

West Virginians have a proud tradition of service to America, and our troops should be commended for their courage and sacrifice. But National Guardsmen and Reservists also have important responsibilities to their families, their employers, and their communities. It is unreasonable to dip into the Guard and Reserves so frequently and expect them to serve with no indication of when their missions will end. We must do better to balance their commitments at home with their deployments overseas.

August 6, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Expanding West Virginia's Health Care Network

Across West Virginia, especially in our more rural areas, there is a serious shortage of doctors and a lack of access to quality medical care close to home. Too often, families must travel long distances to see a physician, and even farther if specialized care is required. That is why, throughout my career of public service, I have worked to expand the reach of our medical facilities.

Recently, I announced the release of \$10.8 million for construction of a new facility at Marshall University that will house a medical education center, primary and specialty care clinical services, and a new heart institute. I included the funding in federal appropriations legislation earlier this year. The new facility will be part of Marshall's Center for Rural Health, which provides medical services in more than half of West Virginia's 55 counties.

Marshall University has taken a leading role in providing health care services to Southern West Virginia. The funding that I obtained will allow the University to expand its efforts and improve the quality of life for many more West Virginians.

West Virginia University (WVU) also has taken on the challenge of improving health care in rural communities. WVU recognizes that the dire shortage of doctors

across the state forces many citizens to travel long distances, sometimes leaving the state, to obtain quality medical care. In an effort to address this dilemma, WVU has established a new Eastern Division of the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center.

This new facility will combine an important medical teaching campus with community-based facilities in Harper's Ferry, Moorefield, and Ranson. The innovative medical campus will provide West Virginia with access to a network of new and existing health care facilities and services throughout the Eastern Panhandle.

I recently announced the release of nearly \$3 million to complete the final phase of construction of the Eastern Division's hub at City Hospital in Martinsburg. This funding builds on \$3.5 million that I secured in the year 2000 to begin construction of the central facility.

West Virginians are proud of their history, their heritage, and their mountains. But that same rugged, rural terrain has been an obstacle for access to quality health care close to home. I hope that my continuing efforts with WVU and Marshall University will help to overcome the roadblocks that prevent many West Virginians from receiving the quality medical treatment that they deserve.

August 13, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Wired to a High-Tech Future

Education has been the cornerstone upon which I have built my life. I realized early on that, for a poor boy from the coalfields, the only paths to success were education and hard work. Today, West Virginia's colleges and universities are preparing our young people for challenging futures in such fields as science, education, medicine, and technology. These students spend many hours in classrooms, laboratories, and libraries as part of their course work. But their studies, in recent years, have received an added boost from education resources around the world that are accessible through the Internet.

The Internet serves as a valuable educational tool on college campuses across the country. The World Wide Web allows students to conduct research for projects and papers, communicate with classmates and professors, and stay apprised of world events from the desks of their dormitory rooms. With a few simple computer keyboard strokes, students can access treasure troves of knowledge throughout the globe. But, in order to navigate the 'information superhighway,' students need an on-ramp.

One of the last colleges in the nation without a school-wide Internet network, West Liberty State College has launched its "CyberneticCampus" initiative to provide students

with fast, reliable Internet access. According to the college, the Cybernetic-Campus concept represents an institution-wide initiative to expand and enhance the integration of technology in classrooms, laboratories, and residence halls.

To help, I recently announced the release of \$1.7 million in federal funding that I added to an appropriations bill earlier this year. The funding that I obtained will allow West Liberty State to achieve its goal of building high-speed networks for students by equipping all residence halls with Internet access.

West Virginia has come a long way in promoting education and encouraging more young people to continue their studies after high school. But the journey toward excellence is a long one. While we have made progress, there are still challenges and opportunities ahead.

Education remains West Virginia's passport to progress. Young people who receive quality educations at West Virginia's colleges and universities give back tenfold to the future of the state. Through investments at West Liberty State College and the state's other academic institutions, students will have expanded research opportunities, new classroom resources, and improved learning environments.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

B&O Roundhouse Makes History Again

On July 31, an important piece of West Virginia's history was recognized for its contributions to the nation when the B&O Roundhouse in Martinsburg was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Nestled in the hills of the Eastern Panhandle, the Roundhouse joins some of the nation's most renowned sites previously designated as Historic Landmarks, including Mount Vernon, Pearl Harbor, and Alcatraz.

The designation stems in large part from the community's efforts to restore the Roundhouse to its original state. I have assisted by adding \$2 million to federal appropriations legislation for the project and supporting local efforts to secure an additional \$800,000 in federal funds.

Originally built in 1848, the Roundhouse was a technological wonder that pulled Martinsburg into the Industrial Age. Characterized by historians as a "machine in the garden," the Roundhouse allowed several steam engines to be repaired simultaneously without disrupting regular train flow. Trains would move from the main track onto a roundtable, similar to a Lazy Susan, allowing workers to spin the train to an empty bay for repairs. To pass the time, travelers browsed local shops for the latest fashions and sometimes spent the night at the Depot House hotel overlooking the rails below.

When the Civil War started, the Roundhouse became a military target. As

a vital transportation and communication route for the Union, General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson led Confederate troops on a march to destroy much of the B&O railroad during the summer of 1861, including the Martinsburg station. General Jackson's troops burned the Martinsburg machine shops, Colonnade Bridge, and Roundhouse. Between June 1861 and September 1864, the railroad was destroyed and repaired nine times.

After the war's end, the railroad rebuilt and expanded the Martinsburg Roundhouse complex. Workers used the original molds during the recasting, making the structure architecturally rare.

The Roundhouse played a major role in labor history as well. In 1877, after the B&O Company imposed a 10-percent wage cut on employees, rail workers in Martinsburg launched the great Pullman strike -- the country's first national labor strike.

Providing more than a century of rail service, the Roundhouse finally closed operations in 1988; but its legacy continues to this day. Eastern Panhandle residents and organizations have worked tirelessly to protect this piece of Americana. I applaud the efforts of those who have worked to restore the Roundhouse, and I encourage all West Virginians to take the time to learn about this important piece of history tucked away in our rolling hills.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Breaking the Cycle of Coal Slurry Tragedies

Throughout West Virginia's history, coal mining has been a staple. While coal has strengthened the state's economy, the dangerous realities of the mining industry have not been lost on West Virginians, including the threats from ponds holding a mine's waste material, called slurry.

Accidents at these impoundments continue to occur almost every year. Often, the walls of the impoundments give way, allowing the waste material to flow into area streams and water supplies. Many of these incidents are small, but even a small spill can affect families living many miles away. For instance, earlier this year, 270,000 gallons of slurry spilled from an impoundment in Logan County into a local creek. That creek spread waste for seven miles along its banks and the nearby Guyandotte River.

Some spills are much larger. The Mountain State never will forget the 1972 Buffalo Creek disaster in Logan County. When that impoundment gave way, the resulting devastation cost the lives of 125 people. Since then, there have been at least nine major spills in the Appalachian coalfields.

For instance, in October 2000, a breach at a coal impoundment in eastern Kentucky let loose 250 million gallons of slurry, which then flowed into tributaries of the Tug Fork and Big Sandy rivers along the Kentucky - West Virginia border, where

it tainted key water supplies in a 60-mile area.

It is time to find ways to protect communities from these coal slurry tragedies.

Following the October 2000 accident, the National Academy of Sciences, with my support, launched a study and made recommendations on methods to improve safety and reduce the environmental impacts of coal waste impoundments. Now, those recommendations are being implemented.

Using \$3 million that I added to federal appropriations legislation earlier this year, the National Technology Transfer Center in Wheeling, together with the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Morgantown, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, and the Office of Surface Mining, will undertake a pilot program in Southern West Virginia to study and improve coal impoundment safety. This funding will support efforts to develop innovative ways to reduce the risks for communities near these sites and for individuals who work there. It is my hope that this work can be applied to impoundments throughout Appalachia.

Finding solutions will not be simple, but can be achieved. We must learn from the tragic coal slurry breaches of the past and push forward to discover new economically feasible and environmentally friendly ways to prevent such disasters in the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Finding the Wisdom to Win the Peace

As the situation in Iraq continues to spiral out of control, an anxious nation watches. Despite assurances to the American people that our troops would be welcomed with open arms as liberators, U.S. soldiers are increasingly being met with guns and car bombs. The American people are told to be patient. Winning the peace will take time. Meanwhile, the frustration of the Iraqi people grows by the day, as does their anger.

What has become tragically clear is that the United States has no strong plan for turning Iraq over to the Iraqi people and is quickly losing even its ability to maintain order. The Administration is stumbling through the dark, hoping by luck to find the lighted path to peace and stability.

Despite the best hopes for an Iraqi democracy, the Iraqi people and the world see only the worst fears of occupation. Instead of inspiring steps toward self-government, we witness hit-and-run murders of American soldiers, terrorist attacks, and sabotage. We promised to improve the quality of life; yet, so far, we have failed to deliver. As a result, increasing numbers of Iraqis see the United

States only as occupier, not liberator.

Now it appears that the Administration may be ready to swallow its pride and seek a United Nations resolution to encourage foreign participation in the occupation of Iraq. This would be a positive development, one that the Administration should have embraced from the outset. The challenge is too great for the United States alone. We must work with the international community to forge what we cannot achieve alone: a lasting peace for Iraq and, in fact, for the Middle East region as a whole.

A hallmark of true leadership is the ability to admit when one is wrong and to learn from errors. Candidate George W. Bush spoke about the need for humility from a great and powerful nation. He said, "Let us not dominate others with our power -- or betray them with our indifference. And let us have an American foreign policy that reflects American character. The modesty of true strength. The humility of real greatness." It is time for the Bush Administration to swallow its false pride and return to that philosophy of humility before it is too late.

September 10, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Diversity in the Media

Earlier this year, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to change media ownership rules which currently limit the conglomeration of print, radio, and television outlets across the country. This dangerous decision to lift the ownership cap threatens to strangle diverse voices at virtually every level of news and commentary. I fear that Americans' freedoms would be trampled; their rights would be subverted.

Local news media represent a community's window on the school board, city council, and county commission. More than any other resource, local news outlets educate people about the issues that directly affect their daily lives. The new FCC rules would undermine that role by allowing one person or one corporate interest to control such a significant level of discourse and debate. News and information could be forced to fit into a corporate plan or personal agenda.

Large media conglomerates already control the vast majority of what Americans see, read, and hear. Five media companies control 75 percent of prime-time programming. These same five companies also control 90 percent of the top 50 channels on cable. On the Internet, existing newspapers and television networks dominate the most popular sites for news and information. Technology has increased the number

of media outlets, but it has not stopped big media from extending its reach.

The FCC's proposal threatens to expand the influence of these few corporations even further, stretching their hands around a larger number of local television and radio stations and scarfing up newspapers and Internet news outlets.

The Framers of the Constitution understood that the Republic would not function properly if the media were not allowed to operate freely and without intervention from government. However, the media industry also must recognize the responsibility it has to the public which relies so heavily on daily news reports. Allowing just a few individuals or corporations to control what Americans see, hear, and read would only give Americans less information to use in making decisions about the key issues they face. Such control could limit access to the free and fair information which impacts the lives of all Americans. It could diminish the coverage of local voices and local issues as media giants gobble up local stations and nationalize the stories they broadcast.

The Senate has recognized this danger and voted to block the FCC from implementing this new rule. I hope that the House of Representatives will take a similar bipartisan approach and vote to protect media diversity.

September 17, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Paycheck Protections for Working Families

Across West Virginia and the nation, families face an unsure economic future. In the last three years, nearly 3 million jobs have vanished from the American economy and are unlikely to return any time soon. Companies, in light of smaller profits and tough financial pressures, often are turning to their employees and retirees for concessions. Now, despite all of the challenges facing working families, the Bush Administration is pushing a plan that would take away overtime pay for millions of Americans. This Administration has turned a deaf ear to the working families of this nation.

The Administration's push to cut overtime pay follows in the footsteps of other initiatives that would eliminate worker protections and benefits. For instance, the White House has sought to prevent federal workers from unionizing and has consistently blocked an increase in the minimum wage. This is not the record of an Administration that understands the needs of working families. On the contrary, this Administration has not the faintest idea about what it takes for working, middle-class families to get ahead.

The President's proposal would repeal the 40-hour workweek, established by the Fair Labor Standards

Act of 1938, and take away the right of employees to earn time and a half for extra hours worked. The Bush plan would eliminate overtime pay protections for as many as 8 million American workers who currently are eligible for overtime pay.

These hard-earned overtime dollars often make the difference between workers just making ends meet and being able to provide a better life for their families. For many employees, overtime pay constitutes one-quarter of their wages. It is the extra cash to take care of elderly parents, a new baby, or unexpected medical costs. It is the money that is set aside for a child's college education.

That is why I worked in the Senate to win approval of legislation that would block the Administration's plan from taking effect. Overtime pay is one of the hardest-won achievements of the American labor movement. It was that extra help that families needed to stay afloat during the final years of the Great Depression, and it continues to bolster American families today.

For those who stay on the job after the five o'clock whistle blows or the shift ends, overtime pay is the reward for hard work. These critical dollars belong in the pockets of the workers who earn them.

September 24, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preserving Steel Jobs in West Virginia

The American steel industry has weathered more than four years of unfair trade practices and waves of underpriced foreign steel imports. But just as these companies are turning a corner, the Bush Administration wants to eliminate the very initiatives that have helped these companies to get back on their feet. One such program targeted for extinction by President Bush is the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Program (ESLGP) which I created in 1999 to provide American steel producers with access to short-term funding in the face of the import crisis.

When I worked to create the ESLGP, I pledged to do all that I could to make certain that U.S. steel companies can survive in the face of unfair foreign trade practices in the global marketplace. Time has passed, but unfair trade by our international partners has continued. That is why the ESLGP must be available now and in the future to help steel companies gain ready access to capital.

Recently, I won approval from the Senate Appropriations Committee to extend the threatened program for another two years. Without this extension, the ESLGP will expire at the end of this year.

West Virginia's steel companies and their workers continue to make sacrifices to keep their furnaces burning. However, without

the guarantees provided by the ESLGP, the furnaces could go cold and thousands of jobs could be lost forever. In August, officials at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation stated that their company was able to emerge from bankruptcy in large part because of the financial support made possible by the ESLGP. The loan guarantee application submitted by Weirton Steel earlier this year hangs in the balance if the ESLGP is not extended.

Over the past few months, I have been contacted by representatives of steel companies in California, Connecticut, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Utah -- all hoping to apply for a loan guarantee from the ESLGP next year. The program continues to serve an important purpose. Instead of spearheading efforts to kill it, the Bush Administration, which claims to support the U.S. steel industry, should encourage Congress to enact my two-year extension of the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Program. West Virginia has stood tall for steel. It is time for the Administration to do the same.

Now is not the time to walk away from the American steel industry. Too much is at stake for West Virginia and the country. Our steel companies need the help that is readily available through the ESLGP, and they need it now.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Finding a Cure for Breast Cancer

Each October, the nation marks "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" to focus attention on the disease and treatment options available for those diagnosed with it. Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in American women, with 211,300 invasive cases expected in 2003. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in U.S. women: 39,800 deaths are expected in 2003. It is imperative that experts find a cure and continue research into effective treatments.

One decade ago, breast cancer research was an unacceptably low federal funding priority. That is why I have worked with Senators from both parties to increase America's investment in life-saving breast cancer research. This year, the federal government will invest almost ten times as much as a decade ago to find improved treatments and, one day, a cure for this deadly disease.

This research is paying off. While the number of breast cancer cases remains high, it is declining. The American Cancer Society reports that among American women overall deaths from breast cancer dropped steadily during the 1990's. This improved survival rate is attributed to progress in both early detection and better treatments for the disease.

Experts state that the most effective way to detect breast cancer is through a

combination of clinical breast exams, regular self-exams, and routine mammograms. Many studies have shown that women who get yearly mammograms are more likely to find breast tumors while those tumors are still small and treatments are highly successful.

Mammograms and other detection options are available through the statewide breast and cervical cancer prevention, education, and screening project, launched in 1990 with funds I added to an appropriation bill. This initiative offers screenings to West Virginians who otherwise might not have access to such tests.

In addition, scientists at the Robert C. Byrd Cancer Research Laboratory at West Virginia University are on the trail of a cancer cure. The lab is part of the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, which was established, in part, with \$13.3 million that I added to federal appropriations bills beginning in 1985. The Cancer Center is West Virginia's first statewide cancer research and treatment facility.

By continuing the investment in cancer research and aggressively moving ahead to find a cure for the disease, I hope that one day we will not need a "Breast Cancer Awareness Month." But until that day arrives, I urge women to learn how to detect the disease at an early stage. Early detection is still the key to survival.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hearing First Responders Loud and Clear

The nation's first responders deserve the best equipment available but, in many communities, they are getting by with the worst. When an emergency occurs, it is critically important that local fire departments, law enforcement agencies, and emergency medical services be able to communicate with each other on the scene. The reliability of their communications equipment can be a matter of life and death.

The attacks on September 11, 2001, were a tragic wake-up call that too many first responders lack the tools they need to do their jobs and protect the communities which they serve. Much more needs to be done at the state and local levels to better prepare for, and respond to, potential future attacks. Improving interoperability among first responders' communications devices is an important first step to saving lives in any crisis.

All Americans, whether they live in rural communities or big cities, want to know that, if there is a terrorist attack or emergency of any nature close to home, their first responders will be able to take control of the situation and come to the aid of victims. This task is made dangerously difficult when the policemen, firefighters, and medical personnel who report to the scene are unable to share information and coordinate a response plan.

After receiving numerous calls for help from emergency services across the country, I included \$80 million in two federal spending bills last year for a new nationwide program to help emergency personnel to establish clearer lines of communication in times of crisis. Through this program, the Department of Homeland Security recently released funds to 17 counties across the country to assist emergency services in upgrading their communications systems.

I am pleased that Harrison County has been awarded a \$5.7 million grant to explore available equipment and technology options to increase interoperability among the region's emergency services. This funding will allow Harrison County to serve as a model for communications systems upgrades across the country and will help to make West Virginia and all of America safer.

First responders risk their own lives to save the lives of others each time they are called to duty. We must provide them with the best equipment to do their jobs. Harrison County now will have funds to invest in cutting-edge technologies to help to protect emergency personnel and citizens. I will work to ensure that the lessons learned in Harrison County will help emergency workers throughout the state and nation to better protect their communities.

October 15, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Blue Ribbon for Classroom Excellence

A blue ribbon is the symbol of excellence and success -- the mark of a job well done. Since 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program has highlighted many of America's most successful schools. It supports and promotes improvements in education by recognizing schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to educational excellence for all students and that achieve high academic standards.

One does not need to attend the fanciest school to receive a quality education. The quality of teaching and the commitment of parents also are critical to a student's accomplishments. While the seed of intelligence may be planted at birth, it requires cultivation, care, and hard work to blossom into culture and wisdom.

Many schools in West Virginia have adopted that attitude and instituted programs to instill a passion for education in students. Recently, two West Virginia elementary schools received national recognition for their achievements with the Blue Ribbon Award -- the top award given to a school -- from the U.S. Department of Education. Steenrod Elementary School in Ohio County and Kenova Elementary School in Wayne County have been awarded this prestigious honor.

I congratulate the teachers, administrators, students, and parents at these schools on their hard work in achieving this recognition.

The Department of Education noted that Steenrod and Kenova have made significant progress toward meeting the challenging academic goals established in 2002 in the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

However, much work still remains. Too many schools are struggling to meet the significant mandates of No Child Left Behind without any new resources. While President Bush signed the act into law with great fanfare, he has not backed the funding necessary for more schools to achieve the successes of Steenrod and Kenova.

On more than one occasion, I have offered proposals in the Senate to fully fund programs to support the nation's elementary and secondary schools but, at each turn, the Bush Administration has opposed my efforts. Despite the setbacks, I remain committed to the task. We cannot afford to fail. The country's future depends in large part on the education of our young people. We need to take the necessary steps, which include providing adequate federal funding, to ensure that every child is placed on a path of lifelong learning.

Again, I applaud the accomplishments of Steenrod and Kenova elementary schools. Their success can serve as a model for all West Virginia schools as they strive for excellence and prepare our young people to lead the state and nation in years to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Recognizing Special Libraries

Opening the doors of a library reveals vast new worlds of knowledge to a child with just a library card and a desire to discover. For people of all ages, especially those who live in rural communities, the resources in the local library are often the only ticket to information about distant lands, fields of knowledge, and timely news.

Small libraries throughout West Virginia serve as community gathering places and provide vital programs and services for citizens. Recently, a West Virginia county received the nation's highest honor for extraordinary public service provided by libraries. The Pocahontas County Free Libraries was one of only three institutions across the country to be awarded the 2003 National Award for Museum and Library Service, an honor created to underscore the vital role of museums and libraries in society.

Located throughout the county's mountainous terrain, the four branches of the Pocahontas County Free Libraries (PCFL) in Green Bank, McClintic, Hillsboro, and Durbin are cornerstones of civic engagement. The libraries host activities for groups such as the Boy Scouts, business associations, the town council, blood drives, a pre-school playgroup, and youth after-school programs. Volunteers provide thousands of

hours of service, and local organizations make steady, substantial contributions to keep the libraries running.

The PCFL is home to the largest West Virginia and Appalachian collection of any small library in the state and has a Heritage Room with local historical materials and facilities for genealogical research. A collection named for Nobel Laureate and author Pearl Buck, who was born in Hillsboro, is currently under development. The libraries partner with other community groups for much needed historic and cultural projects, including such diverse items as a biographical film of a legendary local newspaper editor, a book and radio show about the history of forest fire towers, and a veterans' oral history project.

The PCFL serves as a model of excellence for small libraries throughout West Virginia and rural America. I congratulate the libraries' board of trustees, staffs, and community members on this well-deserved recognition. Their efforts ensure that the Pocahontas Free Libraries will continue to educate, enlighten, and inspire -- the role of all libraries in the state. The PCFL demonstrates that libraries are not just repositories of great books; they are also pathways to knowledge and gateways to the wonders of the world, right in our own neighborhoods.

October 29, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Infusing Funds in Community Emergency Efforts

Police, fire, and emergency response teams throughout West Virginia have sent a clear message to the U.S. Capitol, namely, they need more federal help to best do their jobs. Too often, these first responders have to rely on small events like bake sales and spaghetti dinners to raise funds for new trucks and safety equipment. But bake sale profits fall far short of the bill for the equipment and training that first responders must have. That is why I have tried repeatedly to provide additional dollars to help plug critical holes in our defenses here at home.

Most recently, I announced that West Virginia will receive nearly \$25 million in the next year for training, emergency response equipment, and terrorism prevention and deterrence grants. Specifically, West Virginia will receive \$18.9 million for terrorism and disaster training, equipment, and response planning. Another \$5.6 million will be directed to prevention and deterrence efforts. Finally, \$392,000 is for West Virginia's "Citizens Corps" -- an initiative modeled on the Neighborhood Watch program, where local residents develop plans to engage citizens in homeland security, community preparedness, and family safety initiatives.

West Virginia may not be the biggest or most populated state, but it holds potential terrorist targets.

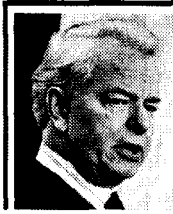
For example, it is no secret that West Virginia has one of the most concentrated regions of chemical plants in the country. An attack on those plants could jeopardize thousands of lives. We need to take steps to ensure the security of those plants and the safety of the citizens who live nearby.

These funds also have an added benefit for West Virginia. The training and equipment provided to emergency response teams will be used not only in the event of a terrorist attack but also for disasters such as floods and ice storms.

For many months, I have worked through my leadership position on the Senate Appropriations Committee to provide first responders with adequate resources to carry out their critical duties. The release of these funds is the culmination of my work this year.

Congress has a responsibility to protect the nation. It must focus on the country's many serious vulnerabilities and invest dollars where they are most needed. When it comes to protecting this nation, there should be no distinction between providing necessary resources for troops overseas and for first responders at home. Police officers, firefighters, and paramedics are always willing to answer the call to duty; we must ensure that they have the tools and the training to be ready.

November 5, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

On the Job for West Virginia's Future

West Virginia's core industries of coal, steel, glass, and chemicals have withstood the test of time and been the lifeblood of our state. But times are changing. We are shifting to a high-tech and service-driven economy. We need to continue to support our traditional industries, but we also need to work to encourage the establishment and expansion of smaller entrepreneurs and high-tech companies.

I have worked for many years to do just that. Utilizing my leadership position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have identified national security and defense-related technology needs and matched them with people and resources in West Virginia. I also have added critical funding to federal legislation for worker training and infrastructure development that have attracted high-tech employers to the Mountain State.

The Information Manufacturing Corporation (IMC) first established operations in the state in 1998 at the Allegheny Ballistics Laboratory Hilltop Office Complex in Mineral County. Since opening in West Virginia, IMC has created 325 skilled jobs in Webster Springs, Rocket Center, Bridgeport, and Clarksburg. IMC is a success story which serves as a model for job development

efforts throughout the state.

ManTech is another company whose decision to put down roots in West Virginia has proved fruitful. ManTech's operations in Hinton and Fairmont play a crucial role in developing and applying new computer-related technology to support the Defense Department. By converting Defense Department documents from paper to electronic formats, ManTech helps the Pentagon to cut costs and increase efficiency. The quality jobs that the company supports -- jobs which did not exist only a few years ago -- are helping to create new economic opportunities for citizens of the Mountain State.

These companies are just two examples of thriving high-tech initiatives that call West Virginia home. These endeavors have the potential to bring with them greater economic prosperity and technological advancements that will benefit West Virginians today and for many years to come.

One of my priorities in the Senate is to help prepare West Virginia so that our children may stay in the state and find jobs to support their own families. The foundations we build and the opportunities we create provide benefits now, but the ultimate reward is the brighter future that we leave to our children.

November 12, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Opportunity in Appalachia

In 1965, Congress, with my strong support, created the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The goal of the ARC was to provide help to people living in the 13-state Appalachian region, people who were suffering because the economic progress that the rest of the country had experienced bypassed their region.

Today, nearly 40 years later, while much progress has been made in job opportunities, education, and health care, parts of Appalachia remain a step behind the rest of the country. The role of the ARC remains as important today as it was in 1965.

Despite the clear need, the Bush Administration has not been a friend to the ARC. In fact, in its latest budget request of Congress, the White House sought to cut in half the ARC's non-highway budget. This is funding for education and training programs, water and sewer system construction, small business start-ups and expansions, and development of health care resources. Such a drastic reduction would not have stunted growth in Appalachia; if accepted, the Bush budget would have set progress in Appalachia back by years.

Recognizing this danger, however, I went to work to defeat the Bush Administration budget and ensure that the ARC re-

ceived the funds that it so desperately needs. In light of the Administration opposition, it has not been easy, but Congress is preparing to give final approval to funding that restores the ARC budget. Instead of eliminating \$38 million from the ARC as the Bush White House proposed, Congress, at my insistence, will provide \$66 million for the agency for this fiscal year. That level of funding will protect the ARC's core mission of improving basic infrastructure, boosting job opportunities, and opening access to health care.

Since the ARC was founded, the 13-state Appalachian region has taken significant steps to overcome its isolation. Yet, the region still lags behind the nation in many respects. The cycle of poverty remains all too prevalent. Too many children go hungry. Too many families have no access to nearby health care. With the many challenges before us, there clearly remains much work to be accomplished by the Appalachian Regional Commission. Now is not the time to cut funding and slow progress, as the Bush Administration proposed; rather, now is the time to expand the partnerships and protect the initiatives that are moving West Virginia and the entire Appalachian region toward a brighter tomorrow.

November 19, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Giving Thanks for Many Blessings

Each year, America pauses to celebrate Thanksgiving, a day for recognizing and celebrating our Pilgrim heritage -- that small group of men and women who left their homeland, crossed a mighty ocean, and settled in a wilderness so that they could worship God as they chose.

A year after landing -- after months of privation, suffering, sickness, hunger, and death -- these men and women set aside time to express their gratitude to God for protecting them and for preserving their community. They were not only men and women of great courage, they were also men and women of great religious faith.

The tradition of Thanksgiving was reaffirmed during the American Revolution. Following the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777, the Continental Congress approved a resolution designating a day of "Thanksgiving and praise." Five years later, on October 11, 1782, Congress proclaimed "the twenty-eight day of November next, as a day of solemn THANKSGIVING to God for all his mercies: and they do further recommend to all ranks, to testify to their gratitude to God for his goodness."

Following the establishment of the new government in 1789, President George Washington issued the first Presidential proclamation

calling for "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer." At President Washington's request, Americans assembled in churches on the appointed day and thanked God for His blessings.

So it is that we celebrate this unique American holiday, a day devoted to family, to country, and to God. Indeed, we have so much for which to be thankful.

We can be thankful for the heritage of liberty bequeathed to us by our ancestors, who entrusted us to preserve this living legacy for future generations of Americans.

We can be thankful for those men and women who, 383 years ago, had the courage, the faith, and the devotion to God, to embark upon the most difficult and dangerous of journeys and face the darkest unknown so that they, and we, could worship freely.

We can be thankful for our families and friends and for the strength of home.

I hope that during this Thanksgiving, West Virginians will take the time to rediscover what it is that makes them a family. Before sharing that lovingly prepared feast, families should take the time not only to express thanks for the bounty that is set out before them but also for the opportunity to gather in kinship and to thank God for His manifold blessings.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Prescription for Medicare Trouble

Recently, Congress approved legislation creating a limited Medicare prescription drug benefit. I have long supported the concept of comprehensive Medicare drug coverage, but I could not support this legislation because of its price; the Republican Medicare bill would take the first step toward undermining the Medicare system that has benefited millions of retirees.

Specifically, the GOP plan forces Medicare beneficiaries to rely on a private, untried, drug-only insurance market for prescription drug coverage, rather than building on the traditional, successful Medicare program. This flawed legislation covers less than a quarter of Medicare beneficiaries' estimated drug costs during the next 10 years, and the complicated coverage formula has a large, gaping hole, that will leave seniors without a dollar of support right when they need that support the most.

This legislation includes copayments, premiums, and deductibles that may be unaffordable for many low- and middle-income elderly citizens. A closer look at the fine print of this legislation reveals that private insurers can choose to charge senior citizens double or even triple these amounts. Premiums can fluctuate dramatically based upon the location and the health of a beneficiary. At the same time, the federal government will hand over billions of taxpayer

dollars to for-profit insurance companies just to entice them to participate in the program. Further, this legislation explicitly prohibits Medicare from using the purchasing power of more than 40 million beneficiaries to negotiate for lower prices on prescription drugs -- a cost-savings practice regularly used by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, and several states including West Virginia.

Under the Republican Medicare plan, Mountain State seniors will not receive the real, guaranteed benefit that they desperately need. Despite this legislation's big promises, too many elderly citizens will still be forced to split pills to make medicines last longer. Too many seniors will still go to bed at night struggling with the decision whether to take their limited incomes and pay for food and shelter or pay for the medicines that their doctors have prescribed.

This new Medicare package sells out senior citizens in exchange for big profits for prescription drug companies. Senior citizens and disabled citizens deserve more than a new scheme that leaves them naked to the whims of private insurance companies, and offers only a now-you-see-it, now-you-don't promise of coverage. Instead of selling illusions, Congress ought to work on a responsible, comprehensive, voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit. Our seniors deserve no less.

December 3, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Steel's Fair-Weather Friend

The beleaguered steel industry has been dealt another blow, this time by the Bush Administration's recent decision to lift Section 201 tariffs on foreign steel imports. With this reversal, the President has removed the single most effective tool in place to help stabilize the American steel industry. Hope has been diminished for thousands of steel families who were just starting to see light at the end of the tunnel. It is bad news for the steel industry and bad news for West Virginia.

Since 1997, the American steel industry has been crippled by wave after wave of foreign imports. These imports have flooded the market and washed away thousands of jobs. After a lengthy investigation by the International Trade Commission (ITC), the President imposed tariffs last year of up to 30 percent on steel imports to provide the faltering steel industry relief from surges of imported foreign steel. But now, that help is gone.

I contacted President Bush and key Administration Cabinet officials several times to urge them to keep the Section 201 tariffs in place for their full three-year term. But instead of staying the course and completing the restructuring of a strong, stable domestic steel industry, the Administration has undercut the effort halfway through its intended

life span. In response, I have introduced legislation that would reinstate the Section 201 tariffs on steel imports and keep them in place through March 5, 2005.

The President's decision to lift the tariffs is an especially bitter pill to swallow because the program was working. It was eliciting the very industry adjustments the President called for when he imposed the tariffs. President Bush claimed that he wanted to give America's steel industry and its workers a chance to get back on their feet. But now the Bush team seems more than willing to let the steel industry land flat on its back.

When the Bush-Cheney ticket needed West Virginia's votes in 2000, it pledged to help our steel industry. The White House applied the steel tariffs, for which West Virginia was thankful. But then the President exempted import after import from those tariffs. Now the President has eliminated the tariffs completely. President Bush's support for West Virginia's steel communities apparently was nothing more than cheap lip service.

The White House may have forgotten the promises it made to the steel industry in West Virginia, but thousands of West Virginians will not forget. They recognize a fair-weather friend when they see one.

December 10, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Christmas Story

Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year, a time of joy and love, of family gatherings and warm memories. Over time, however, Christmas has become more about big store sales and shopping malls rather than the birth of Jesus. The meaning of Christmas is overshadowed by the pressures and strains of a commercialized holiday.

At its core, Christmas will always be about a couple who found no shelter but a manger, and also about a newborn child who would become the Savior of the world.

I hope that West Virginians pause to remember the words of Luke's Gospel, where the Christmas story comes to life.

"All went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger;

because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

During this holiday, let us reflect on family and faith. Let us share a meal with loved ones and give thanks for our blessings. Perhaps, then, the materialism of the season will fade and we can begin to truly understand the great and glorious meaning of Christmas.

My wife, Erma, and I wish for you a happy and holy Christmas and New Year.

December 17, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Return to Sender

The Internet is undoubtedly one of the most important inventions of the 20th century. In seconds, one can access a wealth of information about people and places far and wide. With a few strokes on a keyboard, one can send an e-mail message anywhere in the world. The advancements in communications technologies during my more than fifty years in Congress are nothing short of amazing.

Unfortunately, these technological breakthroughs also have a downside. More and more, unsolicited e-mail communications, commonly referred to as "spam" or "junk e-mails," are threatening to overwhelm the positive content of the Internet.

Experts estimate that more than 13 billion spam messages are sent each day. These unsolicited messages now account for nearly half of all e-mail traffic. Not only can spam be a nuisance, but its cost may also be passed on to consumers through higher charges from Internet service providers who must upgrade their systems to handle the heavy traffic. Also, spam often includes fraudulent information or adult-oriented material that offends recipients and concerns parents who want to protect their children. Experts estimate that spam will cost U.S. organizations more than \$10 billion in 2003 alone.

Congress has responded to the pitfalls of spam with passage of the "Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited

Pornography and Marketing Act of 2003." This legislation, which I was pleased to support, will outlaw some of the most common methods for generating mass e-mails. The bill also will establish penalties for the most prolific spam producers, including jail time and up to \$3 million in fines.

While passage of this bill is a step in the right direction, West Virginians can take immediate steps to protect themselves from these intrusive communications. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) website at <http://www.ftc.gov> provides information to help Internet users combat unwanted junk e-mail. The FTC recommends that individuals combat unwanted spam by using e-mail filters which are commonly available, reviewing the privacy policy when submitting an e-mail address to a website, and reading entire forms before transmitting personal information through the Internet. In addition, unwanted or deceptive e-mail messages can be forwarded to the FTC at uce@ftc.gov for use in law enforcement actions against people who send unsolicited e-mails.

The onslaught of unwanted commercial or pornographic e-mails threatens further expansion of the Internet. It is my hope that this new legislation, combined with prudent security actions taken by individual computer users, can begin to control this serious problem.

December 24, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Technology "Swarms" into Action

America must stand ready at a moment's notice to send its troops into harm's way when the need arises. Unfortunately, in the age of international terrorism, the unpredictability of the nation's enemies has dramatically increased the risks to the men and women of our military. While the critical missions of America's Armed Forces will always involve a certain degree of danger, there are efforts underway in West Virginia to provide the technology that can help to better protect our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

A team of West Virginia researchers will utilize \$4.25 million that I added to a recent federal appropriations bill to develop an intelligent control system -- essentially the brain -- for a small, light-weight unmanned aerial vehicle for the U.S. Navy. Unmanned vehicles, which are controlled from afar by military personnel, have become important tools in the military's arsenal.

Currently, many unmanned vehicles are operated individually with a rudimentary control system. But the project underway in West Virginia would allow new unmanned vehicles to fly in unison, as a flock of birds would. These new planes are called "Smart War-fighting Array of Re-configurable Modules." Coupled with sensors that

would detect biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons, this ability to "swarm" would allow these state-of-the-art vehicles to significantly increase the Navy's surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, while decreasing the risk to military personnel.

The intelligent control system will be developed for the Navy by Augusta Systems, a Morgantown-based technology company, and the West Virginia University Institute of Technology in Montgomery. As part of the project, McLean, Va.-based Alion Science and Technology company, a global research and development corporation, will open an office in Morgantown. The collaboration with the Navy in this effort is a testament to the caliber of the state's high-technology workers.

The many challenges facing the men and women of the nation's military forces underscore the ever growing need to research, develop, and build advanced and innovative defense weaponry. I take great pride in West Virginia's contributions -- from the laboratory to the battlefield -- to America's Armed Forces. I shall continue to work to provide the men and women of the military with the technology, equipment, and training that they need to successfully defend our nation.

December 31, 2003



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

NASA Exploration Opens New Opportunities

In the early days of the New Year, the exploration rover "Spirit" safely landed on the surface of Mars and started to send images of the Red Planet back to Earth. The landing was a great step forward for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), whose scientists will spend months analyzing pictures and information from the Spirit rover.

The "Spirit" will search for signs that Mars once sustained water. Progress may eventually spur a manned mission to Earth's neighbor in the solar system.

Many have questioned the wisdom of investing in the space program. However, investments in NASA have resulted in significant progress in West Virginia and the world.

For example, NASA is a key piece of the I-79 high-tech corridor in North Central West Virginia. The Independent Verification and Validation Facility (IV&V) in Fairmont was established in 1993 after I added \$10 million to federal legislation for the facility's construction. The IV&V's 215 workers test computer software to ensure the highest possible effectiveness for key NASA projects including the International Space Station, the Space Shuttle program, and the Kennedy Space Center.

The IV&V has spurred growth at the West Virginia High-Tech Consortium Foundation, anchored at

the Alan B. Mollohan Innovation Center. These facilities -- and the research underway there -- have led to hundreds of new jobs in the Mountain State.

The men and women of the IV&V continue to showcase the high-tech know-how and ingenuity that are alive in West Virginia. Through their work, the NASA specialists are showing that one does not have to leave the West Virginia hills to reach the stars.

NASA's high-tech efforts also have translated to everyday technologies. For instance, NASA-inspired communications satellites connect faraway locales, while orbiting eyes in the sky track hurricanes, wildfires, and volcanoes. Health care workers monitor many patients at once, thanks to technology first used to track the health of astronauts. And NASA research is helping make it safer to fly in a plane or drive on the nation's highways. Clearly, advancements in space continue to lead to advancements on Earth.

Each venture into space is another step toward innovation. The "Spirit" mission to Mars is such a step. While the journey is not easy, it is vitally important to the unlocking of the secrets of our world. I applaud the men and women of the "Spirit" project and salute those Americans who dedicate their lives to discovery.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Finding Families for Foster Children

Across America, hundreds of thousands of children are in foster care, hoping for the chance to be part of a loving family. Too often, however, prospective parents feel overwhelmed by bureaucratic red tape, facing long delays and immense piles of paperwork. In fact, many parents-to-be give up on the American adoption system and turn to foreign countries to find children. While it is important that parents are able to adopt children from all over the world, children in America are left bouncing from foster home to foster home.

Recognizing this dilemma, I supported legislation, recently signed into law, that is aimed at encouraging more parents to adopt children from America's foster care system. As a result of this legislation, the federal government will provide states with expanded financial incentives to encourage the adoption of special needs children and children over the age of 9. These two groups of young people traditionally face a difficult time finding a permanent home.

This new law builds on the Adoption Incentives Program, originally passed by Congress in 1997, that establishes an annual adoption goal for each state and then provides the state with a payment of \$4,000 per

child adopted above the goal. This program has proved successful. In the five years from 1998 to 2002, states placed more than 230,000 children in adoptive homes -- about the same number that had been adopted in the 10 years prior to 1998. Clearly, the incentives are working. More children are finding homes.

For an orphan or for someone in foster care, the day he or she is adopted is one of the most important days in that child's life. I know this firsthand. When I was two, my mother was dying from the influenza epidemic. She asked my aunt and uncle to adopt me as their own son. They did, and I went from being Cornelius C. Sale, Jr., to Robert C. Byrd. We moved to West Virginia, and my adoptive parents provided me with a loving, supportive home that continues to influence me to this day.

Too many children across the country are looking for that same chance. They need adults to step forward and make a difference in their lives. As the federal government continues to partner with the states to encourage adoption, I hope that more would-be parents take advantage. For to make a difference in the life of a child is to invest in the country's future.

January 14, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping the Promise to West Virginia's Children

Two years ago, President Bush signed the "No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA)" into law. The Act was designed to insert accountability into the education system. The Act calls for regular testing of students to determine whether they are making progress. If they are not, changes must be made in a school.

Simply, the No Child Left Behind Act made a promise. In exchange for higher academic standards and greater accountability, President Bush promised to devote significant new resources to America's public schools. But, to date, it is a promise that the Bush White House has failed to fulfill. Accountability cannot just be a standard for teachers; it must also be a standard for this Administration.

About half of West Virginia's public schools receive Title I funding for children from poor school districts. This year, President Bush ignored the funding level pledged by NCLBA and asked Congress for an amount that leaves more than 2 million children without adequate education resources. I offered an amendment to legislation in the Senate that would have fully funded the promise to these children, but, with strong opposition from the White House, it failed.

The Administration soon will present its budget priorities for the next year to the nation. The

President has indicated that, again, he would cut the Title I funding promised to Mountain State schools by almost 35 percent. This means that 18,766 West Virginia children would be denied full academic services. Evidently, "Leave Only 18,766 Children Behind" was not a catchy enough title for the new law.

If the President were serious about education, he would provide the funds so that all students in America would have the opportunity to receive a first-class education. Instead, the President seems content to test students, determine that many are falling behind, and then leave it up to cash-strapped states to find the dollars to fix the problems. Amidst all the shouting about accountability, the Bush budgets are quietly undermining the ability of states to implement reforms. America's children will ultimately pay the price.

This is not a simple debate about budget priorities; it is a debate about our future. It is a debate about hiring good teachers, improving curricula, reducing class sizes, and buying educational materials -- all key elements in helping students to reach their academic potential. I voted for the No Child Left Behind Act. I support the reforms in that law. But schools need more funding if America is truly going to leave no child behind.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Celebrating West Virginia's Past

Beginning at an early age, West Virginians are taught the history of our state. Our state's heritage and traditions are important lessons to learn, for they highlight the struggle and the sacrifice that were so key to the establishment of West Virginia as the 35th state in the Union. Several organizations sponsor initiatives to more fully immerse West Virginia's young people in that heritage.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History serves as the umbrella organization for many of those initiatives. For instance, that group, since 1979, has operated Camp Washington-Carver in Fayette County, named for Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver.

Dedicated in 1942, the camp originally served from 200 to 1,600 black youths in vocational agriculture, soil conservation, and home economics. Today, it serves as a resource for all West Virginians, preserving our mountain heritage, folklore, and arts with a dinner-theater series, concerts, and festivals. Each year, more than 10,000 people wind through the roads of Fayette County to visit the camp and participate in one of its many cultural programs.

In addition to its unique cultural role, Camp Wash-

ington-Carver also is a site of historic note. The camp is one of West Virginia's best-preserved and most ambitious examples of Roosevelt-inspired Works Progress Administration projects.

Recognizing the importance of this history, I have made it a priority to protect national parks, landmarks, and other sites of significance so that they survive for many decades to come. Recently, in an effort to preserve Camp Washington-Carver's history, I added \$150,000 to federal legislation to help the West Virginia Division of Culture and History make critical upgrades at the camp. These improvements will help to ensure that thousands more visitors can enjoy the camp's many programs while learning about an important part of West Virginia.

Even as West Virginia communities move forward with efforts to modernize and revitalize their economies, preserving the heritage of the Mountain State remains a top priority. The activities underway at Camp Washington-Carver, which combine historic appreciation and cultural heritage with economic development, serve as a model for others to follow.

January 28, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Weighing the Costs of Obesity

As the calendar flips to the second month of the new year, Americans are gauging the success of their New Year's resolutions, many of which concern weight loss. While staggering national obesity statistics show that these short-term efforts to drop pounds are a positive first step, the commitment to a healthy lifestyle should be a life-long endeavor.

Obesity impacts much more than outward appearances. Being severely overweight is a health risk and a growing epidemic which threatens the lives of many Americans. But the risks associated with obesity can be decreased with innovative education and prevention programs. That is why I have worked to provide critical new financial resources for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to promote healthier lifestyles for all Americans.

Medical research has clearly shown that obese individuals have a much greater chance of contracting heart disease, diabetes, some cancers, hypertension, respiratory disease, arthritis, and a host of other medical ailments. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, approximately 300,000 premature deaths across the nation each year are associated with being overweight and obese. These facts sound an alarm for the residents of West Virginia where the prevalence of obesity is particularly high.

I recently included

\$45 million – \$17.6 million above the amount requested by President Bush – in federal legislation for the CDC's Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity program. This program provides funding for states and communities to initiate nutrition and physical activity programs to help prevent and control obesity and other chronic diseases.

Beyond the physical and emotional toll of being obese or overweight, these conditions account for health-related financial costs of more than \$100 billion annually. A significant portion of such weight-related medical bills is paid by taxpayers through the Medicare and Medicaid programs. At a time when all medical costs are skyrocketing, the federal government must find cost-effective strategies to reduce the burdens of obesity on the health care system. The disease should be treated and prevented more aggressively through public health programs, like those supported by the CDC, that encourage healthy diets and exercise.

Americans must not allow themselves to be shaped by a high-tech, on-the-go society that often fosters inactivity and unhealthy eating habits. We can no longer ignore the health risks and repercussions of obesity. I hope that the funding for the CDC's efforts to curb this preventable health threat will spur a national commitment toward helping all Americans embark on paths to healthier living.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bush Budget Fails West Virginia Families

When it comes to budget priorities, President Bush's latest budget plan fails West Virginia families miserably. His budget puts programs that are important for big campaign contributors at the head of the table, while initiatives that help families in West Virginia are forced to scramble for funding scraps.

For instance, the President's budget fails to meet the funding promises made to West Virginia's children in the No Child Left Behind Act. In exchange for higher academic standards and greater accountability, President Bush promised in that act to devote significant new resources to public schools. But the President's budget breaks that promise, undercutting the No Child Left Behind pledge by more than \$7.1 billion.

When it comes to Social Security, the President's budget jeopardizes the retirement security of millions of Americans. In 2018, the Social Security Trust Fund is projected to be running in the red. At that point, an estimated 65 million citizens will expect full Social Security benefits.

I believe that any Social Security surplus should be used to extend the solvency of the program. But, instead, the President wants to use all of the Social Security surplus to make his tax cuts permanent. It is a short-sighted program that risks the retirement security

of 65 million Americans to fund tax cuts that are skewed to benefit the richest Americans.

Steel communities similarly are not protected by the President's backward budget priorities. President Bush has proposed rescinding \$35 million from the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Program. This program helps to keep American steelworkers on the job despite unfair trade practices by our foreign trade partners. Yet, this is the very program that President Bush has targeted for a significant cut.

Time after time in the President's budget, working families are asked not only to bear the burden of the massive deficits created by this White House, but also to accept cuts in those initiatives and services which are most vital to their lives. Education. Health care. Job protections. Retirement. These are West Virginia priorities, but they are not priorities of the Bush White House.

In the Senate, I will work to protect these initiatives that are so basic to working families. I will continue to push West Virginia's priorities to the head of the budget table. When it comes to federal priorities, working families need a strong voice in Washington else they be drowned by the Bush Administration's misguided policies.

February 11, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Expanding a National Treasure in West Virginia

West Virginia is home to many of the country's most notable national parks, rivers, trails, and recreation areas. Nature's bounty provides Mountain State residents and visitors from across the country with endless opportunities for adventure and learning. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is one such treasure whose important role in American history, coupled with the scenic beauty of the Park and the surrounding rivers and hills, makes for a one-of-a-kind experience.

The Park's historical, recreational, and ecological significance suggests that the time is right to expand its boundary, a long-time goal of many Eastern Panhandle residents. I am pleased to have helped move the effort forward in Congress.

I have authored legislation, which recently won the approval of a key Senate committee, that would expand the park's boundary capacity by 1,240 acres, from its current 2,505 acres to 3,745 acres. The expansion plan has broad public support as well as the support of groups, including the Friends of Harpers Ferry, the Harpers Ferry Conservancy, and the Civil War Preservation Trust.

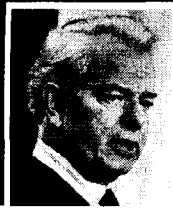
Harpers Ferry, which became part of the National Park System in 1944, hosted more than 300,000 visitors last year. Here, in one

setting, several themes in America's story converge: exploration, industry and transportation, the Civil War, and the natural splendor of our nation. The Park tells the stories of people and events that influenced the course of history and made the nation what it is today.

The rich history of Harpers Ferry is matched only by its great natural beauty. Throughout the year, West Virginians and visitors alike can be seen enjoying fishing, hiking, biking, horseback riding, rafting, canoeing, kayaking, and much more in this scenic setting.

In the Senate, I have worked to provide millions of dollars in federal funding for the National Park Service to update, renovate, and refurbish buildings and educational resources at Harpers Ferry. In addition, I shepherded funds through Congress for the purchase of the Murphy Farm property adjacent to the park and I facilitated the acquisition of the historic U.S. Armory Grounds in Harpers Ferry.

We must do all that we can to protect and enrich such a special place so that future generations can experience its grandeur and learn its lessons of history. That is why I will continue to work in the Senate to advance the effort to expand Harpers Ferry and ensure that it will touch lives for years to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Opening Job Access to the Blind

For people with disabilities, accomplishing what others see as a simple task at work can be an immense challenge. Whether it is a lack of wheelchair access or an inability to communicate through standard workplace technologies, Americans with disabilities too often must struggle to be active, contributing members of society.

The American Foundation for the Blind's Technology and Employment Center in Huntington (AFB Tech) is taking significant steps to break down the barriers between blind and visually impaired people and the communities in which they live. The Huntington center is instrumental in helping the American Foundation for the Blind to address two of the most critical issues facing the growing blind population -- employment and technology.

The numbers are surprising. Every seven minutes, someone in America becomes blind or visually impaired. Five million Americans age 65 and older are severely visually impaired. As the enormous baby-boomer generation ages, the number of older visually impaired people will double. Further, more than two-thirds of working-age blind or severely visually impaired Americans are not employed, largely due to a lack of training opportunities and significant obstacles faced in the workforce. The American Foundation for the Blind works to eliminate these barriers and help the 10 million Americans who are blind or visually impaired from reaching their

potential.

The experts at AFB Tech evaluate essential workplace technologies -- such as copy and fax machines, computer software, and cell phones -- and then offer recommendations to the industries that design devices on ways to make them more user-friendly for blind individuals. In addition, AFB Tech operates the CareerConnect program, a free national resource that assists blind and visually impaired persons to develop employment skills.

To enhance AFB Tech services, I recently won Congressional approval of \$1 million that I added to appropriations legislation to expand and improve the services of the Huntington facility. This funding will enhance the Foundation's efforts to make employment opportunities and workplace technologies more accessible to the blind.

This \$1 million will allow AFB Tech to expand the CareerConnect program which pairs sight-challenged individuals with blind or visually impaired mentors already in the workplace. The program's support network assists blind individuals to find diverse and challenging employment opportunities that match their skills and interests.

Barriers in communication and employment too often isolate people with physical disabilities. AFB Tech works to break through that isolation and open new opportunities for the blind and visually impaired, and I am proud to help this organization to accomplish its goals.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Beauty of the New River

Few song lyrics conjure up images of the grandeur of our country more than the words to America the Beautiful. Spacious skies. Purple mountain majesties. Amber waves of grain. When singing these words, one's thoughts paint the artwork of America's vast scenery. One may think of the Rocky Mountains, the Grand Canyon, or a colorful ocean sunset. But right here in our own backyard, West Virginia is home to one of the nation's most breathtaking sights -- the New River Gorge National River.

Tourists from across the country travel to our state to enjoy the New River's rugged white waters and surrounding mountains and canyons. I am proud to have helped write the legislation that established the New River Gorge as a national landmark on November 10, 1978. During the past 25 years, the park has grown into one of West Virginia's most visited natural assets. With its 53 miles of water and more than 70,000 acres of land, the park provides more than 1.1 million visitors each year with a wealth of outdoor opportunities, from white water rafting and hiking to mountain biking and fishing.

My work for the park did not stop at its creation. Utilizing my position as the

leading Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I secured \$5 million to build the Canyon Rim Visitor Center in Fayetteville, \$2.5 million to renovate and preserve the historic train depot in Thurmond, and \$4.2 million to construct the Fayette Station Bridge. Furthermore, I have obtained an additional \$11.9 million to make critical upgrades and improvements to park facilities.

I have long supported investments in our national parks. It is important that we, as a nation, protect special places like the New River so that future generations also may enjoy their benefits and beauty. National parks serve as sites for recreational activities and tranquil places to escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life. But our parks also embody the very spirit upon which our country was founded. By protecting our nation's lands, we preserve the story of our country and ensure that this story is passed along to posterity.

With the preservation of the New River Gorge National River, we save a piece of America the beautiful. Generations of future West Virginians will be reminded that, from sea to shining sea, God truly has shed His grace on us.

March 3, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening Social Security, Not Jeopardizing It

From modest beginnings in 1935, Social Security has become an essential facet of modern life. Today, one in seven Americans receives a Social Security benefit. But the changing face of America is threatening to render Social Security bankrupt.

When the baby-boomer generation begins to retire, the number of retirees is expected to grow much faster than the number of workers paying into the system. That will place a much greater financial strain on the Social Security system which, if left unaddressed, could jeopardize retirement and disability benefits for tens of millions of Americans.

Ignoring the financial crisis facing Social Security will not make the crisis go away. But, rather than address the fundamental problem, the Bush Administration has squandered any opportunity to secure America's primary retirement and disability program. In fact, instead of ensuring the Social Security benefits promised to workers, the President's budget would spend the entire Social Security surplus of the next five years -- \$1.1 trillion -- to pay for tax cuts for the affluent and corporate elite. Not one dime would be allocated to save Social Security. If America continues on the Bush Administration's fiscal course, we will lose the best

opportunity we have to save Social Security.

Everyone has a stake in the future of Social Security. It provides a safety net for retirees, workers with disabilities, and children who have lost a parent. Social Security can be the difference between living with dignity or living in poverty.

Many West Virginians have called my office concerned that the benefits on which they rely might soon disappear. I will continue to push for sensible approaches to strengthen Social Security, not fiscal plans that jeopardize its future. Congress must anticipate the baby-boomer retirement and plan for it. That means eliminating the massive federal deficit sparked by the Bush White House's fiscal priorities of tax cuts above all else, and putting the people's priorities first.

When President Roosevelt signed the law creating Social Security, he stated that it would "give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age." Congress and the President share a responsibility to keep that pledge. It is time for serious debate about the future of Social Security, not just more political posturing from a White House that, to date, continues to undermine the long-term health of the nation's retirement system.

March 10, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cashing in on the Earned Income Tax Credit

The April 15th deadline for filing federal tax returns is fast approaching, and it is important that West Virginians take advantage of tax benefits for which they are eligible. One in particular, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), can provide significant tax relief for many of the state's low-income families.

Congress initially enacted the Earned Income Tax Credit in 1975 as a temporary effort. But it has since grown into one of the largest anti-poverty programs in the federal government. Of the 750,456 West Virginians who filed a 2001 federal tax return, 133,414 claimed the EITC and received an average tax benefit of \$1,597.

West Virginia taxpayers with annual incomes below \$34,000 may be eligible for the EITC. Depending on the number of children, tax filers could claim a credit of up to \$4,204. Because the EITC is a refundable tax credit, a West Virginia taxpayer need not owe taxes to benefit. The EITC can even be distributed to claimants as an advance payment. This extra cash can be used to pay for doctor visits, medicines, school supplies, or groceries.

Despite efforts to raise awareness about the Earned Income Tax Credit, it is estimated that 10 to 15 percent of those eligible for

the EITC nationwide do not take advantage of its considerable benefits. In West Virginia, while many taxpayers utilized the EITC, many more were eligible yet failed to apply for the benefits available to them.

Tax forms can be confusing for even the most savvy filer. The National Taxpayer Advocate is an organization that can help taxpayers with questions about filing for the EITC. This independent service within the IRS can help taxpayers to determine their eligibility for the EITC and file the correct tax documents. The Taxpayer Advocate national hotline number is (877) 777-4778, and the West Virginia branch number is (304) 420-6616. More information about the EITC is also available at the IRS website, www.irs.gov, or by calling (800) 829-1040.

For many years, I have worked in the Senate to help expand the EITC and to deliver its benefits to West Virginians. With more West Virginians feeling the pinch of rising health care costs and a sluggish job market, the EITC can provide struggling families with much needed assistance to help make ends meet. I strongly encourage West Virginians who may be eligible for the EITC to check with the Taxpayer Advocate and to take advantage of the EITC's considerable benefits.

March 17, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Looming Questions in Iraq

March 19 marked the one-year anniversary of America's invasion of Iraq. As the nation reflects on this milestone, our first thoughts should be of the service of the dedicated men and women of our Armed Forces. Americans owe them a debt of gratitude for their courage and patriotism.

The costs of war have been very high. More than 580 American servicemen and women have lost their lives. Countless thousands of Iraqis have perished, among them many innocent civilians. The American people have sacrificed \$121 billion taxpayer dollars for the war and the reconstruction of Iraq so far, and the end is not in sight.

Large numbers of American troops will be tied down in Iraq for years, unless the White House reverses its unilateralist ways and brings in more foreign troops to stabilize the country. The White House's continued refusal to include the United Nations and its corps of nation-builders in Iraq in any serious manner means that turning power over to Iraqis soon will be difficult and dangerous. The Bush Administration should never have started this war before building a strong coalition.

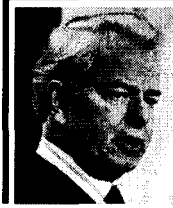
It is evident that the White House hype about weapons of mass destruction was no more than a rhetorical on-ramp to get this country

on the road to war. The President claims the power to send this nation to war, whether or not we face an imminent threat. Despite vocal opposition from the people, Congress passed a blind and improvident authorization for war in October 2002, buying into the dangerous doctrine of preemptive war. This hand-off of power should be reexamined.

A foreign policy based upon striking first and asking questions later shreds the Constitutional requirement that gives Congress, not the President, the last word on questions of war and peace. Moreover, this unilateralist doctrine has turned the image of the United States into that of a bully on the international stage.

In seeking to eliminate what the Administration claimed was a terrorist haven, we have created a swamp of violence instead. By rushing to act without the strong support of the community of nations, the Bush Administration has isolated America and made targets of the few allies we retained. As we begin the second year of war and occupation in Iraq, will we now insist on continuing the disastrous mistake of a highly visible, made-in-America occupation? I hope that the Bush Administration will learn from its errors and chart a new course in Iraq.

March 24, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Paving the Way to a Brighter Future

In West Virginia, we understand the importance of modern roads. They make for safe travel to school and to work. They cut down on traffic deaths. They open our state to more visitors who come to discover the natural beauty of our home. Modern roads and highways create new job opportunities. With these facts in mind, it is no surprise that I have long made infrastructure improvements, particularly roads, highways, and bridges, a top priority during my service in the U.S. Senate.

Every six years, the Congress writes legislation that funds construction of these projects. Recently, the Senate approved a proposal that would infuse more than \$2.5 billion in West Virginia highway and road construction. Overall, that represents an increase of \$715 million, or 38 percent, above the funding included in the last six-year bill.

This federal investment will mean progress and jobs throughout the state. It will mean new funds for projects that have been in the works for many years, projects that West Virginians are ready to see become reality.

Whether by helping to construct Route Nine in the Eastern Panhandle, the Mon-Fayette Highway in North Central West Virginia, U.S. 35 in Southeast West Virginia, or the Coalfields Expressway in Southern

West Virginia, these dollars will improve the quality of life for all Mountain State residents.

Despite the strong support from Democratic and Republican Senators, and despite the obvious boost that this legislation would provide to the national economy, the President has threatened to veto this highway bill. The Bush White House has criticized the investment in highways as too expensive.

What the nation cannot afford is further stonewalling by the Bush White House. America needs these funds for safer roads; America needs these funds for new jobs. If he were to veto this bill, the President would cancel out tens of thousands of new jobs in West Virginia and across the country.

I look forward to the completion of each mile of these roads because they provide a safer, more modern route for the West Virginians who live nearby and for visitors who come to discover the beautiful scenery of our state. Upon completion, they will connect the nation to the heart of our state with four-lane roads that travel through -- not around -- West Virginia. This legislation and the dollars that it provides would help to pave the way to a brighter future for West Virginia and for the nation.

March 31, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Standing By Our Vets

The unfortunate reality of America's ongoing military occupation of Iraq is that soldiers will continue to lose their lives and many more will be wounded in their brave service. To date, more than 3,000 Americans have been wounded in Iraq. Many of these fallen soldiers will require long-term medical care from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Now more than ever, the country must stand by its pledge to provide high quality medical care to its veterans.

Yet, a Veterans Affairs (VA) advisory panel has recommended that inpatient services be eliminated at the Beckley Veterans Area Medical Center (VAMC) in Raleigh County. The panel's study, which began in 2000, analyzed the need for VA facilities across the country based on predicted future veteran populations. The report, if approved, would require the 15,000 veterans enrolled at the Beckley VAMC either to rely on local medical facilities outside of Beckley for their medical care or to travel to the nearest VA hospitals in Salem, North Carolina, or Richmond, Virginia.

In addition to its recommendation to cut inpatient services in Beckley, the panel's report also rejected the VA's designation of the Beckley VAMC as a 'Critical Access Hospital,' which

would have retained at least 15 of the current 40 inpatient beds at the facility.

This is a bad plan at the worst time. Scaling back the services provided by the Beckley VAMC would do a great injustice to those West Virginia veterans who rely on the facility for their medical care. Removing acute inpatient hospital beds would turn away the veterans who are most in need of high-quality care close to home.

The good news is that the panel's recommendation is just that, a recommendation. VA Secretary Anthony Principi has yet to accept or reject the panel's assessment. I, along with Senator Jay Rockefeller and Congressman Nick Rahall, have urged Secretary Principi to reject this misguided recommendation and do right by our state's veterans. They deserve nothing less.

West Virginia's sons and daughters have a long history of military service to their country. Thousands are currently serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other military operations around the globe. In exchange for their service in the nation's defense, the government must make good on its promise to provide veterans -- those who served in past wars and those who return daily from the scourge in Iraq -- with the very best medical care possible.

April 7, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building for a Better Future

West Virginia, like the rest of the country, has had a difficult time in recent years holding on to jobs. But throughout the state, initiatives are underway to reverse this trend and put West Virginia on a path for job growth, not job loss.

For instance, in Cabell County, the Huntington Area Development Council has taken the lead in designing and constructing the new Velocity Center. This center is expected to draw high-tech businesses and jobs to the city and thereby ensure that the region will continue to be a magnet for new economic opportunities for years to come.

As the top Democratic member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added \$1 million in federal funds toward this project, an investment that will supplement \$4 million in private funds to finish construction. The goal is to have biotech companies housed at the center, some of which would come about as a result of research at the Marshall University Biotechnology Science Building. That facility is currently under construction thanks to \$35 million that I added for the project.

In Webster County, local officials have developed the Webster County Business Park and are constructing a high-tech office to anchor that park. I added more than \$2.6 million in federal funds to the effort. In fact,

while the new office building will not be open until later this spring, the facility has attracted Information Manufacturing Corporation (IMC), a West Virginia company headquartered in Mineral County. IMC already employs 87 people at a temporary facility in Webster Springs and plans to house up to 130 employees at the new facility by the end of this year.

Similar success is growing in Summers County, where local officials and the State of West Virginia and I have worked together to attract new high-tech opportunities. Utilizing \$3.6 million in funds that I added to legislation in recent years, the City of Hinton will soon award a construction contract to create an office complex which will house high-tech businesses and up to 150 jobs.

These efforts are bringing real change to West Virginia. Through innovation and cooperation, these communities are building opportunities that will grow for many years to come.

For too long, our state's mountains were barriers to economic progress. With technology, those mountains can be traversed in the blink of an eye. The early successes of these ventures in Webster and Summers counties, and the bright outlook for the Velocity Center in Cabell County, prove that West Virginia is on the move.

April 14, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Don't Balance Trade Policy on Workers' Backs

In today's market, manufacturers face many challenges. Hiring well-trained employees. Meeting health care costs. Moving products to market. Things are much more complicated than when I owned a small business in 1950.

One distinctly different aspect of business today is foreign competition. In 1950, small businesses were concerned when a competitor opened around the corner. Today, they are concerned about competition from around the globe.

West Virginia productivity and commitment to excellence have always resulted in high-quality products. But when foreign competitors ignore trade agreements, pay workers pennies, and shun environmental standards, the ground is no longer level.

Consider the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which eliminated trade barriers between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Since NAFTA began 10 years ago, West Virginia exports to Canada have risen 186 percent, while exports to Mexico are up 122 percent. The exports have increased employment, but not enough to offset NAFTA-related job losses. According to the Economic Policy Institute, West Virginia has gained 4,030 export-related jobs since NAFTA began, but has lost 7,512 jobs because of imports. We are going backwards.

The consequences for West Virginia are very real.

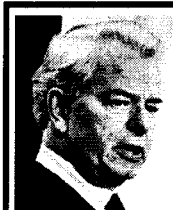
In places that were once home to apparel manufacturers, for example, doors are locked and windows dark. In Bradshaw, McDowell County Apparel closed its doors, as did Connie Sportswear in Franklin, Safety Stich in Harrisville, Spenco in Glenville, Kellwood in Spencer, and Reibord Brothers in Buckhannon. All cited the pressure of foreign competition for their closures. These are jobs that, in all likelihood, are not coming back. Whole industries have been lost.

Despite the track record, the Bush White House is pushing new, broader trade policies. As the President moves forward with his Free Trade Area for the Americas plan, modeled on NAFTA, Congress must keep in mind the problems that arise when free trade ignores basic concepts of fair trade. Free trade is not "free" when it costs American jobs.

Congress should not simply acquiesce to the Administration's plan. Congress ought to demand that trade negotiations be a two-way street, in both form and substance. Expanded trade benefits all countries, but the rules have to be fair.

For too long, Congress has walked away from an active role in the formulation and implementation of trade policy. Congress must resolve to restore the Constitutional balance and insist that trade agreements reflect the interests of American workers and industries.

April 21, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Eastern Panhandle Plays Key Homeland Security Role

What once was a small facility in Falling Waters has quickly grown into a key part of America's efforts to protect our nation from terrorist attack. The West Virginia home of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) plays an important role in preventing attacks in the United States.

The ATF National Tracing Center was dedicated in Falling Waters in 1994. Since locating there, the Tracing Center has experienced significant growth, expanding from 100 initial employees to more than 425 employees today, with a local economic benefit of more than \$22 million. Such growth reflects the increased mission and the high quality of work from the men and women employed there. That growth also meant the need for a new facility, which is why I added \$8 million to legislation to renovate the former IRS building in Martinsburg to serve as the new home for the ATF National Tracing Center and other ATF efforts.

Since September 11, 2001, the country has worked to identify new threats and dangers that before did not carry as high a priority. As part of that examination, Congress passed the Safe Explosives Act in 2002, placing stricter requirements on those who are

responsible for explosive materials. With more than 6 billion pounds of explosives produced annually, stricter regulation helps to prevent explosives from falling into the hands of terrorists.

To implement that law, the ATF tasked the men and women at the Martinsburg facility with a new role -- heading the Federal Explosives Licensing Center. This center will be a valuable law enforcement resource.

Specifically, the new Federal Explosives Licensing Center will handle the processing and subsequent issuance or denial of all explosives licenses and permits. This includes conducting background checks and issuing clearances for all individuals responsible for explosives operations, as well as people who possess explosives. Recognizing the importance of this mission, I added \$4 million to legislation earlier this year to accelerate the work at this new center.

The ATF in West Virginia is a great success story, not only from a Mountain State perspective but also from a national security viewpoint. The men and women at the ATF in Martinsburg are working each day to make the country safer from crime and terrorist attack. I applaud their efforts and look forward to their continued success.

April 28, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Expanding an American Treasure in West Virginia

Millions of visitors each year enjoy the beauty of the Monongahela National Forest. Headquartered in Elkins, the forest stretches more than 909,000 acres in 10 counties in West Virginia, making it the fourth largest National Forest in 20 northeastern states.

Ensuring that the forest stays healthy and a resource for many generations to come requires good stewardship and management. It also requires an eye toward the future, which is why a recent announcement that the U.S. Forest Service would add more than 1,400 new acres to the Monongahela National Forest is such good news.

I added \$1.8 million to federal legislation that allows the Forest Service to purchase those acres from The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy first purchased the property from Beckwith Lumber of Pocahontas County.

The Monongahela National Forest is an American treasure in West Virginia. By protecting the forest and building on its legacy, we ensure that people from around the world will be able to marvel at its beauty for decades to come.

The land being added to the forest includes high-elevation sites on Gauley and Cheat mountains and near the Highland Scenic

Highway. Spruce forests on these high summits support habitat for the West Virginia northern flying squirrel, which is federally listed as endangered. These properties also include native brook trout streams, access to hiking trails, and buffers for the upper Elk River and the historic Allegheny Battlefield.

I applaud the cooperation between Beckwith Lumber and The Nature Conservancy, and, in turn, the U.S. Forest Service. This public-private effort recognizes the need to balance economic opportunity with environmental conservation. The transfer of these acres to the Forest Service will provide for the preservation of unique areas while allowing for timbering work in areas that are not as environmentally sensitive.

More than 23 million visitors traveled in West Virginia last year, making tourism one of our leading industries. The Monongahela National Forest and other natural resources were top destinations. I am delighted to help create an infrastructure that supports tourism and recreation and conservation of historic lands. I hope all West Virginians will take the opportunity to enjoy these special places with their friends and families.

May 5, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Back to School: Bush Budget Doesn't Add Up

Throughout West Virginia, the school year is winding down and students are looking forward to the summer break. But the time away from the classroom does not provide any respite for school superintendents, principals, and teachers. In fact, many of them will spend the summer struggling to find the resources to match the mandates of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

President Bush championed this act as a way to improve the performance of schools across the country. Signed into law in 2002, the No Child Left Behind Act made a promise. In exchange for higher standards and greater accountability, President Bush promised to devote significant new resources to America's public schools. But, to date, it is a promise that the Bush White House has failed to fulfill.

Nationally, the President falls short of the funding promised in the No Child Left Behind Act by \$9.4 billion. For West Virginia's classrooms, the news is not good.

About half of West Virginia's public schools receive Title I funding -- dollars geared specifically for children from poor school districts. The No Child law established specific funding levels for Title I for every year through 2012, including \$20.5 billion for the coming

year. But the Bush budget undercuts that pledge by more than \$7.1 billion.

While No Child Left Behind promised Mountain State schools \$163 million for Title I for 2005, the President cuts that funding by almost 40 percent. Translated into students, the President's budget would deny full services to 21,366 West Virginia children.

The Title I program is not the only education program targeted for shortfalls. The Bush Administration freezes Pell Grant awards for the third straight year, cutting back on college financial assistance. The White House also has proposed to eliminate funding for 38 school programs including dropout prevention, school counseling, alcohol abuse reduction, and arts in education.

In the Senate, I have written and voted for amendments to make good on the funding promises made to our schools but, each time, these amendments have been targeted for defeat by the Bush Administration. If there is one federal investment that can offer real dividends down the road, it is education. But the White House continues to play political games with classroom funding. It is time to end the posturing and give students and teachers the resources that they need to succeed.

May 12, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Top Flight Homeland Defense Training in West Virginia

For three years, military specialists, National Guardsmen, and local emergency responders have traveled to West Virginia to take advantage of training opportunities available nowhere else in the country.

The Center for National Response, located at the Memorial Tunnel in Kanawha County, customizes training scenarios to provide life-like situations to test and improve the response from police, fire, and emergency medical teams. Military units have taken advantage of the tunnel's structure to prepare for the caves and mountains of Afghanistan. Operated by the West Virginia National Guard, the tunnel has proved itself a valuable piece of security efforts at home and abroad.

The Virtual Medical Campus, a collaborative effort between West Virginia University and the West Virginia National Guard, provides local emergency responders and medical officials with information on how to identify, treat, and contain any possible chemical or biological terrorist attack. This system is designed to link doctors and emergency personnel at the point of an attack with specialists who can immediately identify steps to take in the event of a terrorist attack to protect people living and working nearby.

The Regional Training Institute at Camp Dawson in Preston County gives National Guardsmen and other military personnel the

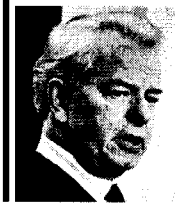
opportunity to train for a range of important missions, including special operations and defense against weapons of mass destruction.

I am proud to have been able to assist in these initiatives, adding more than \$43 million to legislation to bring these projects to life.

Now, recognizing the value of these facilities to the country and their potential for the future, the U.S. National Guard Bureau has announced that West Virginia will be the site for the first comprehensive National Guard homeland defense training facility. This new center will be based at Camp Dawson and will build on the homeland security training facilities already in place in West Virginia.

This new center will mean new resources and new responsibilities for Camp Dawson. While the standard for excellence has always been high, this decision to make Camp Dawson the first National Guard Joint Training Center (JTC) for Homeland Defense raises the bar to a much more demanding level.

Long before September 11, 2001, West Virginia recognized the dangers of potential terrorist attacks here at home and quickly moved to train Guardsmen and first responders. That work has paid off with valuable lessons learned -- lessons that we can share with the rest of the nation. By training today, we can save lives tomorrow.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fighting Global Terrorism in West Virginia

Last December, American military forces captured Saddam Hussein in a spider hole in Iraq. Images of authorities collecting Saddam's DNA and fingerprints dominated the news.

DNA and fingerprints are examples of biometrics -- distinctive physical and behavioral characteristics that are used to verify an individual's identity. Hand geometry, voice, and the iris of the eye are among these unique traits. Biometrics were used in Iraq to confirm that the captured man was indeed Saddam Hussein.

West Virginia is leading the way in the national effort to utilize this cutting-edge technology. The Justice Department's biometric experts work at the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Clarksburg. Also located in Harrison County, the Biometrics Fusion Center (BFC) tests and evaluates biometrics technologies for the Department of Defense. Since 1999, I have secured \$141 million to launch and expand the Defense Department's biometrics initiatives.

The BFC and the Clarksburg FBI facility work cooperatively every day in support of the men and women fighting terrorism around the world by identifying potential terrorists and other threats to the country's security. Fingerprints lifted at crime scenes and terrorist "safe houses" are compared against fingerprints in the FBI's database to determine if that person has committed prior criminal acts against

the country.

The BFC also works closely with industry and academia, spurring new business interest and growth along the I-79 high-tech corridor. As a result of this collaboration, West Virginia companies have discovered new economic opportunities by incorporating biometrics technologies.

In Morgantown, West Virginia University (WVU) provides a nationally unique undergraduate degree program in biometrics. The university plays a leading role in biometrics research on behalf of the federal government. The BFC employs as many as 10 WVU student interns each year, offering them a real-world opportunity to learn more about the industry and to better prepare them for careers in biometrics.

This summer, the BFC will continue its critical work in its new location at the Keeley Building in downtown Clarksburg. This facility will house a state-of-the-art demonstration center to showcase biometric technologies. The BFC will eventually transition to a permanent location at the FBI's Harrison County campus.

Biometrics offers real solutions to the significant security challenges facing America. The Mountain State had the foresight to embrace this cutting-edge technology and will continue to lead the way in the fight against terrorism at home and abroad.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Remembering the Sacrifice of Our Veterans

It was 60 years ago that Allied Forces launched the D-Day invasion to free Western Europe from Nazi control. The task was daunting. No such army had ever crossed the English Channel. The Allied armada was 5,000 vessels strong, transporting more than 150,000 men and 30,000 vehicles. More than 13,000 men boarded 800 planes from British airfields and parachuted behind enemy lines in France. Another 300 planes bombarded the French coast with more than 13,000 bombs immediately before the invasion began.

The stories of that invasion remain chilling and inspiring, gruesome and profound. By nightfall, more than 9,000 Allied soldiers had been wounded or killed in action. But their sacrifice was not in vain. More than 100,000 Allied forces had made it ashore and started to secure coastal French villages. The liberation of Western Europe had begun.

It is fitting that in the year we mark this 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion we also dedicate the World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Tens of thousands of Americans have already visited this new memorial, and millions more are expected as part of this summer's 100-day tribute to World War II veterans.

Journalist Tom Brokaw nicknamed the men

and women of the World War II era as "The Greatest Generation." Their sacrifices and struggles certainly helped to shape not only 20th Century America but also the world.

To keep that history alive for generations to come, students at the West Virginia University (WVU) Perley Isaac Reed School of Journalism have partnered with the Library of Congress in the Veterans History Project. Students have been interviewing veterans and recording their stories for preservation in the Library's collection. The interviews are not intended to serve as a formal history of war, but rather as a unique resource of individual experiences.

WVU students are not alone in this effort. The West Virginia National Guard, VFW and American Legion Posts, and several schools and public libraries have partnered in the Veterans History Project. A list of the partner organizations can be found on my Internet site at <http://byrd.senate.gov>.

Veterans can pass on the lessons that they have learned to younger generations, thereby ensuring that their experiences will extend long into the future. I encourage West Virginians to participate in the Veterans History Project, for the fabric of our nation is made richer when the embodiment of history, our nation's veterans, share their stories.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Going Back to the Future in Charles Town

I recently had the pleasure of visiting one of West Virginia's most historic towns which today has a whole new look. I joined with citizens and local officials in Charles Town to celebrate the completion of the Downtown Revitalization Project. This inspiring effort to spruce up the aging downtown square honors the community's respect for the past as well as its hope for the future.

Like many locations in the Mountain State, Charles Town is blessed with the special richness of history. The stalwart of the downtown square, the Jefferson County Courthouse, was originally built in 1808 on land donated by Charles Washington, George Washington's brother. The historic building housed the trial of abolitionist John Brown in 1859 and was the scene of another famous trial involving 200 miners and union leaders during the coal mine wars of the 1920's. Today, Charles Town is a key stopping point on the Washington Heritage Trail, a national scenic byway designated several years ago with my assistance.

The people of Charles Town understand that their history is an inextricable part of the fabric of their future. Walking the streets of Charles Town is like traveling through the early days of America's story. The town had started to show its

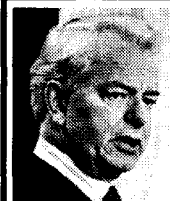
age, and community leaders developed a plan to give it a makeover befitting its significance in the nation's history.

The Downtown Revitalization Project repaired cracked and deteriorated sidewalks, repaved downtown streets, and replaced the drinking water system. The effort also included the purchase of new street furniture, historically designed street lamps, trees, and tourism street signs. These changes will reap benefits in public safety and increased opportunities for local businesses. The revitalized downtown should help residents and visitors alike to link the town's meaningful past and thriving present.

I am pleased to have been a part of the effort to help build a solid foundation for Charles Town's growth by obtaining \$1.2 million in federal funding to support economic development and tourism. I share the community's hope for a renewed, bright future, and I am glad I could help to make the revitalization project a reality.

This effort to breathe new life into downtown Charles Town serves as a model for cities throughout West Virginia. When respect for the past, pride in the present, and hope for the future come together, we make our communities the best they can be.

June 9, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Resources to Fight Obesity

Rarely does a week go by without a new health warning about the dangers of obesity. While some people may be content in brushing off the warnings, the consequences can be severe.

Without doubt, obesity is a serious condition which concerns much more than outward appearances. It is not a simple case of eating too much or needing to lose a few excess pounds. Obesity is an epidemic that threatens the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans.

For instance, a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* reports that being overweight and obese may account for 20 percent of all cancer deaths in American women and 14 percent of cancer deaths in American men. Translated, that means that 90,000 cancer deaths in West Virginia and across the country could be prevented each year if Americans could only maintain a normal, healthy body weight. It is an eye-opening report.

A new report from the Yale University School of Medicine notes that obese children are more likely to develop a cluster of health conditions that put them at increased risk of diabetes and heart disease. The more weight a child gains, according to the study, the more likely the child is to develop dangerous medical

problems.

But the risks associated with obesity can be decreased with innovative research and prevention programs. That is why I added \$3 million to legislation to create the Center for Healthy Communities at West Virginia University. This important WVU effort builds on the work of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help states and communities plan and launch programs targeting obesity.

Communities across the country are responding to the call and joining forces to fight obesity. Local partnerships including schools, hospitals, and community organizations are taking steps to encourage people to increase physical activity, add more healthy foods to their diets, and cut out other unhealthy habits which intensify the dangers of obesity.

West Virginians cannot ignore obesity-related health risks and repercussions. They must not allow themselves to be shaped by a modern environment that too often fosters inactivity and unhealthy eating habits. We need to create effective nutrition and physical activity programs that address obesity and other chronic diseases. The time is now to acknowledge the very real dangers of obesity and take steps to minimize them.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting a Piece of History

West Virginia is blessed with great natural and historical treasures. Places like the Monongahela National Forest, the New River Gorge, and the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge are among the crown jewels of West Virginia and are important tourist attractions. Just as critical are the lessons of history that abound throughout West Virginia. Point Pleasant has the distinction of being the site of the Revolutionary War's first land battle. Wheeling served as a jumping-off point for the famed Lewis and Clark expedition to the West.

One of West Virginia's most famous landmarks is Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. At the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers, Harpers Ferry played an important part in many events that helped to shape America.

Familiar names of history -- George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Meriwether Lewis, Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson, and Frederick Douglas -- are intertwined with the history of Harpers Ferry.

Key events -- such as the arrival of the first successful American railroad, John Brown's revolt against slavery, and one of the earliest integrated schools in the country -- are also part of the legacy of Harpers Ferry.

But that legacy needs protection.

Today, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park has nearly reached its capac-

ity. It cannot take steps to protect many historically unique sites without help. In an effort to provide that help, I have crafted legislation to expand Harpers Ferry National Historical Park by 1,240 acres, from its current 2,505 acres to 3,745 acres.

I am very happy to report that my legislation has passed the Senate, and recently was the subject of a committee hearing in the House of Representatives.

West Virginia Congressman Nick J. Rahall, who serves as the top Democratic member of the House Resources Committee, is working to guide this legislation through the House. At that hearing, he applauded the effort to expand the park, telling his colleagues, "Harpers Ferry is an incredibly powerful tool for telling the great story of our United States of America. These proposed additions will allow the Park to help us tell those stories even more completely." Congressman Rahall is absolutely right.

In the coming weeks, I hope that the full House of Representatives will move forward on my legislation to protect Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. This is an important bill for Harpers Ferry, for the Eastern Panhandle, and, in fact, for the nation. By expanding the park's boundaries, we can protect the rich historic and recreational opportunities that the park offers to residents and tourists alike.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Step Toward Expanded Health Insurance

In West Virginia, an estimated 286,000 people do not have health insurance. Nationally, almost 44 million Americans do not have medical coverage. These astounding statistics cannot be ignored any longer.

Finding ways to address this problem is not simple. But I have recently cosponsored legislation which I think could take a significant step toward reducing the number of uninsured Americans who go through life hoping and praying that they do not get sick or face a catastrophic medical problem.

The legislation that I am backing would allow for association health plans. These are plans where small businesses band together through a trade association to purchase health insurance. By joining together, small businesses will enjoy greater bargaining power, economies of scale, and lower administrative costs. This will result in lower health care costs and better insurance coverage options for small businesses and their employees.

Most Americans with health insurance obtain it through their employers, or a family member's employer, as a workplace benefit. Small employers, however, are far less likely than larger employers to have the financial resources to provide health insurance to their workers. In fact, almost half of the uninsured work for, or are family members

of employees who work for, small employers.

This legislation is one step that can be taken to open health care coverage to more Americans. It is not the be-all, end-all solution, but this legislation would help to move us toward a goal that we all share, namely, to reduce the number of Americans who do not have medical insurance.

Health care should not be a partisan issue. For me, it is an issue of basic quality of life.

Allowing small employers to obtain health benefits through associations will help to make coverage more affordable for far more Americans. Furthermore, association health plans will provide small employers with the ability to offer employees more choices of health plans, something that is nearly impossible to do with a small workforce.

With the number of uninsured Americans growing substantially each year, we must find ways to start to reverse that trend. Congress needs to act to provide small employers with options to secure health benefits for their workers and their families; we need to open the door to good-quality, affordable medical coverage for the millions of Americans currently without health insurance. While it is not the only step we can take, I believe that association health plans can be part of that solution.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Teaming to Improve Rural Health Care

America's Armed Forces and veterans deserve the highest quality medical care available. The same cutting-edge services that help to keep soldiers in top form also can reap benefits for civilian patients. That is why I have worked to ensure that West Virginians have access to a health care tool which previously was used only at the country's leading military hospital.

The experts at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., have developed an innovative program called HEALTHeFORCES. In their doctors' waiting rooms, patients use small computerized devices to answer questions about their illnesses and any health-related problems affecting their daily lives. This information helps doctors to better treat patients based on their full medical histories, rather than one particular symptom or illness.

Thanks to a collaborative effort I helped to initiate between Walter Reed, Marshall University, and the National Technology Transfer Center (NTTC), diabetic patients in Southern West Virginia are better managing their disease and enhancing their quality of life. Marshall's Byrd Center for Rural Health has adapted the HEALTHeFORCES program and launched HEALTHeWV at the Marshall University Medical Center and other rural clinics in Southern West Virginia. The NTTC, in turn, will lay the groundwork for the

program's implementation at other sites in the state and nation. HEALTHeWV is a shining example of linking national advancements with local expertise to meet West Virginia's health care needs.

While the HEALTHeWV program will likely address other chronic illnesses including heart and lung disease, diabetes patients were the logical first participants. Diabetics who participated in the military's HEALTHeFORCES program were far more likely to have appropriate testing and better test results. West Virginia's incidence of diabetes is 41 percent above the national average, impacting rural families and health care providers more than any other disease. Coordinating the multiple care components of this complex disease can be extremely difficult for rural physicians. I hope that HEALTHeWV's ability to document and track treatment plans will make doctors' jobs easier and patient care more effective.

For far too long, rural health care has meant inferior health care. I have worked throughout my years of public service to improve health care in all areas of the state. Programs such as HEALTHeWV allow patients to take an active role in their care, thereby helping to further the goal of health care equality. I look forward to the day when this latest technology allows chronically ill patients throughout West Virginia to receive better treatment and live better lives.

July 7, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fighting Back Against Indecency

Radio stations broadcasting vulgar language by national personalities. Nudity shown during the tawdry halftime show of this year's Super Bowl. Music and movie stars using curse words at award shows during prime-time viewing hours. With increasing frequency, the broadcast industry is breaking industry guidelines as well as the public's trust, airing obscene or tasteless content that has no place on America's airwaves.

I believe that the public is forced to tolerate too much media programming that is morally unacceptable. I particularly deplore the exposure of children to such negative influences. Certainly, the vulnerability of young minds to these influences can contribute to a breakdown of the moral fiber of our country.

Courts have held that obscene speech is not protected by the First Amendment and cannot be broadcast at any time. Further, it is a violation of federal law to broadcast obscene, profane, or indecent programming. Unfortunately, the current maximum fine for broadcasters who disregard the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) guidelines on indecent programming is a drop in the bucket for today's multi-million dollar media moguls.

The U.S. Senate recently approved an amendment that I strongly supported to crack down on lewd television and radio programming. The amendment increases the maximum fine on broad-

casters who air indecent material from \$27,500 to \$275,000. This substantial increase will help to deter broadcasters from airing material that is not appropriate for, nor appealing to, the general public.

The amendment also calls for a one-year moratorium on the FCC's recent move to relax its rules governing media consolidation. The FCC's dangerous decision to lift the media ownership cap threatens to strangle diverse voices at virtually every level of the country's news and commentary. More than any other resource, local news outlets educate people about the issues that affect their daily lives. The new FCC rules would undermine that role by allowing one person or one corporate interest to control a significant level of discourse and debate.

Finally, the amendment addresses indecent broadcasting's impact on children by instructing the FCC to implement effective measures to curb violent programming during the hours with a predominantly young audience.

The job of raising young people in today's culture is difficult enough without their being overwhelmed by broadcasters with inappropriate, adult-oriented programming. By increasing penalties and utilizing technology and ratings systems to help reduce indecent content, I hope that this legislation will make the job of parenting a little easier.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Equal Benefits for the Guard and Reserve

The country's National Guard and Reserves have become more than a source of manpower during times of crisis. Members of the reserve components have become an indispensable tool to carry out military operations overseas and homeland security missions at home. They deserve the same benefits that are provided to all members of the military.

The men and women of the National Guard and Reserves place their lives on the line just like the men and women of the Active Duty forces. Bullets and bombs make no distinction. Yet, for too long, the military health care system has made a distinction. The National Guard and Reserves were not given access to the same health care as the regular military. That is why I am working with a bipartisan group of Senators to help America's citizen-soldiers receive better health care benefits.

As the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I helped to shepherd legislation through the Senate to fund Guard and Reserve health benefits, including a temporary expansion of the TRICARE military health care program to members of the Guard and Reserves -- regardless of their activation status.

This is the first time that the Senate has appropriated funds to provide TRICARE

for Guardsmen and Reservists, even when they are not serving on active duty, and, frankly, it is a step that is long overdue. This should not be a question of if we should provide this benefit. These men and women have earned it.

The burdens being placed on our Guardsmen and Reservists and their families are heavy, particularly today with extended tours of duty for hundreds of thousands of citizen-soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other military operations around the world. Those burdens should not include trying to figure out how to pay for health care.

Under the legislation I supported, members of the National Guard and Reserves are eligible to enroll in TRICARE for a modest annual premium regardless of their deployment status. Premiums are about \$530 per year for individual coverage and \$1,860 per year for families. It is expected that the benefit will help to improve the quality of life for more than 300,000 Guard members, Reservists, and their family members.

More information about TRICARE is available by writing to the TRICARE Management Activity, 16401 E. Centretch Pkwy., Aurora, CO 80011-9043. Additional material is available from the TRICARE Internet site (www.tricare.osd.mil).



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Chemical Plant Dangers Spark Safety Investigation

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States has worked to prevent a tragedy from occurring again. We have made progress in areas like airplane security and emergency response preparedness, but there are many gaps that remain -- gaps that we must address before it is too late.

One gap is the lack of protection at 'critical infrastructure' sites. Critical infrastructure includes the systems that, if disrupted, would threaten our national security, public health and safety, economy, and way of life. Earlier this year, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the chief investigative arm of Congress, examined one specific segment of critical infrastructure -- reported that, despite voluntary efforts by individual companies to improve protections, the extent of security preparedness at chemical facilities across the country remains unknown.

In West Virginia, we are not immune from this responsibility. We have many sites that need to be fortified. We have many places that need to be protected. One of our largest vulnerabilities is also one of our key industries. It does not take great imagination to determine that the chemical plants that dot the Kanawha and Ohio rivers are also potential targets for attack.

But fortifying security at these facilities, according

to the Bush White House, is solely an industry responsibility. Despite the government's Constitutional responsibilities to provide for the safety and protection of the nation's citizens, the Bush Administration has consistently shifted the responsibility for 'critical infrastructure protection' to the private sector. The White House refuses to take the extra step to guard against attack -- a refusal that could cost lives if not fixed.

That is why I have asked the GAO to go back and determine what steps are being taken by the private sector to protect the American people, and what more needs to be done. Knowing and understanding what private sector industries are doing to protect critical infrastructure assets is essential in assessing the need for federal investments to protect the American people.

Protecting the American people from terrorist attack is a primary government responsibility. As we approach the third anniversary of the September 11 attacks, it is a responsibility that demands no further delay. The Bush Administration has, for too long, ignored the many holes in our homeland security protections. But just hoping that there will not be another attack is not enough; Congress must make the investments that protect the people, even if the President will not.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Black Colleges: Opening a Door to Achievement

The importance of education cannot be overstated. Horace Mann, a champion of America's public schools, said, "Education then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is a great equalizer of the conditions of men." Indeed, education is a key factor in the careers of most successful people. But there was a time in this nation's history when black Americans had few opportunities to further their education. The doors of many colleges and universities were closed to them.

Fortunately, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) filled the void. The first HBCU was founded in Pennsylvania in 1837. Today, across the country, there are 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities serving an estimated 370,000 students. These schools make higher education financially attainable for individuals who otherwise may not be able to afford a college degree.

West Virginia is home to two of these institutions -- West Virginia State University in Institute and Bluefield State College in Bluefield. These schools and their HBCU partners have helped to make a significant difference not only to the State of West Virginia but also to all of America.

The successful record at these schools is impressive. HBCUs have educated 75 percent of all African-Americans with doctoral degrees, 46 percent of all black business executives, 50 percent of all black en-

gineers, and 80 percent of all black federal judges. It is difficult to imagine where this country would be without the service and dedication of the professors, administrators, and supporters of these schools.

With this record of success in mind, I joined Maryland Senator Paul Sarbanes in sponsoring a resolution recognizing the accomplishments and importance of our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. That resolution recently won unanimous approval in the Senate.

These schools continue to demonstrate their value. According to the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, HBCU students graduate with greater frequency than African-American students at predominantly white institutions, and they receive greater academic and social support at HBCUs.

I have long believed that an education is one's passport to progress. It leads to new opportunities, not only for an individual but also for our state and nation. Historically Black Colleges and Universities have taken the lead in reaching out to students who, too often, are left behind or pushed to the side. In doing so, they have helped to build a stronger America. These institutions are an important piece of higher education in America. I applaud them for their successful past, and will continue to work for their future achievements.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Heritage of Hard Work: Labor Day 2004

The first Monday in September is set aside each year to recognize the dignity of work and to thank American workers for their contributions to making a better and stronger country. It is a special day when men and women from all vocations join in celebration and recreation.

Labor Day is an old and honorable American tradition. In 1893, legislation was introduced in Congress to establish Labor Day as a federal holiday. The next year, President Grover Cleveland signed the legislation into law, and today, 110 years later, we still use this day to honor those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow.

This Labor Day, it is most appropriate to recognize some of West Virginia's outstanding labor leaders and their contributions to American labor history and to our beloved state.

Frank Keeney, Fred Mooney, and Bill Blizzard were rank-and-file leaders of Southern West Virginia coal miners in the early 20th century who helped to lay the foundation for the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in our state. Arnold Miller of Cabin Creek was a leader in the black lung movement in the 1960's who was elected president of that great union. Current UMWA president Cecil Roberts also hails from Cabin Creek.

John Easton of William-

stown in Wood County was a flint glass worker who served as president of the West Virginia State Federation of Labor during the 1920's and as an official in the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) in the 1930's.

Miles Stanley of Dunbar was president of his local steelworkers union and helped to negotiate the merger that formed the West Virginia AFL-CIO, of which he served as president from 1957 to 1974.

Ned Guthrie of Morgantown and later Charleston was the national legislative director of the American Federation of Musicians Union in the 1980's and was instrumental in bringing collective bargaining rights to that profession.

And there was the great Walter Reuther from Wheeling, who was president of the United Auto Workers in 1946, president of the CIO in 1952, and vice president of the AFL-CIO in 1955. He was an important advisor to a number of Democratic presidents, especially John F. Kennedy.

This Labor Day, I thank all West Virginia workers. The work they do each day, whether mining coal, pumping gas, cutting meat in a grocery store, or serving the public, is important. West Virginia's history boasts many well-known labor leaders, but it is all of us, working together, that combine to make America a great nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Skewed Tax Policy Needs Fixing

When George W. Bush campaigned for the presidency in 2000, he talked a great deal about tax cuts. Once he took office, he rammed through some of the biggest tax cuts in the nation's history -- tax cuts which most benefit the wealthiest of Americans. It is a tax plan that does little to help working West Virginians.

By focusing on massive tax cuts for the wealthy first, President Bush squandered a great opportunity to improve America. The President came into office with a \$5.6 trillion surplus. He is preparing to end this term with a deficit of \$2.9 trillion. That incredible turnaround wasted the chance to make significant investments in education, fix Social Security, and strengthen Medicare. Instead of saving for the long-term and making sound investments in America, the Bush Administration chose to squander the surplus that had been handed to them in good faith.

Recently, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), whose director served as the top economist in the Bush White House, highlighted the disparity of the President's tax cuts. According to the CBO, one-third of the tax cuts have been directed to people in the top 1 percent income bracket, who earn an average of \$1.2 million annually. The report calculated that households with incomes in that top 1 percent bracket were receiv-

ing an average tax cut of \$78,460 this year. In fact, for this year, the average tax cut for those American households with the highest incomes is more than seventy times the tax cut for middle-income households.

That kind of disparity places an unfair burden on working families. Already, the Bush Administration has slashed funding for programs that are important to families in West Virginia: funding for classroom initiatives has been erased; veterans are forced to wait in long lines for health care; seniors are told, in essence, that the best Medicare prescription drug coverage that the government can afford is a maze of paperwork and a small menu of choices. These and other problems go without solutions because of the skewed tax policies of this Bush White House.

Every politician likes to vote to cut taxes. But, when the tax cuts are massive and unfair, the flip-side to that vote is less funding for initiatives like education, health care, transportation, and worker safety, all of which benefit families and regular Americans. President Bush has his priorities wrong. The Administration's economic policy is broken. Instead of irresponsible tax cuts for the privileged that have resulted in oceans of red ink, we ought to invest in the future of this nation by promoting policies that benefit all Americans.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building for an Innovation Economy in West Virginia

In May 1961, President Kennedy challenged America to be the first nation to put a man on the moon. It was an ambitious goal, for the United States was far behind the Soviet Union in the space race. The Soviets launched Sputnik, the first man-made satellite to orbit Earth, in October 1957, and had made significant advancements in the years after that accomplishment. But America relied on innovation and hard work to overcome the obstacles. The effort paid off when Neil Armstrong took the first steps on the moon on July 20, 1969.

Today, America's economy faces significant hurdles. Jobs are disappearing. Workers feel caught in a downward spiral. Health care costs skyrocket while wages stagnate.

America can do better. In the 21st century, the nation must have an innovation economy, one that relies on mind-power as much as muscle. At its core, the innovation economy will build on ideas and technologies. Our country must adapt to the changing realities of the global marketplace and respond with creative approaches to job creation and growth.

The seeds for an innovation economy have been planted across West Virginia.

For example, in Harrison County, the FBI Complex, which I helped to

bring to West Virginia beginning in 1990 and which employs more than 2,600 men and women, has served as a magnet for other high-tech investments, both private and public. The FBI Complex and the NASA Independent Verification and Validation Center in neighboring Marion County, which I helped to bring to the Mountain State in 1991, has served as the backbone for the West Virginia High-Tech Corridor. Businesses have started and expanded along that Corridor, merging creativity and technology to carve their niche.

Southern West Virginia can look to the early success of developments in the City of Hinton as a model. The Summers County community has invested funding and effort to foster a new commitment to technology jobs, and companies have responded. Two firms -- Computer Sciences Corporation and ManTech Corporation -- already employ more than 100 people in Hinton. I have partnered with community and business leaders to help make this venture a success.

Like the America of the 1960s which relied on knowledge and perseverance to lead the way to the moon, the America of the 21st century must also adapt to new challenges. The world will not stand still. We must find innovative ways to move our economy forward.

August 25, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Don't Gamble with Social Security

Once again, a presidential candidate is talking about gambling with the future of Social Security. Unfortunately, the candidate floating these bad ideas is the same candidate who, as president, has squandered the best opportunity in decades to cement the promise of Social Security for generations to come.

From modest beginnings in 1935, Social Security has become an essential facet of modern life. Today, one in seven Americans receives a Social Security benefit. But when the baby-boomer generation begins to retire, the cost of the benefits of retirees will exceed the contributions of workers paying into the system. That will place a much greater financial strain on the Social Security system which, if left unaddressed, could jeopardize retirement and disability benefits for tens of millions of Americans.

But rather than address the fundamental problem, the Bush White House talks about privatizing Social Security while wasting any opportunity to responsibly secure America's primary retirement and disability program. In fact, instead of ensuring the Social Security benefits promised to workers, the President has proposed spending the entire Social Security surplus of the next five years -- \$1.1 trillion -- to pay for tax cuts

for the affluent and corporate elite. Not one dime would be allocated to save Social Security.

Everyone has a stake in the future of Social Security. It provides a safety net for retirees, workers with disabilities, and children who have lost a parent. Social Security can be the difference between living with dignity or living in poverty.

I will continue to push for sensible approaches to strengthen Social Security, not ill-conceived fiscal plans that jeopardize its future. Congress must anticipate the looming retirement of the baby-boomer generation and plan for it. That means eliminating the massive federal deficits sparked by the Bush White House's fiscal priorities of tax cuts above all else, and putting the people's priorities first. Instead of short-sighted proposals and campaign slogans that gamble with the long-term stability of Social Security, it is time for serious debate about the future of the program.

In 1935, when President Franklin Roosevelt signed the law creating the Social Security system, he recognized its importance. He stated that Social Security would "give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age." We must not allow that protection to fail.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A White House Roadblock to Safe Highways

Across the country, safe, modern roads are key to economic growth and crucial to saving lives. In West Virginia, where the roads too often are narrow passages between mountains, modern roads and highways are vital. Modern roads save lives; they make trips to school and to work far less dangerous; and they help to attract new jobs to far-reaching parts of the state.

Throughout West Virginia, road and highway improvements are a high priority. Updating and expanding Route 35 is key to Mason and Putnam counties. Completing Corridor H is important for people in Central and Eastern West Virginia. Building the Mon-Fayette Expressway will help to improve travel in North Central West Virginia. And progress on the Coalfields Expressway and the King Coal Highway is a priority for residents in Southern West Virginia. Throughout the state, residents understand a simple truth: modern roads make for a better quality of life.

Recognizing the same truth, the Senate has overwhelmingly passed legislation called the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act. Because of my efforts, that legislation provides \$2.575 billion for West Virginia highway construction -- \$715 million above the current highway funding law. This invest-

ment would mean progress and jobs. The legislation would lead to fewer lives lost in traffic accidents. It would mean a fresh infusion of dollars for projects that have been in the works for many years, projects that West Virginians are ready to see become reality.

Despite the urgent need, the Bush White House has threatened to veto this legislation. Instead of supporting the Senate plan which has strong backing among Democratic and Republican Senators, the Bush Administration would rather play political games. It is time for the games to end. America needs these funds for safer roads and new jobs. Jeopardizing the safety and quality of life for Americans is not the hallmark of leadership; rather, it is the hallmark of an administration that is out of step with the needs of America's families.

A modern, efficient highway network is one of West Virginia's most pressing needs and a cornerstone of economic development. Safe roads save lives while promoting job creation. While it will be extremely difficult to accomplish under this short-sighted veto threat by the Bush White House, I will continue to press for legislation to make the improvements that are so necessary to our state's roads and highways. West Virginians, who have been waiting all too long for these better, safer roads, deserve nothing less.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Standing Firm for Steel Communities

Since 1997, the American steel industry has been in crisis -- a crisis that continues today. Waves of unfairly subsidized and dumped foreign steel imports have washed away entire steel communities. Ripple effects are causing severe hardships for families throughout America.

In response, injured companies and workers continue to bring charges of illegal trade against foreign countries, and many countries are found in violation of trade agreements. As a result, the U.S. International Trade Commission and the Department of Commerce impose financial penalties on those steel products.

Under the law in 2000, these penalties were deposited in the U.S. Treasury to be used for general government programs. Injured companies and the workers who were laid-off or saw their pensions and health care slashed were left to fend for themselves. The government profited from their hardship. That simply was not right.

In response, I worked with a bipartisan group of Senators to help these workers and companies. Through what is commonly called the Byrd Amendment, penalties collected from trade partners violating the law are now available to those Americans injured by the violation. It simply makes sense.

If a driver is found at fault in a traffic accident, that driver has to pay to repair the other automobile

and help the other driver. Thanks to the Byrd Amendment, the same logic is applied to trade violations.

Despite this logic, the World Trade Organization (WTO) recently ruled that the European Union and other U.S. trade partners can retaliate against the Byrd Amendment. This ruling is outrageous. The WTO and these foreign countries want to stop the Byrd Amendment from helping hundreds of American companies, workers, and entire communities injured by unfair trade.

Our foreign trade partners fail to admit that there is a far simpler way for the fines under the Byrd Amendment to disappear: They can follow the rules. If these countries do not violate trade agreements, illegally subsidize products, or allow products to be dumped on American shores, the U.S. government will not levy duties on their products. But our trade partners want to continue to violate the law and chip away at America's economic base. They want to do the crime but not do the time.

This is a time of tremendous economic uncertainty. The United States faces stalled economic growth, a stagnant stock market, and the largest trade and budget deficits in history. Congress ought not allow the WTO to undercut one of the few federal trade initiatives that helps, rather than hurts, America's working families.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting a Piece of History

For many years, I have worked with men and women in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle to find a way to protect the history and the heritage of one of our state's jewels -- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (NHP).

Harpers Ferry is one of the most unique places in West Virginia. This one location has been home to many of the country's Founding Fathers and some of our notable thinkers. It has been the site for key events in almost every period of our history, including the Revolutionary War, the Lewis and Clark expedition to the West, and the Civil War. Harpers Ferry NHP is also among the most beautiful places in our state, set at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers. Sunsets at Harpers Ferry are simply magnificent.

Yet, this history was jeopardized by pressures from the ever-expanding urban sprawl from Washington, D.C. The land surrounding the Park was being swallowed up, and with it many significant historical sites. The National Park Service was unable to respond and purchase additional acres because the Park was nearing its maximum capacity. It would have been against the law for the Park Service to acquire any sizeable parcels of land.

With this concern in

mind, and with the encouragement of residents of the surrounding communities, I started work to expand and improve Harpers Ferry NHP. I shepherded funds through Congress for the purchase of the Murphy Farm property adjacent to the Park and facilitated the acquisition of the historic U.S. Armory Grounds in Harpers Ferry. Now, I am pleased to report, Congress has approved unanimously legislation I wrote to extend the Park's boundary by 1,240 acres, from its current 2,505 acres to 3,745 acres. This expansion plan has gathered broad public support as well as the support of groups, including the Friends of Harpers Ferry, the Harpers Ferry Conservancy, and the Civil War Preservation Trust.

The story of Harpers Ferry is really the story of America. In one setting, several themes in America's story converge: exploration, industry and transportation, the question of slavery, the Civil War, and the natural splendor of our nation. The Park tells the stories of people and events that influenced the course of history and made the nation what it is today.

I am proud that this important legislation is on the verge of becoming law. We have an obligation to protect and enrich such a special place so that its lessons and legacy will live on for generations to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting West Virginia's Wonderful Wild

"Oh, the West Virginia hills! How majestic and how grand." These words, from "The West Virginia Hills," one of the Mountain State's official songs, capture the sentiment not only of West Virginia natives but also of the thousands of tourists who flock to the state to view its scenic wonders.

West Virginia is a place where one can see and feel and hear nature without interruptions from the hectic outside world. It is a place where parents and children, young and old, can experience diverse wildlife, rushing waters, and thriving vegetation firsthand. I have long sought to preserve our state's God-given treasures. These wild lands remain relatively as the Creator made them with the help of legislation that recently celebrated its 40th birthday.

In 1964, Congress passed the Wilderness Act to protect wilderness areas throughout the country by restricting grazing, mining, timber cutting, and mechanized vehicles in these regions. By safeguarding the ecological, scenic, and scientific value of America's wilderness, we preserve it for future generations. I am one of only three remaining senators who cast a vote in favor of the historic legislation. I am proud that the 9.1 million acres originally designated as protected wilderness areas 40 years ago has grown to more than

105 million acres in 44 states.

In West Virginia, wilderness areas are some of the more popular destinations for residents and visitors alike. Dolly Sods, Otter Creek, Cranberry, Laurel Fork North, and Laurel Fork South Wilderness Areas are unique reminders of the beauty of nature and the handiwork of the Creator.

I recently received a letter from Mrs. Margaret Baker of Hillsboro who wrote of "how important wilderness areas are to the quality of life in West Virginia." Writing about West Virginia's Cranberry Wilderness Area, she explains that, in this special place "you can take your children here and actually see what nature looks like when it's not in a neatly labeled museum exhibit, when the animals aren't in cages and the trees aren't trimmed into perfect little bricketts of shrubbery."

Mrs. Baker is absolutely right.

It was West Virginia's natural wonders that inspired these words: "If o'er sea o'er land I roam, Still I'll think of happy home, And my friends among the West Virginia hills." I will continue my efforts in the Senate to protect these many examples of our state's scenic beauty that lie nestled within the West Virginia hills and ensure that they survive for generations to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Veterans Need Help

West Virginians have a proud record of service in the United States Armed Forces. The famed General Stonewall Jackson hailed from present-day West Virginia. Chuck Yeager, the World War II ace and first man to travel faster than sound, is a proud West Virginian. Staff Sergeant Junior Spurrer from Bluefield was the second most decorated American soldier in World War II.

There are many more West Virginians who served the nation but whose names will not be recorded in the great military histories of our country. These veterans have asked little of their country. They expect only that the government provide them with the benefits they earned in service to their country.

But, time and time again, the Bush White House has turned its back on veterans. When choosing between budget-busting tax cuts or funding veterans programs, the Administration has cut taxes for America's super-wealthy instead of taking care of America's veterans.

For the last three years, Congress tried to increase veterans benefits by allowing military retirees to keep all of their Veterans Administration (VA) disability checks and military retirement pay. But the Bush White House fought against funds for

veterans and even threatened to veto a \$396 billion defense bill to prevent veterans from receiving their due compensation.

This year, President Bush approved plans to close or cut services at veterans hospitals across the country. The Beckley VA Medical Center, which serves 40,000 veterans in Southern West Virginia, narrowly missed the President's chopping block. The Beckley facility was saved only with a last-minute intervention by Senator Rockefeller, Representative Rahall, and myself.

Last year, the Bush Administration decided that an entire category of veterans should no longer be eligible to seek health care from the VA. As a result, more than 520,000 veterans will be barred from VA hospitals. The Bush Administration also wants to double the cost of prescription drugs for thousands of veterans while increasing their doctor visit fees by 33 percent and sticking them with new annual enrollment fees.

West Virginia's veterans know about sacrifice. They have given much in service to this country. Yet, the Bush White House wants veterans to give up more and more of their hard-earned benefits. The Administration ought to stick up for veterans instead of sticking them with a bigger health care bill.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Farmington, a Tragic Reminder

November marks the 36th anniversary of the tragic Farmington Mine Disaster. It was this mine disaster, in which 78 coal miners lost their lives, that prompted Congress to pass the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 -- the most comprehensive mine health and safety legislation to date. In addition to enacting new, stronger safety and enforcement provisions, the 1969 act protected America's coal miners from Black Lung by limiting their exposure to coal dust.

The anniversary of the Farmington Mine Disaster is an unfortunate reminder that the struggles of American labor have been a fight for safer working conditions as well as better wages, shorter hours, and job security. It also is a reminder that our federal government must be committed to making America's coal mines safer.

This message seems lost on the Bush Administration, which has championed the most anti-labor policies in more than a century. The Bush White House has proposed increasing the allowable level of coal mine dust, reversing the 1969 act and needlessly exposing miners to Black Lung. Furthermore, the Administration has proposed killing a host of mine-safety regulations, including rules necessary to protect miners from toxic chemicals.

The Bush White House assault on American workers hardly ends with coal miners. The Administration has cut funding for needed job training programs. It is blocking efforts to provide unemployment benefits to jobless workers. It is stripping many workers of their right to overtime pay. It is repealing safety rules necessary for the protection of American workers. It has attacked the civil service system. It has sought to weaken collective bargaining rights.

Under this Administration's watch, 2.5 million good-paying manufacturing jobs, including several thousand in West Virginia, have disappeared. On average, 34,000 jobs a month are being shipped overseas.

Today, when the real value of the minimum wage is sinking to record lows, the Bush Administration has trapped millions of workers in poverty by blocking congressional efforts to raise the standard of living for working Americans.

When the great American labor leader Samuel Gompers was asked what labor wanted, he had a simple answer, "more." President Bush has answered with more -- more for big oil, more for big insurance companies, more for the well-connected high rollers -- but, sadly, less for America's working families.

October 13, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Leaving West Virginia Children Behind

At Raleigh County's Mark Twain High School, I was one of 28 students in my 1934 graduating class. At Mark Twain, there was no question of accountability. The teachers were in charge. The students were there to study. The goal was to learn and always strive to make yourself smarter tomorrow than you are today.

Sadly, too often today, that same emphasis is not placed on teaching and learning. Parents know it. Members of Congress know it. That's why we voted to create the No Child Left Behind Act. Congress and President Bush worked together to ensure greater accountability in America's schools. We established standards and promised increased resources to help schools reach those standards and surpass them. But, to date, funding No Child Left Behind has been a Bush Administration empty promise.

Since President Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act into law in 2002, not one Bush Administration budget has provided the funds that America's schools expected. In fact, nationwide, the Bush White House has shortchanged schools by \$33 billion. The Administration trumpets No Child Left Behind, but fails miserably when funding it.

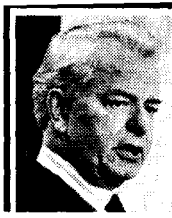
For example, the federal Title One initiative provides dollars geared specifically for children from poor school districts. About half of West

Virginia's public schools receive Title I funding. While the President's No Child Left Behind Act promised West Virginia schools \$154 million for Title I for 2005, the Bush Administration's budget slashed that funding by more than \$55 million--a 36 percent cut. Translated into students, it would deny full services to 18,398 West Virginia children. Evidently, "Leave Only 18,398 Children Behind" was not a catchy enough title for the new law.

When President Bush signed No Child Left Behind, he said, "There's no greater challenge than to make sure that every single child, regardless of where they live, how they're raised, the income level of their family, every child receive a first-class education in America."

But what the President said and what the President does has proved to be vastly different. When it comes to America's schools and keeping the promise of No Child Left Behind, the Bush White House gets an "F."

If there is one federal investment that can offer real dividends down the road, it is education. It is time to end the posturing and give students and teachers the resources that they need to succeed. It is time for an Administration that will not play games with America's kids. Our schools and our children cannot afford four more years of broken promises.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Powering Job Growth in the New Century

In this century, West Virginia and the country will need to rely on innovation in order to create new jobs and new economic opportunities. In fact, innovation will be the key to whether we are able to lead or whether we stagnate. In a world where production costs are vastly different among countries, the one factor that will set the United States apart is our ability to generate new ideas and new approaches to meet demands.

In West Virginia, many of those innovations will be spurred by the National Technology Transfer Center (NTTC) at Wheeling Jesuit University. The NTTC provides technology management services that turn knowledge into value for the benefit of its clients. The group matches public needs with government research and development.

The U.S. Department of State is the most recent beneficiary of the work at the NTTC. The State Department has placed an order for 3,000 "HazMat Smart-Strips" -- a chemical-detection warning badge for emergency responders that was commercialized with assistance from the NTTC.

The Smart-Strip, produced at Wheeling-based Printech, is a \$20 strip of vinyl and paper that changes color when exposed to hazardous chemicals such as chlorine, fluoride, nerve agents, oxidizers, arsenic,

sulfides, and cyanide in liquid or aerosol form. A change in color in any of the eight categories alerts users to exposure, directing a responder to get additional gear, to decontaminate, or to evacuate the area.

Fire departments, hazardous materials technicians, law enforcement officers, branches of the military, consumers, and even communities located near chemical plants have ordered thousands of the baseball-card-sized Smart-Strips since they appeared on the market last year.

The Smart-Strip is an example of the innovation that will help to drive our economy in the 21st Century. The market for new ideas and new techniques never dries up. The push for better, faster, stronger, more affordable technologies will always drive the economy, and there is no reason why West Virginia cannot hold the keys to keep that engine running.

For decades, West Virginia's economy has relied on the strength of our arms and backs. Coal mining. Steel production. Chemical manufacturing. Those sectors of our economy will always be vital. But we also must use the strength of our minds and seek new opportunities to create jobs and lift our state. Innovations like the HazMat Smart-Strip will help to lead the way.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WV Guard Rises to the Challenge Again

As the saying goes, if a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well. The West Virginia National Guard has proved time and again that it abides by these wise words. The citizens of the Mountain State and America's troops around the world are safer because of the efforts of these brave men and women. Whether it be a devastating flood at home or the seemingly endless tours of duty in Iraq, they are always ready to answer the call.

With top-notch performance comes increased responsibility. The West Virginia Air National Guard's 167th Airlift Wing in Martinsburg has been selected for an important new role in the nation's defense. Beginning in 2007, the 167th's current fleet of twelve C-130 aircraft will be replaced with a new fleet of ten C-5 planes, which are among the largest aircraft in the world. The C-5's massive payload capability has made the aircraft an invaluable part of U.S. Air Force military and humanitarian efforts for the past 20 years.

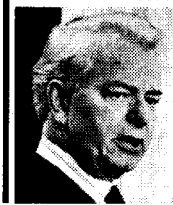
Preparations are underway to ready the 167th Airlift Wing for the arrival of its newest charges, but much work remains to be

done. I recently advanced funding that will further the construction projects to help transform the base into a suitable home for the C-5s. The more than \$56 million in C-5 planning, design, and construction funds I guided through Congress this year and the more than \$40 million I added to legislation in past years will help to lay the groundwork for the 167th's important new mission.

The benefits of the Martinsburg Air National Guard Base's new assignment will extend beyond the 167th's borders. With the C-5s, comes new jobs and expanded infrastructure for the Eastern Panhandle. More than 100 additional positions will be filled, and the base's increased economic impact will provide a boost for the entire region.

The 167th Airlift Wing has long been recognized as one of the best trained units in the nation. They serve with the same dedication and perseverance exemplified by West Virginians in all branches of the nation's Armed Services. I remain committed to providing General Tackett and his units with the resources they need to continue their impeccable record of accomplishment.

November 3, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Staying Healthy in Flu Season

The country's current shortage of flu vaccines has dominated news headlines and caused widespread concern. The insufficient vaccine supply has left hundreds of thousands of high-risk Americans scrambling for the scant doses. The more that West Virginians know about the shortage, the more likely they will be to stay healthy this flu season.

The flu shot scarcity is due largely to the closure of one of the major flu vaccine producer's overseas plants. Federal health agencies are working to identify new vaccine sources to help fill the shortage. Medical experts recommend that West Virginians who fall in the high-risk category should take measures to get vaccinated as additional doses become available. Experts further suggest that those in low-risk categories should not get vaccinated but should take precautions to help protect their health during the flu season.

Specifically, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that the following groups of people should have top priority for receiving the flu vaccine: adults 65 years of age or older; children between the ages of 6 and 23 months; children on chronic aspirin therapy; caregivers for infants younger than 6 months; health care staff that work with patients; pregnant women; women

who expect to be pregnant during flu season; and all nursing home residents. In addition, anyone with chronic medical conditions, regardless of age, should be vaccinated.

It is important for high-risk West Virginians to stay informed about the quantity of flu shots available locally. State health officials have announced that the vaccine will be distributed based on demand. High-risk individuals should contact their doctors or local health departments to inquire about the availability of the vaccine in their areas.

West Virginians in the low-risk groups who do not receive the vaccine can still take steps to stay healthy during the winter months. The CDC advises everyone to eat balanced meals with the recommended amounts of vitamins and minerals, get a proper amount of exercise, minimize contact with people who are sick, stay home from work or school if sick, and wash hands regularly to help ward off the flu and other ailments.

All West Virginians can be advocates for their own health. For more information on flu vaccine supplies, they can call the West Virginia Immunization Program at 304-558-2188 or 800-642-3634. The right mix of persistence and precaution can help all of us to stay healthy in the coming months.

November 10, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Time to Count Our Blessings

From its first celebration, when the Pilgrims sat down with American Indians to commemorate the plentiful harvest, to when Abraham Lincoln declared it an official holiday after the Civil War, Thanksgiving has always been a time to remember the blessings of the Creator.

This Thanksgiving is a time to reflect upon the many things we take for granted.

We have much for which we may offer thanks. We may celebrate the food on our tables, the roofs over our heads, and the friends and family with whom we share our meal. We may be thankful for our health, or for having the strength and support to deal with our afflictions. We may be thankful for the great nation in which we live, still a land of plenty and a land of great opportunity.

In this hotly contested election year, we may be grateful that we have a process of selecting our leaders in which everyone can participate, and which peacefully and securely affects the transfer of elected power. However one may

feel about the outcome of the election, it is still a vastly preferable system to that which exists in many other nations. The nightly news is full of stories, from the Ivory Coast to the Gaza Strip, which offer object lessons in how not to transition leadership. We are blest to be Americans.

In a year punctuated by war, we may offer our prayers and our gratitude to the many men and women who have lost their lives in Afghanistan and Iraq for the sacrifice that they have made for the nation.

To the gravely wounded and mentally tormented who have returned from this war, we may pray for their speedy recovery.

To those men and women still serving overseas, we may pray for a safe return.

To those families who are separated by war from loved ones this holiday, we may offer our heartfelt support.

And to everyone who will travel this Thanksgiving to be with family and friends, I wish a safe journey and a happy holiday filled with spiritual blessings, fellowship, and love.

November 17, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hope for Healing the Mind

Oh, the wonders of the human mind! Infinite in possibility and unique in capacity, it is surely God's greatest creation. The mind is a soaring and powerful force, able to produce incredible beauty. But all too often, the great gifts of the mind are seized by Alzheimer's Disease, depression, schizophrenia, or other maladies that prey upon the brain. Soon, West Virginia will become home to one of the world's major centers for research into these neurological illnesses.

I recently joined Senator Jay Rockefeller and Governor Bob Wise at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute at West Virginia University (WVU). This collaborative effort between WVU and Johns Hopkins University is named for Senator Rockefeller's mother who suffered from Alzheimer's Disease until her death in 1992. The Institute will be the largest scientific research venture in the history of West Virginia and the only major research institute in the world to focus on human memory.

Many families have been personally touched by the suffering caused by Alzheimer's or other cognitive diseases. The pain of watching the mind and memory of a loved one slip away is unbearable. The slow loss of the ability to recognize one's spouse,

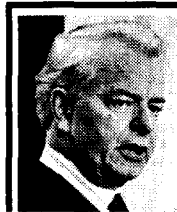
child, or grandchild is one of the cruelest blows for victims and their families.

I am particularly moved by the personal story of Blanchette Rockefeller and her struggle with Alzheimer's Disease. I admire Senator Rockefeller and his family for having generously contributed more than \$15 million dollars of their own money to carry out the noble mission of the new Institute.

I am gratified to have been able to secure federal funds for the construction of the Institute. Also, as the senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have helped to double the level of funding for the National Institutes of Health. This increase strengthens the federal government's commitment to advancing biomedical science and helps to create a bridge between ideas, the laboratory, and most importantly, the patient.

I am humbled by the many miracles of science that I have witnessed in just my lifetime. Each year, experts discover new cures and treatments for such illnesses as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, depression, and many more. Many of these scientific advances were achieved in the past century. I take great pride in knowing that discoveries of the next century are sure to take place at the Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute.

November 24, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Backbone for Job Growth

In 1947, when I began my public service in the West Virginia House of Delegates, there were only four miles of divided, four-lane highway in the entire state. Four miles! In fact, there were so few miles that they were not recorded on the state roadmap that year. It took several hours to travel round-trip between Beckley and Charleston. Getting to the Eastern Panhandle from Southern West Virginia took an entire day. Commerce stalled because West Virginia's road and highway system was, as the *Saturday Evening Post* noted in a February 1960 edition, "decades behind that of its neighbors."

When I was elected to Congress in 1952, I made it a goal to turn that situation around. Today, more than a half-century later, I am proud to report that West Virginia has made significant progress.

By the end of this year, the West Virginia Department of Transportation estimates that there will be more than 1,300 miles of divided, four-lane highways throughout the state. These miles are in every region of the state, from I-68 in North Central West Virginia to I-77 in our western counties. Corridor Highways, promised by the federal government 39 years ago as part of the Appalachian Development Highway System, now crisscross West Virginia. Throughout the state, as miles long-planned

are finally paved, progress follows close behind.

There is still considerable work ahead. Route Nine in the Eastern Panhandle; U.S. 35 in Mason and Putnam counties; the Coalfields Expressway, Route Ten, and the King Coal Highway in Southern West Virginia; the Mon-Fayette Expressway in North Central West Virginia; Corridor H in the Potomac Highlands -- these are all ongoing high-priority projects.

To that end, using my position as the senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have added hundreds of millions of dollars to legislation to speed the completion of these highways. Soon, the President will sign legislation containing more than \$417 million that I obtained for West Virginia highway construction this year. I am proud of that work, and look forward to the day when each of these projects is completed.

In West Virginia, we understand the importance of modern roads. They make for safe travel to school and to work. New highways create new job opportunities. Throughout the state, residents understand a simple truth; namely, modern roads make for a better quality of life.

In the Senate, I will continue my efforts to construct West Virginia's highways and, importantly, build the backbone for progress in the 21st century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bringing Doctors to the Children

In many parts of rural West Virginia, a trip to the doctor for a check-up is anything but routine, and specialized medical care can be hours away from home. For children, this is especially dangerous. Vaccinations are missed. Early signs of medical problems go undetected. That's why I have worked throughout my career in the U.S. Senate to expand health care opportunities for all West Virginians, and especially for our children.

The latest effort comes thanks to Marshall University's Byrd Center for Rural Health. Already, the Center provides medical services to West Virginians who do not live near hospitals or clinics. The Center's mission is to get past the geographic isolation that serves as a barrier to health care in rural communities. Technology plays a key role in that effort.

For instance, the Center for Rural Health, in a partnership that I helped to start with the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the NASA National Technology Transfer Center based at Wheeling Jesuit University, has introduced an initiative called HEALTHeWV. Through this effort, patients use small computerized devices to answer questions about their illnesses and any health-related problems affecting their daily lives. This information helps doctors to better treat patients based on their full medical

histories, rather than on one particular symptom or illness.

Now, the Byrd Center is expanding its reach to young people with a mobile medical unit specifically geared for children. Utilizing \$1 million that I recently added to federal legislation, this traveling doctor's office brings medical professionals directly to the children who need them most. This funding will help to ensure that this important initiative is able to expand its medical services and treat more children in Southern West Virginia.

When children receive proper medical care, they are more likely to avoid serious health conditions later in life. Marshall's mobile medical unit provides immunizations, routine check-ups, physicals, and sick visits to thousands of young people each year. Children are healthier because of the care they receive at the mobile facility, and soon more West Virginia children will benefit.

Access to quality health care is an essential part of life for all Americans, but is often a challenge for those living in rural areas. That's why initiatives like HEALTHeWV and the Marshall University mobile medical unit are so important. These efforts break through the barriers of isolation in rural communities and ensure that health care is available throughout our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Celebrating the True Christmas Story

Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year, a time of joy and love, of family gatherings and warm memories. Over time, however, Christmas has become more about big store sales and shopping malls rather than the birth of Jesus. The meaning of Christmas is overshadowed by the pressures and strains of a commercialized holiday.

At its core, Christmas will always be about a couple who found no shelter but a manger, and also about a newborn child who would become the Savior of the world.

That is why, each year at this time, I reread the Christmas story in the Gospel of Luke. My Christmas wish is that all of us will remember the words and, more importantly, the true meaning of this sacred season.

"All went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her

firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Perhaps, with a greater focus on family and faith than on gadgets and glitter, the materialism of Christmas will fade and we can truly understand the great and glorious meaning of Christmas.

My wife Erma and I wish for all West Virginians a happy and holy Christmas and New Year.

December 15, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting an American Symbol

The American Bald Eagle has long been the living symbol of freedom and liberty and the unshakable spirit of the American people. In 1782, the Second Continental Congress officially designated the Bald Eagle as the National Emblem of the United States. A species unique to North America and once very plentiful, the Bald Eagle population dropped to endangered levels by the 1960s. Fortunately, strong protection laws and conservation efforts have brought this majestic bird back from the brink of extinction, and I am pleased to have helped to guide through Congress legislation to help ensure the continued, long-term growth of the eagle population.

While the national bird is currently classified as a threatened species, it is expected that it will be removed from the endangered species list in the near future. The Bald Eagle would still be protected under existing federal and state regulations but little state or federal funding is available for that purpose. Significant funding will be required to monitor the Bald Eagle population for five years, as specified for delisted species under the

Endangered Species Act.

The bill I cosponsored authorizes the United States Mint to create and market a special three-coin set that will commemorate the recovery and revival of the American eagle. The money collected from the sale of the coin set will be placed in an American Eagle Fund, and interest from that fund will support ongoing eagle care efforts, as well as the monitoring and protection programs established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Bald Eagle is a noble symbol of our Republic which has endured significant challenges to its survival. I commend the conservation efforts that have helped to return our symbol of freedom to the skies. There are now more than 5,000 nesting pairs and 20,000 total Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states and more than 35,000 Bald Eagles in Alaska.

I am proud to have supported legislation which celebrates the eagles' recovery and ensures that, as the eagle moves off the endangered species list, resources are in place to help keep the population healthy for decades to come.

December 22, 2004



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net

The federal government is running in the red. Under the Bush Administration, federal deficits have reached record levels, and now the White House is scrambling to find ways to cut back. One area that I fear could be unwisely targeted is the Medicaid program -- a health care safety net for more than 300,000 West Virginians.

Since 1965, the federal government has helped states to pay for health care for low-income Americans who do not have a way to afford medical treatments. In West Virginia, the health care infrastructure is comprised of hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, physicians, and community health centers. These providers are the backbone of the health care safety net, and they rely heavily on federal Medicaid funding to care for the poor, disabled, and elderly.

President Bush has already pushed forward a plan that would turn the Medicaid program into a block grant and arbitrarily cap the health care funding available for Medicaid recipients. That's a plan that would jeopardize medical services for the most medically vulnerable West Virginians, including low-income children, parents, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and senior citizens.

If the President's Medicaid plan becomes law, states would be left to shoulder the burden of

increasing health care costs on their own. A downturn in the economy that causes more people to become uninsured, public health threats or natural disasters, advances in costly medical technology or treatments, and the increasing costs of prescription drugs -- all these could drive a state's costs to levels higher than anticipated. And the health care needs of low-income people do not magically disappear just because there are fewer federal funds available.

As health care costs continue to grow over time, a limit on federal funds would force governors and state legislators to pit the needs of different populations against one another. States would be forced to implement even deeper cuts than those in recent years by further restricting eligibility, eliminating or reducing critical health benefits, and severely cutting or freezing reimbursement rates for health care providers. Consequently, many vulnerable people would lose access to health insurance and quality health care services.

I welcome an honest debate about ways to strengthen and improve the Medicaid program. As states are so often the incubators of policy innovations, I also recognize the need to increase state flexibility in the Medicaid program. But I am not willing to go along with President Bush's plan that cuts giant holes in the health care safety net for our nation's most vulnerable citizens.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Tragedy of Incredible Magnitude

On December 26, an earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0 on the Richter Scale occurred off the west coast of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia. That quake triggered a series of tsunamis that affected several countries throughout South and Southeast Asia, as well as Somalia, Tanzania, and Kenya in East Africa. But that scientific explanation does not begin to describe the devastation left in the wake of the calamity.

Lives by the tens of thousands destroyed. Families broken. Houses flattened. Communities washed away. There are few words to describe the destruction. It is a tragedy that is almost beyond comprehension.

At such times, one must wonder why it takes such tragedies to bring out the best of the human spirit. Yet, many of us only come to grips with our common bond of humanity in the face of truly enormous disaster.

The stark reminder of such horrific events is that man is really not in control of this world. God rules this world, and perhaps He sends us such devastation from time to time so that the goodness of human kindness and true empathy toward our fellow man. I do not know, but I do know that the prayers of many West Virginians are with the devastated families, the missing, and the dead at

this time.

Recovery will not be simple or quick. It will be a monumental task, one that I am encouraged to see the entire world joining to undertake. The United States is a strong partner in this work. The federal government has already pledged \$350 million to the effort, but our commitment to this effort does not stop there.

Americans from all walks of life have opened their hearts and their pocketbooks to the victims of the tsunami disaster. I commend President Bush for designating his father, President George H. W. Bush, and President Bill Clinton to lead the effort in raising private contributions. Those donations are pouring into relief agencies, and many people with expertise in medicine and other critical needs are putting their lives on hold to travel to these regions to help.

West Virginians wishing to make a contribution to the relief effort can help in several ways. Visit my Internet site, <http://byrd.senate.gov>, to learn more.

There may be many miles between our country and the victims of the tsunami, but we share the common bond of humanity. America will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with those recovering from this disaster.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Coal's Future Bright

The United States needs a comprehensive energy plan, but, because of a policy stalemate in Washington, D.C., no such plan exists. I have tried to break that logjam, putting forward proposals to boost America's energy independence. Recently, my efforts were incorporated into a top-notch energy plan written by a bipartisan group of experts from industry, government, labor, academia, and environmental and consumer groups.

For two years, this group -- the National Commission on Energy Policy -- has worked on a strategy that places coal at the front and center of America's energy future while also cutting back on the nation's heavy reliance on oil and fuel imports. The need for such a strategy could not be more important. Breaking that foreign oil dependence is crucial.

By cutting America's reliance on foreign oil, we reduce the need for an American military presence in the Middle East. By shrinking the U.S. military presence in the Middle East, we address the concerns of those who are opposed to American forces near Islamic holy sites and take away a major reason for terrorist attacks. That is why this issue is so central to the country's future. America's energy policy is closely linked to America's national security.

The new report includes detailed recommendations for oil security, climate change, natural gas supply, the future of nuclear energy, and other energy and environmental challenges. Importantly for West Virginia, many of the Commission's recommendations can breathe new life into coal. The Commission recognizes that coal can be at the center stage of our efforts to secure our energy future.

The just-unveiled strategy recommends speeding the installation and use of technologies that will use coal more efficiently and more cleanly. These technologies can result in coal's being used in a host of applications -- from power generation to chemicals and liquid fuels -- while also significantly reducing the emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, mercury, and carbon dioxide.

I believe that energy and environmental goals are two sides of the same coin, and the National Commission on Energy Policy recognizes that truth. Using this new report as a starting point, it is time for Congress and the Bush Administration to work with industry, labor, academic, environmental, and community interests to find common ground. By doing so, we can champion a new energy and environmental legacy that will move the nation forward into a brighter, more energy independent 21st century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Time for New Beginnings

On January 17, 2005, I had the honor of sitting with Governor and Mrs. Joe Manchin as he delivered his inaugural address from the steps of the State Capitol in Charleston. Our new Governor talked about his hope for the future -- a hope that he wants to turn into progress. During his campaign to be our state's chief executive, Joe Manchin brought unity and energy everywhere he traveled, and I hope that we will continue to see these forces at work in his administration.

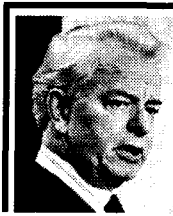
As Governor Manchin begins his first term, President Bush is embarking on his second. The start of a new term in office, even for those who have held that office already, offers the chance for a fresh start. Inauguration Day is not just for the man or woman who places a hand on the Bible and swears to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution." Rather, it is a day when the entire country can come together to celebrate our Republic and the opportunities that are before us.

Many challenges face the country as President Bush begins his second term, but the opportunities are just as plentiful. We need to make quality health care more accessible and affordable. We need to protect Social Security so

that this safety net is available when Americans need it the most. We must put more Americans to work and ensure that they are paid a decent wage. And we should direct America's energy policy in a responsible and balanced way.

Along with a focus on these and other issues which impact our daily lives, we also must re-evaluate America's policies beyond our borders. The resistance in Iraq continues unabated. Scores of thousands of brave servicemen and women are hourly risking their lives to fulfill a murky mission with a seemingly untenable goal. The United States needs to reexamine its approach to Iraq and the Middle East because the approach is not working.

It will take a renewed commitment to bipartisan cooperation to address these and many other issues on which Congress will deliberate in the days ahead. The political rancor which has plagued the legislative process in recent years can be put to rest. I hope that this year's inaugural ceremonies will mark a moment in history when partisan divides begin to take a back seat to working together in the best interests of the people of West Virginia and the nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Social Security for the Next Generation

Many West Virginians have listened with concern in past weeks to dire claims about Social Security and its ability to continue to pay benefits. It is important for the 405,000 West Virginians who receive a monthly Social Security check to know that no imminent crisis exists. Rest assured, your Social Security check will continue to arrive in the mail.

However, the current worker-to-retiree demographics in the United States spell trouble for Social Security and its ability to keep up with its promised benefits for future generations. People are having smaller families resulting in fewer new workers paying taxes into Social Security. And seniors are living longer and collecting benefits for many more years. In fact, in a little more than a decade, in 2018, the Social Security Trustees anticipate that the revenues collected from Social Security taxes will no longer be enough to pay full benefits to everyone eligible.

Members of Congress must reach across party lines to consider how to best ensure that Social Security, which has well served three generations of West Virginians, remains robust for future generations. We should beware hasty decisions that may actually undermine the

Social Security system that so many West Virginians know and trust.

The volatility of the financial markets suggests caution in how we approach changes to the Social Security program, in particular, the use of individual accounts. Simply allowing workers to invest Social Security funds in the stock market may sound appealing to some, but the start-up costs of these new accounts and our skyrocketing budget deficits could actually sap revenues needed to pay current retirees.

West Virginians should insist on knowing the complete, unvarnished details of any proposal that would affect their Social Security benefits. That is why I have written to President Bush to urge him to explain the full cost of his Social Security plan and its possible effect on workers' benefits. Every employer, laborer, office worker, student, spouse, and child, who pays into Social Security or expects one day to receive benefits from it, deserves to know the fine print of the President's plan.

For many West Virginians, Social Security is their sole source of income. It is incumbent upon all of us to fully understand the details of any suggested reforms to ensure that West Virginians' best interests are protected.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building the Tools for a Modern Military

Tucked away in Mineral County is West Virginia's largest defense manufacturing facility, the U.S. Navy's Allegheny Ballistics Laboratory (ABL). Started in 1941 to build ammunition for American soldiers fighting in World War Two, ABL has undergone a transformation in recent years to take its place as a high-tech hub for new defense-related technologies.

I have been proud to be part of that transformation. Using my position as the senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have worked with the U.S. Navy to invest tens of millions of dollars to demolish the old World War Two-era buildings and replace them with top-of-the-line manufacturing technologies and facilities.

The results have been astounding. Today at ABL, 60 years after it was founded, nearly 1,200 men and women are on site designing the latest generation of warheads, rocket motors, and other vital military components for the Department of Defense. ABL now operates in four areas of excellence to support the U.S. military -- tactical propulsion, precision ordinance, missile defense, and composite structures -- all of which contribute to the superiority

of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Recently, the largest company at ABL, Alliant Techsystems, announced that it would add another 180 jobs to the Mineral County facility. Beginning later this year, this new division will manufacture fuses and sensors for artillery, and both guided and unguided bombs.

ATK's decision to anchor this production operation at ABL is a credit to the facility's improvements and the quality work of its employees. These new jobs will provide a significant economic boost to Mineral County and will help to protect America's military forces around the world.

There is no doubt as to the strength of America's military might. A major part of that high standard is the ability of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines to rely on cutting-edge weapons and resources. West Virginia is helping to design the next generation of advanced, innovative defense weaponry. I take great pride in West Virginia's thriving defense initiatives and will continue to work to provide the men and women of our country's Armed Forces with the technology, the equipment, and the training that they need to successfully defend our nation.

February 2, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Meeting Our Constitutional Responsibilities

At the start of each term, Senators swear to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States...." It is a sacred oath, one before God and man, that I take with the deepest conviction.

The Constitution mandates that Senators provide "advice and consent" for presidential nominees, including Cabinet officers. I support the majority of President Bush's nominees. But I have opposed two people responsible for scars on the reputation and integrity of the United States.

When asked to confirm Condoleezza Rice as Secretary of State, I voted no. I do not question her credentials, but I oppose many of the decisions that Dr. Rice made during her four years as National Security Advisor. There remain too many unanswered questions about Dr. Rice's failure to protect our country before the attacks of September 11, her public efforts to politicize intelligence leading to war with Iraq, and her allegiance to the unconstitutional Bush doctrine of first-strike war. I cannot endorse promotion of a person who helped to set us on the path of a war that has led to the deaths of more than 1,440 American military men and women, and changed the image of this nation from that of a peacemaker to that of a bully.

When asked to confirm Alberto Gonzales as Attorney General, I again voted no. Mr. Gonzales, as chief legal counsel to President

Bush, provided his interpretation of law and policy directly to the President. When asked whether the United States should use torture as a means of interrogation, Mr. Gonzales gave the green light. Opinions on torture, which Mr. Gonzales either wrote, requested, authorized, endorsed, or had implemented, contributed to the graphic pictures and accounts of prisoner abuse in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, and Iraq, including at the Abu Ghraib prison.

The Constitutional "advice and consent" responsibility is not a rubberstamp endorsement of a nominee's educational achievement or level of expertise. Senators are expected to use their best judgment in considering nominations. The people deserve nothing less.

In my judgment, these two nominees' records did not merit giving them higher responsibilities in government.

At his Inauguration, President Bush spoke about America's historic support of freedom. But truly supporting freedom means upholding human rights, not seeking rationalizations to circumvent them. Moral standards long have defined America. But official policies of torture and abuse, and misleading a nation about the reasons for war, undermine our moral authority. Rewarding the architects of such policies makes a travesty of accountability. The Constitution's Framers would not have approved, and neither did I.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bush Budget Doesn't Make the Grade

President Bush recently sent to Congress his budget for the coming year. His plan proposes to cut and, in many cases, eliminate funding for key education initiatives in the Mountain State. When it comes to helping West Virginia students achieve, the President gets an "F."

Schools across the country are struggling to meet tougher federal guidelines with already limited resources; yet, the Bush Administration has proposed the first cut to the education budget in a decade.

Nearly a third of all the programs targeted for elimination in the budget are education initiatives. On the President's chopping block are the very initiatives which make a contribution to the lives of students who most need assistance. West Virginia would see an \$8.4 million cut in vocational education, a \$3.8 million cut in education technology, a \$3.1 million cut in safe and drug-free schools programs, and a \$1.6 million cut in family literacy initiatives.

The Bush budget will also mean another year of broken promises when it comes to funding for the No Child Left Behind Act. About half of West Virginia's public schools receive Title I funding -- dollars geared specifically for children

from poor school districts. The Bush Administration promised West Virginia's Title I schools \$182 million for the coming year, but included only \$107 million in the budget, denying critical Title I services to 23,475 Mountain State students. The White House also pledged \$17.6 million for West Virginia after-school programs, but included only \$7.7 million in the budget, denying after-school services to 13,339 students.

Simply, No Child Left Behind made a promise. In exchange for higher standards and greater accountability, President Bush promised significant new resources to America's public schools. But, year after year, the Bush White House has failed to fulfill its promise. Accountability cannot just be a standard for teachers and students; it must also be a standard for the Administration.

The people of West Virginia gave President Bush their votes, and helped him win reelection, but what has he done to say thank you? He crafts a budget that shortchanges the education of our children and damages their future. Whether one uses 'new math' or 'old math,' cutting programs that help young West Virginians adds up to a loss for the Mountain State.

February 16, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

“Phishing” for Your Identity

Each day, more and more West Virginians surf the Internet, but there is a downside to this seemingly harmless activity. Common-place online transactions often reveal bits of personal information, including bank and credit card account numbers, Social Security numbers, or one's name, address, and telephone number. Unfortunately, devious individuals seek to obtain this sensitive information and use it, without the victim's knowledge, to commit fraud or theft.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reports that people whose identities have been stolen can spend months or even years -- and also considerable amounts of their hard-earned money -- cleaning up the mess that the thieves make of good names and credit records. Some victims have lost job opportunities, been denied loans, or even been arrested for crimes that they did not commit.

When it comes to sharing personal information, one should exercise caution and prudence. A safe approach is to avoid giving out personal information on the telephone, through the mail, or over the Internet.

A computer can be a goldmine to an identity thief. To help safeguard electronic information, one should regularly update computer virus protection software, not download files from strangers or click on hyperlinks from strangers,

and use a firewall to limit uninvited access. The FTC recommends that Internet users ignore and delete all unsolicited e-mail communications, commonly referred to as “spam” or “junk e-mails.”

“Phishing,” a new form of spam, is a practice where a criminal sends out millions of e-mail messages that look like they are from legitimate companies, such as banks or charities. These messages provide links to authentic looking websites and ask victims to solve a purported problem with his or her account. Unfortunately, such sites can be fake, and the information that victims provide can be used to purchase goods or steal identities.

All who suspect that they may be victims of identify theft should review their credit reports and, if necessary, place a fraud alert on them. They should close any accounts that have been tampered with or accessed without permission. Finally, they should file reports with local police and contact the FTC.

To file a complaint or to learn more about the FTC's Privacy Policy, visit www.consumer.gov/idtheft; call the FTC's Identity Theft Hotline toll-free at 877-434-4338 or 202-326-2502 (TDD); or write the Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20580.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Veterans Care Not Part of Bush Priorities

West Virginians are extremely proud of our veterans. Those men and women who have chosen to offer their lives in service to our nation are owed an enormous debt. The United States carries a moral responsibility, as President Lincoln said, "to care for him who shall have bourned the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan."

But the Bush budget undermines the country's commitments to America's veterans.

In his new budget proposal, the President includes a plan to double the copayment for monthly prescriptions and imposes a \$250 "user fee" for veterans whom the Administration reclassifies in "lower-priority categories." The Bush Administration made the decision to start turning away hundreds of thousands of these "lower-priority" veterans from service at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals in January of 2003. According to the Congressional Research Service, this decision will mean that, by the end of this year, a staggering 522,000 veterans will be turned away from VA hospitals. Now the White House wants to go further and pile on more fees, copayments, and charges for veterans who have so far avoided

the Administration's budget axe.

The more than 190,000 veterans in West Virginia who receive their health care from the VA Medical Centers in the Mountain State are threatened by these significant hikes in fees and copayments. Combat veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars add to the stress on our VA facilities. Yet, instead of strengthening the VA medical system, the Bush Administration short-changes it.

Already, the nation's three largest veterans organizations -- the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans -- have called the President's budget "the most tight-fisted, miserly budget for veterans programs." They are right!

Veterans paid for their health care at Iwo Jima, at the Mekong Delta, at the Chosin Reservoir, at Fallujah, and at so many other locales. They should not be expected to pay yet again. But, make no mistake, if the choice is between budget-busting tax cuts or funding veterans health care programs, the Bush Administration seems always ready to choose to take care of America's elites instead of taking care of America's heroes.

March 2, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Health Insurance Options for Small Businesses

At a time when health care costs are skyrocketing, the number of individuals with medical insurance is dwindling. The harsh reality is that 45 million Americans have no health care coverage, including 275,000 West Virginians. For these people, health conditions go undiagnosed, illnesses go untreated, and critical medicines are not made available. These individuals go through life hoping and praying that they do not get sick or face a catastrophic medical problem.

Nowhere are the shortfalls in the health care system more apparent than in America's small businesses. In fact, those working in small businesses represent more than 60 percent of the country's uninsured. The cost of providing employee health benefits is rising for all employers, but small business owners are bearing an even greater burden. They are forced to pay more for policies that offer less. Exorbitant health care costs also serve as a barrier to job creation, forcing many small businesses to rely on part-time or temporary employees or limp along without needed help.

That is why I have introduced legislation that would open the door to health insurance for more small businesses and give more West Virginians access to affordable, good quality medical coverage. My bill would allow small businesses to band together

through a trade association to purchase health insurance. These partnerships would allow for the establishment of association health plans (AHPs). By joining together, small businesses would enjoy greater bargaining power, less financial risk, and lower administrative costs.

The legislation would ensure that more workers can afford health care benefits, regardless of whether they work for a large international company or a small hardware store. A worker at a local pizza place in West Virginia should have the same access to health benefits as someone who works for a large Fortune 500 company. But, instead, the "mom and pop" shops that support communities across the country have increasingly become the face of the uninsured.

This legislation is only one step that can be taken to make health care coverage available to more Americans. But AHPs would help to move toward a goal we all share, namely, to have as few uninsured Americans as possible.

Health care is not a matter of partisan politics. Rather, it is a basic quality of life issue. We must work to reverse the trend of rising numbers of uninsured Americans. Helping small employers to provide health benefits for their workers and their families is a smart first step.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Firefighters Need Help

The local fire department is a critical part of every West Virginia community. These men and women are always ready to assist their neighbors. A burning home, a passenger trapped in a car after an accident, and, yes, even the proverbial cat caught in a tree -- our firefighters are ready to respond to virtually any call for help.

The tragedies of September 11, 2001, reinforced in the minds of all of us the bravery of our firefighters. They place their lives in jeopardy in order to protect the lives and property of their neighbors. In West Virginia, many fire departments are staffed by volunteers, people who have full-time jobs elsewhere but are always prepared to set those jobs aside when the fire alarm rings. These men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect their communities deserve the best equipment and training available.

That's why, in 2000, the Congress created the FIRE Act grant initiative. Fire departments throughout West Virginia and across the country have benefitted from this grant program. It has helped local departments to replace aging equipment and upgrade facilities. The grants have paid for training that helps to save the lives of firefighters and the people they protect. Last year, West Virginia fire departments received 108 FIRE Act grant awards, totaling nearly \$9 million.

Unfortunately, President Bush's budget for the upcoming year would force firefighters to carry out their critical duties with far fewer resources. The President has asked Congress to cut \$215 million from this grant program. This is a short-sighted proposal that jeopardizes the lives and well-being of people around the country, especially in rural communities.

Recently, I met with Carl Eastham, a firefighter from Huntington, who was in Washington, D.C., for meetings with his colleagues from across the country. Mr. Eastham rightly pointed out that police and fire departments already are, too often, understaffed, under-trained, and ill-equipped. Drastic cuts in funding, such as those proposed by the President, only serve to further jeopardize community safety.

Fortunately, funding for local fire departments is an issue that has broad support among Democrats and Republicans in Congress. It will take a strong show of support from members on both sides of the aisle to turn aside the President's misguided funding plan and invest in emergency preparedness and first responders in communities large and small. The equipment, technology, and training that the FIRE Act grants help to provide are key to protecting West Virginia's firefighters, our homes, and our families.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Remembering the Fabric of America

So often today, in the rush of our daily lives, we lose sight of what makes America unique. We get caught up in day-to-day pressures and fail to reflect on those freedoms which serve as the foundation for our Republic.

For instance, many people know the top movie at the box office or the winner of the World Series, yet far fewer know the names of the Founding Fathers or which freedoms are spelled out in the Constitution. Young people, in particular, are growing up without a real understanding and appreciation for the people and events which make up the fabric of our country.

According to a recent Harris survey, nearly two out of three Americans do not know all of the words to the Star-Spangled Banner, our country's national anthem. Even fewer know that the song's initial verses were written by the lawyer and poet Francis Scott Key in 1814 after seeing the American flag still flying after United States forces withstood the British attack on Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland.

Most young people learn the words of the national anthem and other patriotic songs in school music classes. Unfortunately, music courses too often are cut when schools

face tighter budgets. That's why a new initiative -- the National Anthem Project -- is so important. Through this initiative, the National Association of Music Education hopes to re-teach Americans the words to the Star-Spangled Banner.

The project's musical ambassadors, The Oak Ridge Boys, visited me recently to talk about this effort. We discussed the importance of teaching young people about the country's historical roots from the story of Nathan Hale to the precious liberties bestowed by the Constitution. The musicians and I agree that if America's youth are to be prepared to lead in the future, they first must develop a deeper understanding of the nation's past.

I hope that more people will take the time to read and to learn about our nation's past. Without a knowledge of the sacrifices that our forebearers made where we came from and how this great country began, we cannot fully understand the value of the freedoms that we enjoy today.

Our young people need to know that the Star-Spangled Banner is not just a warm up act to a football game. Rather, it is a celebration of our history here in the "land of the free and the home of the brave."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Defending Free Speech in the Senate

Debate in the Senate soon will turn to the "nuclear option." This is no terrorist plot or military action aimed at a foreign country. The nuclear option is a weapon aimed at the heart of the United States Senate, namely, the right to free speech.

The nuclear option is a procedural maneuver that threatens to eliminate the right to unlimited debate in the Senate, the world's premier deliberative body. The Senate has confirmed a record number of President Bush's judicial nominees -- 204 men and women. Seven nominees did not win Senate approval. Yet, these same seven have been renominated by the President and, to force a vote on them, some Senators plan to eliminate the filibuster of judicial appointments for all time in the Senate.

Ending the filibuster would eliminate the last line of liberty. Free and open debate in the Senate ensures that citizens have a say in their government. The American people are heard, through their Senators, before their money is spent, before their civil liberties are curtailed, or before a judicial nominee is confirmed for a lifetime appointment. Eliminating the filibuster would silence the people's voices.

It would start by shut-

ting off debate about judges, but likely would not end there. The nuclear option could stop a Senator from speaking on issues important to gun owners, to farmers, to senior citizens, or to working families. Once the nuclear option is launched, there is no stopping it.

This is not a matter of partisan politics. I would oppose the nuclear option just as strongly if it were proposed by a Democratic president. Why? Because the nuclear option targets the very freedom to speak out in the protection of the people's liberties. The Constitution's Framers intended the Senate to be the last line of defense against tyranny. They meant for Senators to speak out against any would-be dictator or power grab by an overreaching Executive Branch. This requires that Senators have the right to speak, perhaps without limit, and draw attention to new or differing viewpoints.

Yes, Americans believe in majority rule, but we also believe in minority rights. We recognize that the majority is not always correct. This is a nation built by God-fearing people who want to preserve liberty. Whether one agrees or disagrees, the people's liberties can be truly secure only in a Senate where all views can be freely voiced and heard.

March 27, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Man of Faith

When Pope John Paul II died, the world lost an inspiring figure. The loss is one felt not only by people of the Catholic faith, but also by people of all religions. For 26 years, Pope John Paul II was shepherd of the Catholic Church's flock. For 26 years, he served the world as a voice for freedom and a champion of the poor.

Too often, religion is used to divide. Christians are pitted against Jews. Jews are shown opposing Muslims. Muslims are portrayed as hating Christians. Sometimes it is a division within broad faiths -- Catholics versus Baptists; fundamentalists versus moderates. Such divisions are perpetrated by stereotypes and by news media that thrive on conflict. But a significant contributor to the mistrust is a refusal by people of one faith to make an effort to understand and respect the faith of others.

Pope John Paul II bridged those divisions and focused on those beliefs that unite us. He sought to bind wounds that have scarred religious believers for centuries.

In 1986, the Pope prayed at a synagogue -- the first Catholic leader to do so. He embraced those of the Jewish faith as "our elder brothers" and bluntly condemned all forms of anti-Semitism.

In 2001, he again marked a first for the leader of the Catholic Church, praying at one of Islam's most celebrated mosques and also the site of the tomb of John the Baptist. There, the Pope urged Muslims and Christians to "turn to one another with feelings of brotherhood and friendship, so that the Almighty may bless us with the peace which heaven alone can give." It is a message so vital today.

In a world focused more on what divides us, the Pope taught us to reach for what unites us. There are common bonds among people from around the globe. That is a universal truth, whether one is Christian or Jewish or Muslim or any other faith. God has given us the tools as well as the opportunity to move to a better day. But it is up to us, God's servants, to move the world closer to Heaven.

Matthew in his Gospel writes, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Pope John Paul II helped to move mountains of poverty, of injustice, and of ignorance in all corners of the world. May his soul rest in peace.

April 6, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Saving Lives with Science

I never cease to be amazed by the medical advancements which have occurred during my lifetime. Each day, doctors and researchers make critical discoveries and develop new technologies that help people to enjoy longer and healthier lives. West Virginia University's Byrd Health Sciences Center is at the medical forefront, utilizing cutting-edge technology to provide top-notch patient care.

WVU's Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center is home to an updated Positron Emission Tomography (PET)/computed tomography (CT) scanner which will allow physicians to make more accurate medical diagnoses and better determine the proper course of treatment. The non-invasive PET/CT scan provides a precise, three-dimensional picture of human organs in action. In this case, a picture is truly worth a thousand words, helping doctors to evaluate more fully a patient's condition and prognosis.

While the PET/CT scanner's imaging technology can be used to diagnose a variety of medical conditions, it is particularly useful for cancer patients. It can more accurately determine whether a tumor is malignant or benign, and reveal a spread of the primary cancer to other parts of the body. The procedure is

also a critical weapon in the battle against heart disease and neurological disorders. The health of thousands of West Virginians will benefit from WVU's newest health care service.

PET research and treatment at WVU began in the early 1990s when I secured \$10 million in federal funding to build and equip the Cancer Center for this lifesaving technology. At that time, PET was an experimental imaging technology, but, thanks to research efforts at WVU and elsewhere, it has become an important tool in contemporary medicine.

I have secured additional funding in recent years to create a center for PET education as part of the new health sciences library under construction at WVU. The facility will serve as a national clearinghouse for information on PET technology and will help more health care facilities across the country to learn about and provide this critical service.

For too long, West Virginians have had to travel far and wide for their medical services. Fortunately, times are changing. WVU medical professionals are leading the way to better treatments close to home for diseases that impact so many of our loved ones. By using the science of the future, we are saving lives today!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Power of Poetry

The poet T.S. Eliot considered April the "cruellest month." To me, April is one of our grandest months. April is the month when the Earth springs back to life as green buds reappear on stark gray branches, pink, purple, and yellow blossoms reemerge from the soil, and lawns are blanketed in a soft verdant cover. April marks the return of Daylight Savings Time, and the return of our national past time, baseball. And, April is National Poetry Month, a national celebration of poetry.

The Academy of American Poets was founded in 1934 to support poets and to foster the appreciation of poetry. The Academy helps in the formation of poetry book clubs, distributes posters featuring American poets to teachers, librarians, and booksellers across the country, and sponsors events to celebrate the place of poetry in America. In 1996, the Academy inaugurated National Poetry Month, an entire month devoted "to promoting, publicizing, and celebrating poetry."

National Poetry Month is intended to encourage more people to pay greater attention to poetry, and to bring together publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, schools, and poets nationwide to celebrate the power of language. The Academy, throughout the month of April, highlights the legacy

and achievements of American poets and attempts to introduce more Americans to the pleasures of reading poetry.

This year, the Academy provided a list of 30 ways, one for each day of the month, in which to celebrate poetry. Its suggestions include spending the day reading a book of poetry, memorizing a poem, reading a poem to family or friends, and signing up for a poetry class or workshop. All of these suggestions are wonderful ideas.

I have long loved poetry -- the rhyming words, the rhythm of the stanzas, and the soulful imagery that good poetry imparts to the heart and mind. Poetry expresses humanity, and, through meter, makes music of the spoken word as it rhythmically sways and floats through our imaginations. Poetry, simply put, is beauty defined.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the celebration of National Poetry Month, I hope that more people will recognize the efforts of the Academy of American Poets and, more importantly, take the time to read a poem or two.

In her poem, "Spring," Edna St. Vincent Millay asked, "To what purpose, April, do you return again?" Now, thanks to the Academy of American Poets, we can answer, to showcase the power of poetry in our society.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Securing America's Borders

It is hard to believe that more than three and a half years have passed since September 11, 2001. An attack which most people could barely fathom anywhere happened here, on American soil. Life goes on, as it must; yet, many of us continue to ask ourselves, could it happen again?

Great strides have been made in the effort to better secure our homeland but much work remains. Perhaps there is no greater vulnerability in our national defense than the security of the country's borders.

Congress has passed bill after bill pledging funding for more border patrol agents and immigration investigators. But promises do not make our borders secure. To date, many of these promises remain unfulfilled, and America's borders remain full of gaping holes. High-ranking Customs Department officers, Bush Administration officials, and the President himself have spoken about the continuing threat from al Qaeda and the need for more border patrol agents. Yet, the White House included virtually no funds in the recent budget to hire and train new border officers and immigration investigators.

It is time to face the music about this very real threat to the security of the nation's borders. That is why I have written legislation that would provide \$390 million to hire 650 new border patrol agents,

250 new immigration investigators, and 168 new immigration enforcement agents and deportation officers. My proposal also provides funds to train the new personnel and pays for 2,000 additional beds for detained illegal aliens. I am proud to report that the Senate recently approved my plan, moving it another step closer to becoming law.

Americans are concerned about the security gaps along our borders. That concern has reached such a fever pitch in some locations that private citizens are banding together to form watch groups along the borders and report suspicious border crossings to the Border Patrol. This is a clear expression of the frustration felt by citizens along border areas and throughout the country that the federal government is failing to address this critical national security threat.

The job of the country's border patrol officers is staggering and their resources meager -- a dangerous combination indeed. Remember that 15 of the 19 September 11th hijackers slipped into our country because of an overburdened, underfunded border security system. My legislation will strengthen our borders and help to curb the alarming rise in illegal immigration. We cannot eliminate all threats to America's security, but we can take steps now to address known weaknesses in our border defenses.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Unplug Government Propaganda

In each year since 1951, Congress has passed a law prohibiting the use of federal funds for government propaganda purposes in the United States. Yet, despite the law, we have read report after report outlining efforts to skirt -- if not flat violate -- that prohibition.

On more than one occasion, the government has provided tax dollars to well-known talk show hosts to promote its agenda. One was paid a hefty fee to promote the No Child Left Behind Act. Another talk show host was paid to promote the Administration's welfare and family policies.

In an effort to blur the line even more between independent media and government propaganda, some federal agencies have produced prepackaged stories designed to look like real news produced by free market news outlets. People see these "reporters" on the television, but they do not know that the "reporters" were actually public relations professionals working under a false name for the government.

According to the Government Accountability Office, these actions violate the 1951 law. That is why I wrote legislation to prevent any government agency

from using taxpayer dollars to produce or distribute prepackaged stories which do not clearly identify that the so-called news was created by a federal agency or funded with taxpayer dollars. My legislation was approved by the Senate by a 98-to-zero vote, and soon will be on the President's desk to be signed into law.

I have no argument with the government's explaining its ideas and positions to the American people. Educating the public about issues affecting their lives is essential. But no Administration should engage in a blatant manipulation of the news media. Keep the job of government focused on the people.

We trust the free press to provide us with independent sources of information. We do not need phony news stories produced by the Administration at the taxpayers' expense. The government must not engage in propaganda paid for by the American taxpayer and targeted toward the American people. Government manipulation of the free press has no place in our Republic. In a free society, the people must know that reporters are presenting facts honestly, fairly, and without deception.

May 4, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WV Guard ChalleNGes Young People

It is well known the contribution the National Guard makes to the excellence of the United States Armed Forces and the safety of communities across the country. The brave members of the National Guard serve on the frontlines of military operations around the world, and they always answer the call when emergencies and natural disasters strike at home. What is less known is the positive role the National Guard plays in the lives of America's at-risk youth.

I began the National Guard Youth Challenge Program in 1993 to help young men and women who have dropped out or been expelled from high school. The voluntary, 17-month program helps these students to earn their GED, enroll in college, or start a civilian or military career. Through the program's unique training and instruction, the students gain self-respect, tools for good citizenship, and other important life-coping skills.

The Youth Challenge Program currently operates in 24 states including the Mountaineer Challenge Academy at Camp Dawson, one of the program's original sites. Mountaineer Challenge has graduated 1,226 cadets, the vast majority of whom have joined the military, entered the job market, or gone back to school to continue their educations.

The Preston County academy was recently awarded the Challenge Program's "Excellence in Community Service Award" for providing students with opportunities to experience the value of giving back to the community. Mountain Challenge's community service efforts have included conservation projects and work at a local nursing home, library, and animal shelter.

Shortfalls in state budgets across the country have put the Youth Challenge program in jeopardy. That's why I have authored legislation to ensure that Youth Challenge will continue to mentor at-risk young people who want to change the direction of their lives. My legislation increases the federal cost-share of the program over the next three years and increases the program's funding by \$15 million for next year -- the first significant increase in per-student funding in the history of the program.

The Challenge program is extremely important to the youth of West Virginia and the entire nation. It takes at-risk students off the path of trouble and helps them to become responsible adults who will contribute to their communities. I hope current and future Challenge students will continue to thrive in the program and, by doing so, redeem their futures.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Standing by the WV Guard

For many years, the men and the women of the West Virginia National Guard have made us proud. They have flown across the globe to support America's Armed Forces. They've served bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan, in Bosnia and Kosovo, and in Panama. They have saved lives at home, too, battling floods and blizzards and storms in Clendenin, Philippi, Parkersburg, Petersburg, Wheeling, and so many more communities.

Now, the Department of Defense has recommended that the Charleston-based 130th Airlift Wing, with its more than 1,000 jobs, be stripped of its fleet of C-130 aircraft. Where there are no planes, there is no mission. Take away the planes, and you end the life of the 130th Airlift Wing. That's no thanks for a job well done.

Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld included the 130th Airlift Wing on a closure list that he submitted to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission. The commission can vote to remove from or add any base to the list and then forward a final list to President Bush for him to accept or reject.

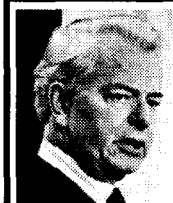
Protecting the 130th and getting it off of the closure and realignment list will be a tough job. But the National Guard has

never run from a challenge, and neither will we. The West Virginia Congressional Delegation is united in the effort to protect the West Virginia National Guard. I personally spoke with the President and carried the concerns of the West Virginia Delegation to him at the White House, in hopes that the Administration would keep the 130th off the closure list completely. Our appeals fell on deaf ears. But our efforts are not over. We will continue to work with state and community leaders to protect the 130th and its mission. The fight has just begun.

Secretary Rumsfeld's plan to eliminate the West Virginia National Guard's 130th Airlift Wing's entire fleet of aircraft is a slap at these men and women who play such a vital role in National Security. They deserve better. The Guard lives its motto, "Always Ready, Always There," yet the Pentagon said thanks, but no thanks.

The men and women of the 130th are husbands and wives, moms and dads, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters. They are our neighbors and friends. The face of the 130th is the face of West Virginia. We must rise up together and stand by our National Guard as they have stood by us.

May 18, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Clean Water in Our Homes

Modern technology can speed information across the world in a fraction of a second. People travel from one continent to another in a matter of hours. The advancements will only continue to amaze.

Unfortunately, there are still people in our country whose community infrastructure has barely entered the 20th century, let alone the 21st. One major problem is unsafe drinking water. Millions of Americans have drinking water which is filled with dangerous bacteria. It is an absolute travesty that some people in this country still turn on their kitchen faucets and get brown, cloudy liquid instead of pure, safe drinking water.

In fact, according to studies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), more than 16 million Americans lack access to safe drinking water. In today's America, safe drinking water should be a reliable staple of everyday life.

That is why I have worked in the Senate to boost the federal investment in constructing water and sewer systems.

A project in Randolph County is the latest example. In 1997, community leaders put forward their plan for the Upper Tygart River Watershed Project to bring water service to thousands of area residents.

They had a good plan, but did not have the funding. That's why I went to work to get the funding through the federal appropriations process.

Using my position as the top Democratic Senator on the Appropriations Committee, I added more than \$21 million to appropriations bills to make this project a reality, including the final \$4 million in legislation just recently signed into law. Because of my partnership with local leaders, the Upper Tygart River Watershed Project soon will provide clean and safe drinking water to 16,000 people in Southern Randolph County.

While this is an important milestone, there remains much work ahead. The terrible truth is that, in our state and all across the country, the health of millions of men, women, and children is vulnerable because of their reliance on a contaminated water supply.

Hundreds of billions of dollars are needed to bring clean, safe drinking water to all Americans. The needs continue to grow and more and more of our people are at risk because the federal government refuses to face the problem. Clean water should not be some fancy luxury only afforded to those living in wealthy communities; clean water is basic to the health and prosperity of all citizens.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Hands-On Approach to Home Safety

Home dangers are often easy to miss, but for West Virginians, it is a problem that is too serious to ignore. In fact, in its "State of Home Safety in America" report, the Home Safety Council found that West Virginia reported the third highest fatality rates from falls in the home, and was ranked the fifth highest state for home-injury related fatalities overall. On a national scale, the same study showed home-related injuries result in nearly 21 million medical visits and 20,000 deaths each year with the three leading causes being falls, fires and burns, and poisonings.

Keeping loved ones safe at home requires a daily commitment and, together with the Home Safety Council, I encourage West Virginians to take action to create a safe home environment. As June is Home Safety Month, here are some easy ways to make our homes safer places in which to live throughout the year.

Install smoke alarms on every level of the home and test them monthly. Also, create a fire escape plan that shows two exits out of every room, where possible, and identifies a place where

families should meet outside the home.

All stairs and steps need handrails along both sides, secured along the full length of the stairway. Keep stairs and pathways clear of clutter. In homes with babies and toddlers, use baby gates at the top and bottom of stairs.

Install lighting at the top and bottom of stairs.

Display emergency numbers such as 911 and the National Poison Control Hotline number (1-800-222-1222) next to every phone in the home.

Install child locks on all cabinets used to store dangerous items.

Keep the water heater setting at 120 degrees Fahrenheit or less.

These are just a few recommendations. But there are many more steps that can be taken to make one's home safer. For more information and tools, visit the Home Safety Council (www.homesafetycouncil.org) or my Web site (<http://byrd.senate.gov>) and click on the Home Safety Council logo. By taking simple steps, West Virginians can help to reduce the number of home-related injuries in our state and keep our families safe.

June 1, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Celebrate West Virginia Day

June 20 is a special day for Mountaineers everywhere, as we commemorate the day when President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill which carved our state from the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is a day of great pride for our state and our people.

For me, West Virginia is more than a state of the Union; it is a state of mind. "Mountaineers are always free" is more than a state motto; it is a spirit that runs through young and old alike.

I have seen that spirit first hand. Growing up in the coalfields of Southern West Virginia, I watched as neighbor supported neighbor after a slate fall at the mine. I have stood with miners and steelworkers and so many others as they fought to put food on the table, to pay the doctors' bills, and to give their families good lives. I have helped as entrepreneurs take what once was just a vague idea and turn it into a new business and new opportunity. I have congratulated our young people as they receive their diplomas and embark on new adventures in their lives. I have marveled at the "joyful noise"

made unto the Lord in our churches, as religious voices rise up together.

Through all the years, in the face of so many challenges, at times of great success and in moments of deep anguish, we can all hold fast to our faith and to the spirit of West Virginia. In West Virginia, we work hard to leave our state and our country in better shape than when we found it. It may seem like a cliché to people who are new to our state, but, in West Virginia, that's just the way things are.

On this 142nd anniversary of West Virginia's statehood, it is a time to give thanks to the Creator for the beauty around us -- our majestic mountains and forests, our beautiful rivers, and our breathtaking landscape. It is also a time to rededicate ourselves to our state. Each West Virginian has a stake in the future. West Virginians, working together, can help to lift our state to a brighter day. With that strength, the days ahead will be filled, not just with the promise of hope but also with the satisfaction of success.

Happy birthday, West Virginia! And many happy returns, now and always.

June 8, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making the Case for the National Guard

West Virginia is fortunate to have one of the best National Guard organizations in the United States. The men and women of the Guard understand the importance of their mission to our state's safety and to America's security, and West Virginians are rightly proud of them.

Despite their outstanding record of service, the Secretary of Defense has proposed cutting the heart out of our National Guard by stripping all of the aircraft from the Charleston-based 130th Airlift Wing. The 130th is the support backbone for the rest of the state's Guard units; the Secretary's plan, if approved, would ripple throughout all of the West Virginia National Guard.

Recently, I accompanied a team of analysts visiting the airbase along with several members of the West Virginia Congressional Delegation, Governor Joe Manchin, Charleston Mayor Danny Jones, and other area leaders. These analysts work for the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission, the commission charged by Congress with reviewing the Secretary's recommendations and deciding whether his proposals should go

forward.

Secretary Rumsfeld claims that the 130th can only park and operate eight C-130 aircraft at the Charleston base. In fact, the base can handle 12 aircraft right now and, with a few enhancements, could easily accommodate 16 aircraft -- the number described by the Air Force as the best size for a C-130 unit.

Making the case to the analysts is an important step. But it is just one step. I've asked BRAC Commission Chairman Anthony Principi to visit Charleston. He will travel to the West Virginia National Guard base in the coming days. At the end of the month, West Virginia will make its case to the BRAC Commission at a hearing in North Carolina. General Tackett, the Governor, and the West Virginia Congressional Delegation will stand together for the 130th Airlift Wing. They are doing a great job for all of us. We will do our best to pull together for all of them.

This is an uphill fight. The cards are stacked against us. But the men and women of the West Virginia National Guard have always stood by us, and we must continue to stand by them.

June 15, 2005



Senator Byrd and Governor Manchin are pictured with members of the West Virginia Air National Guard. Byrd is pushing to protect the backbone of the West Virginia Guard -- the 130th Airlift Wing based in Charleston. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld wants to strip all of the aircraft from that highly decorated unit.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Easing Gas Price Pain

Gas prices are once again on the rise. The price of the oil that the United States imports from OPEC nations and other parts of the world hit \$60 per barrel this week, a record high.

West Virginians know that gas prices are significantly higher today than in years past, and that relief has been slow in coming. The American Automobile Association -- better known as Triple A or "AAA" -- reports that drivers are paying prices 25 to 30 cents per gallon higher than last summer. That kind of increase is putting a real pinch on drivers, especially those in rural areas where there is limited access to the kind of mass transportation you might find in big cities.

People in West Virginia are reminded every day, as they drive to work and take their children to school, of the outrageous cost of gasoline. Rural families, in particular, are hit hard by spiking gas prices, and they often have little extra money to absorb the increase, forcing painful cuts in their family budgets. These families are forced to stretch their paychecks a little further each week, and have been left to wait and hope that gas prices will go down

sooner rather than later.

That's why I am pleased to report that the Senate has overwhelmingly approved my legislation that will begin to provide West Virginians with relief from high gas prices. My amendment, which is now part of a larger Senate energy bill, would create a tax benefit for rural drivers in West Virginia. It is a step toward what I hope will be more significant help for working families.

My amendment would allow employers in West Virginia to offer their eligible employees a monthly \$50 tax benefit to help offset costly gasoline purchases. This initial tax benefit, if it is approved by the House of Representatives, would be available through January 1, 2007.

High gas prices are frustrating drivers, and hampering the local economies of West Virginia. I recognize that, and the Senate's adoption of my amendment demonstrates that the Congress is beginning to respond to the fact that rural states like West Virginia are being hit hard by high gas prices. I hope that this amendment is a first step in relieving the pain that West Virginians are paying at the gas pump.

June 23, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Cornerstone of Quality Television

Too often today, television programming is geared toward sex and violence. Adult situations, crude language, and extreme violence pervade the airways. Parents look for ways to protect their children from these corrupting influences. These are not shows designed to educate or inform. They certainly aren't shows that help to inspire young people.

One of the few television networks that does not rely on sex and violence to drive its programming is the Public Broadcasting System -- PBS. Probably best known for its children's educational shows and characters like Big Bird and Mr. Rogers, PBS programming encourages healthy attitudes. PBS helps to open the imaginations of our children with wholesome, creative programs. It teaches our young people the importance of truthfulness, respect for others, and kindness for one's neighbor.

But PBS is more than "Sesame Street." It delivers news and information from around the world. West Virginia Public Broadcasting provides our state's residents with quality coverage of news from the Northern Panhandle to the Southern Coalfields, from the banks of the Ohio River to the banks of the Potomac. It teaches history and explores the world's wonders.

Yet, despite its many contributions to West Virginia and the country, an

effort led by the Leadership in the House of Representatives would start to dismantle public broadcasting. What makes public broadcasting 'public' is the fact that we the people contribute to its operations. Public broadcasting is publicly funded with tax dollars and private contributions. The Congress typically budgets for public broadcasting two years in advance. But this year, the House Leadership has proposed to slash \$100 million from public broadcasting for next year, and completely eliminate the funding the following year. If approved, West Virginia Public Broadcasting would face a cut of more than 46 percent in its overall funding. That kind of cut would be disastrous. The "vast wasteland" of TV programming would be left to continue its diet of sizzle and junk food for the mind.

West Virginia needs more public broadcasting, not less. Families need more programs that help to teach children to read, to listen to their parents, to be a part of their communities, and to live a good life.

I will fight on behalf of West Virginia parents to keep PBS going. We cannot afford to have this valuable public resource disappear. The cost to the Treasury to help support PBS is relatively small, but the benefit to our children and our values is enormous.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taking Wing with the West Virginia Guard

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld a few weeks ago released his plan to strip the C-130 aircraft from the Charleston-based West Virginia National Guard 130th Airlift Wing. The Secretary's plan simply does not make sense -- not from a military perspective, not from a homeland security perspective, and certainly not from a West Virginia perspective.

Specifically, Secretary Rumsfeld would end almost all operations at our airbase, stripping the eight C-130 aircraft from Charleston. The independent, nonpartisan Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission is examining the details of the Secretary's plan, and has the power to stop it from taking effect.

This past week, the West Virginia Congressional Delegation, Governor Joe Manchin, Adjutant General Allen Tackett, and members and supporters of the West Virginia National Guard traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina, to make the case to the BRAC Commission for keeping our airbase open.

During the hearing before the BRAC Commission members, we praised the outstanding record of service that the 130th Airlift Wing has established. This unit has served with honor in Iraq and Afghanistan, in Rwanda, and in Kosovo. It has been at the tip of the spear in some of the most dangerous military missions in recent times and has al-

ways responded with skill and courage.

At the same time, the 130th Airlift Wing is the backbone of homeland security efforts not only in our state but also in 10 other states plus the nation's Capital. The 130th will speed specialized response teams to the scene in the event of a terrorist attack with a biological, chemical, or nuclear weapon. Without the 130th's pilots, crews, and planes at the ready, these highly trained homeland security teams would be left waiting on the runway for a ride to arrive.

In addition, the West Virginia National Guard always remembers its mission here at home. The 130th, like all of our Guard units, has responded to floods, blizzards, and hurricanes throughout our state. When Mother Nature sends us her worst, the West Virginia National Guard is on the job, saving lives and protecting property.

The BRAC Commission is weighing these facts and many others which were not included in Secretary Rumsfeld's closure plan. The commissioners have a tough job. But West Virginia has given them good reasons to keep the 130th flying.

It will not be easy to change the Pentagon plan. However, we won't give up the fight. I've said it before, but it bears repeating: Our National Guard has always stood with us; now we will stand with them.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting the Pension Safety Net

Pensions are as much a part of workers' earnings as a weekly paycheck. Employees earn the safety net that pensions provide, and they depend on those dollars when retirement comes around. But, too many people are seeing their pensions dissolve into thin air when companies hit hard times.

At a recent Senate Budget Committee hearing, I questioned the head of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation -- the federal pension insurer -- about companies that abusively use the bankruptcy code to avoid meeting their pension obligations. Businesses, rightly or wrongly, file for bankruptcy, and workers, through no fault of their own, find themselves stranded -- too young to collect Social Security and Medicare and too old to find a new job. As a result, too many workers are cheated of their hard-earned pension and health benefits.

It pains me to hear from workers who do not know how they will provide for their families, let alone themselves, when their companies terminate their pension plans. Coal miners, steel and aluminum workers, airline personnel, and countless others have been forced to live through this nightmare.

I have worked throughout my career to protect worker pensions. I supported the Employee Retirement

Income Security Act of 1974, which created the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, insuring workers' pensions, as well as numerous requirements to protect workers' retirement savings. It is also why I have been such a staunch defender of Social Security, and why I will oppose any changes that would undermine that safety net. As I listen to West Virginians, I am convinced that more needs to be done to protect their pension benefits.

President Bush has proposed new rules to help ensure that voluntary, employer-provided pensions are funded when workers retire. That's a laudable goal, but we must also be sure that companies are not forced into doing away with their pension plans altogether. Congress should take a closer look at corporate bankruptcy laws and work to make sure that unscrupulous executives cannot secure a golden parachute while their employees are left to fend for themselves.

Pensions are the reward for a lifetime of hard work. American workers are holding up their end of the bargain, but too many employers are not. Workers' financial security ought not be jeopardized by corporate bankruptcies. That is the challenge which the Congress faces when considering pension reforms this year.

July 13, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Living Up to the Constitution

Article II, section 2, of the Constitution states that a president "shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint . . . Judges of the supreme Court" and other federal courts.

The intent of these words recently has been the subject of serious debate. Many Senators believe that President Bush has a Constitutional obligation to seek the Senate's advice before selecting judicial nominees, while others apparently feel that the Senate's only role is to vote up or down on the President's choices.

Tensions grew and the Senate was on the brink of meltdown. A parliamentary maneuver was threatened by the Senate Republican Leadership -- a maneuver which would have ended filibusters of judicial nominees while also crippling a minority's freedom of speech and right to dissent. It was then that 14 Senators, including myself, reached a bipartisan agreement to allow confirmation votes on certain judicial nominees and to filibuster future nominees only in "extraordinary circumstances."

As part of the agreement, Republican Senator John Warner and I wrote a provision urging the President to seek the Senate's "Advice" on future nominations. By consulting Senators at the "take off," a president's judicial nominee is more likely to have a smoother journey toward confirmation.

When Justice Sandra Day O'Connor announced plans to retire from the Supreme Court, she launched events that have reinforced the Constitutional principle of "Advice and Consent."

The results are encouraging. Before selecting a nominee to fill the O'Connor vacancy, President Bush called me and some other Senators in both parties.

I shared with President Bush the qualities that I believe are essential in a Supreme Court Justice. I am delighted that President Bush heard the voices of our bipartisan group of 14 Senators. I commend him for his efforts to consult Senators and thus elicit their advice.

The bottom line is that our citizens need to have confidence in their federal courts. They need to know that nominees for the Supreme Court are selected on the basis of merit, not partisan politics.

Avoiding needless rancor and petty politics is a worthy goal when it comes to selecting candidates for lifetime service on the nation's federal courts.

I look forward to meeting the President's nominee, Judge John G. Roberts, learning more about him, and listening to his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The confirmation of a Supreme Court Justice is a major decision which will affect an entire generation of Americans. We need to select our "best and brightest" for service on the Supreme Court.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Amtrak on Track

As sure as the train whistle blows when entering the station, it's also like clockwork that the White House puts Amtrak on the funding chopping block. Every year the Administration threatens to send the national passenger rail service into bankruptcy, and every year I fight to keep it afloat. In President Bush's most recent budget, he proposed the nearly complete elimination of Amtrak's funding. I joined other Amtrak advocates in the Senate -- Democrats and Republicans -- to reject the debilitating cut. We even found a way to boost Amtrak's funding.

Earlier this year, U.S. Department of Transportation officials testified before Congress that Amtrak needed at least \$1.4 billion to maintain current routes and services. Yet, the President requested that the Amtrak budget be zeroed out except for a small amount for commuter train service between Washington, D.C., and New York City.

As the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I engineered a bipartisan effort to direct \$1.4 billion to Amtrak and reject the White House's plan to cripple the railroad. The funding not only restores the proposed cut but also adds \$200 million above Amtrak's operating subsidy last year. The victory will help to ensure that Amtrak has enough funding

to keep on track for the next year.

Amtrak is a critical transportation link for people in all corners of the country. Millions of people ride the rails daily to get to and from work, to visit family and friends many miles away, or to travel on vacation. National passenger rail service should be truly national. It should include big cities and small communities, like those along the "Cardinal" and "Capitol Limited" routes in West Virginia.

The elimination of Amtrak's subsidy is not a recipe for a streamlined railroad. It is not a recipe for a more efficient railroad. It is a recipe for a dead railroad. The Administration's shortsighted plan takes the "national" out of national passenger rail service and turns its back on rural communities where Amtrak is a primary transportation link to the rest of the country. With the high prices of gasoline and increasing competition for foreign oil, we must help Amtrak to improve its service and modernize its trains.

Studies report that passenger rail systems in the United States carry about five times as many passengers each day as airlines. Last year, Amtrak recorded its highest ridership levels in history. The American people depend on the railroad, and the White House should value it, too.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Veterans Medical Care Saved!

For the past several months, I have been warning of a looming shortfall in the funding for veterans medical care. Despite the concerns, the White House and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) acted as though no problem existed. But, recently, the truth caught up with the VA, and the Administration admitted that a massive financial shortfall threatened veterans' medical services.

Without action, our veterans' health care would have been placed at risk. America's veterans have given much for their country. We have a moral obligation to give back to them, and to provide for their health care needs.

Twice this summer, I guided through the Senate legislation containing \$1.5 billion to fill the growing deficit in VA health care funding. Each time, the Senate gave unanimous approval to my proposals. At first, the White House and the Republican Leadership in the House of Representatives said no, wanting to pare back the resources needed by West Virginia's 190,000 veterans and millions more across the country.

After much wrangling, I am proud to report that the \$1.5 billion that I sought for our veterans has passed the Congress and been signed into law.

The challenge now fac-

ing the Bush Administration is to put these dollars to work. Veterans cannot afford having the White House put this funding on a shelf. This money must be invested where it is so desperately needed, namely, in the health and well being of our country's veterans.

I have spent the last several weeks visiting the VA medical centers throughout West Virginia to personally thank our veterans for their service to our country. I want them to know that I will do all that I can to protect their health care. We owe them much.

We have veterans from two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, the first Gulf War, and so many other battles already waiting in line to see a doctor. Now, we have new veterans coming home each day from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, some with grievous injuries. They should not come home to face long lines to see a doctor or, worse, to no doctor at all.

"Support the troops" means taking care of veterans after they come home. Our brave fighting men and women deserve quality health care. They should not be cut off from their doctors and nurses simply because the Bush Administration would rather save a few dollars. We must not fund veterans' health care on the cheap.

August 3, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Safer Roads, Better Jobs

The United States Congress has given its final approval to legislation that will invest more than \$2 billion in West Virginia's highways, roads, bridges, and specialized transit programs, like the PRT at West Virginia University. This \$2 billion investment during the next five years is a significant step forward.

Throughout our state, many road and highway construction projects have been slower to develop than local residents or I would like. A big part of that problem has been an unreliable and, frankly, insufficient stream of funding. That's why my work on this highway package was so critical.

The just-passed highway bill will invest an average of \$404 million in each of the next five years in projects from the Northern Panhandle to the Southern Coalfields, from the Eastern Panhandle to the banks of the Ohio River. I especially want to thank Senator Jay Rockefeller and Congressman Nick Rahall for their partnership in helping me to move these funds forward.

In 1947, when I began my public service in the West Virginia House of Delegates, there were only four miles of divided, four-lane highway in the entire state.

Four miles! In fact, there were so few miles that they were not recorded on the state roadmap that year.

When I was elected to Congress in 1952, I made it a goal to turn that situation around. Today, more than a half-century later, I am proud to report that West Virginia has made significant progress. Today, there are more than 1,000 miles of divided four-lane highways throughout the state. These miles are in every region of the state, from I-68 in North Central West Virginia to I-77 in our western counties. Corridor Highways crisscross West Virginia. Throughout the state, as miles long-planned are finally paved, jobs and businesses follow close behind.

I am proud of the \$2 billion that I helped to get for West Virginia in this new highway bill. These dollars bring construction jobs. The roads bring new investments and open doors to new businesses and improved services. And, equally as important, these funds help to protect lives and reduce the risk of traffic accidents. I have worked hard to win these dollars, and firmly believe that the funding in this bill will make a real difference in the lives of all West Virginians.

August 10, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Happy Birthday Social Security

As Americans this month mark the 70th Anniversary of the Social Security Act, many people remain concerned about the future of the program.

West Virginians know, better than most, the absolute necessity of Social Security. It oftentimes is the difference between living with dignity or living in poverty. One in four West Virginians -- more than 400,000 retirees, disabled workers, widows and widowers, spouses and children -- receives a monthly benefit check. The arrival of their benefit check is essential, and for 70 years it's been guaranteed regardless of hard economic times.

It is no exaggeration to suggest that the Social Security checks on which these West Virginians depend could be undermined by efforts to privatize the system. Social Security privatization would subject the livelihood of workers to the volatile movements of the financial markets. Some may do better than others with stock market gains, but many West Virginia families could lose a lifetime of their savings in a single day.

If Social Security is privatized, the arrival of a Social Security check for many families could no longer be guaranteed. When the market falls into a tail-spin, it is the privileged few at the top -- not the ordinary workers -- who would have the golden parachutes.

Social Security has always been a safety net for West Virginians, and not a roulette wheel for financial profit. It is an opportunity to share in a dignified and respectable living, and gambling with that opportunity is as unseemly as gambling with your weekly grocery money. Let us not be lured into trading away our safety net without adequate thought as to who the winners and losers would be under a privatized system.

Social Security is a gift from the World War II Generation to this and every generation. It was forged from their suffering and resiliency during the Great Depression, and the task now falls to us to preserve that gift for our children and grandchildren.

In 1935, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the law creating Social Security, he stated that the program would "give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age." That protection is just as necessary today, and we must not allow it to be weakened or taken away.

I will continue to fight in the Senate, as I have always fought, to protect workers, and to retain the integrity, stability, and dependability of their Social Security system. Our future generations deserve no less.

August 17, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Break the Grip of Foreign Oil

Gas prices are through the roof. Each week, the price at the pump climbs even higher, and there is no end in sight.

I have tried to offer some relief for people who drive back and forth to work in West Virginia and in rural communities across the country. I have pressed the Congress to approve my legislation which would create a new tax benefit for drivers who live in rural states, where public transportation is not readily available.

I'm proud to say that the Senate approved my proposal without opposition. But, behind closed doors, the Republican Leadership in the House and the White House pulled the plug on this attempt to provide a simple remedy to the American people for the ever-rising gas prices.

Make no mistake; these pressures are real. Families are rearranging priorities and cutting back on their household budgets so that they can afford to fill up their gas tanks each week. But the Congress hasn't lifted a finger to help.

For too many months, the Bush Administration has taken a "wait and see" approach when it comes to today's outrageous price of gasoline. Enough is enough. Washington ought to get its

priorities straight. Instead of focusing on what the big special interests want, the Congress ought to do all that it can to help working families.

The higher gas prices underline the fact that the United States is too dependent on foreign oil. Those foreign suppliers and the big oil companies are making record profits while working Americans see their family budgets continue to shrink.

Last month, I backed legislation that would begin to break these chains of foreign oil dependence. The new energy law will begin to make critical investments in West Virginia coal and in other resources that we have here in America -- resources that can power our cars and trucks and factories and homes. But this is just a start. While this new law opens the door to energy independence in the long run, it will take hard work and innovation to finally move away from our over-reliance on foreign oil.

I will continue to fight in the Senate for West Virginia coal and for our working families. I will once again press for my tax benefit for those who drive to work. And I will always work to free our nation from the binds of foreign oil.

August 24, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Big Win for the West Virginia Guard

Three and a half months ago, the West Virginia National Guard was placed in jeopardy, not by a foreign enemy but by our own Department of Defense. In May, the Pentagon unveiled a plan to cease all flying operations at the West Virginia National Guard's 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston. I said it then, and I'll say it now: The Defense Department's plan was wrong. Closing the 130th made no sense from a national security perspective, a homeland security perspective, or a West Virginia perspective.

When the plan came out, Governor Joe Manchin, the West Virginia Congressional Delegation, and hundreds of West Virginians joined to fight it. The Pentagon proposal needed the approval of the independent Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission. After talking with Adjutant General Allen Tackett, Charleston Mayor Danny Jones, and Kanawha County Commission President Kent Carper, I immediately contacted BRAC Commission Chairman Anthony Principi, urging him to visit the Charleston base and see for himself just how wrong the Defense Department was.

Chairman Principi agreed to visit, and I accompanied him to the airbase. After his inspection, Chairman Principi agreed that the Defense Department had its facts wrong.

The Defense Depart-

ment claimed that the 130th could only handle eight C-130 aircraft. The facts showed that the base can handle 12 aircraft right now and, with a few enhancements, could easily accommodate 16 aircraft.

The Defense Department also ignored the role that the 130th plays in homeland security. The facts show that the 130th Airlift Wing is the backbone of homeland security efforts not only in our state but also in 10 other states plus the nation's Capital.

These facts and many others convinced Chairman Principi. They also convinced the other eight members of the BRAC Commission. All nine commissioners voted to save the 130th Airlift Wing. The vote signals strong confidence in the future of the West Virginia National Guard.

The 130th has not wasted any time in answering the call to its mission. Within days after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf States, the 130th activated to help with relief and recovery efforts. I applaud them for their unceasing commitment to our state and our country.

The BRAC win is a great victory for the more than 1,000 members of the 130th Airlift Wing and for all of the state. I am immensely proud of our West Virginia National Guard. They have always stood by us, and I will always stand by them.

August 31, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Helping Victims of Hurricane Katrina

Hurricane Katrina dealt the people of America's Gulf States an unspeakable blow. Tens of thousands of homes have been destroyed. Entire cities have been washed away. And, most tragically, thousands of lives have been lost.

West Virginians know all too well the wrath of Mother Nature when flood waters flow. After a severe flood, the feeling of helplessness and hopelessness can be overwhelming. However, Mountaineers also have known the depth of human goodness when friends, neighbors, and caring people from far away lend a helping hand. We have been shown great kindness in our times of need, and we must do what we are able to help those impacted by the hurricane.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the lead coordinator of the relief effort, cash donations are most helpful at this early stage. Money contributions allow relief organizations to meet victims' immediate needs. Volunteer agencies use cash donations to provide a wide variety of post-disaster services including clean-up, childcare, housing repair, crisis counseling, sheltering, and food.

If you can, make a donation for the hurricane victims by calling the American Red Cross hotline at 1-800-

HELP NOW (435-7669). For a longer list of relief organizations that are accepting cash donations, visit my Internet site at <http://byrd.senate.gov>.

Giving money is not the only way to help. Simple prayers can help those people whose lives have been turned upside down by Hurricane Katrina. The power of prayer cannot be underestimated. The hurricane victims, their families, and the relief workers who are coming to their aid need our support and the Creator's strength.

As the people of the Gulf States start the long journey to put their lives back together, I want answers from FEMA as to why it took so long for rescue teams to get on the ground in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. There is no excuse for the days of delay and the inexplicable lack of coordination in the response effort. People's anger and frustration are justified. The government's actions in the days following the tragedy were slow and misguided at best, and completely inept at worst. The federal response effort is unacceptable, and we must do better in the future.

Hurricane Katrina is a national disaster. It is a national tragedy. And it will take a national effort to help people rebuild their homes, their cities, and their lives.

September 7, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Coast Guard Success in West Virginia

West Virginia recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Coast Guard's National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC) in Falling Waters in Berkeley County. The Center has thrived during its decade as a Mountain State employer. The facility's success is a testament to the area's advanced telecommunications system, strong workforce, low cost of living, and outstanding quality of life.

After meeting with me in 1994, the Coast Guard announced plans to consolidate its Vessel Documentation Offices into one West Virginia location. Those offices were previously spread out through 14 cities across the country. The Coast Guard determined that consolidating its vessel documentation offices would save taxpayers \$1 million each year -- a prediction that has proved true. Since the establishment of the NVDC in West Virginia in 1995, program costs have been reduced by approximately \$17 million. The consolidation was a good federal investment, which provided substantial savings to the American taxpayer.

The center, which employs more than 100 people, facilitates maritime commerce while protecting economic privileges of United States citizens through the

enforcement of regulations, and provides a register of vessels available in a time of war or emergency to defend and protect the United States.

The NVDC is the second Coast Guard facility to locate in the Eastern Panhandle. In 1991, the Coast Guard used funds that I added to legislation to establish the Operations Systems Center (OSC) near Martinsburg. The OSC has since expanded and today has nearly 420 employees. The establishment of these two Coast Guard functions in the Eastern Panhandle was part of my ongoing effort to encourage the Coast Guard to locate operations in West Virginia.

The Coast Guard's decision to locate both the OSC and the NVDC in West Virginia demonstrates that, once an agency or business puts down roots in West Virginia, the state's many attributes encourage expansion.

The Coast Guard and West Virginia share many similarities. We both have a small but versatile and highly skilled workforce, and we both value our heritage and time-honored traditions. The agency's partnership with the Mountain State has a bright future as we forge ahead with innovative solutions and a "can do" attitude.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Top-Notch Medical Care Close to Home

From one end of the state to the other, West Virginia's medical facilities are fast developing into some of the best in the country. That progress is saving lives. Rural patients have greater access to doctors and nurses. People no longer have to travel long distances for specialized medical care. Technology, training, and cutting-edge facilities are helping doctors and nurses to better treat patients' illnesses. These efforts also are helping West Virginians to live longer, healthier lives.

Progress is plainly evident at the Byrd Health Sciences Center at West Virginia University (WVU) in Morgantown. And soon another critical piece of that campus will be under construction with the release of \$20 million in federal funding that I added to legislation for a new Biomedical Science Center.

Each day, doctors and researchers make amazing progress toward cures and treatments for diseases that have threatened lives for generations. WVU has proved an important resource for people suffering from cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and so many other debilitating and potentially fatal illnesses. The new WVU Biomedical Science Center will cement the university's position at the forefront of the nation's cutting-edge medical institutions. The new facility will be designed and equipped to foster research in areas

of special concern to West Virginians, such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and other serious illnesses.

Already, WVU is home to top-notch cancer and trauma centers. The West Virginia Eye Institute at WVU provides advanced care and treatments for maladies that otherwise would cause blindness. The Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute, a priority for Senator Jay Rockefeller and named for his mother, is currently under construction. The Rockefeller Institute is bringing together some of the world's foremost experts in Alzheimer's disease and other brain illnesses.

Each of these facilities is based at West Virginia University. And each is helping to save countless lives. With the new Biomedical Science Center, WVU will be home to one of the most advanced health sciences centers and research institutes in the country.

"Knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world," said Louis Pasteur, the French scientist whose work in microbiology beginning in the mid-19th century continues to serve as the basis for modern medicine today. It is my hope that the Biomedical Science Center will help to expand our knowledge of some of the most debilitating diseases facing mankind and lead to cures that today we can only imagine.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Take A Bite Out Of High-Tech Crime

For 25 years, the National Crime Prevention Council's "McGruff, the Crime Dog" has been teaching families how they can help to combat crime in their communities. McGruff and his signature "Take a Bite Out of Crime" message highlight the average citizen's role in public safety and crime prevention. The well-known dog's efforts are needed now more than ever as new types of crimes are striking innocent victims.

Facing these new challenges, McGruff today is focusing his crime-fighting skills on technology-related crimes. As more individuals use the Internet to communicate with family and friends, to make financial transactions, and to do retail shopping, criminals are finding new ways to exploit people's personal information. Identity theft and on-line fraud are the fastest growing technology crimes and affect millions of Americans each year.

As McGruff so often reminds us, we can take steps to help avoid being victims of these dangerous crimes. To prevent identity fraud, individuals should avoid providing any personal information via e-mail; they should report suspicious e-mails to their Internet service providers and the Federal Trade Commission; and they should install software

on their computers that protects from viruses and unsolicited e-mails.

In addition, be suspicious of electronic notices of prizes or cash awards that require personal information to claim the award. The old maxim is still true today: If the offer seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Lastly, parents should monitor their children's activity on the Internet and install software on the family computer that protects children from on-line sexual predators.

To learn more about how to prevent electronic crimes, call the National Crime Prevention Council at 1-800-627-2911 and request a copy of the free publication *Preventing Identity Theft: A Guide for Consumers* and the free action kit *Crime Prevention in the Information Age*. To read more about the history of McGruff, 25th anniversary activities, and what communities can do to support crime prevention, visit www.ncpc.org.

McGruff and the National Crime Prevention Council are helping to empower communities, in partnership with local law enforcement, to ensure safe and secure neighborhoods in West Virginia and across the country. As McGruff has told us all of these years, by working together, we can all help to "take a bite out of crime."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Constitution Day 2005: A Great Success

On a September afternoon in Philadelphia in 1787, an amazing event took place. Some of the brightest and bravest men of that, or any, generation came together to forge the document that continues to guide our nation today: the Constitution of the United States.

The Constitution's Preamble established our government's purpose in just a few simple words: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." One paragraph, followed by a few pages, gave this nation direction and structure. We all cherish our liberty, and our liberty is enshrined in the Constitution.

Because it is so fundamental to each American, I have been increasingly concerned about the lack of understanding of the Constitution, especially by young people. Studies have shown that more young people know the names of the three Rice Krispies cereal characters than know the three branches of government. We need to put an end to such ignorance.

That's why, last fall, I wrote legislation creating Constitution Day. Because of this law, students across

the country are asked to spend some time every September 17 -- the date on which the Constitution was signed in 1787 -- learning more about our founding document.

This September, the nation marked the very first Constitution Day. I have been nearly overwhelmed by the excitement and the creativity that teachers and students have shown in celebrating this special day.

In West Virginia, hundreds of students gathered at Wheeling Jesuit University for a special day-long program on the Constitution. The West Virginia Department of Education produced a special television presentation, distributed to more than 200 schools, about the importance of the Constitution to young people and its roots that stretch back for hundreds of years. Some schools recreated the Constitutional Convention, with children portraying George Washington and Ben Franklin. Other schools took a closer look at our freedoms -- such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion and the right to bear arms -- and how each freedom needs to be guarded zealously.

From coast to coast, the inaugural Constitution Day was a great success. I look forward to next year's activities. More importantly, I look eagerly ahead to the day when Americans not only cherish the Constitution but also understand its content and its importance to our lives.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stop the Scourge: End Domestic Violence

In West Virginia, there were more than 10,400 cases of domestic violence abuse in 2003 -- the most recent year for which statistics are available. That's more than 28 abusive crimes a day, every day of the year. Of those cases, 25 resulted in the victim's death. Domestic violence is a scourge. It is a despicable crime. The challenge ahead is to find a way to break this cycle of violence and abuse that endangers tens of thousands of lives. While this is not an easy challenge to meet, it is certainly a challenge that we must pursue.

That's why I sponsored the Violence Against Women Act of 2005. This legislation, which I am proud to report the Senate has approved, is a bipartisan effort to reauthorize and expand on the successes of the groundbreaking 1994 legislation of the same name. That law instituted a fundamental change in the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes committed against women. But, despite the progress, domestic violence continues to take a terrible toll on families. We cannot stand still.

This renewed legislation will put new resources into the hands of law enforcement, and new hope into the hearts of victims of abuse.

Law enforcement officials need stronger tools to combat domestic violence. That's why the legislation

would increase funding to more than \$400 million each year to law enforcement officials, lawyers, judges, and advocates. The legislation would stiffen existing criminal penalties for repeat federal domestic violence offenders and give federal prosecutors more discretion in charging stalking cases that occur on the Internet.

For victims of abuse, the Violence Against Women Act would strengthen support services. The bill would create a new, dedicated grant program to strengthen the 1,300 rape crisis centers across the country, reinvigorate programs to help older and disabled victims of domestic violence, enhance existing programs for rural victims and victims in underserved areas, and increase funding to \$5 million per year for the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

When we marry, we pledge to love and honor our spouse, and to comfort and care for that person. Beatings, rape, and even murder -- domestic violence makes a mockery of those vows. And while bruises and broken bones heal, the emotional and mental scars of abuse can last for a lifetime. As a society, we must get at the root of this problem. We have a moral obligation to stop domestic violence and to give those who suffer from it a chance for a better future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Winning the Battle Against Breast Cancer

Each October, the nation marks "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" to focus attention on the disease and spread the message that early detection saves lives. Breast cancer accounts for one in three cancers diagnosed in American women, with 211,240 new invasive cases, including 1,410 in West Virginia, expected in 2005. It is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in U.S. women. Even more compelling than the statistics are the personal stories of struggle and loss, all too familiar to each of us.

One decade ago, breast cancer research was an unacceptably low federal funding priority. That is why I have worked with Senators from both parties to increase America's investment in life-saving breast cancer research. This year alone, the federal government will spend more than \$850 million on breast cancer research to improve detection and treatments so that one day there will be a cure for this deadly disease.

Our investment is paying off. While the number of breast cancer cases remains high, it is declining. The American Cancer Society reports that deaths from breast cancer have dropped steadily during the 1990s -- progress that is attributed to both early detection and better treatments.

Experts state that the most effective way to detect breast cancer is through a combination of clinical breast exams, regular self-

exams, and routine mammograms. Mammograms often can find breast cancer early, when treatments are most successful. Yet, many women who have either no health insurance or poor insurance policies cannot afford the cost of this life-saving test.

Fortunately, free mammograms and other cancer screening are available through the statewide breast and cervical cancer prevention, education, and screening project, launched in 1990 with funds I added to an appropriations bill. This initiative provides critical tests to West Virginians who otherwise might not have the access or the financial means to get them.

In addition, scientists at the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center at West Virginia University are treating cancer patients and helping to find a cure. The Cancer Center was established, in part, with \$13.3 million that I added to federal appropriations bills beginning in 1985. The facility provides patients with high quality, comprehensive breast cancer treatments.

By continuing the investment in cancer research and aggressively working to find a cure, I hope that one day we will not need a "Breast Cancer Awareness Month." But until that day arrives, I urge women to learn how to detect the disease at an early stage. Early detection remains the best key to survival.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Nature's Beauty for All to Enjoy

Fall is here. That means high school football games and beautiful colors adorning the trees and the mountains. For many West Virginians, fall also means the start of the deer season for hunters, a tradition that many families pass from one generation to the next. While this is a proud tradition, it would disappear if there were no forests or rivers protected for this experience. No woods, no deer; no rivers, no fish.

That's one of the reasons why I have worked in the Senate to preserve and grow West Virginia's natural beauty.

For example, up until 1989, West Virginia was the only state without a National Wildlife Refuge. Imagine! Our state, so recognized for its scenic beauty, without a protected area for wildlife and unique trees and plants. I went to work to obtain the funding to establish the first refuge in the Mountain State -- the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, headquartered in Parkersburg. Most of the refuge's islands are within West Virginia's segment of the river, stretching from the Northern Panhandle in Hancock County to south of Point Pleasant in Mason County. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service eventually plans to acquire

additional islands, for a potential total of 35, along a 400-mile stretch of the Ohio River between Pennsylvania and Kentucky.

The Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge was the country's 500th refuge. The Tucker County refuge is one of the largest and most diverse freshwater wetland areas in central and southern Appalachia. The incredible diversity of plants and habitats support an equally varied wildlife of more than 290 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

The Monongahela National Forest; the New River Gorge National River; wilderness areas like Dolly Sods, Otter Creek, Cranberry, Laurel Fork North, and Laurel Fork South -- so many places in West Virginia are unique reminders of the beauty of nature and the handiwork of the Creator.

Protecting and growing these amazing sites guarantees that they will be enjoyed for generations to come. It matters not whether one is a hunter or a photographer, a hiker or a skier; each West Virginian can appreciate the beauty of the lands around us, and each of us can do our part to make sure that these precious resources are preserved for decades to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In Thanksgiving

As communities along the Gulf Coast clean up from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as Florida reels from yet another hurricane, as casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan soar, and as scandal engulfs the White House, it might seem difficult to find anything to be thankful for on this Thanksgiving.

Many families' prospects for rebuilding the lives they once knew are uncertain, but there is hope. There is also much to celebrate as Americans gather for Thanksgiving. We may be thankful that the loss of life from those hurricanes was not greater. We can celebrate the support that erupted from Americans and from friends around the world. The public response to the Gulf Coast disasters proved that the nation's sense of community remains strong.

In Iraq, we can celebrate the performance of our troops. Whatever the circumstances under which they were sent, the U.S. military has performed their duties with courage and dedication under the most dangerous conditions.

Even the scandal washing over the President's closest advisors may give cause for celebration, and not for partisan reasons. Americans may be thankful

for our system of government with its checks and balances. We may celebrate the wisdom of guaranteeing freedom of expression and a free press. Without those guarantees, Ambassador Wilson could not have told the truth about his mission to Niger.

We can be grateful that the Constitution's checks and balances remain a strong tool for oversight and accountability. That is what keeps this country strong. President Abraham Lincoln said, "Let the people know the truth and the country is safe." Whatever the final outcome of these investigations, the nation is safer and better off for having the means to challenge possible abuses of power.

So, even in these dark days, there are reasons to give thanks. I hope the recent dip in gasoline prices will allow families to gather together and set a table overflowing with home-cooked food. There are few days devoted entirely to family. Thanksgiving is the one time we can really focus on all that we have to be thankful for just by looking around the table.

Erma joins me in wishing a happy Thanksgiving to all West Virginians. May each of you be blessed this Thanksgiving.

November 16, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Broken Budget for West Virginia

In the coming weeks, the Congress will vote on a new federal budget. This budget jeopardizes many initiatives that are important to our state, while setting the stage for massive cuts in services and a huge hike in our nation's debt in the months ahead.

When President Bush took office, his Administration was handed a balanced budget with record surpluses. The economy was moving full-speed ahead. But now, record surpluses have been replaced by record deficits, and the national debt is growing at an alarming pace. In fact, the budget crafted by the Republican Senate Leadership will cause the national debt to rise to more than \$11.3 trillion in the next five years. But, this irresponsible budget doesn't stop there.

This unfair budget plan increases Medicare Part B premiums while slashing \$24 billion from Medicaid. In West Virginia, 350,000 senior citizens, many on fixed incomes, rely on Medicare to help pay their doctor bills. Medicaid provides health care for 300,000 West Virginians, primarily the poor and uninsured children. These West Virginians are not given a choice about the cuts in services; they are simply told to deal with the

reductions.

The cuts in the proposed budget help to make room for massive tax breaks for multi-millionaires and Washington, D.C., special interests.

Certainly these budgetary tax cut goodies do not help most working West Virginians very much. People with incomes between \$50,000 and \$200,000 would see a tax break of only \$112, while those earning less than \$50,000 would receive a tiny \$6 tax cut.

The median West Virginia household income is \$31,504. Cutting programs vital to the people of our state is an unfair way to pay for tax cuts for millionaires.

As Americans, and as people who believe in a Creator and a moral society, we share a responsibility to protect those who may need help -- to feed the hungry, to care for the sick, to house the homeless. This budget scoffs at those moral principles. Americans are a kind and generous people, and that spirit is alive and well in West Virginia. Just look at the way our state reached out to help the victims of Katrina. Those are the kinds of values our national budget should reflect, and this particular spending plan is way off the mark.

November 2, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Veterans Day: Recognizing A Debt of Honor

West Virginians have been part of every military effort to protect the nation's interests abroad. Our state's sons and daughters have always been prepared to fight for our country. Each of us owes a great debt to our veterans, and to the men and women in our Armed Forces today who will be veterans tomorrow. We owe our veterans thanks; we owe them honor; and we owe them our support.

Part of that support is in providing the medical care that they were promised when they enlisted in the military. President Abraham Lincoln said that it was the nation's duty "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." Unfortunately, the federal government has been more than stingy when it comes to meeting President Lincoln's standard.

This year alone, the Bush Administration underfunded veterans' medical care by more than \$1 billion. Fearing that veterans would see their medical services cut off or needlessly delayed, I went to work to fill the funding shortfall, and the Congress approved my work. As a result, none of West Virginia's 187,000 veterans saw their medical care disappear because of

the Administration's budget shenanigans.

Now, the challenge is to take care of a shortfall for next year. We know that the veterans' medical care budget is going to run out of funding. The Congress needs to step up and make sure that our veterans receive the care that they were promised.

Our veterans served, and many died, so that this country might be able to fulfill the great hope of our Founding Fathers. Our veterans answered the call of their country and they did not fail it, even in death. And it is proper and it is right that we take one day a year to pay our most profound respect to the men and women who have worn our nation's uniform, to thank them, and to recommit ourselves to their support.

This Veterans Day, I thank our veterans for their service to our country. I hope everyone will join in offering a prayer of thanks to the brave men and women who did not come home from battle, who defended us with their lives. May God bless all West Virginians who have fought and sacrificed for the preservation of our nation's freedom and our nation's interests throughout the world.

November 9, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Saving Money on Energy

Hurricanes, increasing energy demand, and insufficient energy production are setting the stage for an expensive winter. Many people will struggle to afford the skyrocketing costs of gasoline and home heating during the coming cold months.

The federal government needs to step up to the plate and pass additional measures to achieve energy savings. Congress needs to crack down on price gouging and smartly expand production capacity. The federal government also needs to support new technologies, like coal-to-oil conversion, that can use America's natural resources in a clean, efficient manner.

At the same time, there are steps that individuals can take to save money this winter.

To limit trips to the gas station, slow down and drive the speed limit. Speeding and rapid acceleration can lower gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and five percent around town.

Another way to minimize gas usage is to consolidate errands. Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as combining all stops covering the same distance when the engine is warm.

Keep vehicles in good working condition, ensuring that the engine is properly tuned and checking and

replacing air filters regularly. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10 percent. Also, keeping tires inflated properly improves gas mileage by more than three percent. These tips will help to keep money in drivers' pockets, and out of the pockets of the big oil companies this winter.

People also can save money on home heating costs. On sunny days, open curtains and blinds to let the sunlight in and then close them again at night to protect against cold air. Run washing machines and dryers only with full loads. Set water heater temperatures at 120 degrees, which cuts water heating bills without sacrificing comfort. "Winterizing" one's home can cut costs, as well. Caulking and weatherstripping doors and windows takes little time and can be done with inexpensive, widely available materials. Programmable thermostats, insulation, and storm windows are just a few products that can pay for themselves from savings in home heating bills.

For other energy money saving tips, please visit my Internet site, <http://byrd.senate.gov>. High energy prices don't have to keep West Virginians out of their cars and in the cold this winter. Small steps can make a big difference in families' budgets this winter.

November 23, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Standing With Our Veterans

Across this great nation, we are proud of our veterans. The battlefields may have been far away -- Iwo Jima, Berlin, the Chosin Reservoir, the Mekong Delta, Kabul, and Fallujah. But our veterans' devotion to their country gave them courage under fire.

President Abraham Lincoln noted in his Second Inaugural Address that, in thanks for their service to our country, America should always "...care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan." That is a heavy responsibility and a solemn duty. Unfortunately, President Lincoln's admonishment appears to have been forgotten in some quarters.

A few months ago, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reported a massive financial shortfall that, if left unaddressed, could threaten the health care that veterans receive each day from the VA. The VA budget was in the red by billions of dollars, and fast Congressional action was needed.

Working with concerned Senators from both political parties, I steered funding through the Congress intended to ensure that VA medical care would continue uninterrupted for 2005. In addition, Congress recently approved more than \$22.5 billion to protect veterans' health care for

2006, including \$1.2 billion in "contingent emergency" funding. That "emergency" designation means that the dollars can be shifted to the VA medical centers in West Virginia and across the country immediately -- but only if President Bush also designates the funds as an emergency. I hope that he will. I have written to the President and urged him to speed these funds to our veterans and ensure that there are no delays in their medical treatments.

At this point, the VA expects the \$1.2 billion to cover any 2006 shortfall, and, in my position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will do my best to make sure that veterans' health care is not short-changed.

Each day, new veterans come home from war. These men and women have made us proud. Many of these 21st century veterans have specialized health care needs. The battlefields of today are inflicting wounds unlike those experienced by the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines of past wars.

Treating these injuries requires well-trained doctors and nurses, a dedicated staff, modern equipment, and money. We must be ready to respond. Veterans' health care is a responsibility that we must never shirk.

November 30, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Saving Lives of Trauma Patients

Accidents and injuries are an unavoidable part of life. The care that individuals receive in the moments following a trauma can be the difference between life and death. The Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center at West Virginia University (WVU) Hospitals has been saving lives for 17 years and recently earned national recognition for its top-notch standard of care.

The Trauma Center is named after my grandson, Jon Michael Moore, who lost his life in 1982 in a fiery truck accident. My family and I experienced all of the emotions that accompany such a tragedy -- anger, depression, loss. But with God's grace and the love and the support of friends and family, we endured.

Today, doctors and nurses at the Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center work each day to help other families cope with trauma and tragedy. My grandson would be humbled to have this facility named in his memory, and his family is hugely proud of the center's incredible record of treating victims of tragedy. This is a tremendous legacy.

The Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center has been dually honored for its stellar patient care. The American College of Surgeons Committee has renewed the hospital's Level One trauma center status, making it one of only 31 Level One cen-

ters in the country for both children and adults trauma. West Virginia's Office of Emergency Medical Systems also has redesignated the facility as a Level One center. This recognition means that WVU's trauma center meets or exceeds all national standards for the care of severely injured persons. It means that it is one of the best of its kind in the entire country.

The Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center treats more than 3,000 patients annually and is one of only a handful of nationally recognized Level One trauma centers serving a mostly rural population. West Virginians should take great pride in this shining star among the state's many excellent health care facilities.

I know that the Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center will continue to excel. Every minute of every hour of every day, this team of highly skilled doctors and nurses and technicians is committed to saving lives. They work under extreme pressure, and they know that their every decision has great consequence. But these men and women have proved themselves to be up to the challenge.

I congratulate the Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center on its national recognition and its service to our state. May the Hands of the Great Physician continue to guide the patients and staff at this remarkable place.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Celebrating the True Christmas Story

Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year, a time of joy and love, of family gatherings and warm memories. Too often today, though, big sales and the shopping frenzy try to take Christ out of Christmas. The meaning of Christmas is overshadowed by the pressures and strains of a commercialized holiday.

At its core, Christmas will always be about a couple who found no shelter but a manger, and also about a newborn child who would become the Savior of the world.

That is why, each year at this time, I reread the Christmas story in the Gospel of Luke. My Christmas wish is that all of us will remember the words and, more importantly, the true meaning of this sacred season.

"All went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought

forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

In these days of rushing and wrapping, I hope that West Virginians will take the time to focus on the great and glorious meaning of Christmas.

My wife, Erma, and I wish for all West Virginians a happy and holy Christmas and New Year.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Finding a Solution to Our Energy Crisis

Fact: The world is running out of oil. The Chief Executive Officer of Exxon-Mobil predicts that less than half of the oil needed to meet world demand by 2010 can be supplied by existing oil fields. When that time of "scarceness" arrives, competition for remaining oil will likely become cut-throat, possibly triggering monumental changes in the economies, societies, and relationships between the nations of the world.

In reality, backfilling an oil shortfall will take a variety of energy sources. Renewable resources like hydro, solar and wind power, and biomass, along with finite resources like natural gas, all must be part of a comprehensive national effort to shake off the oil addiction. And a major player in any such effort must be coal and coal-based technologies. Coal has been used to make diesel and jet fuels for 80 years. Moreover, synfuels made from coal burn cleaner and perform better than petroleum. We can produce synthetic fuels in West Virginia, using our own abundant supply of coal, natural gas, and other resources. All we need is the money, the right policies, and the commitment to do it.

I congratulate Governor Manchin for stepping into the energy policy debate. He and others are making an effort to wake the Ameri-

can public to our looming energy crisis. But they are not just ringing alarm bells. They also have a blueprint which can be part of a solution. They want to develop domestic energy sources and produce jobs and economic security, as well as ensure a dependable, affordable, clean American-based energy supply.

By encouraging the cleaner, more efficient use of coal in power plants and other facilities, we help to ensure jobs in West Virginia for many years to come. Our brain power, coal reserves, and excellent workforce can lead the way to America's energy independence. It is time to devote new innovation and ingenuity to energy policy and blaze new trails.

Just as President Kennedy did when he sent this nation on a mission to put a man on the moon, this government can begin an intense clean coal research and development program similar to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Program of the 1960s. Like the research done for the space program, such energy research will produce spin-offs that create jobs, improve life, secure our energy future, and bolster our national security. Not even with our best crystal ball can we fully know what fantastic gains can be made, and we should not delay in starting.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reflections on 2005

As we bid farewell to 2005, it is a fitting time to reflect on the events that have impacted humankind throughout the year. We have seen a sobering amount of human suffering in the past year, with the tsunami in Southeast Asia devastating hundreds of thousands of lives, and then the earthquakes that brought tragedy that was felt around the world. We are mindful, too, of America's own tragedies with hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which wreaked unspeakable havoc on those people living in the Gulf Coast region.

But, in the face of such adversity, there is strength in the generous and giving nature of the American people. Many West Virginians heeded the call, time and again, to give comfort to those less fortunate. West Virginia's Mountaineers came together in the spirit of goodwill and Christian love to help those near and far in times of great need.

After Hurricane Katrina, food and clothing drives sprang up throughout the state. Students organized and collected thousands of school supplies and toys for children left with nothing. Virtually every community in the state found ways to help, from pancake breakfasts and raffles, to gospel sings and blood drives.

Perhaps the strong show of support is because West Virginians are no strangers

to sacrifice. As we know all too well, the elements of Mother Nature can be harsh and unrelenting. West Virginians know the blessings of prosperity, but also the difficulties and hardships that life can bring. In the worst of times, the people of our state are often at their best.

In times of sorrow and uncertainty, I am comforted by the words of the Lord. Second Corinthians tells us, "Though our outward man may perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Mountaineers have always been a special breed of people and proved that again in 2005. Our people served proudly in the military in faraway lands. West Virginians banded together to help their fellow Americans survive tragedy. Together, we overcame the challenges of 2005.

As we mark the start of this New Year, I thank the Creator for His blessings on our state and nation, and I wish all West Virginians a happy, safe, and prosperous 2006.

December 21, 2005



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Lessons from the Leadership of Gerald R. Ford

The President of the United States is a powerful figure in this country. The President sets the tone for the nation. He can either challenge us to reach for our better angels, or take actions that serve to deeply divide the country. The president can either promote an agenda that brings the American people together, or he can press for policies that split us apart.

In the summer of 1974, the country was suffering. President Richard Nixon's actions in the Watergate affair only compounded the anger and distrust that people felt over the Vietnam War. The country was near a boiling point. President Nixon, on the verge of being impeached by the House of Representatives, resigned from office, elevating Gerald R. Ford -- a former Congressman from Michigan, a former Republican Leader in the House of Representatives, and the then Vice President of the United States -- to our country's highest Executive Office.

Many people across the country did not know President Ford very well. Few knew the quality of the man, as he had never run for office outside of his Congressional district. I knew Gerald Ford, having worked with him in the Congress, and I had confidence that he would be the kind of presi-

dent that we needed at that moment in time.

Gerald Ford brought to the presidency a humble tone very different from that of President Nixon. He worked to heal the nation after one of the most turbulent periods in our history. His actions were defined by his patriotism and his belief that America had to move forward instead of looking back. I have always been impressed with the quiet determination that President Ford showed in office. He understood that sharp partisanship does not serve the country well, and that political parties need to work together to forge solutions to the challenges we face.

That is a lesson that should be remembered today in Washington, D.C. Too often, more attention is paid to scoring political points than is paid to working for the American people.

As the new Congress begins, we have an opportunity to come together and put the people's priorities first. That means focusing on those issues that West Virginia families and families all across our country are most concerned about -- good jobs; access to better health care; improved classrooms. If we pull together, Democrats and Republicans, we can find the best solutions for America.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

United in Sorrow, Determination

West Virginia has once again proved what makes our state unique. As calamity struck the miners in Upshur County, West Virginians banded together in support of those men and their families. When news came that 12 of those 13 souls had not survived the explosion at the mine, West Virginians united to console the families, and to continue to pray for the survivor, Randal McCloy, Jr.

Each miner faces physical dangers with a knowledge that every other miner with him is his brother. Together, they do their jobs with extraordinary bravery and professionalism. The Sago miners were brothers. They worked together; they struggled together; and together today, they are with the Lord.

As the families grieve, they also deserve to know what happened in that mine. One of the finest tributes we could pay to these families and their lost loved ones would be to take steps to help prevent other families from ever experiencing such pain.

To do that, the federal and state investigations will move forward to determine what happened in that mine to spark the explosion and whether the explosion could have been prevented.

In Congress, there are tough questions to be asked of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration

(MSHA). Is enforcement of coal mining regulations tough enough? In the last five years, nearly 200 federal coal enforcement personnel have lost their jobs because of budget cuts. Are the regulations on the books today current enough to handle the challenges posed by 21st century coal mining? Are mine hazards being minimized? During the past several years, many key mining health and safety improvements have been delayed or discontinued by MSHA. These and other issues demand scrutiny, and the miners' families deserve the answers. I will work in the Senate to get the truth.

West Virginians know coal mining. The mines are near our homes. The mining industry has employed our families, in some cases for several generations. We understand the risks. But we also understand that coal miners deserve protection. They must know that rules and regulations, put in place for the well-being of the miners and nearby communities, are not being overlooked or disregarded.

In this hour of prayer and tragedy, West Virginia will honor these men, and hold close their families and friends. But we must also do everything possible to prevent other mining families from experiencing such terrible pain. That should be the legacy of the Sago miners.

Wednesday, January 4, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Congress Brings New Opportunities

As the new Congress begins, I will take every opportunity to refocus our government's attention on the issues that matter most to West Virginians. I know from countless conversations with constituents throughout the state that there is a strong desire for change.

The American people expect Members of Congress to work together. The nation is tired of divisive partisan rhetoric. There is a clear mandate for the 110th Congress to put more energy towards working to achieve practical results for the people, and less on hatching political victories.

Though the Democrats now hold a majority in the Senate by the thinnest of margins, I believe the shift in power presents Congress with an opportunity to undo the partisan gridlock that has impeded good government in recent years. The new Congress will work longer hours, and we are resolved to be more open and inclusive. We will dust off the traditions of dialogue, deliberation, and decorum that have been shelved in recent years.

I intend to reach out to my Republican colleagues on the Budget Committee for their input and assistance in restoring the fiscal balance and responsibility that Americans expect from their government.

The views of my colleagues across the political aisle on the Committee on Armed Services will be welcomed, respected, and carefully considered. It will take a bipartisan effort to untangle ourselves from Iraq and provide for our national security. It will take the collective political will of both parties to meet the challenges of providing adequate care and services for our new generation of veterans.

Though needed reforms in the earmarking process are being implemented until we return fiscal responsibility and accountability to the budget process, I will continue to be mindful of the needs of my home state of West Virginia as I return to the role of Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

Americans have given Congress a resounding mandate to set the country on a more stable, responsible path to domestic progress and prosperity, while strengthening national security. I am excited about the opportunities this new Congress presents, and optimistic about the future of this great nation.

Progress will require hard work and great personal commitment. I stand ready and eager to continue to serve the great state of West Virginia and this great nation.

January 10, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Honoring Dr. King's Living Legacy

The greatness of women and men is often best judged from a historical perspective. History gives us the detached viewpoint that allows us to better understand and appreciate the person, the cause, and the legacy. This happens because great individuals often have been leaders who challenged the status quo as they pushed the country into areas where it had feared to go. As a result, such leaders often arouse criticism and opposition. That criticism certainly followed the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

But time and the march of history afford a better understanding of Dr. King and his contributions toward making the United States a better, stronger, and greater nation.

That is why this year, as the nation marks the anniversary of Dr. King's birthday, it is important to look at what we, as a people, have done to improve our country since his death, and understand what more needs to be done.

His work included all Americans. When Dr. King stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and proclaimed, "I have a dream," he looked forward to the time "when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catho-

lics, will be able to join hands." Dr. King's efforts also focused on the economic rights of economically deprived people of all races and creeds, as well as on civil rights. In this quest, he proposed a Bill of Rights for the Disadvantaged. He advocated a Guaranteed National Income. At the time of his death, Dr. King was organizing a "Poor People's March" on Washington, an effort meant to focus national attention on poverty among not only African-Americans, but also among the poor whites of Appalachia, as well.

Dr. King's vision was not only about what America could be, but also what America should be.

I have come to appreciate how Martin Luther King, Jr., sought to help our nation overcome racial barriers, bigotry, hatred, and injustice, and how he helped to inspire and guide a most important, most powerful, and most transforming social movement.

With his works as well as his words, Dr. King left us a legacy that inspires and guides millions of Americans today. It is a legacy that demonstrates that human problems, no matter how big or complex, can be addressed -- a legacy that proves that one determined person can make a difference.

January 11, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Finding Ways to Protect Our Miners

In the days since the fatal Sago mine tragedy, we all have sought to find answers to the most basic questions. What sparked this explosion? Could it have been prevented? What can be done to make sure that it does not happen again, in West Virginia or anywhere across the country?

Investigation teams will work to determine the explosion's cause and what happened in the immediate aftermath. So that they are thorough and accurate, these reports will take time.

The Congress has a responsibility to look at the Sago tragedy, as well. The federal agency tasked with keeping order at coal mines is the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). In the days since the explosion, many questions have been raised about MSHA. Are there enough inspectors checking on mining operations? Are safety violations handled appropriately? Does MSHA have an effective system in place to respond quickly to mining disasters?

I recently met with MSHA officials to learn about their progress in the explosion investigation and, more importantly, to get their view of the culture of safety in our nation's mines. After hearing what these officials had to say, I still have lingering concerns. I believe that the federal gov-

ernment can do more to protect coal miners. We need more inspectors. We need more resources. Because of decisions made by officials in Washington, the federal mine safety agency is understaffed, underfunded, and underequipped.

A focus on modern technology could help. We owe it to the Sago miners to update technology in the areas of mine safety and rescue operations. Right now, safety and rescue equipment is 30 to 40 years old. We can send machines to Mars and communicate with them almost instantaneously; we ought to be able to talk with miners trapped 250 feet below ground. There have been plenty of technological advances in mining equipment over the years, but miner safety and health have not been given the same priority.

Next week, the Senate Appropriations Committee will hold the first of what I expect will be many Congressional hearings into the operations of MSHA. My message at that hearing will be clear. We must take a hard look at the Sago mine tragedy; learn its lessons; and do whatever is necessary to protect miners from a repeat of this disaster. MSHA needs to remember that its mission is mine health and safety, and that mission must always come first.

January 18, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Mine Safety for the 21st Century

In the wake of the fatal mine tragedies in our state this month which claimed the lives of 14 men, all of us have been searching for ways to prevent repeat incidents. One of the most glaring shortfalls in mine safety is the out-of-date technology that is used in America's mines.

Much of today's mine safety equipment was developed 30 to 40 years ago. Here we are, in the year 2006, relying on safety technology that was put in place in 1966.

Emergency breathing equipment provides trapped miners with one hour of oxygen. Yet, at Sago, it took nearly 11 hours for rescue teams to enter the mine and begin their search. That's unacceptable.

In this age of instant communications, there was no way to communicate with the 12 men at Sago and the two men trapped at the Aracoma Alma mine in Logan County. That, too, is unacceptable.

Despite global positioning satellites and wireless remote technologies, rescuers used best guesses to drill through hundreds of feet of rock and soil, hoping that the trapped Sago miners would hear the drill and signal their location. A guessing game is no way to pinpoint miners when every minute is the difference between life and death.

Federal mining officials have stated that there is no

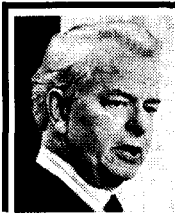
off-the-shelf technology that can solve these communications problems. They're wrong.

The Defense Department has tracking technology that can be readily adapted for mines.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is advancing technology that will significantly expand the emergency oxygen supplies that miners can carry with them.

Private companies also are working to adapt everyday technologies for mine safety. For example, many cell phone users are familiar with text messaging where a brief message can be sent to one's mobile phone. This same technology exists in a piece of mining equipment, first developed in Australia. The small device, worn on a miner's belt, allows for instant text messages from the surface. Despite the advantages and relative affordability, the manufacturer reports that only 14 mines across the country utilize this device. That's 14 out of 15,000 deep mines nationwide. The nation must do better by our miners.

We all mourn the deaths of the 12 men at the Sago mine and the two men at the Aracoma Alma mine. But their deaths should not be in vain. The country needs to wake up to the dangers of mining -- many of which could be avoided by bringing mine safety technology into the 21st century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Urgency of Mine Safety

This week, two more West Virginia coal miners lost their lives on the job. Two more families have seen their worlds turned upside down. In the first 32 days of this new year, the Mountain State suffered as 16 coal miners have died -- first in Upshur County, then in Logan County, and now in Boone County. Miners and their families throughout the state are wondering where the next explosion will occur, what will spark the next fire, and will it be at their mine.

We are facing a safety crisis. The time for talk is over. We've got to take steps now to protect lives.

The West Virginia Congressional Delegation has introduced legislation in the House of Representatives and the Senate that has one simple aim: the prevention of future fatal mine tragedies. As a united Delegation, we share the strong belief that coal miners deserve the best protections and the best safety enforcement possible. The longer we wait to make positive changes in mine safety, the more risk coal miners face on the job. We have a moral obligation to get this done.

The West Virginia Delegation's federal mine safety package focuses on sev-

eral areas, including rapid notification and response, tougher penalties for safety violations, emergency communications and breathing equipment, and expanded use of advanced safety technologies.

The tragedies at the Sago and Alma mines highlighted gross weaknesses in mine emergency preparedness, and the failure of leadership at the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to get tough about rescue procedures and safety initiatives. The status quo is not good enough; the status quo is putting lives at risk. If the federal agency will not take steps on its own, then the Congress must take the lead and, if need be, poke, prod, and push MSHA into fulfilling its mandate.

We need more than platitudes to protect the safety of our nation's miners. We need resources. We need swift action. We need to impress deeply upon the psyche of MSHA and of the nation's coal mine operators that the safety of miners will not be compromised for personal profit or politics. Protecting the safety of our miners is a moral responsibility, and I, for one, will never, ever, forget that obligation.

February 1, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Meeting Our Troops' Needs

I am proud of the men and women of America's Armed Forces. Whether active duty, Reservist, or National Guard, our troops volunteer for their jobs; they carry out their missions; they risk their lives. In return, they only ask for the support of their country, both in terms of equipment and resources during their service and medical care when they come home.

This week, one West Virginia soldier's story caught the attention of the nation, and I hope that it serves as a wake-up call for the civilian leadership and the top brass at the Pentagon.

First Lieutenant William Rebrook was medically discharged from the Army after he suffered shrapnel wounds in Iraq. After he was attacked, military medics evacuated him from the battlefield. His body armor was removed so that emergency doctors could treat his wounds. That was the last time that Lieutenant Rebrook saw that armor.

Before he could be discharged and return home to Charleston, the military handed him a \$700 bill for his destroyed body armor. I find it astounding that the Pentagon would ask soldiers, wounded in battle, to pay for equipment damaged or destroyed during their service.

At a hearing this week of the Armed Services Committee, I brought the case of

Lieutenant Rebrook to the attention of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and General Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I urged them to take this story, and so many others like it, seriously. Already, friends and family members of many soldiers have dug deep into their pockets to pay for body armor and other key pieces of equipment. And when a soldier is injured, he or she should not be forced to pay for equipment that doctors and medical teams discard so they can treat those injuries.

Our soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen are the finest in the world. All Americans owe them a debt of gratitude for their service to our country. But we also owe them something more. We owe them not only mega-million dollar missiles and tanks and airplanes but also basic body armor and detection devices to protect them from the deadly nickel-and-dime IEDs of the Iraqi insurgency. And we owe them a military health care system and a veterans' benefits program that serve them as well as they have served the nation.

The Pentagon needs to remember that the military's strength is not centered in fancy weapons systems, but in the spirit and courage of the men and women who serve in our nation's Armed Forces.

February 8, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balance the Federal Checkbook

West Virginians know how to budget. We know how much money will be in our paychecks and how much our bills will be. We plan for big costs and put a little aside when we can for unforeseen emergencies. It's common sense.

But the federal government doesn't seem to understand how to budget to pay today's bills while saving for those unforeseen emergencies. The White House recently sent to Congress its latest budget, a proposal that ignores common sense and results in growing debt for as far as the eye can see. In fact, under this budget, the Administration admits that the debt will grow to a mind-boggling \$11.5 trillion by 2011 -- a more than \$3 trillion jump in the next five years.

In the time from President George Washington to the start of President George W. Bush's term, the United States took on debt totaling \$5.6 trillion. According to the White House budget documents, the debt that took 212 years to acquire will stunningly double in size by 2011.

Imagine that a family paid its mortgage, doctor's bills, grocery bills, and utilities with the credit card. The debt grows and grows and grows. That's what we have in this Administration budget. The debt explodes, and the financial pressure

facing future generations continues without pause.

It's time for responsible federal budgeting.

In the coming weeks, the Senate will roll up its sleeves and rewrite the White House budget, seeking to inject some common sense and accountability. Senators also will work to write a budget that reflects the priorities of the country. I, for one, want the government to make good on its promises of health care to our seniors and our veterans, invest in teachers and resources in our classrooms, and protect the country from another terrorist attack. I also want the federal budget to support efforts to create jobs, give a boost to small businesses, and provide American manufacturers with the tools that they need to compete around the world.

Most importantly, we've got to be responsible and turn around this massive federal debt. Each day that the debt is allowed to grow is another day of higher interest rates on mortgages and student loans and car payments. An out-of-control debt results in a back-door tax hike on West Virginia families, and it has to stop.

"Families balance their checkbooks. They work hard to make ends meet and live within their means. It is long past time for the federal government to do the same.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tax Incentives for Energy Savings

As energy prices reach record highs, West Virginians are finding it more and more difficult to hold onto their hard earned dollars. While Congress continues to look into ways to ease the burden, it has already taken steps to help offset some energy costs.

Last year, the Congress passed the Energy Policy Act (EPACT). Included within EPACT are incentives that provide tax credits when a person purchases energy-efficient products. Consumers who buy approved items this year will be able to take full advantage of these incentives when filing their taxes next year.

For example, EPACT incentives can help to keep down the costs of renovating a house or business. The tax credits are available on the purchase and installation of energy-efficient products including insulation, windows, doors, and roofing materials. Taking advantage of this opportunity could potentially save thousands of dollars for West Virginians who decide to move ahead with these kind of home improvement projects.

The EPACT tax incentives are not only useful for big renovation projects but also for smaller

ones. When looking to purchase a new stove or washer and dryer, it can save money to explore options that qualify for a tax break. EPACT provides incentives for consumers who buy more energy-efficient clothes washers, heatpumps, air conditioners, water heaters, dishwashers, and refrigerators. These "Energy Star" qualified appliances will not only provide hundreds of dollars in tax credits, but also will run more efficiently, saving money on energy bills for years to come.

These tax incentives can be money in the bank for West Virginia families. They help to lower the cost of home projects and new appliances, and also can point the way to a future where America is far less dependent on foreign oil and other energy sources.

We have to break the grip that foreign energy producers have on our country, and these smart investments in more efficient products in our homes is a step in the right direction.

Check with local retailers about energy efficient products that qualify for the tax incentives. For more information, visit my website, <http://byrd.senate.gov>.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Against Identity Theft

The Internet plays a big part of many people's daily lives. But it also has dangers, and West Virginians need to be alert. Everyday, millions of Americans visit the Internet, using new technologies that make commonplace activities like shopping, banking, and traveling easier and more efficient. Unfortunately, some people are using the same technologies, with increasing savvy, to commit fraud and theft.

In 2005, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) received more than 1,800 fraud complaints from West Virginians, with identity theft leading the list. Statistics showed that identity thieves used various schemes to perpetrate their crimes, including phony Internet auctions, catalogue sales scams, fake sweepstakes, bogus foreign money offers, and computer service scams. Victims of such crimes suffer long-term, often devastating damage to their finances and credit records.

The federal government's law enforcement efforts go after the perpetrators on several fronts. The FTC and other agencies use many tools to track down, catch, and punish these criminals. However, they cannot do it alone. *Prevention, education, and reporting* are the most important lines of defense, and consumers must be smart and protect themselves.

To help prevent being a victim of identity theft, it is important to maintain anti-

virus software, spyware, and an effective firewall to shield personal computers from violators. Also, be cautious when sharing private information online. Personal details should only be given to individuals or companies with which one regularly does business. The FTC also recommends that Internet users not open and immediately delete all unsolicited e-mail communications, commonly referred to as "spam" or "junk e-mails."

It is also important to stay informed about existing and emerging scams. Several websites are devoted to alerting consumers to new scams and suggesting ways to avoid them, including www.fraud.org and www.staysafeonline.org.

Finally, be sure to report scams and cases of fraud and identity theft. Those who fear that they might have been a victim of identity theft should check their credit reports, close any accounts that have been tampered with, file reports with local police, and contact the FTC.

For other helpful website links and information about how to file a complaint, visit my website at <http://byrd.senate.gov>.

The Internet can be a great tool for education and information. But it also can serve as a fertile field for fraud. West Virginians need to be careful Internet users to ensure that they get the most benefit from the Internet without suffering from illegal scams.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting the People's Liberties

As a U.S. Senator, I have sworn an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. I take this role seriously and am deeply concerned that Americans' Constitutional right to privacy has been violated by the Bush Administration's domestic spying programs. West Virginians should be concerned, too.

It has come to light that, in 2002, President Bush signed a secret order to allow the National Security Agency to eavesdrop on U.S. citizens without a warrant, even though there are laws against such domestic spying. The White House says that it did not have time to obtain the proper legal authority to listen to those conversations. This claim is false. In fact, our laws provide that surveillance can continue for several days before a warrant is required. The Administration's actions deserve close scrutiny. Violations of the Bill of Rights and of our laws must not be swept under the rug.

It must be determined if the First Amendment right to free speech and the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, which are guaranteed by the Constitution, were violated by government eavesdropping. We have entered very dangerous waters when the government can spy on citizens without even so much as a warrant.

Constitutional freedoms will never be abolished in one fell swoop. The American people cherish

their freedoms and would not tolerate such a loss. But the erosion of freedom usually occurs as a gradual process, cloaked in secrecy, and glossed over by claims of necessity for greater security. A climate of fear and secrecy can take a hefty toll on the people's liberties.

That is why I have introduced legislation to establish an independent, nonpartisan commission to investigate warrantless surveillance on law-abiding American citizens. This commission should investigate the legality of the Administration's secret domestic spying program to shed much-needed sunshine on any unlawful or unconstitutional executive intrusions into the lives of ordinary Americans. It could then determine how best to protect the homeland, while also safeguarding the Bill of Rights.

An independent commission is vital because the Senate Intelligence rejected a proposal by Senator Rockefeller to begin a thorough, bipartisan investigation into the domestic spying. I support Senator Rockefeller's efforts. He has worked diligently to ensure that the Administration, even in its most secret circles, follows the law and the Constitution.

Preventing more terrorist attacks must be Congress' utmost priority. But it is spurious to suggest that the American people will be safer in their homes if only they forego their Constitutionally-protected birthrights.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Jobs, New Opportunities in West Virginia

In all walks of life, people are trying to save money. That fact is just as true for companies as it is for families. Manufacturers are searching for new approaches to save costs. Families are looking for products that are more economical. One design approach promises benefits to both groups -- more durable, lighter-weight materials for manufacturers, and more economical, longer-lasting products for families.

That design approach is the use of composites. Composites blend raw materials and scientific applications to create entirely new materials to achieve a desired final product. Today, composites are breaking barriers in industries from aerospace to outer space to military supplies to the clothes that we wear.

Many West Virginia companies are stepping forward in this industry. In Harrison County, FMW Composite Systems produces airplane parts crucial to the next generation of fighter jets. FMW is the world's exclusive manufacturer of titanium matrix composite (TMC), a product that strengthens fighter aircraft while also reducing their weight. Lighter planes are more fuel efficient and more maneuverable. The Defense Department sees TMC as a key part for these top-of-the-line fighters.

Soon, FMW's work also will be part of the Space Shuttle. NASA is working to modernize the shuttles -- and turned to FMW for help. It took four years, but

FMW recently completed a Super Lightweight Integrated Carrier, built of the same composite used in the fighter plane. This new carrier shaves thousands of pounds off of the current design, helping NASA to increase shuttle payload capacity and improve each flight's productivity.

Another West Virginia company making great strides in composites is Touchstone Research Laboratory. The Ohio County company has patented several new composites, including its fiber-reinforced aluminum called MetPreg.

MetPreg can be used to build airplane fuel tanks; the skins of aircraft; lightweight structures for automotive, rail, and other transportation applications; crane booms; tennis rackets; golf club shafts; and bicycle frames. The same product that one uses to ride around the block can be part of the fighter jets patrolling a battlefield.

FMW and Touchstone are just two West Virginia success stories, and in the coming years, I expect more companies will join their ranks in the composites industry.

Combine this growth with other cutting-edge fields, like biometrics, software development, and defense manufacturing, along with a commitment to West Virginia's core industries of coal and energy, chemical production, and steel. The resulting economy will be much like a composite: stronger than its individual components and ready to meet the challenges ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

First Steps Toward Better Mine Safety

It has been several weeks since we suffered a coal miner death in this country, but we must not grow complacent. The next accident could happen tomorrow. The 24 miner lives lost so far this year, 16 in West Virginia, have brought to light the urgent need for better rescue equipment and stronger safety enforcement. We know what needs to be done, and we must start doing it now. Every day of delay risks miners' lives.

In recent years, the federal coal enforcement budget has been tightly squeezed, resulting in gross incompetence at the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). We have seen the tragic consequences when the political leadership at MSHA forgets that its number-one job is protecting coal miners. Miners die when MSHA cuts its staff. Miners die when MSHA does not insist that 21st century rescue equipment is used in the mines.

Despite unprecedented national attention on mine safety, the budget that the President recently sent to Congress maintained the status quo. Four years of budget cuts and four years of coal enforcement staff cuts were left in place. That is unacceptable, and I am working to fix the President's broken budget.

Fortunately, the Senate

has taken the first step in the right direction. It has approved legislation that I wrote to add \$184 million to MSHA's budget during the next five years. The boost will allow MSHA to hire additional mine safety inspectors and implement better mine rescue technologies. These are common-sense changes that miners, and the families they work to support, deserve.

There are 217 fewer coal enforcement personnel on the MSHA payroll today than five years ago, yet the President's budget included no funding for additional inspectors. When West Virginia coal miners were killed at the Sago and Alma mines, the men's emergency communications and breathing equipment proved woefully inadequate, yet the budget contained severely insufficient funds for better rescue technology. My legislation would send more safety inspectors into the mines and place new rescue equipment into the hands of miners.

This is an important first step. It begins to fix the safety gaps in coal mining that we all know exist. MSHA has allowed safety enforcement to drag for years, and West Virginia has paid a terrible price. Enough is enough. It is time for the federal government to get serious about mine safety.

March 22, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

National Problems Find West Virginia Fixes

In the Senate, I'm in a unique position to learn about the problems facing the government's many federal agencies. For instance, it wasn't that long ago that the FBI watched as criminals, arrested in one place and wanted by police in another, were let loose because there was no way to check the suspect's fingerprints quickly. Prints were kept on individual cards that had to be searched one at a time. The FBI Complex at Clarksburg changed all that by digitizing fingerprints and storing them electronically. Today, after an investment of more than \$1 billion, these electronic fingerprints can be checked in a matter of moments, not days. The Harrison County complex has helped to revolutionize the nation's crime-fighting efforts.

The FBI is just one example of how, working with federal agencies, I've been able to identify national problems and help to find solutions in West Virginia.

Today, the Coast Guard has a similar problem. Its licensing and documentation procedures are fragmented and scattered around the country. There are gaps in our national security because the Coast Guard cannot process information as quickly and as thoroughly as it should. That problem also is finding a West Virginia solution.

I went to work with the Coast Guard on a new

National Maritime Center (NMC) to streamline the licensing and documentation practices, and to plug the holes in our nation's security. The Coast Guard has decided to build this new facility in the Eastern Panhandle, and a transitional office will open later this spring in Jefferson County.

It was not hard to show the Coast Guard the benefits of locating the NMC in the Mountain State. Already, the Coast Guard's two other facilities in the Eastern Panhandle have proved to be among the agency's most highly productive, efficient units. West Virginia benefits as well, with hundreds of jobs that add more than \$50 million each year to the local economy. The NMC, when fully up and running, will add another 250 good-paying jobs to the area.

The Coast Guard has proved what I have always believed: federal agencies can have their offices in Washington, but also get far more bang for their bucks by locating other key operations in West Virginia. I'm going to keep working to find West Virginia answers to national problems. We've shown that West Virginians can get the job done. We have the workforce. We have the infrastructure to support demanding high-tech projects. We have an excellent quality of life. Overall, there's no beating West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping the Promise to Coal Miners' Families

Next week, the miracle of the Sago mine explosion celebrates his 27th birthday. Randal McCloy, Jr., will be with his family, just weeks after he survived the Upshur County mine disaster that claimed the lives of 12 other men. The fact that Mr. McCloy will celebrate his birthday at home, surrounded by loved ones, is a remarkable testament to the dedication of his family, his doctors, his friends and fellow miners, and all of those in the community and state who have offered prayers and support.

All West Virginians wish Randal a happy birthday. We want him to recover fully from his experience and enjoy a long life with his family.

We still feel the pang of sadness that 16 other West Virginia miners will not have the same opportunity to celebrate birthdays with their families. The deaths of those men will remain in our hearts, and those coal mining families will remain in our prayers.

I have talked with many of those families. I have listened to their concerns. Their wish is that other coal mining families do not have to go through the pain of having loved ones killed on the job.

In the days since the recent West Virginia mine tragedies, I have pressed hard for the federal Mine

Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to get its act together. For too long, MSHA has ignored my warnings that its lackadaisical attitude toward safety has jeopardized lives. No longer can MSHA close its ears to these fears. MSHA must know that the safety and health of coal miners are its paramount responsibilities.

This week, I won Senate Appropriations Committee approval for \$35.6 million for emergency mine safety measures. This funding would pay for more than 200 new safety inspectors. It would also help to spur the installation of advanced communications, rescue, and survival technologies in coal mines. Technologies exist that can help to save coal miners' lives after an explosion. But those technologies have not been put to use in most of America's coal mines. That has to change, and the funding in my legislation will help to get the job done.

The next step with this mine funding is to win the approval of the full Senate. The Senate is expected to debate this funding in the next few weeks, and I will continue to push for approval of my mine safety provisions. We face a safety crisis in the mines. Action is needed now to protect miners' lives.

April 5, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Real Steps Toward Port Security

This spring, when newspapers reported on White House plans to give control of six major U.S. seaports to a company owned and operated by the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the American people were dumbfounded. How could the United States allow a foreign country, which supported the Taliban and is linked to financing al Qaeda, to have an inside role in this country's port security? I am amazed that such a plan was rubber-stamped by the Bush Administration without so much as a raised eyebrow.

The debate about the UAE's operation of American ports sheds light on the fact that our port security efforts are paper-thin. Right now, inspectors check less than five percent of the more than 11 million shipping containers entering American ports -- less than five percent! Without urgent steps, America's seaports will remain prime targets for terrorists.

Last week, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved my proposal to invest \$648 million in port security initiatives. As a result, my port security funding package is now a part of an emergency national security appropriations bill, which includes money and resources for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our federal government must get serious about security here at home. We hear

great rhetoric about White House plans for homeland defense, but those plans are hollow. There is not enough money to back up the big talk.

My port security plan, unanimously approved by Republican and Democratic members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, would put the funding in place to inspect more of the cargo headed to the United States. We would be able to scan more containers for nuclear devices -- the so-called 'dirty bombs' that could kill hundreds of Americans. We would hire more inspectors and more security teams to ensure that shipments entering our ports are safe.

In this post-9/11 world, the Congress and the White House must put the safety of our citizens first. In order to stop potential terrorist plots and protect U.S. citizens, we must strengthen safeguards here at home. That means stronger port security and a commonsense policy governing the ownership and operations of our ports. That means more agents on our borders. That means giving our police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical teams the resources they need in order to respond to attacks. The White House's rhetoric about homeland security sounds good, but it is time to match those words with the financial resources to get the job done.

April 12, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taking Steps to Stop Illegal Immigration

From the West Virginia hills to the halls of Congress, there is increased attention concerning illegal immigration. An estimated 11 million illegal immigrants are in the United States today, and the number continues to skyrocket. The immigration debate has raised serious questions about America's homeland security and economic future.

Without doubt, immigration has been important to America's greatness in the past as it will continue to be in the future. But, there is no excuse for turning a blind eye to the 500,000 aliens expected to sneak across the borders illegally this year. If we ever are to control illegal immigration, we have to start with tougher border security.

For more than four years, the nation has wondered how 19 terrorists managed to carry out the heinous September 11 attacks. Yet, today, America still remains dangerously exposed to terrorists who want to penetrate our borders. In fact, since September 2001, an estimated two million illegal immigrants have successfully evaded U.S. border security.

Such a dangerous situation must be turned around. That's why I wrote a new law last spring investing more than \$273 million in border security initiatives, including the hiring of 500 border patrol agents and more than 200 immigration enforcement agents and criminal investigators.

But that was just a first step. From morale problems to outdated technologies to a significant lack of manpower, border security efforts are inadequate and plagued by inefficiencies. To address those problems, I plan to offer a new funding proposal that will build on the success of last year's effort.

One proposal that I will not support is amnesty for illegal immigrants. Amnesties open routes to legal status for illegal aliens who want to circumvent vital security checks. Advocates may try to distance themselves from the word "amnesty," characterizing their proposals as "guest-worker" programs or "temporary visas," but the real effect of these amnesty proposals is to legalize the unlawful actions of millions of undocumented workers and the businesses that knowingly employ them.

The United States cannot afford to allow this huge stream of illegal immigration to continue. We also cannot afford to grant amnesty to millions of people who have broken our laws. Our country's resources -- our hospitals, schools, and social programs -- are stretched thin by this massive wave of illegal immigrants, and we are much more vulnerable to terrorists who want to slip past our lax security. It's time to toughen America's border security and invest in other steps necessary to curtail illegal immigration.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Turn the Tap on Clean Water

Modern technology surrounds us. Our computers speed information from one side of the world to the other in a split second. Nanotechnology, so small that it takes a microscope to see, is leading to amazing advances in medicine, manufacturing, high-performance materials, information technology, and energy and environmental technologies. The latest in composite materials are being used in all sorts of products, from more efficient cars and airplanes to the fabrics in our clothing. Today's dreams are rapidly becoming tomorrow's realities.

Unfortunately, with all of the progress in so many areas, one aspect of daily life remains stuck in the 20th century. Today, millions of Americans are forced to live with drinking water that is unhealthy and unsafe, filled with dangerous bacteria and so dirty that it turns a clear glass deep brown. There is absolutely no reason for people in this day and age to be forced to live with inadequate and dangerous water supplies.

That's why I have worked in the Senate to invest critical dollars toward the construction of modern water and sewer systems. These dollars, invested in facilities in West Virginia and across the country, are changing lives.

Just recently, I announced a major step forward for such a project

in Randolph County. The Upper Tygart River Watershed Project, in planning for nearly a decade, is finally moving toward construction. The dam and drinking water system will be built by Heeter, Inc., of Roane County. When it is finished, this project will help to bring clean drinking water to 21,500 Randolph County residents.

I am proud to be a partner in this watershed project. I worked in the Senate to provide \$23 million in federal funding for the work, with the remaining dollars coming from state and local sources.

While this is an important milestone, there remains much work ahead. The terrible truth is that, in our state and all across the country, the health of millions of men, women, and children is vulnerable because of contaminated water supplies.

Communities, especially those in rural areas, cannot possibly afford on their own to pay for the construction of safe drinking water systems. They should not have to. The federal government has a clear responsibility to provide support, both financial help and engineering assistance, to build safe and efficient water systems.

Clean water should not be a luxury afforded only to those living in wealthy communities; clean water is basic to the health and prosperity of all citizens.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Partnering for Better Health Care

Progress has been made across our state toward the goal of high-quality, affordable health care for all West Virginians, but much work remains. For every person who now has access to medical care close to home, there is another who still has to travel long distances to see a doctor. Whether it be emergency treatment for an illness or routine check-ups and screenings that help to maintain good health, proper medical care should not discriminate. All people, including those who live in small cities and rural areas, deserve the same access to doctors and nurses. That is my goal for West Virginia health care.

I have worked in the Senate to create and expand health care facilities throughout the state. I have joined with hospitals, universities, and private organizations to develop innovative solutions to West Virginia's health care challenges. I also have supported investments in the state's health care education programs. These efforts are training the next generation of health professionals, many of whom I hope will stay and practice their healing craft at home.

I recently participated in the dedication of one of the state's newest education facilities on the campus of City Hospital in Martinsburg. The new Health Professions Education Center is

part of the Eastern Division of the West Virginia University (WVU) Byrd Health Sciences Center. I secured \$6.5 million to construct the center, which will serve to improve health care services for residents of the Eastern Panhandle and help to address the shortage of physicians in the region.

WVU graciously chose to name the new education center after my dear wife. I am humbled by this gesture, and it is a tribute to the compassion that Erma showed toward everyone she met. I pray that the hands of the Great Physician will guide the doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other health professionals who train at this facility and give healing to their patients for many years to come.

From one end of West Virginia to the other, our state's medical facilities are fast developing into some of the best in the country. Technology, training, and cutting-edge facilities are helping doctors to better treat patients' illnesses and to help West Virginians live longer, healthier lives. I hope that the Erma Byrd Health Professions Education Center can serve as a model for other collaborative efforts to improve health services across West Virginia. Together, we can work to ensure that all West Virginians get the care that they deserve.

May 3, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Guiding West Virginia's Graduates

As the warm breezes of spring spread through the hills of West Virginia, signs of new beginnings are all around. Flowers are blooming. Birds are chirping. Young people are graduating high school and college and embarking on new journeys. It is an exciting time indeed for these young adults, their families, and all West Virginians who are proud of their academic accomplishments.

I recently had the honor of delivering the commencement address at Marshall University's graduation of its largest class ever. It was a pleasure to see the pride and emotion in the faces of the graduates and their loved ones. The sky is the limit for what young West Virginians can accomplish in their lives. As thousands of young West Virginians all across our state graduate, I hope that they will never stop learning. Commencements are an important stepping stone along a life-long pursuit of knowledge. Some graduates will continue their formal education, but not all learning takes place in the classroom. People of all ages can continue to learn and thrive through reading, travel, and the study of history.

While the real world holds boundless promise

and opportunity for our young people, it also offers challenges. There will be rocky days and stormy nights, but all problems are made for solving. In His wisdom, Almighty God provided mankind with a brain and the will to use it. Perseverance is the key. In fact, it is the mark of a true West Virginian. All it takes is believing in oneself.

We can all be proud of our West Virginia heritage and the values we cherish. Honesty, hard work, love of country, family, and fellow man, and faith in God are time-tested West Virginia values and a key part of what makes our state unique.

As students from Marshall University and West Virginia's other colleges and universities start out on their life journeys, I urge them to forge their futures in West Virginia. We need their energy, their idealism, and their enthusiasm.

West Virginia will undoubtedly be a better place because of the active involvement of this spring's fresh crop of graduates. I commend them for their accomplishments, and I look forward to important contributions from them for our beloved state for years to come.

May 10, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Honoring Our Law Enforcement

It matters not the day or the hour. It matters not the weather or the circumstance. When our communities need them, we can rely on our law enforcement officers. Local police departments, county sheriffs and deputies, campus police, state troopers, federal agents, and the men and women in their ranks display great courage, always putting their lives on the line for the people of West Virginia.

Every May, we honor these law enforcement personnel for their dedication and, too often, unfortunately, for their sacrifices. Not far from the U.S. Capitol is the National Police Officers Memorial, where the names of those officers who have given their lives in the course of their duty are engraved in marble for all time. This year, the names of 466 officers were added to the memorial, 155 officers who were killed in the line of duty in 2005 and 311 officers from previous years. These are men and women who, through their lives and their deaths, exemplified selfless service and a desire to make our communities safer for all of us.

We hear a great deal about heroes these days. But, so many times, that moniker is associated with famous actors, athletes, or musicians. Not often enough, regrettably, are our

law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical teams, and other first responders called "heroes." Without a doubt, those who are willing to lay their lives on the line, track down criminals or jump into a burning building to defend the innocent and respond to any danger -- these people are true heroes.

All of us remember the selfless acts of New York's first responders on the morning of September 11, 2001. Knowing full well that their lives were in jeopardy, the police officers and firefighters never flinched. They went into those twin towers, climbed those stairs, and rushed people to safety, understanding that the buildings might collapse at any time. Until the last minute, they worked to save the lives of the people trapped at the World Trade Center. Their bravery will live on in our hearts forever.

Similarly, West Virginia's police officers and firefighters risk their lives each day. They are ready to do everything within their power to protect their fellow citizens. These men and women teach us lessons of dedication and courage, of community and character. I thank them for their commitment to our state, and I urge all West Virginians to do the same.

May 17, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Blessings of Marriage

In our society, the value of commitment seems to always shrink. Perhaps this trend is most disturbing when it comes to marriage. In America, more than 40 percent of all marriages end in divorce. For some people caught in abusive, destructive relationships, divorce may be the best option. However, as a person married for nearly 69 years, who pledged to endure hard times as well as revel in the good times, I can attest to the value of marriage.

The Book of Proverbs teaches, "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord." Marriage -- a man and woman dedicating themselves to each other before Almighty God, and then together taking on whatever life throws at them -- is the most soul-fulfilling experience in this earthly world.

Marriage isn't easy. There are rocky days and tough times. But, it is well worth the effort, for what we give to our husband or wife comes back to us a hundred-fold, in love and support, in compassion, in understanding, and in personal growth.

My wife, Erma, proved that truth every day. Throughout our almost 69 years of marriage, she was our family's anchor. While I worked long hours

in the Senate, she raised our daughters into the fine mothers and grandmothers that they are today. When I had a tough day, Erma would find a way to pick me up. When I had success, Erma was there to make sure that I didn't get a big head and that I stayed humble and focused on the job ahead. Her earnest and dedicated support throughout a lifetime was one of God's richest blessings to me.

I cannot easily describe the love that Erma and I shared. But I can testify to the sanctity of marriage, and the sheer joy that comes with finding one's soul-mate and sharing that deep companionship during many happy years. I have had the unique opportunity to meet many great people -- kings, queens, presidents, and other celebrities. But visiting them never compared to the simple pleasure of coming home each night to Erma.

Marriage isn't like a new dress or suit. One doesn't change one's spouse just because times change. Marriage is a deep, lifelong bond. To bond with another soul in the commitment of marriage is the most satisfying experience that God can grant us in this life. I pray that more people in this country will experience the joys of marriage and that, for those who do, it is a lifelong commitment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Moving Mine Safety Forward

Throughout the year, West Virginians have pressed for answers as to why 19 of our coal miners have been killed on the job this year. We all want to know what happened, why, and how we can prevent future tragedies.

While the investigations are continuing, there are certain facts that have come to light about these deadly incidents.

First, the oxygen that miners carry on their belts provides only about an hour of air. That's not enough to last until a rescue team arrives. Emergency supplies of oxygen should be stored inside the mines so trapped miners can survive until rescue teams arrive.

Second, there is no widely used technology to communicate with miners who are trapped underground. The technology exists, but not enough coal mines take advantage of it. There must be a mandate that communications technology be installed without delay.

Third, rescue teams, while incredibly brave, are not always familiar with a particular coal mine. In an emergency, those teams should know every turn and every tunnel of the mine involved. Time is a precious commodity during a rescue. A working knowledge of a mine where an explosion has occurred is vitally important to any rescue effort.

I am proud to report that the Senate has approved

legislation providing solutions to these widely accepted facts learned from this year's deadly mining incidents. The Senate legislation, called the MINER Act, will help to save lives and prevent future mine tragedies.

The MINER Act, which Senator Rockefeller and I helped to write, would require coal operators to submit plans detailing their mines' use of the most current communications, tracking, and breathing apparatus technologies. The Act would require coal mines to have continuously updated emergency response plans and two experienced rescue teams capable of a one-hour response time. The legislation toughens penalties for mine safety violations and gives the federal government the power to shut down a mine that fails to follow the safety laws.

The MINER Act is not the only step that Congress should take to improve mine safety, but it is a major step forward. This legislation would save more coal mining families the heartache of losing their loved ones in a mining disaster. We have a moral obligation to do everything we can to put an end to the safety crises in our nation's mines. The MINER Act is the best hope to begin fixing obvious problems that, if left unaddressed, would continue to cost lives.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Forward Thinking for National Disasters

Nearly a year has passed since Hurricane Katrina wrought massive destruction throughout the Gulf Coast region. The common refrain heard in the days after the disaster and throughout the months of rescue and recovery has been, "We weren't prepared." There is no mistaking that New Orleans, Louisiana, surrounding states, and the federal government were not prepared to handle an emergency of such magnitude, and millions of Americans have paid the price.

West Virginia knows all too well the damage that flood waters can do, but we don't give much thought to the impact that a different kind of emergency could have on our state. Since September 11, I have been concerned that if another terrorist attack were to strike Washington, D.C., it would be a flood of people, not water, that would rush into West Virginia.

Potentially millions of people could clog the highways leading into our state. They could turn to West Virginia communities for food and water, shelter, and medical services. The result might be a monumental challenge for West Virginia's infrastructure and emergency services. We need to plan now to be ready to handle such a challenge.

I am proud to report that West Virginia's preparations for such an emergency

situation have received a major boost. The state will receive nearly \$13.3 million in federal homeland security funds for this year. Of that total, more than \$7.5 million will support efforts to protect citizens in an emergency, including mass evacuation preparations. Another \$5.5 million will assist state and local law enforcement agencies to prevent and respond to potential acts of terrorism.

The West Virginia evacuation plans should include "preset" services and provisions that could help to speed people westward from the East Coast. Items like gasoline, medical supplies, beds, food, water, and other essential commodities would help facilitate a safer, more efficient evacuation.

Last fall, I authored a key provision of law that paved the way for states and local governments across the country to develop multi-state, multi-jurisdictional emergency evacuation plans. I have worked closely with Governor Joe Manchin and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in a combined mission to develop and strengthen West Virginia's mass evacuation plans.

In a post-September 11 world, we can hope for the best, but we must plan for the worst. By taking the right steps now, West Virginia will be ready to answer the call if disaster strikes.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Happy Birthday, West Virginia!

Certain momentous occasions are well-known simply by their place on the calendar. December 31, for example, is readily recognized as New Year's Eve, while January 1 is known to all as New Year's Day. July 4 is Independence Day. And, in the Mountain State, we all know one other calendar date: June 20, West Virginia Day!

West Virginia is a place of incredible natural beauty. When God created the Earth, He blessed West Virginia with an abundance of natural resources, unparalleled mountain views, cool green forests, sparkling lakes and rivers, and awe-inspiring geological wonders. No man-made park could ever compare with the natural glory so abundant in West Virginia.

But as beautiful as God's handiwork may be, it pales in comparison to the grace and the goodness that He has instilled in our people.

One does not define West Virginia by its boundaries on a map. West Virginia is defined by her people. West Virginians are unique, holding fast to our faith in God and love of country, our devotion to family and our caring for neighbors. Having grown up in the coalfields of West Virginia and devoted my public service to building a better

future for the families in our state, I am immensely proud of the people of West Virginia! We've been laughed at and called hillbillies. We've been ridiculed and lampooned. But, at each obstacle, the spirit of West Virginia shines through, and our people rise to the top.

In the coming years, there are many challenges awaiting us. We must continue to develop new jobs and new opportunities for our families. We must find new ways to bring doctors closer to their patients, so that people don't have to travel such long distances for basic medical care. Our classrooms must continue to improve -- a job that requires the efforts of our teachers, students, parents, and lawmakers alike. But problems are for solving. Working together, we can meet any challenge; we can overcome any obstacle.

As we celebrate West Virginia's 143rd birthday, we should pause to thank our Creator for His many blessings -- for the natural beauty around us and for the fellowship of our friends and neighbors. We should take pride in our heritage and embrace the opportunities ahead. Always keep in mind: "Montani semper liberi" -- Mountaineers are always free!

Happy birthday, West Virginia!

June 14, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

“In God We Trust”: A Motto For All Time

Money is an important part of our daily lives, but the bills and coins hold meaning beyond their monetary value. Each is inscribed with a simple, yet powerful, phrase that has helped to shape and guide the nation from its beginning. It is the national motto, “In God We Trust,” and it is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The phrase began influencing national life long before its official adoption. The sentiment was central to the hopes and vision of the Founding Fathers. They relied on an abiding faith in the Creator for strength during the most difficult times in their struggle for freedom.

In the early days of the American Republic, while declaring independence from Great Britain, the Framers asserted: “We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

The signers of the Declaration of Independence further declared: “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

Francis Scott Key captured this same sentiment of reliance on Divine Providence in song in 1814. The original version of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” later adopted as the National Anthem, states: “Praise the Pow’r that hath made and preserv’d us as a nation! Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, And this be our motto: ‘In God is our trust!’”

In 1955, the phrase was designated to be inscribed on all currency and coins of the United States, and, in 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a joint resolution of Congress declaring “In God We Trust” to be the nation’s official motto. It has played a fundamental role in America’s story since its designation.

As the only current Member of Congress who voted to establish our national motto, I was proud to introduce legislation in the Senate recently to commemorate the Golden Anniversary of “In God We Trust” and to reaffirm the motto’s place in our national life.

More than 50 years have passed since Congress officially endorsed the motto, but the words still ring as true today. Moral principles have shaped what America is today, and they should guide what America will be in the days and years to come.

June 21, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Bittersweet Victory for Mine Safety

In February, just a few weeks after the tragic events at the Sago mine in Upshur County and the Alma Aracoma mine in Logan County, the families of the men who lost their lives in those mines came to the U.S. Capitol. They carried a simple message with them: make our coal mines safer.

In the days since, the West Virginia Congressional Delegation has made that mission our top priority. We introduced legislation aimed at fixing the worst problems evidenced at Sago and Alma. Our bill targeted emergency oxygen supplies and communications, better trained rescue teams, a more rapid response, and tougher enforcement of the safety laws on the books.

That West Virginia bill, I am proud to report, served as the foundation for what is known as the MINER Act -- the first major mine safety legislation passed by the Congress and signed into law since 1977. This act, which Senator Rockefeller and I helped to write, passed the Senate unanimously and the House of Representatives with an overwhelming vote. The bottom line is that this new law will save lives. It will protect coal miners. It will mean tougher mine safety, better enforcement, and faster rescue in case

tragedy strikes.

I went to the White House to stand with President Bush as he signed the MINER Act into law. Families of our West Virginia coal miners also were there, holding pictures of their loved ones killed on the job. And Randal McCloy, Jr., was there with his wife, Anna. His ability to survive the Sago explosion, with the support of the men who were trapped underground with him, and his incredible journey toward recovery are an inspiration.

That trip to the White House was a bittersweet one. All of us were proud of the progress that this new law makes for mine safety, but saddened that it has taken the deaths of 19 of our coal miners to put these commonsense safety improvements into law.

The MINER Act is a good step forward for mine safety. But it is not the only step that we should take. Many new technologies and new safety ideas have been put into place in mining in Canada, Australia, and many other countries around the world. The United States Congress has clearly said that it is time for America to join the 21st century, and put the safety of our coal miners first and foremost.

June 28, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Vacationing Close to Home

As the calendar flips to July, many West Virginians are making plans for family summer vacations. Some may be foregoing faraway travel plans in the face of rising gas prices and costly airline tickets. I encourage all families to consider the many exciting destinations close to home.

Picturesque state parks saturate the West Virginia landscape. Visits to these natural treasures can give people of all ages a new appreciation for the beauty of our Mountain State. No artificial theme park could ever compare with the natural wonders so abundant in West Virginia.

What locals and visitors alike find when they visit our state parks is an array of breath-taking scenery, outdoor activities, stunning geological formations, and history. These parks offer some of the best, most family-friendly, recreational activities in the country complete with swimming, boating, and white-water rafting; horseback riding and golfing; camping, hiking, and biking.

West Virginia State Parks also offer educational opportunities. Many parks contain momentous historical sites that speak to the different stages in the development of America. These areas teach about colonial America, Revolutionary America, Civil

War America, and industrial America.

Our first President, George Washington, was one of many famous early Americans who made regular journeys to what is now Berkeley Springs State Park. They drank and bathed in the warm mineral waters that flow from the springs at a constant temperature of 74.3 degrees. Visitors can still see President Washington's personal outdoor bath tub. Perhaps the most important lesson children will learn at the state parks is that history is both alive and fascinating.

There is so much to see and do in West Virginia, and there is no better place to enjoy a summer vacation. Stay in a picturesque lodge or secluded cabin, or, even better, pitch a tent or haul a trailer into the parks' campgrounds. Set up camp and cook dinner over a Coleman stove. Go fishing in a nearby watering hole. Gather the family around the campfire at night to tell stories and roast marshmallows. Spread a sleeping bag and fall asleep under the stars while pondering the Almighty's infinite majesty, as you thank Him for creating such a magnificent place.

In just a few days at one of our state parks, families can accumulate a lifetime of memories and learn why West Virginia really is "Almost Heaven!"

July 5, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protect Chemical Facilities, Local Communities

Chemical plants and distribution facilities dot West Virginia. Throughout the state, there are 73 chemical manufacturing plants and 100 chemical distribution plants. Many are built along the banks of the Kanawha and Ohio rivers. It does not take great imagination to determine that these facilities are potential targets for terrorist attack. Such an attack could lead to devastating loss of human life and damage to the local and national economies. The same can be said for facilities in New Jersey, New York, Texas, Michigan, California, Pennsylvania, and many other states.

That is why it is so important that we protect these key facilities and the communities that surround them.

Unfortunately, the federal Department of Homeland Security has let chemical plant protections slide to the back burner.

Last year, at my request, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) took a hard look at chemical plant safeguards, and concluded that, for 93 percent of the chemical industry, it is uncertain whether facilities are improving security at all. Only 1,100 of the 15,000 chemical facilities in the country are known to adhere to voluntary industry security procedures.

The Environmental Protection Agency reports that 123 chemical plants

located throughout the nation could each potentially expose more than a million people if a chemical release occurred.

We cannot ignore these facts and simply hope that nothing bad will happen. We have to take action.

I'm proud to report that the Senate has approved a proposal that I authored to spur community and chemical plant protections. My proposal instructs the Department of Homeland Security to work directly with chemical companies on ways to ensure that their facilities are better protected from potential terrorist attack.

More than three years ago, the GAO urged the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop a comprehensive strategy for protecting chemical plants. Yet, that strategy remains unfinished. My amendment would require the Department of Homeland Security to get to work to protect these vulnerable sites.

All of us hope that an attack against a chemical plant will never happen. But hope alone won't prevent disaster. We must take steps now to tighten security in the chemical industry and to protect the lives of the people living in the communities near our plants. Anything less would jeopardize millions of lives and place our state and our country at risk.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Visit the West Virginia State Fair!

There is nothing like the State Fair at Lewisburg. Each year, the communities of West Virginia meet at the fairgrounds in Greenbrier County for a celebration of our heritage and look with hope toward the future, for contests and music, for food and friends. This year's State Fair -- the 82nd in West Virginia history -- will run from August 11 through August 20. The fairground gates open at 8 a.m. each day, with activities and exhibits happening all day long and far into the evening.

I have always enjoyed the State Fair. In fact, this year, I plan to be there for the Fair's Opening Day. I hope that visitors to the Fair will stop by and say hello. Members of my staff will have a booth set up on Friday, August 11, and Saturday, August 12. They will be on hand to say hello and listen to concerns that people may have about the federal government. This is the latest stop in our Mobile Office operation, an operation that has had members of my staff traveling hundreds of miles each year to visit communities throughout the state. This outreach is a key part of my efforts to respond to the needs of West Virginians. After all, I have

no more important role as a United States Senator than standing up for the people whom I represent.

I like to try to cut through red tape and help West Virginians with problems or concerns that they may have about the federal government. By bringing my staff to the local community, I hope that we can answer questions and provide the assistance that people need. Whether at the State Fair in August or on another stop throughout the state, the Byrd Mobile Office team is ready to lend a hand.

To learn more about the services that I offer through my federal office, I urge that people visit my website at <http://byrd.senate.gov>. To learn more about the State Fair's daily schedule, accommodations, directions, and entertainment, check out the Fair's website at <http://www.wvstatefair.com>.

I hope that West Virginians will enjoy this year's State Fair at Lewisburg. It is a wonderful time to spend with family and friends. And plan to visit my Mobile Office, whether at the Fair or when we make a stop near your hometown. I look forward to hearing from you.

July 19, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Use Our History to Build Our Future

West Virginia has helped to shape America's history. George Washington and some of our nation's Founding Fathers once lived in what is today our Eastern Panhandle. Lewis and Clark stopped in Wellsburg, Wheeling, Parkersburg, and Belleville preparing for their 1803 expedition to find a water route from the east to the Pacific Ocean. Barbour County was home to the Civil War's first land battle. Harpers Ferry was pivotal to the end of slavery. The list of historical events which occurred in our state could stretch for many pages.

Today, many communities throughout the state recognize that our past can play a central role in our future. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit one such effort -- a historical restoration project in Berkeley County.

A few years ago, local residents banded together to rehabilitate the Martinsburg Roundhouse. The Roundhouse gained national significance as the scene of the first U.S. labor strike and a target of a six-week-long siege by Confederate troops, led by "Stonewall" Jackson. Because of the importance of the railroad to supplying troops, Martinsburg and the Roundhouse were prime targets for both Union and Confederate forces, with control of the city passing back and forth between the two more than 50 times. The Roundhouse remained in use until 1988, when it finally felt the inevitable

winds of change and its operations were transferred elsewhere.

But community members believed that this piece of yesterday could be a key piece of tomorrow. They went to work to restore this facility and, through their passion and perseverance, the rail station has been transformed into a centerpiece for community gatherings, tourism, and economic development.

I am proud to have helped the Roundhouse effort, just as I have helped many other similar projects throughout West Virginia, by obtaining nearly \$3.7 million in federal funds for its restoration. Those federal dollars helped to attract millions of additional dollars from a variety of sources. As a result, what once was a crumbling relic now has a bright, promising future.

A statue near the National Archives in Washington, D.C., carries the inscription, "Past is prologue." West Virginians, as we celebrate our glorious heritage, must also recommit our wholehearted strength and vision to the future of the state.

Like the residents of Martinsburg, we must embrace history and use it as our sword and shield to build community spirit, promote tourism, and encourage investments in new businesses. The lesson is simple: By heralding our past, a united West Virginia can build a brighter tomorrow.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WV Guard: Always at the Ready

It is no secret that the West Virginia National Guard is one of the best trained, most highly respected units in the country. These brave men and women make West Virginia proud in their service at home and abroad. They fly across the globe, serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, in Bosnia and Kosovo, in Panama, and at the U.S./Mexico border. They also save lives at home, battling floods, blizzards, and storms in communities across the state.

This exemplary record of service comes at a time when the nation's Army National Guard is in a dire readiness situation. Media reports state that more than two-thirds of the Army Guard's brigades throughout the country are not combat ready. The problems are largely caused by equipment shortfalls when units return from war and by delays in training new Guardsmen.

According to West Virginia's Adjutant General Allen Tackett, the Mountain State's Army Guard is at a readiness level that is 20 percent above the national average. West Virginia's units were among the first to deploy when the Iraq operation began, and they have successfully reconstituted units as they return. All the while, they are the first to respond when emergencies strike at home. No matter

the challenge, the West Virginia Guard is always ready to answer the call.

I have worked in the Senate to make sure that the West Virginia National Guard has the tools and training it needs to carry out its mission -- wherever that mission may be.

Later this month, we will dedicate the new Williamstown Army National Guard Readiness Center. The more than 40,000 square-foot facility replaced an outdated and undersized center and currently supports 28 full-time and 243 drilling Guard members. The center will enhance the West Virginia Guard's aviation training. Since 1999, I have been actively involved in helping the Williamstown center to secure a new fleet of five Blackhawk air ambulance helicopters.

These aircraft are specifically designed for emergency medical evacuations and are capable of transporting six acute care patients at one time. They are greatly improving the West Virginia Guard's ability to respond to state emergencies and to serve the national needs of the active Army.

I applaud the West Virginia National Guard for its unceasing commitment to our state and our country. They have always stood by us, and I will always stand by them.

August 2, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building Tomorrow's Jobs Today

West Virginia's economy has long been based in strong core industries -- industries like coal, steel, timber, and chemicals. I have worked hard to expand the opportunities for these industries, opening new doors for West Virginia products and standing up for the men and women who earn their living by the sweat of their brow. These industries employ tens of thousands of West Virginians and are central to the future of our state.

But none of us should ever be satisfied with "good enough." I believe that, in this global marketplace, West Virginia must have an innovative economy, one that relies on brain power as much as muscle. West Virginia, like the rest of the country, must adapt to the changing realities of the global marketplace and respond with creative approaches to job creation and growth.

Through my work for West Virginia in the Senate, I have planted the seeds of this innovation economy throughout the state. High-tech initiatives underway in Summers County are prime examples of this effort. Partnering with local officials and Congressman Nick Rahall, I worked to obtain \$3.6 million in federal funds, matched by state funding, to construct a new four-story, 72,000 square-foot high-tech office building. The new facility will

serve as a unique jobs engine, helping to grow the city's workforce and provide an economic shot in the arm for the entire region.

Already, high-tech companies are taking note of these efforts. A pair of companies -- ManTech Corporation and Information Manufacturing Corporation -- have recognized that West Virginia's mountains can be traversed with fiberoptic lines, and West Virginia's people are ready to take on the challenges of the new economy. These two companies are putting West Virginians to work, and their success can provide the blueprint for other high-tech companies looking to compete in the Mountain State.

I recently dedicated this new high-tech facility with Summers County residents. We have a great deal to celebrate -- a proud heritage and a bright future.

From powering the country's economy with clean-burning Mountain State coal, to advances in medicine, to new manufacturing techniques, to breakthrough computer technologies, the nation is in the midst of a technological revolution, and West Virginia is helping to shape it. The foundations that we build and the opportunities that we create certainly will provide benefits for us today. At the same time, these foundations will help to develop new industries and new jobs for many decades to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Turning Point in History

A century ago, a group of men and women gathered at Storer College in Harpers Ferry for the first meeting in America of the Niagara Movement. These courageous individuals were looking for ways to advance civil rights in the United States. They organized, against all odds, determined to change America.

Their meeting in Jefferson County in 1906 was a catalyst for progress in the United States -- progress that continues to this day. Storer College is now part of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Thousands of people are visiting the park for the Niagara Movement's centennial celebration.

From the Niagara Movement emerged the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which has been at the forefront of defending and supporting the causes and interests of African-Americans and others in their pursuit of equal protection under the law.

I look forward to the Niagara Movement's celebration at Harpers Ferry. I have worked with the leadership of the West Virginia NAACP and the Jefferson County NAACP to help

make this event a great success. I am proud to report that I was able to obtain \$300,000 to help fund the centennial celebration.

The courageous and determined men and women of the Niagara Movement made claim to their birthright as citizens of this country, and reminded the nation of their right to full citizenship as outlined in the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution.

That commitment and determination are a testament to what a few individuals motivated by passion and faith can achieve. Mountains can be moved. Prejudice can be overcome, and the course of history can be changed.

Much progress has been made since the time of the Niagara Movement, but the journey must continue. The celebration at Harpers Ferry reminds us all of the brave struggle of many souls moved and inspired by the dream of freedom and justice for all. As we pay tribute to the resolute members of the Niagara Movement, let us remember the statement issued at the conclusion of the conference: "The battle we wage is not for ourselves alone, but for all true Americans."

August 16, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Way to Save for College

In West Virginia, education -- particularly a college education -- is the passport to progress. But the rising cost of college tuition is making this important stepping stone harder for working families to afford. The average cost of attending a four-year college, including tuition and room and board, has increased more than 500 percent in the last 30 years. Fortunately, there is a program available to help parents save for their children's education.

The West Virginia SMART 529 college savings plan allows individuals to open college savings accounts with as little as \$100. These investments grow free of federal tax and can be withdrawn tax-free, as long as the dollars are used for education purposes. This tax-free saving will help families to put away more money for college and to build a brighter future for their children.

The state program already has more than 76,000 accounts with a value of more than \$775 million. That is a major down payment for the future of these young West Virginians. In today's global economy and competitive job market, education is a major asset for a person starting a

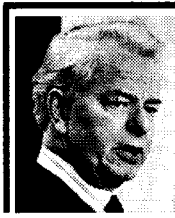
business or looking for a job. By helping families to begin saving for college early, and not taxing the investments, the federal government can help to open the door to a college degree for tens of thousands more students.

I am proud to have co-sponsored legislation that provides federal tax benefits for families who use these college savings accounts. That legislation served as the foundation for a new law, extending the federal tax benefits for families who use these college savings accounts. As a result, more West Virginia families will be able to benefit from these college savings plans.

I could not afford to attend a four-year college. My college education is a patchwork of classes that I pieced together by taking courses at various schools in the state. I know attending college can be costly and difficult. I know it is a hardship and a sacrifice for students and parents. But it is so important. The time I devoted to my education changed my life.

It is my hope that the legislation I cosponsored will make it a little bit easier for West Virginians saving for college to achieve their dreams.

August 23, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Today's Science Is Tomorrow's Opportunity

The economy of our world, our country, and our state is changing. Science and technology are playing leading roles in the new global marketplace. A race is underway to see who will make the discoveries of the future and who will watch from the sidelines. One thing is for sure: West Virginia has joined the race -- and we have what it takes to win.

Many years ago, I saw the changes on the horizon and began to plan for West Virginia's role in the new economy. I threw my energies into building the critical infrastructure that is needed to support our state's traditional industries while also harnessing the emerging industries of the future. One such project at Marshall University has grown from a seedling idea to a state-of-the-art facility that will open its doors in coming days.

The new 144,000 square-foot Biotechnology Science Center is the largest capital improvement project in Marshall University's history. The innovative facility represents limitless possibilities for scientific research and economic development in the state. The discoveries that will be made by the scientists, researchers, doctors, and students at Marshall will advance science beyond the power of our imaginations and will create one of the future economic pillars of the Mountain State and the

nation.

The effort to construct a cutting-edge science facility and create a stronger foundation for a biotech industry in West Virginia began when former Marshall University President Wade Gilley visited my office in 1999. We talked about the potential for biotechnology in Marshall's future. After our meeting, I rolled up my sleeves to do the work in Congress to secure federal funding to help turn Marshall's dreams into reality. It was a real partnership for progress, and I was pleased to dedicate the new building recently with Marshall students, faculty, and community leaders.

We have the talent right here in West Virginia to take advantage of the biotechnology wave. The state's colleges and universities, strengthened by the efforts at Marshall, are producing more graduates with greater skills in various scientific fields. We all share a goal to provide educational opportunities that will allow graduates to find good paying jobs in West Virginia, rather than having to look out of state.

The new biotechnology center will open exciting doors to educational advancements and economic growth for our state for years to come. I will continue to work every day on initiatives that build for the future of West Virginia and create new opportunities for our people.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

One Lesson of a Tragic Anniversary

Five years ago, on September 11, the sun was shining in New York City and over the Pentagon. People were going about their day, not knowing that, in a matter of minutes, thousands of lives would be lost and our country would be changed forever.

That day, more than any other, reinforced in our minds the bravery of our first responders. That morning crystallized for us the quiet courage of our emergency personnel. These men and women are always ready to place their lives on the line. They hold constant watch over us, always ready to respond.

Amazingly, too many people in Washington have not learned a key lesson of 9-11: We must give our first responders the tools and money they need to do their jobs. But instead of making sure that our police officers and firefighters receive the training and equipment that they need, the White House has put forward budget after budget that shortchanges our emergency response teams.

The President, in his latest budget plan, proposed to cut firefighter equipment and training grants by 46 percent and to eliminate the program to hire more firefighters. He also wanted to cut grants to state and local law enforcement by more than \$1 billion. Neither

cut made sense to me, and I went to work to make sure that our emergency response teams did not feel the pain of the budget axe. I am proud to report that we were able to defeat every dollar in firefighter and law enforcement cuts that the White House proposed.

I will continue my efforts for our police officers and firefighters. Just last year, I worked to provide more than \$10 million for West Virginia's local law enforcement and emergency response teams. Those dollars are at work today, protecting communities and saving lives.

America cannot afford to shortchange our communities' safety. The lives of thousands more people could be placed in jeopardy with another terrorist attack or natural disaster. The Congress and the White House share a responsibility to invest in our police departments and fire departments and rescue teams and hospitals. Without that critical network in place, trained and equipped, any disaster could be magnified with confusion, chaos, and an even greater loss of life.

I will continue to do all that I can to invest in our community protections. Our police officers, firefighters, and rescue squads have always stood for us, and I will always stand for them.

September 6, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Meeting the Needs of Injured U.S. Troops

For many of the troops who serve in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, their sacrifices do not end with their deployments. Those who are injured in battle often return home in need of specialized medical care. Their recoveries are many times long, difficult, and have lasting effects on the victims and their families. These brave men and women risk their lives for their country, and we owe them nothing short of the best medical care available.

The weapons of choice in today's wars have changed and so have the injuries. Our forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are under attack by grenades, bombs, land mines, and artillery shells. These explosive devices have made brain injuries the "signature wound" of the war in Iraq, and the health care we provide to returning troops must adapt.

That is why I have championed funding in the Senate for the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The center provides medical evaluation, treatment, and long-term care for active duty military members, their dependents, and veterans with traumatic brain injuries.

The DVBIC estimates that approximately one in ten service members in Iraq,

and two in ten troops on the front lines, return from combat tours with concussions. As of March 31, 2006, the Pentagon reported about 1,200 traumatic brain injuries as a result of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Experts say the real total is much higher because internal head injuries -- in which there may be no obvious wound -- often go undiagnosed.

The DVBIC's leaders asked Congress for additional funding for the coming year, due to the growing number of patients with brain injuries, the cost of long-term care, and the need for research to improve treatment and prevention. Yet, the center was at risk of having its budget cut by 50 percent.

The facility is critically important for rehabilitating injured servicemembers, and I could not let its funding languish. I went to work on legislation that would fully fund the DVBIC for the coming year. The funds were recently approved by the Senate and are now one step closer to becoming law.

America's fighting forces put their lives on the line when they report for duty. They have earned the respect of their nation as well as access to high-quality medical care for as long as they need it. I will continue to work to ensure that our troops receive nothing less.

September 13, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Marking the Lessons of Constitution Day

Our Constitution is the foundation of our freedoms. Just a few pages, written on parchment, established for all time the direction and structure of these United States. The first ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, guarantee our freedoms: freedom of speech; freedom of religion; the right to assemble; the right to petition the government; the right to bear arms; and the right to vote. Our liberties are protected by that Constitution, not only by the Bill of Rights but also by the separation of powers and the checks and balances among the three equal branches of our government.

But a great Republic cannot sustain itself unless its citizens participate actively in their own government. To do that our citizens must be familiar with the Constitution and the intent of the Framers who wrote it. That is why, two years ago, I included a provision in U.S. law which designates September 17 of each year as Constitution Day, so that, on or near this day, all Americans can learn more about the Constitution and reflect upon its importance. Once again this year,

schools in West Virginia and throughout our country offered special Constitution Day programs. And citizens from all walks of life stopped to think about the role of the Constitution in their daily lives.

Each of us should give thanks that on September 17, 1787, our forefathers signed their names to the new Constitution and launched mankind's most remarkable experiment in self-governance.

Constitution Day should remind us all that we the people are the ultimate guardians of our freedoms.

Unless we understand our birthright and guard it vigorously, we risk losing the gift of the Framers. Our Constitution continues to inspire millions around the globe. It has survived the stresses and strains of 219 years of incredible challenge and change.

Our Constitution's Framers were willing to risk everything they owned, even their own lives, to give us the great treasure that is our nation and our form of government. Each of us has an obligation to hand that treasure on to future generations intact and strong and secure.

September 20, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Voluntary School Prayer Gaining Ground

Earlier this year, I introduced a Constitutional amendment to clear the way for voluntary prayer in schools. I am proud to report that my effort is gaining the support of a growing number of Senators, including key members of the Senate Republican Leadership team.

My efforts on school prayer go back many years. Like most West Virginians, I think that court decisions have gone way too far when they have acted to prevent any sort of religious expression in public settings. Prayer and faith in the Creator have helped to shape this nation from its earliest days. Our Founding Fathers relied on the Creator's strength to carry them through the most difficult hours in the battle for independence. But despite the clear role of prayer and faith in our nation, too many courts have tried to gag citizens who want to voluntarily express their beliefs.

In ruling after ruling, the courts have been moving perilously close to prohibiting the free exercise of religion in America. Americans do not want to force religion on anyone. But neither do we want religious censorship. Ours is a religious nation, and we have been so throughout our history.

That is why I am urging the Congress to approve my Constitutional amendment to allow voluntary school

prayer. The First Amendment to the Constitution states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; ..." I believe that court rulings have been significantly one sided -- with far more weight being given to the first part of that clause ("Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion") than to the second part ("or prohibiting the free exercise thereof").

A growing number of Senators have signed up to support my proposal. My West Virginia colleague in the Senate, Jay Rockefeller, is a cosponsor of the amendment. Other Senators, including Thad Cochran and Trent Lott, both of Mississippi, Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, James Inhofe of Oklahoma, and Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina are also working with me to win Senate approval of this initiative.

Faith has long been a guiding principle in our country and, we need to remember its role in our history and development. In the coming weeks, I hope that more Senators will join me in my effort to restore a voluntary recognition of a higher power to the daily lives of our children, and that this effort will begin to restore some balance to the role of faith in our nation's public life.

September 27, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Standing Strong for Social Security

In 1935, when President Franklin Roosevelt signed the law creating the Social Security system, he stated that Social Security would "give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age." For more than 70 years, Social Security has been the ultimate financial protection for the American people. But now, there is another threat to the long-term strength of the traditional Social Security program.

Earlier this year, the White House included a proposal in its budget to divert \$700 billion in Social Security funds for the President's scheme. That plan was met with widespread opposition by the American people. Unfortunately, the White House is not listening to the people. In recent speeches and news interviews, President Bush revealed his plan to take another run at privatizing Social Security -- but not until after the November elections. The White House seems committed to gambling Social Security protection for our elderly on the whims of Wall Street.

Let me be clear: I will fight to protect Social Security and not allow it to be jeopardized on some risky privatization scheme. There is little good that can come from placing our seniors'

Social Security benefits at the mercy of the stock market. Social Security should not become some Wall Street baron's play thing. We have to work to strengthen Social Security for this generation and generations to come, and not place that safety net at risk.

Recently, with Senator Rockefeller, I signed the "Golden Promise" petition -- a pledge to fight to protect Social Security and not risk it with dangerous, politically motivated schemes. Hundreds of people gathered at the Capitol to launch the petition drive, all of us committed to the effort to protect Social Security. To join the effort and sign the petition, visit www.americansunitedforchange.org.

More than 400,000 West Virginians rely on the Social Security program for assistance. For many of these people, Social Security is their sole source of income. That is why we cannot allow Social Security to be jeopardized. The stakes are simply too high for this White House gamble.

Social Security is a gift from the World War II Generation to this and every coming generation. It was forged from their suffering and resiliency during the Great Depression, and the task now falls to us to preserve that gift for generations to come.

October 4, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Good News in the Fight Against Cancer

Each October, the nation marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month -- a time to take note of our progress in the fight against cancer and to celebrate the progress that we are making together.

Rest assured, there is progress to celebrate. Just last month, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) announced that, overall, cancer mortality in West Virginia is declining faster than the national average. That's the good news. But the bad news is that the Mountain State's cancer rate still exceeds the U.S. average.

In West Virginia, according to the recent NCI data, cancer deaths dropped 1.5 percent per year from 1999-2003, the latest five-year period for which full data are available. It's a small drop, but an important one. That drop represents lives which have been saved.

While this is good news, we still have considerable work ahead. The NCI reported that approximately 4,700 Mountain State residents continue to lose their battles against cancer each year. Detailed statistical information on cancer across the country and in West Virginia -- including information about each of our 55 counties -- is available online at <http://www.state-cancerprofiles.cancer.gov>.

Throughout the state,

experts are working to raise people's awareness to the warning signs of cancer and to prevent the illness from ever striking. The more that people know and the better the information that is in their hands, the more effective the prevention will be.

One of our state's best anti-cancer efforts is the work at West Virginia University's Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, attacking the disease on all fronts: treating cancer patients with cutting-edge, comprehensive care; finding new cancer cases in their early, treatable forms; and researching a cancer cure. One of the key priorities at the cancer center is its broad-based research program in breast cancer. The WVU center is making an impact statewide in cancer detection and prevention and in helping to save lives.

Cancer is a devastating disease that has touched the lives of nearly every West Virginian. The good news is that West Virginia's cancer rate is falling. But we cannot stop with just this sign of progress. As individuals, we must live healthier lives and make preventive care a top priority. As a state and a nation, we must continue to invest in life-saving research. We can find the cures to these diseases, and the answers may be found right here in West Virginia.

October 11, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stopping Domestic Violence Before it Strikes

This fall, news reports have carried the stories of too many families in West Virginia suffering terrible incidents of domestic violence. Ironically, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A spate of recent beatings and murder-suicides has made us painfully aware of the devastation that results when family members turn against one another in anger.

Domestic violence is a scourge we cannot ignore. It is reprehensible in every respect, and we must do all that we can to stop it. Since September, horrific incidents of domestic violence have occurred in Berkeley, Cabell, Kanawha, Putnam, and Jefferson counties. By mid-October, the third murder-suicide in two months was reported in the Eastern Panhandle.

These tragic events have resulted in lost lives, shattered families, and anguish for all involved. They serve as painful reminders that the consequences of domestic violence are devastating, not only for the adults who are killed or injured, but also for the children who witness them.

We must do more to stop domestic violence before it happens. I cosponsored legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which was signed into law early this year. Despite this success, the Administration's budget for next year cuts millions from federal efforts to enforce domestic

violence laws.

There is no conscientious reason to support cuts that place lives at risk. On the Appropriations Committee, I worked with Democratic and Republican Senators to reject those budget cuts and provide an additional \$43 million for family protection initiatives in West Virginia and across the country. I hope that the entire Senate soon will approve our effort, because victims of domestic violence should not also be the victims of ill-conceived budget cuts.

We must all work harder to anticipate and halt domestic violence. If you or anyone you know fears imminent harm, call the local police or 911. To try and prevent a violent incident, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE, 24 hours-a-day. Or telephone the statewide office of the West Virginia Domestic Violence Coalition at 304-965-3552. Calling ensures safety, since all information sent over the Internet -- including e-mail -- can be intercepted by third parties. To obtain contact information for local domestic violence programs, visit www.wvcadv.org/member_programs.htm.

Every few seconds, another woman in America is battered, usually by a boyfriend or husband. Spousal crime is one of the most unreported crimes in the country. We cannot simply hope that it will end. We must take action.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Progress to Report on Corridor H

The paths through West Virginia's Potomac Highlands are, too often, a dangerous maze of two-lane roads, winding dizzily around the region's mountains. As a result, job opportunities have been slow to find the region while traffic accidents and deaths are far too common. That's why completing Corridor H will make such a difference in people's lives.

Already, in the sections of Corridor H that are open to traffic, cars and trucks are able to navigate the mountains more safely and more quickly. Fatalities are down and opportunities are growing. But the promise of Corridor H is still elusive for the people who have been waiting and waiting for the road to be built.

The legal hurdles to the remaining sections of Corridor H have largely been overcome. Now, the focus turns to funding. It's no secret that building a mile of highway in West Virginia is far more expensive than building that same mile in flat states like Kansas or Iowa. Projects like Corridor H are incredibly expensive, and acquiring the funds takes time.

I am proud to report that, already, I have won Congressional approval for

more than \$656 million for Corridor H design and construction -- and more dollars are on the way. Last summer, Senator Rockefeller and I partnered on federal legislation to ensure that West Virginia would receive \$432.5 million in Corridor highway construction funds. And, when the Senate returns to work in November, I shall press for the approval of separate legislation that would direct another \$20 million toward Corridor H, as well as other construction dollars to key highway projects throughout West Virginia.

Those dollars are translating into real progress. This summer, construction began on the very first segment of Corridor H in Grant County, as crews started work on a section of highway that will stretch from Moorefield to Forman. That's solid progress, and more work is on the way.

More than 40 years ago, in 1965, Congress promised the people of Appalachia that it would build a network of roads to link the region to interstate highways and bring economic opportunities into the hills and hollows. That is a promise that needs to be kept. It is time to finish Corridor H.

October 25, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FBI Mission Growing in WV

Since the FBI opened in Harrison County in 1999, the facility's mission has grown and adapted as crime-fighting priorities have changed. West Virginians are proud of the Clarksburg complex and its evolving role in national law enforcement efforts. The agency's Mountain State presence is helping to identify criminals and terrorists alike and to ensure the safety of all Americans.

When the Senate gets back to work after the November election, I will push for more than \$449 million in funds for the FBI in Harrison County. That is a \$50 million boost over the facility's current funding -- an increase that will help the agency continue to expand its mission.

We all know that the Clarksburg FBI complex is a key tool in keeping criminals off the streets. The facility provides critical support for state and local law enforcement agencies, helping them to identify suspected criminals and analyze evidence in crime scene investigations. But perhaps not as well known is the fact that the facility also plays a growing role in America's counterterrorism efforts.

The fingerprint database in Clarksburg includes information on some 40,000 known or suspected terrorists as part of approximately 47 million sets of finger-

prints and corresponding criminal history information stored electronically at the site. Since the FBI fingerprint system became operational in Clarksburg, more than 130 million fingerprint submissions have been processed.

The FBI funding that I will push in coming months will allow the agency to keep ahead of the complex network of criminal and terrorist activities. These dangerous individuals continually change their tactics, and the country's defenses must always be ready to adapt. This new funding builds on the more than \$1 billion that I have obtained for the Harrison County FBI's computer and high-tech infrastructure.

The Clarksburg FBI complex is a prime example of Mountain State resources and top-notch manpower helping to meet national security and law enforcement challenges. More than 2,500 federal employees work at the Clarksburg FBI Complex, with another 1,000 contract personnel in West Virginia having jobs linked to the facility.

These men and women work each day to make the country safer. West Virginians should take great pride in the fact that our state is home to a world-class initiative that is helping the entire nation to realize a better, safer quality of life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ensuring Quality Care for Our Veterans

West Virginia's veterans have served in missions around the globe. Their bravery and courage have helped to keep our nation safe and strong. The gratitude that we express to our veterans sends a message to future generations of fighting men and women, as well as to our current veterans, and to the families of the fallen.

That is why I am honored, this Veterans Day, to participate in the dedication of the new West Virginia Veterans Nursing Home in Clarksburg. This \$26 million facility will provide long-term medical treatment for veterans from across the state and ensure that these men and women do not have to travel long distances, perhaps even out of state, for their care.

While this nursing facility will assist some of West Virginia's older veterans, we also must focus on providing the care that our new veterans require. Each day, as they come home from war, many of our new veterans have specialized medical needs.

Some of the most serious injuries facing these new veterans are those that cannot be seen from the outside. In fact, brain injuries have been called "the signature wound" of the Iraq war. Yet, the Defense Department's premier brain

trauma center faces funding cuts that jeopardize treatment of brain injuries for our troops.

I am not going to stand by and see these services placed at risk. I pressed the Senate to approve legislation so that these very challenging, very intricate injuries will receive the attention of experienced doctors and nurses. The Senate responded, directing \$19 million to the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

The nature of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, where roadside bombs are as prevalent as bullets, means that the medical care we provide must adapt to these new conditions. This funding will help to meet the need for better research and treatment of brain injuries.

This Veterans Day, and each day, we should take the time to say "thank you" to our veterans for putting their lives on the line for our freedom. To anyone willing to serve this country in the Armed Services, everlasting gratitude is theirs by right. In the Senate, I will continue to work for our veterans and for our troops in the field. These men and women did not flinch when called to duty, and we must never flinch from our support of them.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Leading America

On Election Day, the American public issued a strong message that they desire positive change. Partisans of either political party -- Republican or Democrat -- would do well to consider that message carefully.

A strong America does not require political party dominance. The foundation of our country's strength is not intemperate rhetoric or skillful opportunism.

I believe the message of this election is that "We the People" desire a return to many of the traditional values that have made our country great. The American people yearn for public servants with sober clarity of purpose.

The core of my political philosophy has always been to work hard, be honest, and fight for West Virginia's interests. It is a simple prescription, but it works.

In this recent election, the voting public felt that many basic principals had not been upheld by Congress.

Some voters questioned the responsibility of allowing an exploding deficit to add \$1.5 trillion to our national debt.

Many Americans were motivated by concern for an elective war that is costing \$8 billion each month, with growing casualties and no sign of progress in sight.

Other voters had questions about honesty. Is our government deliberately suppressing scientific

truths? Are they conducting matters openly and in good faith with the public? Are corporations creating federal policy? Are our leaders giving us the truth about Iraq?

Many people in rural states like West Virginia were troubled by economic and fiscal policies that slowed growth, concentrated wealth, expanded inequality, and increased our number of poor and uninsured.

Whatever an individual's motivation to go to the polls, the message to all who are elected to serve is the same: American government must return to the basic principals of fairness, honesty and accountability.

We must endeavor to replace partisanship with statesmanship.

As I prepare to embark upon an historic ninth term in the United States Senate, I have reflected on the great honor I have enjoyed in representing my fellow West Virginians for so many years.

I have always believed that the Golden Rule -- to "do unto others as you would have others do unto you" -- is more than good Scripture to live by. It is also good policy to govern by.

Be certain that, as I enter my ninth term representing the good people of the Mountain State, I will continue to work hard, be honest, and fight for West Virginia's interests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Senior Citizens Deserve Affordable Medicines

Senior citizens in West Virginia and across the country right now are deciding whether to re-enroll in the Medicare prescription drug program -- often referred to as Medicare Part D. In West Virginia, more than 326,000 seniors currently participate in the Part D program, part of a group of 43 million Americans enrolled in the prescription coverage plan. While these men and women navigate the options available to them, many seniors also are asking why their prescriptions continue to cost so much. They want affordable medicines, not bureaucratic excuses.

I share that goal of making prescription medicines more affordable. One of the easiest ways for Medicare to help lower the costs for senior citizens is for the agency to use its bargaining power to negotiate directly with the drug companies. But, so far, the Bush Administration has resisted this commonsense idea. I cannot understand why.

Already, the Department of Veterans Affairs uses its bargaining leverage to negotiate cheaper prescription prices for America's 25 million veterans. Why not give the same benefit to the nation's senior citizens?

Pharmaceutical companies have raised prices on many top-selling medicines by six percent or more this

year -- double the overall inflation rate. Meanwhile, the majority of our senior citizens live on fixed incomes. As their prescription costs rise, they have to make difficult decisions: Do they pay for their medicines? Or do they pay for their food or housing or utilities? While that seems an extreme situation, it is, sadly, a reality facing too many seniors.

The benefit for individual seniors and for the federal government is clear. Independent studies have found that allowing Medicare to negotiate with the pharmaceutical industry could save the government and Medicare beneficiaries at least \$600 billion during the next seven years. That is a significant savings which could help to reduce the burden on American families.

In January, when the new session of Congress begins, I expect that this will be a key issue that we will face. Instead of clinging to Medicare's status quo, I hope that the Bush Administration will work with the Congress in a bipartisan effort to fix this broken prescription program. Medicare should be allowed to negotiate lower prices with the drug companies. Doing so would help to ease the financial burden facing so many of our senior citizens.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

It's Time to Tackle Poverty

Across the country, middle-class families are finding it hard to make ends meet. Often, both parents are holding down jobs just to pay the bills and save a little money for their children's college tuition. Economic experts in Washington are worried about increasing inflation, but these policy wonks are not nearly as anxious as are many West Virginia families.

These pressures are especially difficult for families struggling at minimum wage jobs. Right now, the federal minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour. Adjusted for inflation, the federal minimum wage is at its lowest level in 50 years.

Today, a person working full-time at the minimum wage earns \$10,712 annually. Nearly 15 million American workers and their families live on that income, even though it is almost \$6,000 below the poverty level for a family of three. We must raise the minimum wage, a step that the Republican White House has fought against for many years. It's time for the fighting to stop and help to arrive for working families.

When the new Congress begins in January, I will vote with what I hope will be a strong bipartisan coalition to raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour. This would mean an additional \$4,400 a year for the individual minimum-wage

worker. That pay raise is a step ahead and a step away from poverty.

While Congress is considering this minimum wage hike, we also should look at ways to help businesses. Many minimum-wage earners are employed by entrepreneurs who spark our economy. If there are commonsense ways in which Congress can reduce the burden on small businesses, then we ought to help.

One step that Congress can take immediately is to approve tax credits for research and development efforts and investments in communities. There is broad bipartisan support for these tax incentives, and I hope that we can vote on these initiatives quickly and send them to the President to be signed into law.

We need to create a cycle of opportunity to replace the cycle of poverty that has engulfed too many working families. Developing incentives for businesses will create new jobs and benefits for working families. Lifting the wages of those same families will give them greater buying power at stores, a stronger ability to afford college tuition, and an overall better quality of life. We must balance our approach. If we do, we can work together not only to tackle poverty but also to build a better future for our state and nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Celebrating the True Christmas Story

From the time I was a boy, I have been enthralled with the Christmas season. Growing up in the Southern West Virginia coalfields, my family never had much in terms of material goods. But it never mattered how many packages there were to open on Christmas morning. What mattered was the love and the joy that we shared as a family. Christmas is not about store sales and the latest gift gadgets, but rather it is about salvation and faith.

Each year at this time, I reread the Christmas story in the Gospel of Luke to remember the words and, more importantly, the true meaning of this sacred season.

"All went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes,

and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

I hope that this Christmas will be the kind of Christmas that I remember from my boyhood – a Christmas of family and faith and love, of hope and redemption. May all West Virginians find health and happiness this Christmas season, and joy throughout the coming New Year.

December 6, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Our Promise to Fight AIDS

It has been more than 25 years since the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) epidemic was fully understood. In that time, the disease has exacted a tremendous toll, both here in the United States and throughout the world. The facts are staggering. Roughly 40 million people around the world are living with HIV -- the virus that causes the deadly disease, AIDS -- and infection rates are rising dramatically in many regions. Approximately 14,000 people are infected every day, and more than 3 million people will die from AIDS this year alone.

West Virginia has not avoided this terrible disease. Today, nearly 700 West Virginians suffer from AIDS, while more than 650 people in our state have been infected with the HIV virus. These men and women hope and pray that scientists will soon find a cure and eradicate this scourge from the earth.

The international community recently marked World AIDS Day 2006 -- a day to raise awareness and call for a renewed commitment to improving HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention efforts. The theme for World AIDS Day was accountability and the

slogan was "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise." This message serves as an important reminder that the United States should lead the way to help alleviate the misery suffered by millions of AIDS-inflicted families across the globe.

In 2003, President Bush proposed to spend \$15 billion over five years to fight HIV/AIDS in 15 severely affected countries. Despite that promise, the White House has consistently proposed cuts in America's contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The Global Fund is the most important multilateral funding mechanism for combating AIDS and has bipartisan support in Congress. As a nation, we ought to live up to our full commitment to fight HIV/AIDS, at home and abroad.

The Gospel of Matthew teaches, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Many of those who suffer from AIDS and HIV are the least among us. They are poor, and most live far away from what we would consider modern medical care. We have a moral obligation to help stop their suffering and find a cure for this terrible disease.

December 13, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building Hope from Tragedy

I remember November 14, 1970. I don't remember it because of the weather or some action in Congress. I remember it because it was on that day when one of the greatest tragedies to strike our state occurred. On that day, returning from North Carolina, a plane carrying 75 Marshall University football players, coaches, university staff, community members, and crew members crashed against a Kenova hillside. Not a single person survived.

Dozens of children lost a parent in the tragedy, and quite a few lost both. Wives, husbands, brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles and cousins were taken away from their families. I had a good friend on that airplane, as did so many others. For some people, it is still difficult to talk about that crash and those whose lives were lost. That crash stole the lives of so many young people, just starting on their life's journey, and so many of our friends and loved ones, but it did not destroy the strength of spirit in the hearts of West Virginians.

Today, that spirit is being celebrated with the release of the new film, "We Are Marshall." It is

not often that I watch movies, but I look forward to seeing this one. This film will showcase what I have always believed to be West Virginia's greatest strength; namely, the character and the courage of our people.

Some people around the country may find this story an unusual narrative for the holiday season -- a movie about a plane crash and a football team. But the story in "We Are Marshall" is far more than a sports film. It contains elements of abiding love, faith, and perseverance. The miraculous ascendance of the Marshall University community from the ashes of such disaster is inspirational. It may be a story rooted in tragedy, but it is a story worth remembering and sharing.

I hope that the film about this episode in West Virginia's history will somehow carry blessings of comfort and joy during this holiday season, especially for the families of those who were lost on that terrible day. The importance of their lives, and the significance of their loss, has never been forgotten in West Virginia. Now the world will know their story, and of the love, faith, and perseverance of those who carried on.

December 20, 2006



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Forging a New Direction in Iraq

The news reports from Iraq are like a broken record, recounting the latest car bombings, insurgent attacks, and, sadly, injuries or deaths of American servicemembers. We honor all of the brave men and women serving in Iraq. However, despite their courageous efforts, our troops are caught in the crossfire of a civil war that the Bush Administration's political efforts have failed to stop. The time for staying the course is long over. We must have a new direction in Iraq.

Two recent events can help to change the course in Iraq. President Bush made the wise decision to replace Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, and the Senate worked quickly to hold hearings and vote to confirm Robert Gates to fill that key position. Also, the bipartisan and well-respected Iraq Study Group delivered its report which makes clear that there is no magic wand to bring peace and stability to the volatile Middle East.

The report warns that a new approach is desperately needed, and time is running out. The status quo will serve only to widen the chasm between Iraq's warring factions, increase the dangers facing our troops, and risk greater instability throughout the Middle East. The report, coupled with a new Defense Secretary and a new Congressional major-

ity willing to ask the tough questions and hold leaders accountable, can help to spur a new direction in Iraq.

We must send a message to the world that the United States is willing to depart from the Administration's disastrous unilateral agenda that has served us so poorly. The American people and our troops in the field deserve honest leadership and fresh ideas at the Pentagon. They deserve leaders who will not just rubberstamp White House political plans, but who also will put the security of the country and the best interests of our troops at the top of their priority lists. And they deserve a Congress that will ask hard questions and demand truthful answers from those crafting our foreign and military policies.

Before the war began, there was no doubt as to the military outcome of the initial invasion of Iraq; our might was unquestioned. The doubt centered on the specious motives for war, and the repercussions that would follow. We have experienced those repercussions all too clearly, yet the White House still clings to its failed approaches. We must have a new direction for our mission in Iraq. Congress must rise to the challenge, set aside party labels, and press the White House to change its "stay the course" policy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Lessons from the Leadership of Gerald R. Ford

The President of the United States is a powerful figure in this country. The president sets the tone for the nation. He can either challenge us to reach for our better angels, or take actions that serve to deeply divide the country. The president can either promote an agenda that brings the American people together, or he can press for policies that split us apart.

In the summer of 1974, the country was suffering. President Richard Nixon's actions in the Watergate affair only compounded the anger and distrust that people felt over the Vietnam War. The country was near a boiling point. President Nixon, on the verge of being impeached by the House of Representatives, resigned from office, elevating Gerald R. Ford -- a former Congressman from Michigan, a former Republican Leader in the House of Representatives, and the then Vice President of the United States -- to our country's highest Executive Office.

Many people across the country did not know President Ford very well. Few knew the quality of the man, as he had never run for office outside of his Congressional district. I knew Gerald Ford, having worked with him in the Congress, and I had confidence that he would be the kind of president that

we needed at that moment in time.

Gerald Ford brought to the presidency a humble tone very different from that of President Nixon. He worked to heal the nation after one of the most turbulent periods in our history. His actions were defined by his patriotism and his belief that America had to move forward instead of looking back. I have always been impressed with the quiet determination that President Ford showed in office. He understood that sharp partisanship does not serve the country well, and that political parties need to work together to forge solutions to the challenges we face.

That is a lesson that should be remembered today in Washington, D.C. Too often, more attention is paid to scoring political points than is paid to working for the American people.

As the new Congress begins, we have an opportunity to come together and put the people's priorities first. That means focusing on those issues that West Virginia families and families all across our country are most concerned about -- good jobs; access to better health care; improved classrooms. If we pull together, Democrats and Republicans, we can find the best solutions for America.

January 3, ~~2006~~
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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Congress Brings New Opportunities

As the new Congress begins, I will take every opportunity to refocus our government's attention on the issues that matter most to West Virginians. I know from countless conversations with constituents throughout the state that there is a strong desire for change.

The American people expect Members of Congress to work together. The nation is tired of divisive partisan rhetoric. There is a clear mandate for the 110th Congress to put more energy towards working to achieve practical results for the people, and less on hatching political victories.

Though the Democrats now hold a majority in the Senate by the thinnest of margins, I believe the shift in power presents Congress with an opportunity to undo the partisan gridlock that has impeded good government in recent years. The new Congress will work longer hours, and we are resolved to be more open and inclusive. We will dust off the traditions of dialogue, deliberation, and decorum that have been shelved in recent years.

I intend to reach out to my Republican colleagues on the Budget Committee for their input and assistance in restoring the fiscal balance and responsibility that Americans expect from their government.

The views of my colleagues across the political aisle on the Committee on Armed Services will be welcomed, respected, and carefully considered. It will take a bipartisan effort to untangle ourselves from Iraq and provide for our national security. It will take the collective political will of both parties to meet the challenges of providing adequate care and services for our new generation of veterans.

Though needed reforms in the earmarking process are being implemented until we return fiscal responsibility and accountability to the budget process, I will continue to be mindful of the needs of my home state of West Virginia as I return to the role of Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

Americans have given Congress a resounding mandate to set the country on a more stable, responsible path to domestic progress and prosperity, while strengthening national security. I am excited about the opportunities this new Congress presents, and optimistic about the future of this great nation.

Progress will require hard work and great personal commitment. I stand ready and eager to continue to serve the great state of West Virginia and this great nation.

January 10, ~~2006~~
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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Learning from Martin Luther King, Jr.

Each January, the nation pauses to remember the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The lessons that he taught still carry relevance today, and, I expect, will do so for many years to come.

Dr. King's words ring so loudly today because they were based on principle and faith. He marched, preached, and spoke out for equality between races. He battled economic injustice. The Reverend Dr. King was a champion for people who had no voice, little influence, and even less opportunity. His faith in God gave him strength, conviction, and courage. He saw America as it was, and struggled to build America as we all dream it to be.

The ground has been broken on a memorial to Dr. King on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. I worked to guarantee \$10 million in federal funds for the memorial's construction. Those are dollars well-invested to honor a life well-lived. It is fitting that the country pay tribute to Dr. King at this memorial. But I hope that it is more than a tribute. Dr. King's legacy can still inspire us.

Today, we live in a nation still divided by racism and sharp partisanship. We have growing divides between the wealthy, the working class, and the poor. Too many people are being left behind in this 21st century America. Dr. King's words and actions are vibrant with energy and meaning.

"Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation." Dr. King spoke those words in 1968, and they offer hope today. We have that opportunity to bridge the gaps of distrust and discord that divide our people. Reaching that promised land will not be easy, but few things in life worth doing ever are.

As we remember the lessons from the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., let us stand with determination against injustice and inequality, and let us work together for a better tomorrow for all of America's children and the generations yet to come.

January 17, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building Better Fiscal Roads

There is no easy, painless way out of the fiscal chaos left behind by the outgoing Congress. In six years, we have seen a \$5 trillion surplus drained, and our government swamped in an ocean of red ink.

The outgoing Congressional leadership ended 2006 without completing work on a single appropriations bill that invests in our communities, provides medical care for veterans, fights crime, or works to make college more accessible.

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, it is my responsibility to help provide leadership out of this fiscal mayhem.

These are dire and fiscally challenging times. State and local governments need to know how and what the federal government is funding, and Congress needs time to consider and legislate fiscal issues more responsibly. Reforms to the earmarking process are long overdue.

It is important that West Virginians know that, while extraordinary measures are being taken to restore credibility and responsibility to Congressional spending discretion, critical development projects in the state are not being abandoned.

For example, Senator Rockefeller and I worked very hard to make sure that legislation was passed during the last session that will continue the advancement of

the state's beneficial high priority projects. The decision to disallow earmarks in the Fiscal 2007 appropriations bills will not impact previous funding for meritorious projects. Congressional earmarks will be eligible for consideration in the 2008 budget under the reformed process.

I am proud of the community, economic, and research projects I have been able to help bring to West Virginia over the years, and honored to publicly sponsor those bills. However, one of the flaws of the earmarking process is that it is difficult to evaluate earmarks that are not openly sponsored by an individual legislator. It is often these "unclaimed earmarks" that are involved in corruption scandals like those involving former Representative "Duke" Cunningham and lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

It is unavoidable that bringing long overdue reforms to the appropriations process will mean short term delays in some funding areas. However, promoting fiscal responsibility and consistency is absolutely necessary in order to restore confidence and promote transparency in funding decisions.

Soon, with new standards in place for Congressionally directed investments, we will be able to move West Virginia and the country forward with a more open, more accountable federal funding process.

January 24, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Good Budget Requires Honesty and Conscience

An essential ingredient for restoring fiscal health and responsibility to government spending is honesty. Without a budget that reflects real-world numbers, it is difficult to implement real-world progress.

Regrettably, the budget that President Bush submitted to Congress recently does not provide the honest accounting necessary to make it a good roadmap for digging the nation out of debt.

As a result of an amendment that I authored this past summer, the White House is now required to include next year's anticipated war costs in Iraq and Afghanistan in the budget just presented. For too long, the Bush Administration has labored to screen the public from the huge costs of the war in Iraq and its devastating impact on domestic spending. Actual appropriations for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to date total nearly \$380 billion, and are expected to climb by about \$200 million each day.

As reflected by his budget, the cost of this President's war in Iraq is pushing more working families into poverty, restricting access to health care coverage, and starving important education initiatives.

While further extending bouquets of tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, the President's budget

leaves many initiatives to die on the vine -- initiatives that help to provide education and health care and job creation for West Virginians.

In this budget, 300,000 children from low-income families would be dropped from child care assistance by 2010. The Head Start program, of which I have been a strong supporter, would be cut further, and a modest food security initiative that serves low-income elderly would be terminated.

Elementary and secondary education, pollution control and abatement, and health care research and training all lose billions of dollars while more of the fiscal burden for Medicaid is shifted onto state governments.

This strategy clearly intends to balance the budget on the backs of low-income and working families while larding the top one percent earners with more perks and privileges.

Fiddlesticks, I say.

Soon, I will write more about the President's shortchanging of other important areas like homeland security and rural initiatives. In the meantime, as the federal budget process moves forward, I will continue to fight for the principles of fairness and compassion that we share as West Virginians.

February 7, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Vigilance for Mine Safety

A little more than a year ago, West Virginians were joined in sorrow after the deaths of 14 coal miners, first at the Sago mine in Upshur County and then, just a few weeks later, at the Aracoma mine in Logan County. At the state and federal level, West Virginia officials responded with legislation aimed at addressing the key issues in those tragedies: emergency supplies; communications; and stiffer enforcement of regulations already on the books.

I have been especially concerned with the work of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). Under this White House and its Department of Labor, regulators have subjugated their obligation to protect the safety of miners to the goal of increased productivity in coal mines. White House budgets consistently starve safety efforts, resulting in a loss of mine inspectors and antiquated safety technologies in coal mines. That must change. In Congress, we will hold the Labor Department accountable for anything less than an unequivocal commitment to the lives and health of the men and women who work in the coal mines.

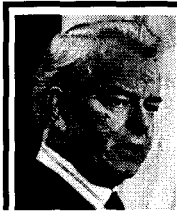
However, two miners' deaths in January in Southern West Virginia serve as a somber reminder that the

crisis in the coalfields is far from over. It is time to be innovative and proactive. It is time to stop simply coping with mine disasters after they happen. We must seek opportunities to prevent the dangers in the first place.

We must make special emergency refuge chambers available to miners underground. Additionally, wireless communications should be available to coal miners as soon as possible. If that means providing more funds to federal researchers to expedite the development of wireless communications and tracking, and prodding the industry to purchase and install that equipment, then that must be done.

The federal mine safety agency needs to redouble its efforts to hire at least 170 new mine inspectors. To this end, I was successful last summer in adding \$26 million to MSHA's budget. These dollars will save lives. More inspectors and tougher enforcement means that fewer violations can be swept aside with a wink and a nod.

We have a moral obligation to protect our coal miners. The new inspectors and tougher mine safety laws are good steps forward. But better mine safety will require continued vigilance and innovation. We owe nothing less to the men and women who bravely work in the nation's mines.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bush Budget Shortchanges Homeland Security

Recently, I wrote in this space that the 2008 budget submitted by President Bush squeezes critical domestic programs in health and education, pushes more working families into poverty, and hammers deeper wedges between the poor, the middle class, and the mega-wealthy.

The budget proposes big cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, upon which many West Virginians depend. These cuts are being made so that the President can pursue a Quixotic scheme to pay for the war in Iraq while extending more tax cuts to the well-off without revenue increases. Anyone who can balance their checkbook can instantly see the folly in this goal.

The President often speaks about his concern for the safety of Americans at home. But, once again, his rhetoric turns out to be as hollow as a ten-gallon hat. The President's budget actually proposes more than \$2.6 billion in cuts to homeland security initiatives. This includes dramatic cuts to state formula grants, Law Enforcement Terrorism Protection, Fire-fighter Assistance Grants, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, and a 54 percent cut in funding for all state and local law enforcement programs in the Department of Justice.

Meanwhile, as our

homeland security capacity is ratcheted down, the conflagration of war continues to grow, and threatens to spread throughout the Middle East.

Rural states like West Virginia are heavily dependant on volunteers to serve our communities as fire-fighters and other emergency first responders. Many of these service-minded men and women are also National Guard personnel, who are being caught up in long deployments abroad. The end result is that, while one hand is reducing the number of available emergency responders in local communities, the other hand is taking away the funding that supports those emergency relief and security initiatives at home. The President's budget, in effect, creates double jeopardy for homeland security in rural areas.

The President has said himself that our emergency responders are the first line of defense during a disaster of any kind -- flood, hurricane, earthquake, or terrorist attack. He has also said many times that the security of all Americans is the top priority of his Administration.

The budget recently submitted by the President reveals serious discrepancies in his publicly stated priorities. The time for rhetoric has passed, and the moment to take action is upon us.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Amtrak On Track

Each year when the Bush Administration presents its budget, I find myself defending one of our most useful and practical public services -- Amtrak, the nation's passenger rail system. I take on this challenge because modern, growing economies need a broad range of transportation options. I work for better rail service because it is environmentally sound. A strong rail infrastructure is necessary to our national security. And I fight for passenger trains because they reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

Amtrak has been starved for more than 30 years, never receiving the kind of support that would give it the fighting chance to fulfill its great promise. Congress funds the construction of highways, seaports, subways, and airports. Interstate rail transportation should not be any different.

Bringing our rail system into the 21st century would greatly reduce U.S. oil consumption. We all have heard President Bush say that America must reduce its dependence on foreign oil. He has even said we should take carbon emissions more seriously. Slashing funding for Amtrak is counterproductive to both goals.

The rest of the world recognizes the benefits of national passenger rail, but, for some reason, the White House does not.

China, for example, is making significant investments in rail

service. One prominent Chinese project is an 820-mile link between Shanghai and Beijing, using trains with top speeds of more than 200 miles per hour. This rail line will reduce the travel time between the two major cities from 13 hours to just under five, and passengers will find the train ticket much cheaper than airfare.

When it comes to reducing auto emissions and our dependence on foreign oil, we do not need to wait on emerging technologies to become viable. We can make investments in mass transportation technologies that are available today.

Passenger rail travel is clean and safe. The 25 million people who travel by train each year can attest to that. Passenger trains carry about five times as many riders as airlines. If we abandon our support of rail travel, where would all those travelers go? And how many people in rural areas would no longer be able to afford to commute to their jobs in urban areas?

Each of the Bush Administration's annual budget requests have recommended funding levels that would bankrupt Amtrak and shut down its operations. Each year, I have worked to keep our nation's rail system on track. As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue to fight for programs that are in America's national interest.

February 28, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Mission Failure

The Bush Administration has made much use of the phrase "support the troops." The White House has used "support the troops" as the mantra to justify failed foreign policies, silence critics, and divide the electorate. What the Bush Administration has not done is put much action behind its rhetoric.

The White House sent troops into battle without body armor or protected vehicles. Congress stepped in and funded the equipment that our soldiers so desperately needed.

The White House underfunded veterans health care by billions of dollars. I and other Members of Congress stepped in to fill the breach.

No matter how hard Congress pushes back, the Bush Administration continues to treat our soldiers and veterans all too shabbily. The deplorable care for wounded service members at Walter Reed Army Medical Center is the latest example that this Administration's support-the-troops rhetoric is "all hat and no cattle."

As with other facets of government, the Bush Administration's strategy for military medical care is to squeeze it for every nickle, place party loyalists in leadership positions, and outsource any job possible.

A lawyer and real estate developer with no medical background, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Jim Nicholson's chief qualification for running the country's largest health care system appears to be that he

is a former Republican National Committee chairman. The resulting problems in the care of wounded soldiers and veterans under his watch has put the VA under intense political and public scrutiny.

Having worked for our veterans for decades on the Appropriations and Armed Services Committees -- along with Senator Rockefeller on the Committee on Veterans Affairs -- we can tell you that the egregious situations at Walter Reed are not isolated problems. There has been a systemic neglect of veterans services and a pervasive failure in leadership.

For example, the Administration's ideological pursuit of privatization at Walter Reed led to an exodus of highly qualified and experienced personnel. Federal workers have been replaced by private companies like IAP Worldwide Services, which is led by former Halliburton executives. IAP's parent company, Cerberus Capital Management, is no stranger to government contracts, big political contributions, and controversy.

Through ongoing investigations, we are certain to uncover more troubling details about the medical care of our wounded soldiers and veterans. In serving those who serve their country, it is clear we are far from "Mission Accomplished." Congress must step in where the Bush Administration has failed. Our troops protect us on the battlefield; it is time that we protected them and their families here at home.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stopping Threats at the Border -- From the Heart of West Virginia

All of us are concerned about the vulnerabilities along the U.S.-Mexico border. There are far too few Border Patrol agents stretched out along far too many miles of border. I have worked in the Senate to significantly increase the numbers of our Border Patrol agents, resulting in the addition of thousands of new, trained border security officers.

But expanding our Border Patrol is only a start. We also must prevent those with criminal backgrounds from taking advantage of a slow bureaucracy to enter the nation before Department of Homeland Security staff can stop them. That's where men and women working at the FBI in Clarksburg have made a real difference.

Clarksburg is home to the FBI's database containing the fingerprints of criminals and potential terrorists. Already, the FBI database is linked to state and local law enforcement agencies around the country, alerting police to individuals with outstanding warrants in other jurisdictions. Instead of waiting day after day after day for a fingerprint search under the old system, the FBI Clarksburg database provides officers with the information they need in just a few hours.

The FBI has taken steps to build on that success by linking U.S. border stations with Clarksburg. When someone tries to enter the United States, Border Patrol agents are able to connect

with the FBI's Harrison County facility to check that individual's background. In 2006, the Clarksburg fingerprint system returned "hits" on more than 150,000 criminal subjects who were attempting to enter the U.S. illegally. Those individuals were prevented from walking freely in the United States. That's a remarkable accomplishment.

Recently, I met with FBI Director Robert Mueller to talk about ways to better protect our communities and our country. Director Mueller hopes to expand the mission of the Clarksburg facility and the entire FBI to stop terrorists and criminals alike.

Law enforcement agencies need the tools and the training to stop another terrorist attack before it happens. Unfortunately, the men and women tasked with protecting us are forced to do so with paltry budgets and precious few new resources. We must change that approach. Law enforcement agencies need manpower. They need money. And they need the tools to get the job done.

I will continue my efforts in the Senate to invest in law enforcement and to protect our citizens from criminals and terrorists alike. Matching technology and expertise with the security needs across the nation, like the Clarksburg FBI is doing with the Border Patrol, is moving in the right direction.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Coal, Protecting Miners

In spite of new machines that have dramatically increased the production of coal, the work of a modern coal miner remains strenuous and dangerous. Thousands of feet beneath ancient mountains, a miner toils in primordial darkness, accompanied by heavy moving machinery, electrical cables, and deadly gases that cannot be seen or smelled. The roof is sometimes only inches above a miner's steel-toed boots -- precariously propped up by what amounts to sticks and bolts.

For most Americans, coal mining evokes monochrome images of hard-scrabble coal camps, impoverished children and stoic working-class faces. But those images do not tell the whole story.

As a young boy, I eagerly awaited my father's daily return from the mine, his face a contrasting smudge of coal dust and reddened eyes, a carbon lamp perched on top his miner's hat. I looked forward to his smile, and sometimes a small piece of cake from his dinner bucket. His working in the mine was as natural as my going to school. My father was a strong and decent man who loved his job and his family. That, to me, is the true face of coal.

Growing up the son of a coal miner, and marrying a coal miner's daughter, may explain why I regard all miners as family. Recently,

I met with some family members of the 12 Sago miners who died in that mine. A tragic, preventable loss like that can leave its mark on a family -- and on a state -- forever.

That the deaths at Sago were preventable makes it clear that advances in safety have not kept pace with advances in production. We must strengthen safety measures in the coal industry on several fronts.

Through approval of the federal MINER Act, we have launched measures to increase safety regulations, enforcement and emergency response. This was a good beginning, but by no means an end.

Last summer, I included \$25.6 million in special funding to allow MSHA to hire and train 170 new coal mine safety inspectors. An additional \$10 million was directed toward the development of new communications and rescue technologies that can speed efforts to save miners after an explosion or collapse.

Though different reports draw different conclusions about the causes of the Sago tragedy, there is no question that government, industry, and labor must embrace substantial improvements in mine safety in order to affect meaningful change. We share a moral obligation to protect our coal miners to the very best of our ability. We must not fail.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Federal Budget That's Good for West Virginia

After six years of federal budgets devised to favor the wealthy, starve social initiatives, and fund a disastrous and costly war, the new Democratic majority in the Senate has passed a budget more in tune with West Virginia's priorities.

The Senate budget approved recently invests 25 times more than the Bush Administration proposed for children's health care, providing up to \$50 billion in medical services over the next five years for our children most in need.

The budget also increases funding for education by \$6 billion above the White House plan, invests \$43.1 billion in medical care for our veterans, and protects the Medicare and Social Security trust funds.

Instead of lavishing several more large tax breaks on those who are already financially secure, the budget passed by the Senate targets relief for working middle class families. Working families are the heart and soul of America, and in recent years they have been feeling pressure from all sides. This new budget reaches out to those families.

The budget also strives for some degree of fiscal responsibility, reinstating a "pay-as-you-go" rule that includes both spending programs and tax cuts.

West Virginians are fed up with the runaway deficit spending that has been a hallmark of the Bush Administration. This budget cuts taxes for the middle class and contains no new tax increases. Revenues are raised by cracking down on tax cheats, closing tax loopholes, and making it harder for companies to hide money in secretive offshore accounts to evade taxes.

The impact of this budget on health care in West Virginia and across the country is significant. Our health care system is in crisis. As many as 46 million Americans -- including 275,000 West Virginians -- are without any health insurance. As a nation, we cannot continue to close our eyes to this reality. The Senate budget begins to make the investments to ensure access to health care for all Americans.

Finally, the Senate has passed a budget that makes good investments in health care, education, veterans, and other sorely neglected priorities.

America's fiscal burden has been balanced on the backs of the middle class for far too long. The budget recently passed by the Senate goes a long way toward acknowledging that the days of comforting the comfortable must come to a close.

March 28, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pledging Allegiance to Our Veterans

As recent news reports have detailed, many soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are not being provided the care that they have earned and deserve. Through investigations and Congressional hearings, it has become evident that the deplorable conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center are but the tip of the iceberg.

We have heard first-hand accounts of soldiers being denied or delayed proper care and of nettlesome bureaucratic tangles. These reports raise serious concerns about the capacity of the military and the Veterans Affairs (VA) medical system to deliver proper care and treatment. In particular, the VA appears to be having difficulty dealing with the long-term health care challenges many of our soldiers face as the result of brain injuries, post-traumatic stress, and other debilitating physical and psychological wounds so tragically common among our Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Senator Rockefeller and I have fought for veterans' benefits for many years now. Through my work on the Committee on Appropriations and Senator Rockefeller's many years of solid leadership on the Committee on Veterans Affairs, we have worked hard to improve veterans' services in West Virginia, particularly for those who live in very rural areas.

As part of our ongoing collaboration on behalf of veterans, Senator Rockefeller and I have set up special email accounts for soldiers and veterans to contact us directly and share their own personal experiences. Good or bad, we are very interested in hearing from West Virginia's veterans, servicemembers, and their families about what is working well, what needs improvement, and how the delivery of medical services through the VA might be improved.

Veterans, their families, and employees of the VA health care system are encouraged to write us at vets@byrd.senate.gov with their personal experiences and ideas. While we intend to use this feedback to develop a better understanding of the current state of West Virginia's VA health care system, individual names will be kept strictly confidential.

Next year, the VA expects to treat 263,000 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. These brave men and women have served our nation in the most dangerous and volatile places on earth. Too many of our troops are returning injured, debilitated and battle-scarred for life. It is a moral imperative that we meet their needs to the best of our abilities, and with the highest degree of quality, professionalism, compassion and honor befitting their service.

April 4, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reforming the Congressional Earmark Process

Often, the words "Congressional earmarks" are, unfortunately, met with derision. I believe in the good that earmarks can do, and I am not alone. In fact, the Constitution's Framers understood that the people's elected representatives needed the ability to respond to the public's problems, and so they placed the power of the purse in Congress. Today, a Congressional earmark is often the only way to ensure that a good idea becomes reality.

Many meritorious West Virginia projects would never have happened without earmarked funding. For example, tens of thousands of people have clean drinking water because of my Senate work. Recently, I directed \$23 million toward a Randolph County project to help 21,500 West Virginians. No longer will they worry about the safety of the water in their homes.

Much of the advanced medical technology at West Virginia University is the result of funding that I earmarked in federal legislation. The cancer center, the eye institute, the trauma center, the neurosciences institute -- these facilities provide cutting-edge care for people throughout the state and were built with millions of dollars that I fought for in appropriations bills.

My earmarks in West Virginia create jobs and build a better future for the state.

The benefits of Congressional earmarks do not stop at our state's borders.

Earmarks launched the Human Genome Project, which has dramatically improved disease treatment and prevention, saving many lives. Earmarks funded the Predator and Global Hawk aircraft. These unmanned planes have been among the most effective assets in the military's effort to track, target, and capture terrorists.

Sadly, there have been abuses in the Congressional funding system. These high-profile cases have resulted in Members of Congress being forced from office in disgrace and ultimately going to jail. The sins of a few have tarnished Congress, and we have an obligation to restore the integrity of the institution.

That is why, as Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman, I have put in place tougher standards for accountability and openness. Earmarks will be clearly identified. The public will know which Senator asked for funding, how much is provided, the purpose of the funding, and which individual or organization will receive the dollars. In addition, Senators will have to certify that they have no financial interest in any earmark.

Congress has a responsibility to help expand opportunity for our families and to invest in a better future for generations to follow. That work will continue to include funding key initiatives through Congressional earmarks in a responsible and open manner.

April 18, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Small Businesses Drive Our Economy

West Virginians are always thrilled by major announcements that large manufacturers are locating or expanding in our state. Yet, when a local business adds five or ten employees not much attention is paid. But multiply those five or ten employees by the number of small businesses in West Virginia, and it becomes clear that these small employers are the real economic engine of our state.

Small businesses drive innovation and opportunity. They create jobs and provide key services for the people in their communities. I have been proud to support many of these entrepreneurs through my work in the Senate by helping to expand specialized training or pairing local businesses with federal agencies.

Right now in our state, we have an opportunity to achieve great things together, and to help ensure economic prosperity for many years to come. But we must work together. This is a time for statewide cooperation. It does not matter whether one is from Charleston or Wheeling or Martinsburg or Hinton. We must all pull together to improve the prosperity of our state.

I use my experience to get things done from Washington, but I rely on the people of West Virginia to let me know what helps them most. One priority that I hear almost every day is the need for investments in West Virginia's infrastructure--projects like roads, highways, water and sewer systems, and airport improvements. Modern and well-maintained public works attract new jobs, help communities to thrive, and ensure a better life for our people. To me, such investments represent the most bang for the taxpayers' buck because good highways, clean water, modern schools, safe parks, and easy access to health care benefit everyone.

In the early 19th century, Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote, "I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving." West Virginians have always embraced progress with an eye toward the next opportunity. Thriving small businesses create that opportunity, not only for this generation of West Virginians, but also for generations of Mountaineers to come.

April 25, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

“American Eagle Day” Pays Tribute to the Nation’s Spirit

I am very pleased to announce that the United States Senate has unanimously approved a resolution, sponsored by Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and myself, designating June 20, 2007, as “American Eagle Day.”

On June 20, 1782, the Second Continental Congress selected the American Bald Eagle as America’s national symbol. Our Founding Fathers, in their wisdom, recognized this magnificent creature as the embodiment of America’s soaring optimism and love of freedom. For the past 225 years, the Bald Eagle has served as an inspiration for generations of Americans. Until now, there has never been a national occasion to recognize America’s inspirational bird and the special meaning it has for millions of Americans.

In April, I welcomed Challenger, the first American Eagle in history trained to free-fly into major sporting events, to my Capitol Hill Office for the announcement of the bill’s introduction. I was truly inspired by the strength and grace of this magnificent eagle. It is hard to believe that forty years ago, the Bald Eagle was almost lost. However, thanks to federal protections and the hard

work of conservationists, the American Bald Eagle now represents one of the great recovery stories in our nation’s history. As recently as 1963, there were roughly 400 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in North America. Today, the species is flourishing once again, with approximately 7,000 to 8,000 pairs thriving in the wild.

As we celebrate West Virginia Day on June 20, Americans across the country will have the opportunity to recognize what this majestic bird represents for the American people. “American Eagle Day” will serve as an annual occasion for Americans to celebrate the ideals represented by the Bald Eagle, and to recognize the remarkable recovery of the species, which is proposed to be removed from its current threatened status later this year.

On June 20, citizens are encouraged to remember the principles upon which our country’s greatness was founded, renew the American spirit of pride and patriotism, and recall the story of how our National Symbol came to be. We almost lost its living presence in the wild to extinction, but we have rallied together and saved the Bald Eagle for posterity.

May 2, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Finding a Plan for Peace and Security

More than four years ago, American military forces toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein. The skill of our troops overwhelmed that dictator, showing that preparation and foresight can provide a strong advantage in any challenge.

Unfortunately, preparation and foresight vanished when the Bush Administration moved forward with its occupation of Iraq. With the Saddam Hussein regime gone, the Iraqis turned to the U.S. for help in crafting a new government. But the political leadership at the White House failed. The military victory was not matched by security and economic stability. As a result, Iraq is a nation embroiled in civil war.

Peace now demands an Iraqi-led political solution to bridge the ethnic and sectarian divisions that are splitting the country -- a solution which, to date, the Iraqi government has been unable or unwilling to take on. That is why Congress approved legislation that offered a new beginning for the reconstruction and the stability of Iraq, and shifted the responsibility for that nation's long-term success to the Iraqi people themselves.

Regrettably, President Bush vetoed the proposal. His choice was unwise, and its consequences will echo for a long time. This veto ensures that hundreds, maybe thousands, more will die in Iraq. It forces our

military to continue to pursue a mission impossible, creating democracy at the point of an American gun.

The President's choices carry consequences at home, as well. When a deadly tornado struck Kansas recently, the Kansas governor was hamstrung. That state's National Guard was forced to leave its emergency equipment in Iraq after a recent tour of duty. Equipment that had been positioned throughout the state for just such a crisis was sitting thousands of miles away. Help was slow in coming.

This problem is not unique to Kansas, which is why Congress, in that same Iraq-related legislation, included \$1 billion to replace the trucks and heavy equipment that Guard units have been directed to leave in the sands of Iraq. If the White House clings to its failing strategy in Iraq, we will see more stories of heartache like those from Kansas. The President's single-minded obsession with Iraq has dire consequences for all other priorities here at home.

Congress has begun work on a new version of the Iraq-related legislation. We will not delay. But we also will continue to press for a strong, intelligent foreign policy that does not rely on military might alone. And we will not stop in our efforts to bring peace to Iraq and our troops home from war.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's WWI Veteran Is America's Hero

April 6, 2007, marked the 90th anniversary of America's entrance into World War I. That historic conflict marked America's arrival onto the world stage, and our emergence as a global superpower.

Nearly 5 million Americans served in the U.S. military during that "war to end all wars." Only four are still living. I am proud to say that one of them is a hale and hearty West Virginian, my friend Frank Woodruff Buckles of Charles Town.

In 1917, Private Frank Buckles boldly stepped forward to serve the Army as a doughboy. He was so compelled to serve that -- at the age of 16 -- he lied about his age in order to enlist, and served his country in England and France. But the drama of his life, as compelling as any novel or film, did not end with his official military service.

His work on a commercial steamship took him to Nazi Germany, where he attended the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. There, Frank Buckles saw German Chancellor Adolph Hitler bristle with embarrassment as the great Jesse Owens won four gold medals for the United States.

His maritime career landed him in the Philippines in 1940, where he was working in Manila when

the Japanese invaded. Mr. Buckles was captured and spent the next 3 ½ years in Japanese prison camps where, although a civilian, he was treated as a prisoner of war. At dawn on February 23, 1945, the same day that the American flag was raised on Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi, the 11th Airborne Division liberated Mr. Buckles and his fellow prisoners.

In 1954, Frank Buckles and his wife, Audrey, moved to a 330-acre farm in the West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, the same area where his ancestor, Robert Buckles, had settled in 1732. For more than five decades, Mr. Buckles has continued to operate his beloved farm.

Today, at the age of 106, this sturdy West Virginian is still going strong and will proudly serve as Grand Marshal of the World War I section of the Memorial Day parade in Washington D.C.

West Virginia is blessed with so many examples of men and women of extraordinary character and bravery. We should salute people like Frank Buckles -- and the thousands of people whose names are not so well known -- for their inspiring commitment and sacrifice, keeping them close to our hearts and always in our prayers.

May 23, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making Wise Investments for America

It is time to roll up my sleeves and go to work once more for West Virginia in the Senate Appropriations Committee. This month, the committee, which I lead, will begin to write the federal funding bills for the next fiscal year. These bills are crucial for our state and this nation. The decisions that the Appropriations Committee makes will set the pace for America's progress.

The first bill to come before my committee will help to secure this country from terrorist attack. There are too many gaps in our protections. Cargo is not checked for explosives before being loaded on airplanes. The northern and southern borders remain far too wide open. Critical infrastructure sites, like chemical plants and power facilities, are far too vulnerable. Police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical teams still do not receive the equipment and support that they need to meet the realities of the times.

We need to address these major gaps in homeland security. The federal government must not just pay lip service to protecting our citizens. It is long past time to invest the dollars in the security of this country. If we do not, American lives will continue to be needlessly at risk.

The second piece of legislation that will come before the Appropriations Committee is one that pays for the medical care for our veterans.

During the past several weeks, Senator Rockefeller and I have heard from West Virginia veterans about the quality of their medical care. One fact is clear: there are not enough doctors and nurses to handle the medical needs of our veterans. With wounded heroes coming home from war every day, and with veterans of past conflicts already standing in long lines for treatment, we must invest in their care.

Make no mistake, there are tough choices ahead. The list of pressing funding demands across the country seems to be endless, but the resources are not. We need to wisely invest the people's money to ensure a brighter future for the nation.

As these bills move forward, I will update you on their progress. The lives of people in West Virginia will be directly affected by the choices that the Appropriations Committee makes. Jobs, health care, security, education, worker training and safety -- all of these issues are shaped by the appropriations bills. I will continue to do all that I can to build a brighter future for our state and to create new opportunities for generations of Mountaineers to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Honoring the Spirit of West Virginia

On June 20, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the official proclamation declaring West Virginia statehood. On each successive June 20 since then, Mountaineers not only celebrate our heritage, but also rededicate ourselves to the future of our state.

In the Senate, I use West Virginia Day to share some thoughts about the Mountain State with other Senators and with people from across the nation. Sometimes I speak about our state's natural beauty, which is second to none. Other times, I talk about the history of our state and its origins during the Civil War. But I think that people are most impressed when I talk about the true strength of West Virginia -- her people.

I have traveled around the world. I have met presidents and kings and prime ministers. I have dined with royalty. I have shaken hands with religious leaders from many denominations. And while many of these men and women were impressive, I have found that no people anywhere compare with the people of our state.

It is hard to quantify what sets West Virginians apart. Personally, I think that it is a combination of factors, the first being an unabiding belief in the

Creator. West Virginians carry that faith in God in our hearts. It serves as the foundation for everything we do.

Another uniquely West Virginia characteristic is that we treat everyone as family. We show people respect, treating them as we ourselves would want to be treated. If someone is in trouble, the entire community rallies to their aid. If a neighbor needs a hand, there are always people ready to pitch in. Nowhere that I have traveled have I seen the same devotion to others as I do in our state.

As we celebrate our 144th year as a state and begin the journey to the next anniversary, I hope that we will hold fast to the values that set us apart. These values may be old fashioned, but they will never be out of style.

We have great opportunities ahead of us. To reach them, and to harness the bright future that we want for our state, we must dedicate ourselves to reaching these goals. It will take imagination and innovation. But, most of all, it will take the strength of a united people who believe in each other and who care for one another.

Happy birthday, West Virginia! And my best wishes for many, many more.

June 14, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Using Coal to Power Energy Independence

For too long, the United States' energy policy has been crafted more to suit political agenda than energy independence. As a result, our nation relies heavily on foreign oil for our cars, trucks, and airplanes. That reliance has subjected us to the whims of foreign rulers whose priorities and objectives are often far different than our own. It is time to break free of those chains and become truly energy independent.

The Senate is debating legislation that offers the opportunity to invest in fuel resources here at home. The legislation also provides a chance to develop new technologies which utilize those resources more cleanly and affordably. The United States has an enormous supply of one of these resources right here at home -- coal. But we have not invested in the technologies necessary to convert coal to new energy uses.

It is time to think about coal in new ways. No longer can it be only a fuel source for power plants. The technology exists today to transform coal into clean transportation fuels. Imagine pulling up to the pump and seeing an option for coal-based fuel right next to the oil-based gasoline. The choice is not that far into the future.

Coal is not the only answer to our energy independence, but it must be a major piece of the puzzle. Right now, coal provides about 50 percent of the nation's entire supply of electricity. We cannot afford to walk away from coal. But neither can we afford to stand still and rely on technologies that are 30, 40, even 50 years old to power our economy.

In this legislation, I am working with Senator Rockefeller and a coalition of Senators to provide the incentives to speed the installation of modern, clean, coal-focused technologies in existing power facilities. We also want to encourage private investments in plants that can turn coal into transportation fuels with lower pollution emissions and more efficient processes than are in place today.

Our nation's energy policy should not be dictated by the whims of foreign countries. For too long, these foreign oil producers have been telling our families how much we will pay at the gas pump. Our military is being used as a protection force for the oil lines in the Middle East. It is time for America to be powered by American resources and American know-how. It is time for America to work to achieve energy independence.

June 20, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Promises Made, Promises Kept

A few weeks ago, I reported that the Senate Appropriations Committee, which I lead, was beginning work on next year's federal funding bills. It was time for West Virginia priorities and values to take center stage in Washington, D.C.

The first piece of legislation approved by the Appropriations Committee funds the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The White House and many in Congress have made "homeland security" a great political slogan, but have refused to put resources behind their rhetoric. America's security was funded with spare change.

I am proud to report that I have been able to reverse this short-sighted approach. The Senate bill invests \$37.6 billion in anti-terrorist efforts here at home. We commit resources to border security, securing air cargo, equipping and training community first responders, and securing our ports. We have a responsibility to the American people to invest funds in real security efforts and respond to known vulnerabilities. That is a promise which Members of Congress have made, and that is a promise that my legislation keeps.

The second piece of legislation to move through my Appropriations Committee funds medical care for veterans, whether they are heroes just home from war or troops from

wars past.

The legislation I shepherded through the Appropriations Committee provides \$43 billion for veterans' medical care, an increase of \$6.5 billion from the current funding. That increase avoids the dangerous budget shortfalls that have jeopardized quality health care for all veterans and should cut down on the waiting times at veterans' medical facilities. These dollars will help to expand treatment of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The increase will pay for new claims processors to address the Veterans Administration (VA) service backlog, and invest in VA repair and maintenance needs to prevent a Walter Reed-type situation in the VA system.

These results represent West Virginia values. We protect our communities. We care for our soldiers. We respond to the greatest needs we face. I am proud of the work that we have accomplished so far in the Appropriations Committee.

Later this month, several more pieces of legislation are on deck. We will fund the military. We will work on improvements for roads, highways, and airports. And we will continue to make decisions that invest in America and build a better future for our country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Roads to Saving Lives and Creating Jobs

As I travel throughout West Virginia, I hear one comment in almost every location: "Senator, we need better highways." For as long as I can remember, improving our roads and highways has been a top concern for Mountain State residents.

Unfortunately, addressing that concern is not as easy as one might hope. It is not easy, nor is it cheap, to build roads that zigzag through our mountains. But I have not let those difficulties deter me from working to steer vital federal road construction dollars to West Virginia.

In legislation that I expect to come before the Senate in the next few weeks, I have worked to increase West Virginia's highway construction funding by \$26 million - - to more than \$356.1 million for next year. To augment those dollars, I have added funds for specific projects throughout the state, from the Eastern Panhandle through the Potomac Highlands, from the Southern Coalfields to the Northern Panhandle. There are urgent highway priorities all across our state, and these extra dollars should help to jumpstart many of them.

People often ask me: "Senator,

why do you care so much about roads and highways?" Modern highways mean safer highways. The safety of the people of West Virginia is of paramount importance to me. Traveling to and from church should not be dangerous. Driving to school or work in the morning should not be hazardous. But two-lane roads with sharp turns and blind corners certainly compromise safety. By investing in wider, straighter roads, we invest in the safety of our people and help to save lives.

The economic benefit that a modern road and highway system can bring to an area is also very important. Not only is there the significant employment provided by road construction, but business development tends to follow close behind major road improvements. When business is growing, more people are working and communities can reap rewards.

I will continue my efforts to invest in the basic infrastructure of our state, including our roads and highways. Better roads save lives. Better roads bring jobs. Better roads pave the way to a brighter future for West Virginia. It's just that simple.

July 18, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Time For Service

Since the United States went to war with Iraq in March 2003, a disturbing trend has accelerated to a dangerous point. Americans with differing views on the war have declared rhetorical war against one another. No longer is a difference of opinion seen merely as an alternative point of view from a fellow citizen. Today, disagreements often lead to charges of faltering patriotism or even scorn. Such attitudes thrive at both ends of the political spectrum, and the fallout could potentially cause great damage to our nation.

As a country, and as a people, we must always remember that there is much more that unites us than divides us. Our common belief in justice, freedom of religion, fairness, individual rights, and the time-honored principles embodied in our great Constitution binds us together. Historically, we have always been a people characterized by helping hands, not tightened fists. We need to step back from the current poisonous partisan invective and remember our common purpose.

I believe that one of the best ways to draw the venom from the political backbiting in this country and begin the healing process is through community service. Throughout the United States, there are

people in desperate need. In our own communities in West Virginia, there is a litany of projects, large and small, which are in need of willing volunteers. If each of us were to spend just a few hours a month working for a community service project, I believe it would go a long way towards creating empathy and understanding for our fellow citizens.

I have been in politics for a long time. I understand the realities of the rough and tumble political world. But, politics is not the be-all and end-all for us as Americans. When we take the time to see others as neighbors and fellow human beings, when we make an effort to join together to improve our communities and our great country, harsh political divides fall away. When we reach out to others we can get past the stereotypical images that partisan talk show hosts, newspaper columnists and television talking heads peddle to us for profit, and begin to appreciate each other as the unique and valuable individuals we truly are. For the sake of our nation, and for the future of our children, it is time to rededicate ourselves to helping each other. In this way, we can give back to the society that has given all of us so very much.

July 25, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Can Compete Globally

When it comes to competing in the global economy, good old fashioned American ingenuity has been the key to our success. Our ability to continue to stimulate and lead innovation here at home will play a great role in determining whether we can sustain our place as the world's economic superpower.

West Virginia's economy has long been based in strong core industries like coal, steel, and chemicals. I have worked very hard to expand the opportunities for growth in our manufacturing industries. Even in these traditionally labor-intensive sectors, we must continually strive for innovation, relying on increasing our brain power as well as our muscle.

Thankfully, there is no shortage of "can-do" attitude in West Virginia. While it is true that we have seen a troubling increase in the migration of American jobs overseas this decade, we have worked very hard in West Virginia to protect and expand our manufacturing base.

In 1990, the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) was created in Huntington, and now has locations in South Charleston, Bridgeport and Rocket Center. Its mission is to help introduce new concepts and processes to manufacturers. Through the RCBI's "teaching factories," manufacturing companies and their

workers can get hands-on experience and training with computer-controlled mills, lathes and other new and developing state-of-the-art technologies.

The RCBI is directly responsible for bringing more than 1,000 good-paying, highly skilled jobs to the region, while adding \$290 million in output to state businesses that use its services. Since January 2001, the RCBI has helped manufacturers secure more than 60 new Department of Defense and other federal government agency contracts worth more than \$100 million.

I have always believed that there are few problems in West Virginia that cannot be solved by the creation of more quality jobs. Despite some in the media who depict West Virginia's economy as perennially lodged behind the proverbial eight ball, more and more are discovering that West Virginia is a great place to live and do business.

From supplying the nation's energy needs with our high quality coal, to pioneering new advances in manufacturing techniques and breakthrough technologies, West Virginia is staking its claim on the technological revolution. Our strong manufacturing base is already busy helping to shape that revolution, providing direct benefits today and new job opportunities for the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Honoring Our Wounded Warriors

Most Americans are painfully aware of the fact that more than 4,000 of our soldiers have lost their lives serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Fewer may be aware that over 30,000 of our servicemen and women have been wounded in these conflicts. Many of our troops are returning home with terrible physical injuries -- missing arms or legs -- and nearly all bear emotional scars that, for some, may never heal. The sacrifices that have been made by these brave souls and their loved ones are impossible to measure.

The men and women who risk their lives fighting for our nation are performing the most noble and courageous duty imaginable. It is our moral responsibility to ensure that those who have been wounded are treated not only with excellent care, but also with the dignity and respect they deserve.

It is clear that America's military and veterans' health care systems are woefully unprepared to meet the needs of our returning troops. As evidenced by the revelation of deplorable conditions at the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, the quality of care provided for our wounded veterans is, in far too many cases, completely unacceptable. In fact, it is a national disgrace.

That is why Senator Jay Rockefeller and I have been working to tackle this problem. Together, we co-

sponsored legislation that addresses serious shortcomings in the care of injured veterans in West Virginia and across the country. The "Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act", which recently passed the U.S. Senate, strengthens health care for veterans, and eliminates cumbersome bureaucratic barriers facing our wounded servicemen and women.

The bill invests in medical research for the treatment of combat-related injuries, requires a comprehensive policy on the care and transition from the military to VA or civilian life for service members with combat-related injuries or illnesses, and authorizes the military and VA to provide emergency medical care and counseling to family members.

Earlier this year, with the support of Senator Rockefeller, I was proud to author legislation that increased funding for the VA medical system by more than \$3.6 billion over last year. I am hopeful that the new reforms in the Wounded Warriors bill, combined with the increased funding the new Congress has directed to veterans' health care, will begin to rectify the outrageous injustice that has faced far too many of our wounded warriors upon their return home. The status quo is deplorable. Our wounded heroes deserve much better.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

LABOR'S LEGACY

"Let us have a festive day during which a parade through the streets of the city would permit public tribute to American industry."

So spoke the fiery, red-headed Irishman known as Peter McGuire to the 1882 Central Union meeting in New York City. A carpenter by trade, McGuire was steeped in the labor politics of Michigan and Missouri, and had spent two decades organizing disparate construction workers into the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

That following September, after McGuire publicly suggested there be a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold," workers in New York acted on his proposal and staged a parade up Broadway to Union Square. Despite harsh warnings by their employers against marching, more than 10,000 turned out to participate in the parade. President Grover Cleveland, by no means a friend of labor, was moved by the growing worker's rights movement and in 1894 declared that the first Monday in September would become a national holiday called Labor Day.

Though the efforts of people like Peter McGuire eventually led to important victories for workers like decent pay, workplace safety, overtime, sick leave, and health care, these basic benefits were not won

without great struggle and sacrifice.

In 1930, over 35,000 jobless workers marched in Chicago to protest against national unemployment and hunger, drawing much needed attention from the White House. The combination of these labor parades and protests contributed to the passage of the National Labor Relations Act the same year.

West Virginia, with an economic base in extractive and manufacturing industries, has a long and storied labor history punctuated with colorful characters and dramatic events.

When the availability of German-made chemicals became scarce during World War I, West Virginia's great chemical industry was born. Both World Wars brought the rapid expansion of coal mines and steel mills. Such accelerated growth naturally contributed to some labor problems, especially in the coal mines where wages were low, hours were grueling, and working conditions extremely dangerous.

Although many great victories have been won for workers since those days, we are still fighting to increase hourly wages, make health care more accessible and affordable for working families, ensure that safety regulations are enforced, and pensions are protected.

I am proud to stand with my union friends and family on Labor Day, and recognize their many contributions to all workers everywhere.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Scientific Advancement is America's History and Future

Last month, it was once again my great privilege to host the annual National Youth Science Camp Luncheon in Washington, D.C. The science camp, which began in 1963 as part of West Virginia's Centennial Celebration, draws recent high school graduates from each state to Camp Bartow in Bartow, West Virginia. Attendees, all of whom have demonstrated a genuine interest in the sciences, are chosen by representatives of their state's respective governors. This year, three bright young West Virginians -- John Cavendish of Morgantown, Alex McPherson of Huntington, and James Koval of Charleston -- were selected to participate in this terrific program. The camp helps to develop the students' scientific talents, and encourages and inspires them to pursue careers in this exciting and rewarding arena of human endeavor.

When I address these aspiring scientists each year, I can't help but believe that they hold the future of our great nation in their hands. The scientific discoveries of the twenty-first century promise to be awe-inspiring. In this century, I believe Americans will set foot on Mars, find a cure for cancer, and develop solutions for our most vexing environmental problems. I am just as confident that some of the young people whom I

address in these luncheons will contribute to these marvelous achievements.

Scientific progress is in the interest of every American. Scientific progress is the backbone of our economy, the promise of our health care system, and the foundation of our national security. Science helped our nation win World War II. It helped our nation win the Cold War. It won the space race. Scientific advancement is the future of the United States.

More than a century and a half ago, the famous French political thinker, as well as observer of the American scene, Alexis de Tocqueville, pointed to the uniqueness and greatness of the United States, when he wrote: "The incredible American believes that if something has not yet been accomplished, it is because he has not yet attempted it."

How right he was. Exploration and discovery are essential components of the American national tradition. They are a part of the American character.

Americans have always been and will always be a bold, pioneering people, seeking out new and untried frontiers. The young scientists that attended this luncheon are proof of our nation's enduring thirst for scientific knowledge and advancement in the greatest of American achievements.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Enforcing Mine Safety Laws Must Remain Our Priority

When disaster struck at the Sago mine last year, it was described by some as an "anomaly." Then, last month, in the short span of twelve days (August 4 and August 16), seven miners were killed, and six more are presumed dead, perhaps permanently entombed at Crandall Canyon in Utah. On Labor Day, another miner lost his life, right here in West Virginia, in Mingo County. Altogether, the total number of coal fatalities this year doubled in less than a month.

It should be clear now that these tragedies are not "anomalies." To claim that they are is an insult to the families of the deceased, and a shallow attempt to deny that something has gone terribly wrong within the agencies and offices charged with the safety and health of our nation's coal miners.

The federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) was intended to be a strong federal agency. It is blessed with career employees, many of them natives of West Virginia, who are the brightest mine experts in the world. It is infuriating to watch the political leadership in Washington, DC, not take advantage of the resources they have, especially here in West Virginia.

At a recent Senate hearing, I

raised my concerns with the administrator of MSHA, Richard Stickler. I let him know how I, along with my colleagues in the Senate, will not tolerate a continuation of MSHA's current course, influenced more by politics than the safety and well being of the miners they are charged with protecting.

Miners have chosen a noble and honorable profession, which supplies the much needed energy that helps to fuel our nation. And that critical work is undermined by every partisan decision, every misguided and incompetent action, and every failure by the political leadership in Washington to enforce the law and to ensure the safest working environment for our nation's miners.

It is past time for the agency to get rid of the political dead weight and to empower its inspectors and employees to go after the recalcitrant coal operators who are jeopardizing the coal industry and daily putting the lives of our miners at risk.

I assure my fellow West Virginians, especially those who earn their daily bread by working in the coal fields, that I will continue to do all that I can to protect the health and safety of our miners.

September 5, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Leave No Schools Behind

While students across the state are settling into classrooms this month, Congress is preparing to debate the reauthorization of the education reform act, known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Nearly five years ago, I voted for NCLB. I supported the reforms in that law. But we have come to learn that schools need more funding and more support from Congress if we're truly going to leave no child behind.

When Congress passed NCLB in 2002, we made a deal with the American people. We said that from now on, we will hold schools more accountable than ever before. We will require them to make sure that all children succeed academically. Not just the wealthy, not just those who live in the nice parts of town, but all children -- students from Appalachia to Alaska, children with disabilities, and students of all races and ethnicities.

Congress has learned, since the implementation of NCLB, that we need to make good on the promises made to our students, teachers, and families in the law. West Virginia's schools need to be given more access to tools that will help our students meet NCLB's testing mandates and requirements.

As part of NCLB, the federal government is supposed to provide direct assistance to children from

poorer schools. Currently, about half of West Virginia's public schools receive Title I funding. The Title I funding helps students who need help the most -- those schools in rural communities and low income areas. Every child has a right to reach his or her potential, but that right has been stifled by unfulfilled promises to our schools.

In this year's federal budget, I worked with my colleagues to include more money for Title I in elementary and secondary schools; to reserve funds to make pre-school more accessible, and provide tax breaks for teachers who purchase their own school supplies. The budget fixes years of broken funding promises from the Bush Administration that have short-changed our teachers, principals, students and parents.

For years, schools have been hamstrung with unfunded mandates and paltry federal support that make the existing challenges facing our teachers much more difficult. Schools are working hard to meet increasing federal education guidelines in NCLB, but Congress must do its part to help teachers and students meet these expectations.

By providing students and teachers with the resources that they need to succeed, we can meet the goals of NCLB and help all of our students reach their full learning potential.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Celebrating the Heart and Soul of Our Nation

This week, September 17, 2007, marked the 220th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States. Across West Virginia and the nation, many students, teachers, historians, and federal employees spent time reviewing, learning about, and most of all, appreciating the United States Constitution.

To mark Constitution Day, I visited Wheeling Jesuit University and spoke to more than 100 Ohio Valley grade and high school students about the Constitution. Through streaming technology, my speech was broadcast to another 12,000 students in states across the country. I discussed the history of the document that is the heart and soul of our nation, and encouraged students to learn more about the workhorse that is our Constitution.

For 220 years, the Constitution has remained a living, breathing document, still as full of passion, patriotism, and intrigue as the plot of a Shakespearean play. Perhaps this is because the Constitution, like many of Shakespeare's works, deals with the relations between human beings in society. The Constitution's articles and amendments lay out the roles for its actors – the executive, the legislature, the judiciary, the states, and the rights of individuals. The script is basic – run a country and ensure the welfare of its citizens. But,

being human, people never seem content with playing out their own roles as written. History is replete with examples of governmental actors who sought to expand their influence at the expense of the other players. Fortunately, history is also full of instances when the grasping star's excesses were checked by the concerted actions of the rest of the cast.

I have always found this historical drama more stimulating and more absorbing than any television program. Perhaps it is because the Constitutional drama has played such a large role in my own life. In the 220 year history of this nation's Constitution, there have been only 1,896 individuals fortunate enough to serve as Senators. I am number 1,579, and have served longer than any other U.S. Senator in American history.

But whether or not each citizen has a direct role in our Constitutional drama, none of us should be a mere spectator. The Constitution plays a key role in the life of every citizen. I encourage everyone to read the Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and other writings by our Founding Fathers. Read deeply of history and personal biographies, and follow what is happening in Washington, D.C. Then you will become that most valuable of all things: a true defender of liberty – an informed citizen.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

No More Blank Checks for the Iraq War

Congress and the American public were treated to another sales job on Iraq recently that would have made any used car salesman proud. We heard from dark-suited diplomats and starred generals in uniform, and a rehearsed Oval Office speech. They presented their grand vision for a peaceful and prosperous oasis of democracy and stability in the Middle East, if only our gallant soldiers stayed for a little while longer.

As the Senate addresses the Defense Authorization bill, and certainly before the Senate considers yet another war funding supplemental appropriations bill, the cost of the Iraq war should be uppermost in our minds. After all, the White House's grand vision comes with a price tag.

Five years into this misguided war in Iraq, Congress has already appropriated over \$450 billion. If Congress approves President Bush's latest supplemental funding request, the budget will grow to over \$600 billion during Fiscal Year 2008. These direct costs do not cover the many hidden, indirect costs of this war, such as higher Veterans Administration costs and higher oil and gasoline prices. The combined direct and indirect costs and obligations of this war will exceed \$1 trillion by the most con-

servative estimates. Many economists believe that the costs are much higher.

That price tag also does not begin to cover the lost opportunity costs—the ways in which money now spent on Iraq could have been used to make our bridges safer and secure our borders. Nor does that price tag cover the costs of keeping upwards of 130,000 troops in Iraq for the additional years the President and his men suggest will be necessary to achieve their grand vision. It boggles the mind to consider the long-term costs of buying this war.

I am convinced that the best way to support our troops is to bring them home, and the only way to get them home may be to somehow restrict the funds for this disastrous war. We have tried this before but President Bush vetoed the bill. We must try again and attach strings to this money. This Senator will support no more blank checks for Iraq.

We simply cannot afford to buy into another slick White House sales job. Too many young men and women have died or have been maimed in this horrific war. After nearly five years of war, more than 3,800 deaths, over 27,000 casualties, and no end in sight, we must stop blindly funding this lemon of a war and begin to change course.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cooperation Not Confrontation Key To Movement On Funding Bills

Last week, Congress approved a seven week "continuing resolution" that ensures on-going funding for the entire government while Congress works to complete action on individual appropriations bills. I supported this resolution because I believe the alternative would have been a government shutdown, including operations to protect our homeland and its borders, process Social Security checks, maintain mine safety inspections, and ensure air traffic controllers and federal law enforcement personnel remain on the job.

Unfortunately, we have come to an impasse with the White House in moving forward with the appropriations bills because the President has threatened to veto any bill that exceeds his budget request. These veto threats include all the spending bills that provide funding for our domestic programs -- programs that in one way or another benefit each and every American. These domestic spending bills provide the essential building blocks for the foundations of our great country.

On the one hand, the President is seeking over \$190 billion in emergency appropriations to fight the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Yet the President wants to veto critical domestic spending bills because they total \$22 billion above his budget request.

While the President characterizes this money as "increased" spending, the

reality is that most of this "increase" simply represents restorations of the President's attempts to savage important domestic initiatives -- law enforcement, first responder grants, education, the National Institutes of Health, and infrastructure repairs to name a few.

This White House stand-off is not over some irresponsible plan for an expansion of government. Rather, it is the President's efforts to prevent cancellation of his ill-conceived budget cuts. There are major consequences for failing to invest in America's safety and future. Hurricane Katrina proved that. The collapse of the I-35 bridge proved that. Increases in violent crime prove that. And increases in food borne illnesses prove that.

Regrettably, rather than recognizing the consequences of his budget, the President is spoiling for a political fight. When President Bush came to town, he vowed to reach across the aisle for the common good of our nation. Now is his chance to make good on that pledge. He can continue his purely partisan fight over \$22 billion in needed funding, or he can work with the Congress to confront the problems that face Americans here at home. It is my hope that the President will put away his veto pen so that we can get on with the business of adequately funding programs that contribute to a safe and prosperous nation.

Oct 3, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Simple Way to Help Protect the Planet

As West Virginians, we are blessed to live in one of the world's most spectacular natural settings. With our state's rolling hills, streams, and meadows, we are inspired every day and instilled with a deep respect for the wonder of God's creation.

In our busy lives, however, many who care about protecting our natural environment are unsure of how to make a contribution. Thankfully, there are simple ways to make a real difference. If each of us makes just a small effort, the collective impact can be considerable.

For instance, most Americans are probably unaware that lighting accounts for close to twenty percent of the typical home's electric usage. The Department of Energy's "ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World" campaign is a national effort to ask every American to play a part in protecting our environment one light at a time.

The program encourages Americans to replace one light or fixture in their home with an energy-efficient ENERGY STAR qualified product. Products that meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy earn the ENERGY STAR. Many major retailers carry qualified light bulbs and fixtures,

which can be identified by their blue ENERGY STAR label. To find out more, go to www.energystar.gov.

Simply replacing one light bulb might not seem like much, but consider the dramatic cumulative effect that would result if everyone in the Mountain State participated.

If each household in West Virginia changed just one incandescent light bulb to an energy star qualified bulb, the state could save up to 38 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year. This is enough energy to light all the households in Charleston for over 170 days! The amount of energy saved would reduce household electrical bills by a combined total of \$2.4 million a year. Remarkably, West Virginia would prevent the release of over 58 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

As you can see, we can all play a part in reducing pollution and greenhouse gases. An act as simple as changing a light bulb can make a real difference.

I believe it is our moral responsibility to act as good stewards of our planet. If we fail, our children and grandchildren will suffer the consequences. I hope that you will each take the time to make this small contribution to the future of our planet. Together, it will pay big dividends for generations to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Eastern Panhandle's Growth and Conservation Go Hand-In-Hand

The Eastern Panhandle is one of West Virginia's greatest treasures. The area is a vital part of our state's agricultural and tourism industries, and is home to generations of West Virginia families as well as many newcomers to our state. I have worked hard to protect the historical and cultural heritage of the region, and channel resources to the Eastern Panhandle which have fostered new jobs and investment.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have added funding to aid in ecological preservation and economic development. The Improved Efficiency of Cool and Cold Water Species/Trout Genome Mapping Project supports research that will help ensure that our streams are filled with healthy aquatic life. My work to develop the National Center for Cool and Cold Water Aquaculture in Leetown, has assisted vital research for the aquaculture industry.

The Appalachian Fruit Research Center in Kearneysville is another endeavor of which I am very proud. To help advance the Center's research efforts, I have provided funds in past appropriations legislation. In the Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriations bill, I included funds to help with repairs and renovations at the facility, and advance its Disease/Insect Control Alternatives Program. This funding aids

apple and pear growers fight fire blight, a destructive bacterial disease.

Across our state, many West Virginians deal with devastating floods and problems with water supply. That is why I have made it a priority to help provide flood protection and protect the water supply in the Eastern Panhandle. The Potomac Headwaters Land Treatment Watershed Project, run by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, helps land owners to implement bacteria and nutrient-reducing techniques in the Potomac River. Additionally, the Lost River Watershed Project provides flood protection, water supply, and recreation to eastern Hardy County.

Throughout the Eastern Panhandle region there are magnificent attractions that draw visitors from all over the world every year. The success of federal and local conservation efforts allows the area to remain home to abundant wildlife and assure access to some of the nation's most pristine landscapes.

With its beauty and economic potential, the Eastern Panhandle's rivers, streams, and farms engender pride in all of us. As long as we continue to conserve the land and make smart investments in the economy, the Eastern Panhandle will continue to be a treasure chest of history and natural wonder for generations to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Mountain State Is Home To Groundbreaking Scientific Discoveries

Pocahontas County is home to one of the world's premier astronomical research facilities – the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope. This telescope and its neighboring national radio observatory work to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the Milky Way galaxy and beyond. Last week, the National Radio Observatory, a National Science Foundation facility that houses the Byrd telescope, celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Dedicated in the summer of 2000, the Byrd telescope has been leading the way in space research. Recently, two teams of scientists announced the discovery of the largest negatively-charged molecule. The molecule was of particular surprise to the scientists because it contains an extra electron, giving the molecule a negative electrical charge. With this exciting information on-hand, astronomers claim that, "there will be a drastic revision of theoretical models of interstellar chemistry."

Prior to the recent finding, scientists at the Byrd Telescope announced in 2002 the groundbreaking discovery of three pulsars. A pulsar is what remains after a star suffers a massive explosion that removes most of its surface. This phenomenon is known as a supernova. By studying these pulsars, scientists are gaining greater insight into the galaxy's growth. Pulsars emit regular pulses of radio

waves that act as a type of "celestial lighthouse." These waves – which are intercepted by the Byrd Telescope – may some day be used by space explorers as lighthouses to navigate our galaxy.

The Byrd telescope had already become the world's champion molecule-finder prior to these discoveries. Using the telescope, scientists discovered eight cosmic molecules in two years – an unmatched achievement. The fact that pulsars were discovered in an already extensively studied part of the sky demonstrates the value of the Byrd telescope. No other telescope has provided such insight into space since the first molecules were discovered in the 1960s.

I have been working to make the resources of the Byrd Telescope available to West Virginia students. In 2002, I secured \$5 million to complete construction of the planetarium and science center at the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences in Charleston, and for related equipment to link the Clay Center to the Byrd Telescope. This funding has helped to further the educational experience of young people interested in astronomy and the sciences.

I hope that the Byrd telescope will continue to make advances in scientific research, and help spark a greater interest in this exciting field, which has limitless potential for discoveries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Must Not Sleep Walk Into Another Disastrous Military Confrontation

In West Virginia and across the nation, we have reaped the bitter harvest of this Administration's reckless invasion of Iraq. As the President persists undeterred with his hopelessly failed policy in Iraq, the threat of another major conflict in the Middle East looms on the horizon.

Every day now, it seems that the confrontational rhetoric between the United States and Iran continues to escalate. The main point of contention is Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons. While few doubt Iran's desire to attain a nuclear bomb, there is little evidence that they are close to acquiring such a capability.

I am no apologist for the Iranian regime, any more than I was for Saddam Hussein, but I believe that the recent blustering by the Bush Administration does not serve our nation's interests. Rather than pursuing a robust international diplomatic offensive, the Bush Administration is once again pushing the world community aside, pursuing unilateral sanctions, and making threatening statements. We have seen all too clearly where this path leads. We must not pursue it again.

We hear shadowy claims about Iran's destabilizing actions in Iraq, with little proof offered to back them up. Vice President Cheney has threatened "serious consequences" if Tehran does not acquiesce to U.S. demands -- the

exact same phrase used by this Administration in the lead-up to the invasion of Iraq. The parallels are unmistakable.

Even more troubling, the President has stated his belief that previously enacted Congressional resolutions grant him all the authority he needs to launch a new war. This is simply not the case. Article One, Section Eight of the United States Constitution vests Congress all power to declare war. No such Presidential authority has been granted.

To make this point crystal-clear, I will be co-sponsoring legislation in the Senate stating that "any offensive military action taken against Iran must be explicitly approved by Congress".

It is incumbent upon this Congress to reassert the powers granted to the people's branch in the Constitution. That is the best way to prevent another colossal blunder in the Middle East. It is the people of this country who pay the price of such presidential misadventures. We, as their representatives in the Congress, must not fail in our number one duty: to protect their interests.

President Bush must understand that the Congress will not stand idly by while his Administration plots another march to war. We must not allow this nation to sleep walk into yet another unnecessary and disastrous conflict.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Helping Families Face Rising Energy Prices

As the low temperatures settle in the mountains and valleys of West Virginia, I am reminded of the beauty that comes with Mountain State winters. But the change of season also means cold nights for many families who cannot afford to heat their homes. The upcoming impact of high oil prices and other energy challenges will test our ability to meet the heating needs of our homes this winter season.

Many West Virginians will be faced with tough choices about whether to use their paychecks to heat their homes, to fill their cars with gasoline, or to buy winter clothes for their children. I believe that it is our government's moral responsibility to help disadvantaged Americans find some relief from the soaring price tag that is attached to home heating costs.

Included in the 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill, is funding for a program that has been helping low-income and elderly families cope with home heating prices. In 1981, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) was established to help those at the lowest income levels meet home energy needs. Currently, more than 100,000 households in West Virginia benefit from the LIHEAP program.

According to the Department of Energy (DOE), home heating oil prices are expected to be 16 percent higher for the 2007-2008 winter compared to last year's winter. While families across the nation are bracing for record home heating costs this winter, President Bush has proposed a \$379 million cut to LIHEAP in his 2008 budget request. Apparently, the President has not visited West Virginia during its coldest months, so he overlooked the fact that winter nights in our state are much colder than those in Texas.

Congress, however, has taken the right steps to help our families cope with skyrocketing home heating costs. We must not stand by and let President Bush leave the most vulnerable in our country out in the cold. Congress has closed the budget gap by approving a \$250 million increase for LIHEAP funding.

When temperatures fall toward the freezing level, families that need home heating assistance may seek help through LIHEAP. In West Virginia, residents can contact the West Virginia central LIHEAP office, which is located in Charleston, by calling 1-800-642-8589.

The sanctuary of a warm home is something to which each and every American should be entitled.

November 7, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preparing Today to Save Lives Tomorrow

Long before September 11, 2001, the West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) recognized that our federal, state, and first-responder personnel needed to be better prepared to respond to incidents of mass destruction. The WVNG's concept was initially met with some resistance at the Pentagon, especially prior to the horrific attacks of September 11th. However, armed with a solid plan and my efforts to develop state-of-the-art training facilities, the WVNG's vision and early work paid off. In May of 2004, West Virginia was designated by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau as the nation's first National Guard Joint Interagency Training and Education Center (JITEC), dedicated to homeland defense training.

Today, the JITEC is a national level anti-terrorism and homeland security facility based at Camp Dawson in Preston County. The JITEC provides anti-terrorism, counterterrorism, and homeland security training for Department of Defense units, federal and state government agencies, and military and civilian first responders throughout the country. The training and related operational support activities focus on preventing, deterring, and responding to terrorist threats and natural disasters.

The Center for National Response is a key JITEC asset. The former highway tunnel near Standard, West Virginia, is a one-of-a-kind training facility that, since starting operations in De-

ember 2000, has supported over 55,000 man-days of training for military and civilian first responders from around the nation. This unique facility trains military and civilian responders together to improve the coordination of our government's responses to terrorist events, natural disasters, and national emergencies.

Interagency partnership is a cornerstone of the JITEC, having partnered with many federal agencies to develop and implement key national level critical-infrastructure protection programs. JITEC and the West Virginia National Guard also provide support to other agencies for National Security Special Events such as State of the Union addresses, presidential inaugurations, and the Super Bowl. In addition, JITEC supports antiterrorism training at Camp Dawson for the Department of State.

In the realm of homeland defense, the West Virginia National Guard is setting the standard for homeland security training for the rest of America to follow. I am proud to have supported the JITEC concept and to have included the necessary funds to support its mission, such as the construction of the Regional Training Institute at Camp Dawson, and the transformation of the Memorial Tunnel into the Center for National Response. I will continue to work closely with officials of the WVNG, who set a fine example by teaching us that by preparing today, we can save lives tomorrow.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Flu: Nothing To Sneeze At

West Virginians have enjoyed such a temperate autumn that it is hard to imagine that the bitter days of winter are on their way, but on the way they are - bringing ice, snow, and the influenza virus that causes the common, yet debilitating, seasonal flu.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness. Its symptoms of feverish headaches, aching muscles, and extreme fatigue strike an average of 5% to 20% of the United States population each year.

My mother died of influenza before I reached my first birthday, during the great pandemic of 1918 that took many millions of lives worldwide. Thankfully, modern medicine has equipped us with more effective treatment and prevention of influenza in the years since that terrible epidemic. The flu, however, remains a serious threat to public health, especially to those who have not been vaccinated. Over 200,000 people who fall ill from the flu require hospitalization from complications including dehydration, bacterial pneumonia, and congestive heart failure. Sadly, approximately 36,000 Americans die each year from the flu. Our children, our elderly, and those suffering with compromised immune systems are most susceptible.

The influenza virus is spread from person to per-

son mainly through coughing and sneezing. While covering your cough can ease the spread of the influenza virus, good hygiene is not enough. The best way to prevent getting, and spreading the flu this winter, is to get a flu vaccination. Even when a person is experiencing no flu symptoms, it is still possible for the virus to be passed onto family members, and loved ones. Because the virus changes slightly over time, it is vital that people get a flu vaccination every year.

The West Virginia Bureau of Public Health advises that now is the time for West Virginians to be immunized against this year's influenza virus. Mountaineers seeking flu shots may wish to contact their private physicians or county health departments to obtain information on when and where they can get a flu shot. Veterans may be eligible to obtain free flu shots, and are encouraged to contact their local VA Medical Center or VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Likewise, Medicare and Medicaid patients may be eligible for flu shots at a free or reduced rate.

To some this winter, the flu will only be an uncomfortable inconvenience. Tragically for others, the flu will prove to be fatal. Please prepare yourself and your family for the upcoming flu season, and schedule a flu shot today.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A CHANGE OF COURSE IN IRAQ

Recently President Bush requested that Congress provide him -- with no strings attached -- \$196 billion to maintain a presence of some 130,000 U.S. troops in Iraq for a sixth year. The President claims "progress" is being made in Iraq. Like a down-on-his-luck gambler, he wants to keep throwing good money after bad, and keep risking more soldiers' lives, to win his bad bet on Iraq. Remember that President Bush has said that if he had his way, U.S. troops would remain in Iraq long after he leaves office. That is unacceptable. This misguided war must be brought to a close.

It is long past time to limit our military mission in Iraq and bring the bulk of our troops home. We must seriously engage our allies and the nations of the Middle East on Iraqi security issues. It is time to put the United States back on the track that has served us so well in the past -- demonstrating by example how democracies should function, as defenders of human rights, and beacons of hope, strength, and economic prosperity. For most of my lifetime, the world looked to the United States for moral leadership. Now our friends and allies worry about which nation we will invade next. That is how far we have fallen in the eyes of the world. It is long past time to reject

this path, and return to, as President Lincoln so eloquently put it, the better angels of our nature.

Congress cannot continue to act as a rubber stamp, providing endless billions and endangering tens of thousands of lives, for an undefined goal that has succeeded only in undermining U.S. national security and our standing in the world.

The Senate recently attempted to consider a bill that would have provided \$50 billion for continued operations in Iraq, while requiring the President to prepare for the safe and orderly redeployment of our troops consistent with a more limited military mission in Iraq, and in conjunction with regional diplomatic initiatives.

The bill also provided other protections for U.S. troops. These are not onerous strings intended to tie the hands of the President in the conduct of foreign policy. These are sensible provisions that are consistent with America's values and strategic interests.

Unfortunately, the President's friends in the Senate refused to allow the debate to move forward, and blocked the bill. Rest assured that I will continue my efforts to ensure that there will be no more blank checks for this misguided war.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE PRESIDENT MUST REMOVE ROADBLOCKS TO HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Recently, President Bush and his friends in Congress demonstrated a startling inability to understand the health care system, and a troubling indifference to the problems of those who cannot access it.

The President began by vetoing an expansion of the hugely successful Children's Health Care Insurance Program (CHIP), legislation that was initiated by my colleague, Senator Jay Rockefeller, D-W. Va. Though a majority of Americans support broadening the CHIP program, the President -- deaf as Ulysses to the sirens' songs -- vetoed a bi-partisan plan to extend basic health care coverage to low-income children. He has also threatened to veto a new plan which covers even more low-income children.

Then, the President dismissed concerns about the rising number of working Americans unable to afford health insurance, by making an extraordinary claim: "No one goes without health care in America. After all, you just go to an emergency room."

Ignoring the disastrous consequences of swamping the nation's emergency rooms with patients seeking non-emergency treatments and care, the President went beyond underestimating the health care problem. He simply denied that one exists.

Working-class Americans know better. They know that denying children

access to health care and denying that a national health care crisis exists will have detrimental consequences for America's health and its economy.

West Virginians know first-hand the disastrous consequences of the current health care system. Residents in rural areas often have to travel long distances to reach the nearest doctor. Not only does this force many to postpone treating medical problems -- often making the prognosis worse -- it further drains the pocketbooks of those who can least afford it.

While President Bush has been a free-wheeling military spender, he has been ruthlessly "penny-wise" on many domestic issues. While he is eager to pour billions into military adventurism abroad, American children have lost their health insurance and veterans' hospitals like Walter Reed have fallen into disrepair. While President Bush is ready to spend billions of American tax dollars to build roads and schools and hospitals in Iraq, our own country's health care, education, and infrastructure are at the top of his hit list for spending cuts.

By any measure, President Bush's priorities do not match those of the American public. Our people need to demand that their needs be met. It is past time for this White House to get its priorities straight.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE TO OUR TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES

During this Holiday season, over 200,000 young American men and women are serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many have been deployed overseas before, or will spend their second consecutive Christmas in a battle zone rather than gathered around a Christmas tree with friends and family. For our troops, the holiday season will be rather spartan, spent in uniform, patrolling dangerous streets, and overlaid with an ever present watchfulness that comes from living on the front lines.

In living rooms across the country, candles glow, carols sound, and the scent of pine boughs and Christmas baking fills the air. But many families will be missing a treasured family member around their Christmas table. Their holiday pictures will be missing a smiling face, who will instead be wearing a helmet over their body armor and combat fatigues. The soldiers and their families will put on a brave face, but the strain and loneliness are very real. No care package or telephone call can ever replace the warm hugs of a loving family. And nothing can fill the ache of families who have lost a loved one in combat.

Throughout our nation's history, the members of our

armed forces have served willingly and tirelessly overseas so that we might enjoy the peace won through their sacrifice. Our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, and elsewhere around the globe, add to this distinguished history of courage and service. In this season of love and light, song and laughter, we owe to them our heartfelt thanks and our commitment that we will never take their service for granted.

While this holiday season may be marked by an intense debate between Congress and the White House over our military commitment in Iraq, no one who wears the uniform of this country should ever doubt the American people's gratitude to them and their families for the sacrifices they have made and continue to make every day. I want each of them to know that I have no greater wish for the New Year than their safe return home. And for their families, I pray for strength and comfort as you struggle through the holidays -- and every day -- without a loved one. You are always in my thoughts and prayers.

And with the thanks of a grateful nation, may you share in an abundance of God's blessings during this Christmas season and the coming New Year.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Christmas Spirit is Alive and Well in West Virginia

It is my Christmas wish that we all keep more of the Christmas spirit with us throughout the coming year. Charles Dickens said it best: "I will hold Christmas in heart and try to keep it all the year."

Christmas is a time of peace, and a celebration of the birth of Jesus, whose message of love for His fellow man included tolerance, kindness, and humility. These days, it takes effort to carve out enough time and energy from the ceaseless march of consumerism to find the true spirit of Christmas. Thankfully, that spirit is still alive and well even amid all of the bright lights and holiday parties. The true spirit of Christmas can be seen in the piles of canned goods donated to food banks. It is alive and well in the generous responses to 'angel trees', which allow the fulfillment of the Christmas wishes of children in need. The message of the birth and life of Jesus thrives in the music sung by Christmas choirs in magnificent performances.

Each Christmas season, inspiring choir renditions of favorite carols can be heard throughout the churches of West Virginia. There are

few things more uplifting than coming out of an evening church service, buoyed up by the sweet melodies of traditional music, accompanied by a host of stars sparkling like diamonds across the nighttime sky. All the carols we learned as children, in church or around the family piano, resonate in our memories – the three kings following the "Yonder Star," the stars shining brightly on that Holy night, the manger in Bethlehem, and the Holy mother and child on that silent night. Each year, these images rise anew from the deep well of childhood, bringing with them fond images of happy times and family members dear to our hearts.

This year, many families will look to the stars and hear the music of the season and know that far across the globe, their loved ones gaze up at those same stars remembering home and the Christmas story. For our troops especially, we pray for peace, and their speedy return to the loving arms of their families.

May you share in an abundance of God's blessings in this Holy Christmas season and in the New Year.

December 19, 2007



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fighting the Scourge of Methamphetamine Addiction

Methamphetamine or “meth” is a highly addictive drug that has destroyed many lives in West Virginia and throughout the country. In 2005, I cosponsored the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act, which limited sales of medicines containing pseudoephedrine (PSE) and other chemicals used to make methamphetamine, and required that the chemicals be placed behind pharmacy counters. It also mandated that pharmacies keep a written or electronic log of their sales. The West Virginia Legislature passed a similar law that same year.

According to the U.S. Drug and Enforcement Administration, the discovery of clandestine meth labs in West Virginia peaked in 2005 at 213, and declined to 83 in 2006, largely as the result of the new state and federal laws regulating chemicals used to make the drug.

However, meth remains a serious problem in our state. Consequently, I recently cosponsored S. 2071, the Combat Methamphetamine Enhancement Act, which seeks to strengthen the earlier legislation. For example, the 2005 Act required pharmacists to file “self-certifications” that said their personnel had been trained about the law’s requirements, including behind-the-counter storage, logbook entries, and limits on sales. Unfortunately, thousands of the chemicals’ retail sellers have not yet self-certified, and it is difficult to iden-

tify non-complying stores. The 2007 bill is designed to improve self-certification by requiring sellers of chemicals used to make methamphetamine to file self-certifications with the Attorney General. It also requires that the Attorney General publish a list of all self-certified persons on the Drug Enforcement Agency website; it restricts distributors of the listed chemicals from selling to anyone other than self-certified sellers; and it imposes penalties for any negligent failure to self-certify.

I have also provided funding for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) in West Virginia. The HIDTA program coordinates drug control efforts among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. It provides the agencies with equipment, technology, and other resources to combat illegal drug activity throughout Appalachia.

Since 2001, I have also provided funds for the West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) Counterdrug Program, which completed over 106 missions during FY 2007. The missions resulted in 500 arrests and the seizure of drugs and assets worth \$78.8 million.

I share West Virginians’ deep concern about the drug problem in our state. I pledge to continue to sponsor legislation that will enhance awareness, promote drug treatment, and provide law enforcement with the tools it needs to fight drug crime.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

CONGRESS DELIVERS ON AMERICA'S PRIORITIES

The Constitution grants to Congress an extensive array of power, each of which, in one way or another, touches the lives of every one of the 300 million people who live in America today. But of all those powers none is so powerful -- or so necessary for the welfare of our country -- as the power to appropriate money from our treasury.

But it is not simply within the power of Congress to appropriate funds for the operation of the government. It is a duty that must be exercised each year, without fail, without excuses. The operation of the government -- to enforce our laws, to serve our people, to protect our liberties -- depends upon Congress providing the funds necessary to do so.

Congress has done just that. We have passed and the President has signed into law a funding bill totaling \$555 billion for operations relating to nearly every agency in the Federal government, and which restores many of the President's ill begotten spending cuts.

A key priority in this bill is increased funding for the Veterans Administration, for veterans health care and for the hiring of more VA personnel to reduce a six month backlog of benefit claims.

With energy prices going through the roof, a significant increase in funding

over the President's budget request has been designated for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which will provide 2 million families with additional help for winter heating bills.

Despite the fact that violent crime is on the rise for the first time in fifteen years, the President attempted to cut State and local law enforcement. The Congress restored \$1.2 billion of the proposed cut.

The measure also makes education a top priority by increasing Head Start by \$114 million, stopping a proposed cut of 30,000 slots for early childhood education. And for college students, Pell Grants are increased to \$4,731 per year.

Plans to eliminate or slash numerous programs for our rural communities, such as rural health, rural housing, and clean water programs, were scuttled.

And at my direction, the bill included a \$20 million increase above the President's request for mine safety for a total of \$334 million. This money will help save lives.

The Democratic Congress understands that there are consequences for our failure to invest in America and the American people. And as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue to stand up for the priorities of the people of West Virginia and all Americans.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A NEW DIRECTION IN PROTECTING THE HOMELAND

In February 2007, I wrote in this space that despite President Bush's talk about his concern for the safety of Americans at home, his rhetoric was as hollow as a ten gallon hat. The President's budget request for 2008 homeland security programs proposed more than \$2.6 billion in cuts to our nation's homeland security initiatives. Programs funding Law Enforcement Terrorism Protection, Firefighter Assistance Grants, and Community Oriented Policing Services all faced dramatic cuts at a time of increasing concern that terrorists were once again plotting to attack our shores.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security and Chairman of the full Senate Appropriations Committee, I made it a priority of the Committee this past year to reverse these misguided cuts and better protect this country from future terrorist attacks.

I am pleased to say that when President Bush signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 in late December, it signaled a new direction in funding to protect our homeland. The Democratic Congress restored the significant cuts sought by the President to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and improved efforts to secure our nation's borders.

When Congress sent this bill to the President, we

made it clear that DHS must be both nimble and have the resources necessary to effectively respond to evolving threats. We reversed the President's unfortunate attempt to secure the homeland on the cheap.

In October 2006, President Bush signed the SAFE Port Act yet he requested no funds to implement it. In July 2007, the Administration issued a National Intelligence Estimate that concluded that Al-Qaeda had reconstituted itself in Pakistan with the intent of attacking America again. Then, unbelievably the President proposed cutting grants which equip and train our first responders by \$1.5 billion. And in August 2007, he signed the 9/11 Commission Implementation Act and requested no resources to implement it. Signing ceremonies alone will never secure our borders or enforce our immigration laws. It takes money to implement these goals.

As the recent events in Pakistan remind us, the world is a very dangerous place. The Congress did its part to provide necessary funds to train and employ the border patrol agents and first responders who are our first line of defense against unforeseen attack. Now the President has signed that legislation into law, establishing a clear new direction for the Department of Homeland Security, and ensuring that American lives are not put needlessly at risk.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building for the Future

In 1947, when I began my public service in the West Virginia House of Delegates, there were only four miles of divided, four-lane highway in West Virginia. Needless to say, travel within West Virginia at that time was slow and extremely dangerous. Commerce stalled and lives were lost because our road and highway system was, as the Saturday Evening Post noted in February 1960, "decades behind that of its neighbors."

We have come a long way since 1947. I have worked hard throughout my career to fund the Appalachian Development Highway System and other critical road projects in our state.

But there is still much work to do. This year, I designated \$41 million in federal funding specifically for West Virginia highways, increasing West Virginia's total highway funding to a total of \$356.1 million. I fought for these dollars because I know they will bring real benefits for West Virginians -- safer roads, new jobs, and economic growth for communities in need of modern highways.

The Corridor highways, and four-lane highways in general, generate economic growth in the communities they traverse.

That is why I have made it a priority to com-

plete West Virginia's Corridor Highways. Our state is set to receive \$102 million this year for construction of the Appalachian Corridor Highways, including \$15.7 million that I added. With the Corridor D bypass scheduled for completion this spring, the only unfinished corridor highway in West Virginia will be Corridor H -- planned to stretch from I-79 at Weston through the Potomac Highlands to the Virginia state line. Now that we are close to completing work on all of our other corridors, these new investments will mean more progress on this vital project.

I have also boosted funding for other important projects throughout the state, including: \$3.9 million for the Coalfields Expressway; \$3.9 million for the King Coal Highway; \$7.5 million for West Virginia Route 2 in the Northern Panhandle; \$7.8 million for Route 9 in the Eastern Panhandle; and \$1.9 million for an access road from the Morgantown airport to I-68.

The progress we have seen in West Virginia roads and highways over the last half-century has been truly remarkable. As every West Virginian knows, however, there is always more to do. I will continue to look for opportunities which benefit West Virginia's highways in the year ahead.

January 16, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Tax Credit for Working West Virginians

Each year, many working West Virginians qualify for tax breaks but they simply don't take advantage of them. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC), are federal tax benefits created to offset Social Security taxes and to help people keep their jobs and care for their families.

The EITC can be worth up to \$4,716 for families who worked in 2007. Workers raising children who earned less than about \$38,000 in 2007 may be eligible for the EITC. Additionally, workers not raising children who earned less than around \$13,000 can qualify.

Along with the EITC, some families are also eligible to receive the CTC, which can be worth up to \$1,000 per child. While the credits are offset by the amount of income taxes workers owe – even workers who owe no taxes may qualify for the credits.

To claim the credits, eligible workers must file a tax return. While filing may seem overwhelming or complicated, there are organizations in West Virginia called Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) to help prepare tax returns. VITAs offer free tax preparation and assistance to

qualifying workers. Volunteers help to educate taxpayers about the EITC, including qualifying for and claiming the credit.

Taxpayer Assistance Centers will be open for Saturday hours on February 2nd, 9th, and 16th to help EITC taxpayers who may not be able to seek assistance during the work week. The Huntington site, located at 845 Fifth Avenue, will be open from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Charleston site, located at 1206 Quarrier Street, will be open from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Other free EITC return preparation options include Free File (www.irs.gov) - for taxpayers with internet access. Online filing is available. Taxpayers can also find local Volunteer Assistance sites by calling 1-800-829-1040 or visiting www.wveitc.com.

It is estimated that 15 to 20 percent of eligible workers do not claim their EITC. That means millions of dollars are not making it into the pockets of eligible Americans, including thousands in West Virginia. West Virginians should seek assistance at tax time. They are entitled to the tax breaks in the law which can ease the strain on the family budget.

January 23, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE UNFORTUNATE STATE OF OUR UNION

President Bush this past week delivered his seventh and final State of the Union Address to the American people. While he painted a picture of America's economy, and our role in the international community in bold brush strokes, I was not looking through the same rose-colored glasses as the President. I believe that our nation's ship of state lies berthed in drydock and is in desperate need of repair. With reports that United States' economic growth is the weakest in five years, concern has increased over President Bush's failed economic policies.

When President Bush entered office in 2001, we had a budget surplus and our country was on its way to eliminating much of its public debt. Since that time, the American people have watched as this Administration has not only squandered that surplus but has also created three of the largest deficits in the history of our nation.

President Bush has added more than \$3.5 trillion to the debt owed by our government to its creditors. He has accomplished this by championing massive tax cuts for the very wealthy at the expense of hard working West Virginia families and the health of America's economy. The President has demanded over \$500 billion for his war in Iraq and every penny has been borrowed.

And, he once again blindly asked the Congress to make those tax cuts permanent, with no concern for the financial burdens this would inflict on our children and grandchildren.

Before our very eyes, our President is auctioning off our economy to the highest bidder. He has presided over an economy that has shipped good-paying American jobs overseas. And President Bush has sat idly by during most of the past year as the home mortgages of hard working American families have been bought by foreign creditors. Literally, the roofs over the heads of many Americans are owned by foreigners.

It is extraordinary that President Bush -- who continues to squander billions of dollars every week in Iraq -- presumes to lecture Congress on its stewardship of taxpayer dollars. He fails to understand that there are consequences for our failure to invest in America. The American people want their hard-earned tax dollars to be spent on priorities here at home -- on homeland security, clean water, bridges, and roads -- not on a disastrous nation-building adventure halfway around the world.

It is time to right our ship of state, make the drastic needed repairs, and set sail for a brighter economic future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FINAL BUSH BUDGET MORE OF THE SAME

Last week, President Bush submitted the final budget of his presidency to Congress. Once again we saw a replay of his previous budget requests - - deficits, deception, and demagoguery.

The Bush budget mortgages our children's and grandchildren's future through massive federal budget deficits, while short-changing critical domestic priorities. In fiscal year 2000, America had a budget surplus of \$236 billion. The President's fiscal year 2009 budget now projects a budget deficit of \$407 billion. This Administration has racked up three of the largest deficits in the history of our nation, and President Bush's FY 2009 budget could yield yet another record deficit. It appears that lip service will be this President's legacy on fiscal discipline.

While President Bush has been adding to our deficit dilemma, he continues to rob Peter to pay Paul by taking critical funds from essential domestic programs for his disastrous war and nation-building misadventure in Iraq.

For West Virginia families, the Bush budget is a bad deal. It cuts federal housing programs, despite widespread recognition that our nation's economy is in a housing crisis. Huge cuts will endanger access to quality health care for West Virginia's 600,000 Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. More than 9,000 West Virginians living with invasive cancer and 10% of adults

who have been diagnosed with diabetes will have their health care and medical research jeopardized.

Under the Bush plan, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps families heat their homes in the winter, will be slashed. And the budget assaults local crime fighting efforts - - the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) and the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) programs -- because both programs are zeroed out.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration's budget will be slashed by \$10 million, which is absolutely absurd in light of the disasters at Sago and other mines and the safety concerns for our brave miners which need to be addressed. In an unfortunate and short-sighted move, which smacks of raw politics, the President proposes to eliminate the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship program, thus slamming shut the door of opportunity for thousands of our nation's most promising students who need help to pay for their college tuition.

I had hoped that after almost eight years in office, President Bush would finally recognize the need to invest in the priorities of the American people. It is clear that dog will never hunt. However, you can be assured that I will continue to stand up to the President's misplaced priorities and fight for the needs of West Virginians and the American people.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Early Action is Key to Ensuring Your Child's Eye and Vision Health

One of the great responsibilities of parents is to ensure the health of their infant. Managing this task can be overwhelming, especially for those families who are already struggling to make ends meet. To help working families afford critical eye care for their newborn, there is a program called InfantSEE. This eye and vision health program makes it affordable to monitor an infant during their first year of development and offers early detection of potential eye and vision problems.

Good eyesight contributes immeasurably to the quality of one's life. It allows us to witness memorable events in the world, enjoy countless books, and see the beautiful faces of dear family and friends. But for more than 10 million children in the United States suffering from undetected vision problems, the gift of good eyes may be elusive.

The InfantSEE program provides a variety of services including: no-cost access to an eye-care doctor who has the instruments and resources not available to general-care doctors like pediatricians and family physicians; detects potential problems that, if undetected, may lead to learning and developmental issues later; and gives new parents the peace of mind that their

infant's vision is developing properly.

Through InfantSEE, optometrists will provide a one-time, comprehensive eye assessment to infants in their first year of life, offering early detection of potential eye and vision problems. In the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations bill, I added \$431,330 for InfantSEE that will help this program continue to provide its important services.

InfantSEE encourages parents to take their children to an eye doctor early in life, when many vision problems might be prevented or more easily corrected. That is the key to preventing long-term eye and vision problems. A doctor's assessment between six and 12 months of age can help determine whether an infant is at risk for eye or vision disorders.

Many disorders of the eye can only be identified by a doctor in the infant's first year of life. Working parents can guard their children's eyesight by seeking an InfantSEE assessment, and a wellness evaluation of the eyes performed by a pediatrician or family practice doctor.

I encourage parents to take advantage of InfantSEE. To learn more about the program, visit "<http://www.infantsee.org>" www.infantsee.org or call (800) 365-2219.

February 13, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Celebrating the Founder of Black History Month

February is Black History Month. In February our country recognizes and honors the countless contributions that African-Americans have made to our American history and culture. What is less well known is that the founder of Black History Month was a West Virginian – our own Carter G. Woodson.

Woodson, the son of slaves, was actually born in New Canton, Virginia, but at an early age, he moved to West Virginia in order to attend Douglass High School in Huntington. He financed his education by working as a coal miner in Fayette County.

After receiving his Bachelor of Literature degree from Berea College in Kentucky, Woodson taught school from 1897 to 1900 in Fayette County. In 1900, he became the principal of Douglass High School, and later served as Dean of West Virginia State College in Institute, WV.

In 1908, Carter G. Woodson received his Master's Degree from the University of Chicago and in 1912 he was awarded his Ph.D. in history from Harvard University.

As he studied, Woodson realized that the role of African-Americans in American history had been largely ignored or misrepresented. "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished," he wrote,

"lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history." Maintaining that African-Americans must know their past in order to participate intelligently in the affairs of our country, he set out on a course that would eventually lead him to be known as the "Father of Black History."

More than six decades before there was anything resembling a course on Black Studies, Woodson had authored numerous scholarly books on African-American History, including, *The Negro in our History* and *The Mis-Education of the Negro*. In 1915, he helped establish the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The following year, he began publishing the influential *Journal of Negro History*, now one of the oldest learned journals in the United States.

In 1926, Woodson launched "Negro History Week" which was eventually expanded to "Black History Month."

Carter G. Woodson often said that he hoped the time would come when all Americans would easily recognize the contributions of Black Americans as a legitimate and integral part of the History of the USA, so that Negro History Week would not be necessary. We may not be there yet, but with the work and efforts of scholars like Woodson, we are well on our way.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Free Trade is Still Not Fair Trade

In early February, the U.S. Labor Department reported that, for the first time in nearly two-and-a-half years, the American economy lost jobs. Unfortunately, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve delivered an even less comforting Valentine's Day message before the Senate Banking Committee. He predicted a further drop in home building, with more job losses, higher energy prices, and diminished home values – all of which will cause consumer spending to decline. At the same time, he noted that inflation has increased as the result of soaring prices for both oil and food.

The Bush Administration's seven years of neglectful fiscal and trade policies have left America's working families in the lurch. The President's myopic obsession with funding the Iraq war has taken the focus off of our country's economic needs and permitted the forces of globalization to gut our middle class. While the Bush Administration pours billions of dollars into the sieve in Iraq, the White House mindlessly beats the drums for misguided free trade agreements (FTAs) here at home. These FTAs make it easier for U.S. corporations to move offshore and ship goods back into the United States duty-free. Overseas, U.S. companies produce goods with cheap labor not subject to stringent health, safety, labor, or environmental standards. According to reports, since

2001, an estimated 830,000 white-collar jobs have been sent overseas.

As I have said for decades, free trade is not always fair trade. The lengthy string of FTAs enacted over the past 14 years, including NAFTA, CAFTA, the U.S.-Morocco FTA, and the U.S.-PERU FTA, have done little to benefit West Virginia. Instead, they have increased the strength of multinational corporations, which view outsourcing and profit, rather than people, as their top priority. These corporations have not used the profit they have obtained by using cheap labor overseas to reinvest in America. Instead, wages in the United States have stagnated, and manufacturing employment continues to decline. Seventy percent of workers in America now recognize that their income is not keeping up with their cost of living. This cannot continue.

America must refrain from creating FTAs and start providing incentives for companies to remain in the United States. We should insist that corporate chieftains invest a higher percentage of their company's profit in local communities, rather than in ballooning executive salaries. We need to provide America's working families with economic security, while encouraging innovation and greater investments in education. By doing so, we will ensure a brighter future for workers in West Virginia and across our great nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Iraq

As America's massive military and nation-building effort in Iraq continues with no end in sight, the cost to the American taxpayers is piling up at a staggering rate. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the cumulative cost of the war is expected to reach \$608 billion by the end of the year.

Here are some statistics to help put the enormity of \$608 billion in perspective. It is over \$2000 for every man, woman and child in America. It is approximately 120 times what President Bush has requested in his 2009 budget to fund the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency. According to NASA, \$608 billion could purchase 355 Space Shuttles.

The massive price tag for the war can be traced in part to the widespread waste, fraud, and abuse in Iraq. From the very beginning, huge sums of taxpayer dollars have lined the pockets of greedy contractors, whose work goes undone or poorly done. Money, weapons, and oil profits have apparently been delivered directly to insurgents and militias in Iraq. Large sums of cash have simply disappeared.

Meanwhile, stories of rampant corruption within Iraqi cities have become commonplace. A local Iraqi

businessman told a reporter, "I'd say that about 10 per cent of business was corrupt under Saddam. Now, it's about 95 per cent. We used to have one Saddam, now we have 25 of them."

To add to our budgetary woes, troop levels are not projected to decrease any time soon. The Pentagon now says that 140,000 of our troops will remain in Iraq even after the troop surge has concluded. Clearly, this budgetary comet will only continue its meteoric rise.

We must not settle for more feeble excuses and deceptions. There is simply not a serious enough effort underway to crack down on contract fraud and to pressure the governments in Iraq and Afghanistan to clean up their acts.

That is why, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will be holding hearings to demand answers from the Administration on the widespread waste, fraud, and abuse that continues to take place in Iraq.

This is not a partisan political issue. Every American should demand that their government serve as a good steward of their taxpayer dollars. It is our common responsibility to determine the scope and scale of the problem, and go about fixing it. That is exactly what I intend to do.

March 5, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fire Department Funding is Central to our Homeland Security

Across the nation, there are men and women who put their lives on the line every day fighting fires. From house fires to chemical spills to bioterrorism threats, they, along with their colleagues in law enforcement, are the first at the scene.

While public attention has finally focused on the role that firefighters and emergency responders play in our overall homeland defense efforts, these silent heroes have always understood their mission.

As American life has become more complicated, the firefighter's job description has only gotten longer. The jobs of firefighting and emergency response have become increasingly complex and dangerous. The nationwide increase in the use of hazardous materials and the recent rise in both natural and man-made disasters pose new threats to firefighters and emergency workers. Often, they perform their duties without proper equipment, training, and staffing. But they do it anyway, and we are all better off for their bravery.

In this high technology, post-9/11 world, firefighters deserve the latest equipment and training to effectively deal with changing threats. We are safer, individually and collectively, with properly equipped and trained firefighters. Because the safety and security of our communities is dependent upon the capabilities of our firefighters, I believe that it is wise to invest federal dollars in this effort.

That is why I have fought the Bush Administration's misguided attempts to cut funding for fire grants. Our fire departments should not have to struggle to pay for the training that makes the dangerous job of fighting fire easier.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, I have worked to restore funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), which provides equipment and training for these courageous public servants. The 2007 AFG program will award more than \$490 million in critical grant funds to fire departments in big cities and small towns across the country.

I have insisted on the restoration of severe budget cuts for staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) which provide grant funding to fire departments for recruitment and retention. Although the Administration sought to eliminate SAFER grants, I am proud that approximately \$115 million will be awarded to fire departments through the program in 2007. We must not be penny-wise and pound foolish.

When it comes to protecting our communities and giving our firefighters the training and tools they need to succeed, cutting corners is unacceptable. We must do all we can to provide our firefighters with the best resources available.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

SPRINGTIME AND EASTER

As many of you know, I took a nasty little fall at my home recently. Fortunately, I only gave my back a good wrench, but my family and doctors insisted on a lot of care and physical therapy, which was both therapeutic and frustrating. I do not like being poked, prodded, or cajoled any more than the next person, especially after beginning to feel better and ready to return to work. Nevertheless, the rest did let me spend a little time staring out of the windows, watching the beauty of springtime begin to steal across the landscape.

March 20th, the first day of spring this year, is the day that marks the Last Supper between Jesus and his disciples, the evening before the crucifixion on Good Friday, and the miracle of resurrection on Easter Sunday. It is fitting that the dawning of the spring and the resurrection of Christ occur in such close conjunction. Both events celebrate renewal and rebirth and the awakening of new life. The dawning of spring brings a sense of restored health and energy that enhances our appreciation of the miracle of the Easter season and its promise of eternal life.

As Christians moved through the liturgical calendar of Easter, observing and commemorating great

events of two millennia past, the occupants of the northern hemisphere also counted down the days until spring.

In these early warm and fragrant days, we can most fully appreciate the beauty of the season, in contrast to the cold and wet weather of recent weeks. With each trumpeting daffodil, each nodding crocus, each arching branch of yellow forsythia, and each dainty petal of blooming pear and cherry tree, we find the cheerful evidence of the approaching season.

In the ever-lengthening evening light, we spy the house wren flitting about as she seeks a sheltered spot to build her nest. We hear, clear and strong, the first evening chorus of frogs, a song that will be lost in the background noise later in the season. But these few weeks, we hear it 'a capella,' unaccompanied by the hum of air conditioners on hot summer evenings.

Each sign of spring, each glory of the Easter-tide, is a gift from the Creator, a promise made to each of us that there is life after death and stunning beauty after the dark days of winter. I hope the people of West Virginia will step outside and revel in the glory of God as they enjoy the fragile beauty of spring.

March 19, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

4000 SOULS

Last week marked the fifth anniversary of the start of our nation's invasion of Iraq. Again we are confronted with a sorrowful reminder of the consequences of that fateful decision by the death of four Americans killed in Baghdad, bringing the total number of American troops who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq to 4000. Each brave soul leaves behind devastated loved ones -- sons, daughters, wives, husbands, moms, and dads. Each tragic loss leaves a void -- a missing smile and loving embrace, an empty chair at the family dinner table -- that can never be filled.

As we mark this painful milestone, we must ask ourselves: what is the moral justification for allowing this war to continue? Can we honestly say that the disastrous mission in Iraq warrants the sacrifice of more of our troops and the heartache and loss that so many loved ones continue to suffer?

In March of 2003, just prior to the invasion of Iraq, I made a final plea to the Administration and my colleagues in Congress to avert a war that I believed would reap sorrowful consequences for our nation. In a speech entitled "We Stand Passively Mute", I expressed my outrage at the fact that the United States Senate -- the world's greatest deliberative body -- stood "for the most part-

silent-ominously, dreadfully silent" on this monumental question.

Sadly, my worst fears have been realized. The decision to invade Iraq may go down as one of the gravest foreign policy blunders in our nation's history.

Yet the war continues. American troop levels are higher than they were the day President Bush flamboyantly swooped onto the deck of the aircraft carrier *Abraham Lincoln* to declare "Mission Accomplished."

Four thousand Americans have now lost their lives, including twenty-three brave West Virginians. Almost thirty-thousand Americans have been wounded in action, many gravely, and countless thousands of Iraqi civilians have been killed.

It is long past time to start bringing our troops home. Our men and women in uniform toppled the dictator. There were no weapons of mass destruction. There is scarce evidence that the Iraqi government is working to achieve the kind of political reconciliation that could end the continuing sacrifice of our brave men and women.

At this somber moment, let us resolve to take steps to finally bring this tragic war to an end. In 2008, the American people must not stand passively mute, as far too many of their leaders did five years ago. Let your voices be heard

March 26, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

David Hunter Strother: A Life and Career Worth Recalling

The Monongahela National Forest is an incredible wilderness area of rugged landscapes and spectacular views. Within this forest are two of the highest mountain peaks in our state, including Spruce Knob, the highest peak in our state, and Mount Porte Crayon, the sixth highest. Known for its strong winds and inclement weather, Mount Porte Crayon is named after a great West Virginian who was one of the most widely known U.S. authors and artists of his time, but, unfortunately, is little remembered today. His is a life and career worth recalling.

David Hunter Strother was born in Martinsburg on September 26, 1816. As a young man, he studied art in Philadelphia, New York City, and Rome.

For a while, Strother worked as an artist for *The Crayon*, the leading art journal of his time. Because so much of his early work consisted of landscapes and other outdoor scenes, he helped illustrate travelogues, and became a frequent contributor to *Harper's Monthly Magazine*.

In 1853, Strother wrote and illustrated an article on Canaan Valley that was published in *Harper's* under his pen name, Porte Crayon. The article proved immensely popular and earned him considerable renown, making Porte Crayon a household name across the country.

During the Civil War, the Union army commissioned Porte Crayon as a staff officer. Because of his artistic abilities and detailed knowledge of the Shenandoah Valley, he was assigned as a topographer to various generals. He rose to the rank of Brigadier General and served as a war correspondent for *Harper's*.

After the war, *Harper's* published Porte Crayon's powerful and influential recollections of the war and his ten-part series titled, "The Mountains," which introduced America to the new State of West Virginia, its people, and its culture. In 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes appointed Strother to be General Consul to Mexico City.

But after a few years, he returned to the hills of West Virginia where he edited a newspaper and worked to convince the state's leaders to invest in the infrastructure essential to the state's economic well-being. Porte Crayon died in Charles Town on March 8, 1888 – 120 years ago.

Today, he is largely forgotten by people in our state, except when a dedicated hiker ventures through the Monongahela National Forest and comes across Mount Porte Crayon – a worthy reminder of the man who contributed so much to the history and culture of our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY MUST MOVE BEYOND AN IRAQ-ONLY FOCUS

To date, the national debate over the Iraq War has focused almost entirely on the enormous human and financial costs of the conflict. The human costs have been heartbreaking -- more than 4000 Americans have lost their lives and nearly 30,000 have been wounded. The financial costs have been staggering -- nearly half a trillion dollars to date.

Less attention has been paid to the dire strategic consequences of this misbegotten, seemingly endless war. By undermining our military readiness and detracting from other national security priorities around the globe -- particularly Afghanistan and Pakistan -- President Bush's open-ended commitment in Iraq has made the world more dangerous, and our nation less secure.

Recently, I joined with colleagues in the Senate in writing to the President to express our collective view on this subject. An excerpt follows:

"Repeated and extended deployments to Iraq have greatly strained our military's capabilities. Readiness has sunk to levels not seen since Vietnam. Units do not have enough time at home to achieve through training the full-spectrum combat capabilities on which our security depends. We have no ready reserve for an unexpected crisis. We must begin immediately to restore the readiness of

our Army and Marine Corps by returning to 12 month deployments, and providing active and reserve units sufficient time at home between deployments to retrain and reequip."

"For too long, this Administration has treated Southwest Asia as an afterthought, even as it committed more U.S. troops and treasure to the war in Iraq. The neglect of Afghanistan and Pakistan reflects a failure to recognize this region as the central battlefield in the war against al Qaeda.

"An al Qaeda attack on the U.S. homeland would likely originate in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region...Our nation cannot afford to stand by while the danger to the region—and to America—grows stronger day by the day."

I fear that our plea will fall on deaf ears, as has too often been the case with this President. As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue to press for accountability and oversight on the increasing costs and devastating consequences that the current strategy is having on our national security posture. And Congress must prepare for the smoothest possible transition for the next President. For it is the next President who will be charged with the daunting task of setting a new, wiser course that will truly make our nation and the world a safer place.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MONEY FOR IRAQ BUT A BIG "NO" FOR MONEY FOR AMERICA

By the end of 2008, the war in Iraq will have cost the United States taxpayers a whopping \$600 billion. Over 4,000 U.S. service members have died, and over 30,000 U.S. service members have been wounded. In the next few weeks, the Senate Appropriations Committee, which I chair, will consider the President's request for Congress to approve yet another \$108 billion of emergency funding, mostly for this endless war in Iraq. We will consider the President's request at a time when the U.S. economy is, by most accounts, in serious trouble.

A careful review of President Bush's request reveals no evidence of funding to bolster our country's economy or to help Americans deal with lost jobs, mortgage foreclosures, and the rising cost of living. There is no money to address our crumbling infrastructure, high home heating oil costs, or nutrition programs for infants and children. Yet, the President has thrown down the gauntlet and threatens to veto the supplemental bill if the Congress has the temerity to add one dime to his request in order to help our citizens cope with the situation here at home.

What a contrast to the President's request for as-

sistance for Iraq! We have already poured \$45 billion of our citizens' hard-earned tax dollars into reconstruction projects in Iraq, projects that have done little to promote political reconciliation. That is 45 billion American dollars gifted to Iraq, despite the fact that the Iraqi government is running a huge surplus due to its excess oil revenues!

Now, the President is asking this Congress to shovel yet another \$3 billion of American taxpayer dollars for more rebuilding projects in Iraq. Well, I say charity begins at home!

The President wants money to build schools in Sadr City, but not in Seattle. Why does he demand money for roads in Ramadi, but nothing for Richmond? The President wants money for Mosul, but not one dime for Minneapolis. Why is he determined to reconstruct Baghdad, but not Baltimore, Biloxi, or Birmingham?

We must also invest in our own economy and take care of our people here at home. To fail to do so will only further dampen our economy, work a hardship on our citizens, and deplete our ability to pay these endless, ever-climbing requests for more money to fund this war in Iraq. The well is running dry, and it is time to prime the pump.

April 16, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FREE COUPONS PRESERVE MUST-SEE TV!

The Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act, enacted in 2005, requires that all American television stations stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100 percent digital broadcasting after February 17, 2009. Analog uses radio frequency waves to transmit pictures and sound, while digital broadcasting uses a more efficient method of transmitting information using computer code. The switch to digital will make additional airwaves available for emergency responders, and hopefully will provide a clearer picture and more programming options.

Homeowners who have cable, satellite, or other pay television services, will not be negatively affected by the change to digital broadcasting. However, those who do not have cable or a satellite system or a pay-TV service, will lose service after February 17, 2009, unless they acquire a digital converter box. A converter box is a new product that enables analog-only television sets to operate after February 17, 2009. A certified converter box is expected to cost between \$40 and \$70 dollars. The government has established a TV Converter Box Coupon Program to help consumers purchase digital converter boxes. The program enables consumers to acquire, at most, two coupons per household, each worth \$40 apiece, to be used to acquire digital converter boxes. A converter box plugs into a normal, analog television set and will keep the set working beyond February 17, 2009. Another

option for consumers is to purchase a television with a digital tuner.

While supplies last, coupons for analog television sets may be obtained free-of-charge, before March 31, 2009, in one of five ways, by:

- By applying online at: www.dtv2009.gov;
 - Calling the Coupon Program 24-hour Hotline at 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-800-388-2009);
 - Mailing a Coupon application to: P.O. Box 2000, Portland, Oregon, 97208-2000;
 - Faxing a Coupon application to 1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632);
- or
- Deaf or hearing impaired callers may dial 1-877-530-2634 (English/TTY) or 1-866-495-1161 (Spanish/TTY). TTY service is available from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

The Coupons are being mailed via standard, rather than first-class mail, and should arrive approximately two to nine days from the date on which they are mailed. The coupons expire 90 days after they have been mailed.

The coupons are plastic cards, which look like gift cards. They cannot be printed or downloaded from any website, and they are not available to be picked up at retail locations. The U.S. government provides a list of coupon-eligible converter boxes and the participating retailers who sell them, at www.dtv2009.gov/FAQ.aspx/.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Power of Coal

Coal has always had its critics. Despite them, coal has not only endured, it has prevailed. It has helped to light and heat our homes for centuries. It fueled America's Industrial Revolution in the 19th Century. It fueled America's naval battleships in the early 20th Century. It possesses the bright potential to help America get out from under the thumb of foreign oil-wielding despots in the 21st century.

The coal industry has evolved in the last centuries, shaped by safety and environmental issues. The industry has shown a willingness to evolve further. But, recent harsh attacks and efforts to demonize coal are becoming increasingly irresponsible, inflammatory, and destructive. Coal miners hear these harsh comments and what are they to think? They're patriotic Americans. They risk their lives everyday underground. They live near the coal-fields, where they attend church and teach their children solid values. And they vote! Miners do not deserve to have their profession – or to have their family livelihood maligned.

Harsh destructive criticism of coal mining is counterproductive to the challenges that lie ahead. If our nation is ever to escape its addiction to foreign oil, coal has to be part of the solution. There's no getting around that reality.

Coal produces half of the electricity consumed by the American people. It is an economical, abundant resource at a time when the American people demand stable, reliable energy prices. The U.S. military is already making long-term investments in liquid coal technology. Some form of the chunk of rock that once burned in a stove will soon be widely used in the fuel tanks of aircraft, cars, trucks, and buses. This can be done cleanly if we will only commit to the research.

Renewable fuels have their place in the energy portfolio. But, renewables are not a panacea. Certainly one renewable energy source alone, like wind for example, will not guarantee our nation's energy independence. We need to expand our use of all renewable and alternative fuels. Solar is important, geothermal is showing promise, tidal has great possibilities, and biomass combined with coal can help reduce emissions that concern us all. That would certainly be a worthy investment for our country.

We must not allow heated rhetoric or grandiose promises to blind us to the continuing promise and need for coal. Coal is a plentiful domestic source of reliable and relatively low-cost energy, and we need it now.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

For Many Seniors and Veterans, There is Still Time to File for a Stimulus Check

This summer, millions of Americans will receive an Economic Stimulus Payment (ESP) from the federal government. Everyone who qualifies and has filed an income tax return will receive this one-time payment, which was approved by Congress earlier this year in an effort to stimulate America's struggling economy.

In addition, some 20 million low-income seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities are eligible to receive a check of \$300 for individuals and \$600 for married couples. Many who qualify, however, do not ordinarily file income-tax returns and have not yet completed the simple paperwork necessary to receive their payment.

The good news: you have until October 15th to do so. I urge you to review the information provided below to determine whether you or a family member may qualify. If you need further information, I encourage you to visit the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) website (www.irs.gov), or call their toll-free hotline – 1-866-234-2942.

Who Qualifies?

According to the IRS, you may qualify for an economic stimulus check if you had \$3000 or more in income from earnings, Social Security benefits, Social Security disability benefits, veterans' disability benefits, railroad retirement, or a combination of

these sources in 2007. You must have a valid Social Security number, and if you are married and filing jointly, your spouse must also have a valid Social Security number. If you are a dependent or eligible to be a dependent on someone else's return, you do not qualify. (www.irs.gov)

How Do People Claim the Economic Stimulus Payment?

To receive the payment, you must file a 2007 tax return. Even people who are otherwise not required to file because they have very low incomes or nontaxable benefits MUST file a Form 1040A to claim their 2008 economic stimulus payment. The IRS sent packets to some 20 million seniors, veterans and people with disabilities providing instructions on how to file the Form 1040A to get the payment. Anyone who has already filed a Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ showing \$3,000 or more for 2007 does not need to file additional documents.

I hope you find this information helpful. It would be a shame for eligible West Virginians to miss out on a payment that they are entitled to by law.

Remember, the deadline to apply is October 15th. Please visit www.irs.gov for more details. If you do not have internet access or would prefer to attain information over the phone, you can contact the IRS at 1-866-234-2942.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MEMORIAL DAY, 2008

May 26 is Memorial Day, the day we set aside each year to remember and honor those men and women who gave their lives in service to our Nation. All across the United States, families will be visiting the grave sites of their loved ones. Among rows of tombstones, adorned with small American flags, they will lay wreathes and pay their respects to those who served our country with honor and distinction in our Nation's wars.

This year, like all Memorial Days since September 11, 2001, has very special meaning as troops are engaged in hostilities in Afghanistan and Iraq. They are again showing that freedom does not come cheap. It is too often paid for not only in dollars but in the lives of America's best.

Writing about the thousands of soldiers who lost their lives during the battle at Antietam, Civil War historian Bruce Catton explained that those men did not die for a few feet of a cornfield or a rocky hill. They died so that this country might be permitted to go on, and that it might be permitted to fulfill the great hope of our Founding Fathers. So may it be said of all those courageous men and women who gave their lives in our

Nation's wars. They served and they sacrificed to defend our country, to protect our freedom and our liberties. As President Abraham Lincoln said of those soldiers who fell in the Battle of Gettysburg, they "gave their lives that this Nation might live."

It is my hope that on Memorial Day, all Americans will take time to remember those who have fought and died to preserve our great Nation. The personal suffering and sacrifice endured by our fallen soldiers and their families for the sake of our country must not go without a measure of recognition by each of us on this most solemn of days. These were real people, not just statistics in a history book or names chiseled on stone. These were young men and women with sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, hopes, dreams, aspirations and fears like the rest of us.

But on this Memorial Day, we must also remember to pray for those American service men and women who are now in harm's way on the other side of the globe, in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in other foreign lands. They are doing their duty for the Nation they cherish, and the families they love.

May 14, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

TIME TO INVEST IN AMERICA

This week, the U.S. Senate is debating the President's most recent emergency war supplemental funding request. I am frankly disturbed that while the tragic war in Iraq continues into its sixth year, critical priorities here at home continue to go unaddressed.

It is indefensible that, in his latest request, the President has not asked for funding to invest in America or to help Americans deal with a faltering economy. When it comes to Iraq, it appears that money is no object for President Bush. Yet when it comes to important priorities here at home, he turns into Ebenezer Scrooge.

The Congress has to date approved \$45 billion for reconstruction projects in Iraq. Now, despite the fact that the Iraqi government is running a huge surplus from oil revenues, the President is asking this Congress to approve another \$5.6 billion of American taxpayer dollars for reconstructing Iraq.

The President wants money to build schools in Sadr City, but not in Shepherdstown. The President wants money for Mosul, but not one dime for Morgantown. He is eager to fund projects in Baghdad, but not Beckley, Buckhannon, or Berkeley Springs.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will support our

troops, as I always have, by giving them the funding they need. We must also support and honor our troops when they return home from the battlefield. That is why we have included in the supplemental bill a provision sponsored by Senators Jim Webb and John Warner of Virginia that would provide service members who have served on active duty since September 11, 2001, including activated reservists and National Guard, with improved educational benefits similar to those provided veterans who served in the World War II-era.

As Americans struggle to find work during the current economic downturn, we have also included in the legislation an extension of unemployment benefits by 13 weeks for all workers nationwide and an additional 13 weeks for workers in high-unemployment states. This extension is critically needed and mirrors actions taken in recent recessions. We will also roll back Medicaid regulations proposed by the Bush Administration that would disrupt coverage for our most vulnerable citizens.

It is deeply distressing that the President continues to favor investing in Iraq above investing in the United States. We must not lose sight of which priorities come first, and American needs must come first.

May 21, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FAILURE TO FUND HOMELAND SECURITY KEEPS US AT RISK

Since its inception, convincing President Bush of the urgent need to adequately fund the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has proven to be a constant struggle. As Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, I have persistently criticized the Bush administration's insufficient homeland security budget requests because I know that American lives are on the line.

When DHS was established in November 2002, the president announced, "Our government will take every possible measure to safeguard our country and our people." I do not believe the president has lived up to that promise. His budget requests do not provide nearly enough dollars to support the more than 200,000 dedicated men and women who are working every day to keep our nation safe.

In February 2008, when Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell released the Annual Threat Assessment, we were given crystal-clear evidence that potential attacks on our homeland have not diminished. He confirmed that al Qaeda has regrouped in Pakistan and that terrorists continue to pose a significant threat to the United States.

Terrorists are likely to continue to focus on prominent infrastructure targets with the goal of producing mass casualties and significant economic damage.

Remarkably, even the alarming information contained in this threat

assessment was not enough to convince President Bush of the need to increase his DHS fiscal year 2009 budget request, which is flat. While the administration asserted that it had requested an increase of seven percent for the coming fiscal year, an accurate calculation tells us something different. The president's fuzzy math does not include the \$2.7 billion of funding for border security that Congress provided in the last emergency funding bill. Even the President's budget for 2009 recognizes that most of that emergency funding was provided not simply to address a one-time need. Rather, it constitutes a vital component of border security funding that must be supported on an on-going basis.

I am particularly troubled by the President's 48 percent proposed \$2 billion cut to first-responder grants. Hurricane Katrina tragically demonstrated how unprepared local communities are to respond to major disasters in the absence of effective support from the federal government. Dramatically cutting funds for emergency planning and for our police, fire, and emergency medical personnel will only make matters worse.

The American public can be assured that the Congress, with this Senator leading the charge, will fight to restore President Bush's reckless cuts to our homeland defense.

May 28, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

HONORING OUR FATHERS

Last month, in honor of Mother's Day, women across West Virginia were treated to cards, flowers, calls, hugs and kisses, brunches, and gifts. Retailers urged more extravagant manifestations of love for our wives and mothers, offering a dazzling array of heart-shaped diamond jewelry – all of which is certainly deserved, if not always affordable!

Sunday, June 15th, fathers get their due. A less extravagant selection -- coffee mugs, cologne, and, of course, neckties -- constitute the classic Father's Day gift assortment. Still, I am sure that most American fathers will enjoy being the center of the family's attention on Sunday.

Fathers deserve their day in the limelight. Good fathers are very busy men, and their contributions to the family merit recognition just as much as their equally busy wives do. They often fulfill the stereotypical 'Dad role' – keeping the house and the yard in good repair, even if it means tackling mechanical or construction activities for which they have little skill. They assist with homework and school projects, patiently helping to build foaming volcanoes or dioramas. They teach children to fish, paddle a canoe, or ride a bicycle. Good fathers want great

things for their children, and always let them know that they believe in them.

The man who raised me, the man I always called Dad, my adoptive father, was just such a good man. Every night he walked home from the coal mines, tired and caked with coal dust. Tired as he was, he always greeted me with a smile. Sometimes he had a cupcake in his lunch box, saved just for me. Even though I wanted to go into the mines like him, he always told me to do well in school instead. He wanted better for me than he had, and he put his energy into urging me to improve myself. His influence has been a resource for me my whole life.

For children, to have a great father, whether he is one's biological or adoptive father, or simply a father figure who influenced one's youth, is a very special thing indeed. Their children have the security of knowing, always, that they are loved and that someone is rooting for them and looking out for them. In that security, a child can find the confidence to try and to fail, and to get up and try again. It is a great and lasting gift that our fathers give to each of us, one that certainly deserves one day of specific recognition each year

June 4, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FLAG DAY

As we celebrate Flag Day in June and look forward to the Fourth of July, I thought it an appropriate time to reflect on the origins of "Old Glory".

Early in our nation's history, many flags flew over the land that would become the United States of America. The British Union Jack, the Spanish flag, the French flag, and others identified territory and colonies under the control of those nations. As the colonies and various fighting forces organized themselves to take up the call of the new nation-to-be, many new flags began to fly. The flags, with their various designs and slogans, sought to establish a separate and often defiant new identity for our burgeoning nation.

During the War of Independence, the Continental Congress had to choose a flag under which the armies and colonies could unite. On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution establishing a national flag for the United States. It stated simply, "... the flag of the United States shall be of thirteen stripes of alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars of white upon a blue field, representing a new constellation." The thirteen stripes and stars symbolized the thirteen colonies that had fought for and won the

liberty to establish the new nation.

The flag grew and changed, adding stripes as well as stars before it was recognized that the expansion of the states was greater than the flag's pattern could bear.

Early in 1818, a Congressional committee presented a report recommending a proposal by Chester Reid, a naval captain and hero of the war of 1812. His suggestion was that the thirteen-stripe flag honored the original thirteen Colonies, and that new states could be honored by the simple addition of stars, to reflect the growth of the new constellation.

Old Glory still serves to unite our nation today. It is both commonplace, seen daily in front of post offices and schools, and yet hallowed, placed with solemn care over the coffin of a veteran or flying at half mast to mark a tragedy. It is also a symbol of patriotic pride, carried proudly by Olympic athletes or streaming in the wind behind a mighty warship. And who can forget the sudden, spontaneous, outbreak of U.S. flags that erupted across the nation in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy? That act captured the essence of our flag and the American spirit -- a nation defiant, strong, and united in the face of adversity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

BETTER INVESTMENTS FOR OUR ENERGY FUTURE

West Virginians are rightly frustrated with rising gasoline prices. During the last eight years, gas prices have quadrupled, causing terrible pains at the pump. Rural and mountainous states like West Virginia are hit harder than most due to our longer commutes and mountainous roads.

Not surprisingly, energy companies and their friends in Congress are attempting to take advantage of these frustrations. They have their sights set on drilling in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska. This, and similar drilling proposals, are not new. But as in the past, these industry-backed proposals usually mean more profits for the oil companies without helping American drivers.

Oil and gas companies hold leases to 92 million acres of Federal lands, but are drilling on only 25 percent of it. Doing so would produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil per day, about one-third of what the United States imports daily. Instead, oil and gas companies are stockpiling drilling permits in the hopes of higher profits. They are also resisting royalty payments for the resources extracted from Federal lands, even as they are benefitting from billions of dollars in sweetheart tax breaks enacted in recent years.

Given this history, I am more than a little skeptical about opening even more federal lands for oil and gas

exploration. Environmental arguments aside, these public lands and their resources belong to the American people. Simply handing them to multinational conglomerates and hoping American consumers are treated fairly at the pump is naive.

But rather than coddling the industry, let's use our leverage to ensure that oil companies minimize price increases. Let's have extensive Congressional and Federal investigations into price gouging and the obscene salaries for industry executives (since 2004, the top five oil conglomerates reported incomes totaling \$424 billion and not a dime was returned to American motorists!).

Because the oil industry benefits from taxpayer subsidies, we should insist that their profits be invested in long-term programs that benefit American consumers. Then we can improve mass transit and light rail systems, and develop technologies that rely more upon domestic energy resources like coal. This plan would help promote jobs in West Virginia and across America, while reducing the amount of checks to oil-producing nations overseas.

Simply opening more land to drilling does not fix our problem. Oil is a finite resource, and once it's gone, it's gone forever. We have a moral responsibility to invest in resources here at home and to save for future generations.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WEST VIRGINIA DAY 2008

Certain dates on the calendar carry special meaning. These are great and glorious days that are given to devoted reverence and are a cause for recognition and adoration. Thanksgiving, the Fourth of July, and New Years Eve are a few dates that come immediately to mind. Another one that came to my mind, as it does every year, was June 20 – the day we celebrated West Virginia Day.

For it was on June 20, 1863, that West Virginia became the 35th state of the union. The state proudly adopted as its motto, the phrase, “Montani semper liberi,” which means, “Mountaineers are always free.”

This was a most appropriate motto for a state born in the middle of the greatest struggle for freedom and liberty in American history – the Civil War. And West Virginians have always strived to live up to our state motto.

West Virginia workers were in the forefront of the historic labor struggles in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that sought an end to the exploitation and oppression of American workers that had accompanied the Industrial Revolution. In 1877, the Nation's first general strike began among the railroad workers and citizens of Martinsburg, West Virginia, after the railroad tycoons

repeatedly lowered wages. Seeking to end the industrial autocracy that had engulfed the state with the opening of the coal fields in the 1880s, West Virginia coal miners, engaged in a series of conflicts now recognized as the West Virginia Mine Wars.

West Virginia has also played an important role in the quest of African Americans for liberty and equality. For one thing, West Virginia has been the site of some of the important events in African-American history. Prior to the Civil War, John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry prefigured West Virginia's breakaway from the slaveholding Confederacy into full statehood. And Harpers Ferry later served as the setting for the second meeting of the Niagara Movement, a meeting that led to the formation of the NAACP.

I am very proud of my state and honored to represent it in the United States Senate. I have always appreciated its kind, good, and generous people and the way they have retained what I call the “old values” -- faith in god, love of country, family, honesty, decency, and integrity. And a leading value of West Virginians, as I have tried to show, has been our motto, “Mountaineers are always free.”

As always, happy birthday West Virginia. May God always bless you, and keep you free.

June 25, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WEST VIRGINIA AND COAST GUARD: WORKING HAND IN HAND TOGETHER

While landlocked West Virginia is miles and miles away from the ocean's edge, many West Virginians would be surprised to learn of the large United States Coast Guard presence in the Mountain State.

The men and women of the Coast Guard provide a critical service to the nation, safeguarding our citizens, securing our maritime borders, and serving as stewards of the world's oceans. And over the years in my capacity as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Homeland Security, I have worked to pair national security needs with Coast Guard opportunities in West Virginia. The Mountain State is able to provide a high-quality, low-cost home for vital national initiatives. Those initiatives provide West Virginia with substantial economic investments which mean a win-win scenario for the Coast Guard, for West Virginia, and for the taxpayers of America.

Our most recent success story occurred on June 26, 2008, as Coast Guard officials dedicated a new state-of-the-art National Maritime Center (NMC) facility in Martinsburg. The mission of the NMC is to issue credentials to fully qualified mariners in the most effective and efficient manner possible in order to assure a safe, secure, economically efficient, and environmentally sound Marine Transportation System.

More than 220,000 merchant mariners and hundreds of firms depend on the NMC. Merchant Mariners must meet strict standards of capability, health, and security to work on U.S. flagged ships, ranging from charter fishing boats to cruise ships to international cargo shippers.

In 2003, I directed the Coast Guard to undertake an assessment of the costs and benefits of co-locating the Mariner License and Documentation function with the National Vessel Documentation Center in Falling Waters. In addition, I secured a \$12 million appropriation to restructure and centralize the facility in the Eastern Panhandle.

The National Maritime Center in Martinsburg now joins the Coast Guard's Operations System Center and the National Vessel Documentation Center in the Eastern Panhandle. And with this new facility, the Coast Guard has once again proven what I have been saying for years: federal agencies can have offices in Washington, but also get far more bang for the federal buck by locating other key operations in West Virginia. I'm going to keep working to find West Virginia solutions to national needs. We've shown that West Virginians can get the job done. We have the workforce. We have the infrastructure to support demanding high-tech projects. We have an excellent quality of life. Overall, there is no beating West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE GREEN BANK TELESCOPE PROVES AN EINSTEIN THEORY

This month, scientists working with the National Science Foundation's Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope published the results of a study that supports Albert Einstein's 93-year-old theory of General Relativity. Put simply, the General Theory of Relativity proposed that matter causes space to curve. Einstein theorized that smaller masses travel toward larger masses not because they are drawn in by a mysterious force, but because the smaller masses travel through space that is warped by the larger object. This theory has intrigued many scientists over the years, but it has been difficult to find evidence to prove it.

The telescope at Green Bank allowed the scientists, including Maura McLaughlin of West Virginia University, as well researchers from Canada, Great Britain, France, Italy and the United States, to examine a unique pair of twinned neutron stars, or pulsars, 1,700 light-years from Earth whose orbital plane is aligned nearly perfectly with their line of sight to the Earth. This configuration causes the lighthouse-like beams of radio waves emitted by each pulsar to be blocked, or eclipsed, as they orbit each other every two and a half hours. These eclipses allowed the astronomers to verify Einstein's 1915 theory, which predicted that in

a close system of two very massive objects, such as neutron stars, one object's gravitational tug, along with an effect of its spinning around its axis, should cause the spin axis of the other object to "precess," or wobble like a spinning top.

Theories of gravity do not differ significantly in ordinary regions of space, such as our Solar System, but in regions of extremely strong gravity fields, such as that surrounding the twinned pulsars, the differences predicted by Einstein were expected to show up. Confirming the wobbling tested key details, building the case for the accuracy of Einstein's theory.

The Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope in Pocahontas County is the world's largest fully steerable radio telescope. Dedicated in August 2000, its unusual design includes small motor-driven pistons at the corner of each of the 2,004 panels that make up the surface of the telescope, allowing the surface of the dish to be precisely adjusted for critical high-frequency performance.

The Green Bank telescope has again proven its worth in international science, astronomy and physics. Today, it has enabled scientists to prove some of Albert Einstein's greatest theories about space and time. Who knows what tomorrow will bring?



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

TAKING THE STING OUT OF BUSH'S CUTS TO THE MEDICARE PROGRAM

This past week, the House and the Senate reversed President Bush's callous veto of Medicare legislation. The President's action would have had devastating effects on our nation's Medicare program and on the more than 44 million American seniors who depend on the program for all or part of their health care.

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 will prevent doctors' Medicare reimbursement payments from being slashed by a whopping 10.6 percent over the next 18 months. Reimbursements from Medicare to West Virginia doctors alone could have been reduced by \$80 million dollars over this period. If this cut had gone into effect, as the Bush Administration was advocating, it was widely expected that many doctors would simply stop treating Medicare patients.

As West Virginia is a largely rural state, a failure to reverse the President's veto would have also created new challenges to those seeking to obtain quality health care services in their own backyard. However, with the override of the President's veto -- which I supported -- Congress has helped to ensure that rural health care facilities and providers have the resources they need to deliver quality health care in their communities.

With inpatient care facilities being far and few between in rural areas -- in

some instances the sole community hospital can be 50 miles away -- the legislation seeks to update the data that is used to reimburse sole community hospitals for care, which will most likely mean an increase in payments to those facilities.

By exploring ways to better coordinate care among critical access hospitals, home health, nursing homes and other providers, the bill aids rural communities that are in danger of losing specialty health care services that seniors need close to home. This will enable rural West Virginians to have a full complement of health care options.

In addition, the bill increases Medicare payments for ground ambulance services in rural areas. For rural ambulance providers, the bill requires more consideration of a physician's recommendation for air ambulance services when Medicare seeks justification for the expense.

Overall, the measure would increase coverage of preventive health care services, provide more affordable mental health care and help more low-income seniors access the subsidies and assistance that make Medicare more affordable.

It is distressing that President Bush fails to realize the importance of health care access for our seniors. It is fortunate that the Congress had the wisdom to reverse this ill-advised veto.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

ONGOING OVERSIGHT OF WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

The Senate Appropriations Committee recently held its second hearing on the topic of waste, fraud, and abuse in Iraq and Afghanistan. I scheduled this hearing because I want to confront the lack of oversight regarding contracts awarded for services and construction in Iraq, and the failure by the Departments of Defense and Justice to aggressively investigate and prosecute contract fraud and abuse. This lack of oversight has resulted in tens of billions of tax dollars having been lost or wasted on bad contractors and shoddy workmanship – even resulting in the deaths of our soldiers. According to some sources, some of those U.S. funds and weapons have made their way to foreign insurgent groups that have used them against our own soldiers.

The Army's funding of contracts has increased by more than 350 percent over the last 11 years, while the government's oversight workforce has decreased by more than 50 percent. Too few auditors and too few contract specialists mean no one is watching the store when it comes to contracts and private contractors. Too few investigators are being tasked with bring-

ing perpetrators of fraud, waste, and corruption to justice and with recovering stolen billions. There are individuals living high on the hog in the United States and in cities across Europe and the Middle East on these stolen tax dollars.

The FBI has a grand total of only five investigators working these cases in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a result of the lack of enforcement actions, more unsavory characters can get away with bilking the U.S. taxpayer or the Iraqi government, embezzling funds, taking and making bribes, substituting inferior goods or inferior workmanship, or just plain stealing. This illegal activity takes money directly away from the pressing needs of our troops and the needs of the Iraqi and Afghan people.

Congress needs to make "collars and dollars" our motto – more arrests, more indictments, and more funds recovered. We need to be much more aggressive about minimizing the waste, fraud, and abuse associated with these wars. I am determined to address these issues. It is outrageous that the Bush Administration has turned a blind eye to such abuses.

July 23, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

OUR OLYMPIANS

The 2008 Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, begin on August 8th in Beijing, China. The motto of this year's games is "One World, One Dream," and viewers around the world will surely tune in to see athletes in 28 different sports attempt to make their Olympic dreams come true in each of the 302 events.

Since the original games in 776 B.C., the Olympics have brought together great athletes in a setting of peaceful competition. When the modern Olympic Games were reestablished in 1896, 241 participants from 14 nations took part. In Beijing, more than 10,500 athletes from more than 200 nations are expected to compete.

Several athletes at the 2008 Summer Games have ties to West Virginia, so everyone in our state also may feel a special interest in the USA baseball team, riflery team, and women's track and field events. These competitors also have ties to West Virginia University, so Mountaineer alumni around the country surely will be cheering on these special athletes.

Jeremy Cummings, of Charleston, played baseball for South Charleston High School and West Virginia University before beginning a career in minor league baseball that took him across the United States, Canada and even Taiwan.

Cummings currently lives in Huntington, where he is completing work on his undergraduate degree at Marshall University. Playing on team USA in this most American of sports at the Olympics in Beijing will be a career highlight that he will share with an elite group of just 23 other baseball players in the United States.

A 2005 West Virginia University alumna from Edmonton, Alberta, Megan Metcalfe will represent Canada in the 5,000 meter track event. Metcalfe was a nine-time All-American at WVU in both cross country and track and field. She still lives and trains in Morgantown under WVU track and field and cross country coach Sean Cleary. She also works part-time as a physical therapist at Ruby Memorial Hospital.

West Virginia University alumni and WVU rifle coach since 2006, John Hammond will also compete in the Beijing Olympics. A native of Aberdeen, Scotland, Hammond will represent Great Britain in three events: the 50-meter prone, three-position, and 60-shot air rifle. Any success he enjoys may result in a medal for Great Britain, but it will reflect admirably on West Virginia and the United States as well.

Best wishes to Team USA and to our West Virginia Olympians!

July 30, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

SUMMER FUN CLOSE TO HOME

The uncertain economy and high gas prices have put a dent in many families' paychecks this summer. Across the United States, people are cutting back and pinching pennies. Rising airline ticket costs and other travel fees have made air travel increasingly unaffordable, especially for families. The Travel Industry Association projects that summer travel will drop 1.5 percent from last year, and other industry sources say that trips this year tend to be shorter and closer to home.

Fortunately, West Virginia is full of beautiful, exciting, historic and artistic destinations that can fill a summer vacation schedule without emptying the gas tank. The West Virginia tourism website, www.wvtourism.com, is a great place to start your planning. It features upcoming events around the state, from county fairs to festivals, summer concerts to dinner theaters. It also offers links to targeted web sites that can help plan trips around a variety of different themes, such as golf, river sports, history, outdoor adventures, and cultural activities.

Information about West Virginia's 48 state parks, forests and wildlife management areas can be found at www.wvstateparks.com. These parks are not just for picnics, as the busy calendar of events demonstrates. Hiking, nature walks, Appalachian dance, square dancing – you

are sure to get a fun workout at a West Virginia state park! You can make reservations on-line for events, programs, and lodging. Pet friendly cabins are available in many locations, so the entire family can enjoy the summer vacation.

History abounds in West Virginia, from family histories to museums and sites linked to American history and industry. Explore the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine and Museum, the New Deal Homestead Museum in Arthurdale, and do not overlook the Cass Scenic Railroad State Park or Harpers Ferry National Historic Park. Children young and old might enjoy a trip to Wheeling for the Kruger Street Toy and Train Museum, the Official Marx Toy Museum and the Museums of Oglebay Institute. You can even visit prehistoric sites. The West Virginia Division of Culture and History, at www.wvculture.org, is a good place to start, with links to the National Register of Historic Places, cemetery information for those interested in family history, and news about frontier forts and prehistoric archeological sites in the state.

Though this summer's tough economy has forced us to become more cost conscious, it also challenges us to be more adventurous about exploring new destinations close to home – in Wild and Wonderful West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

INVESTING IN WEST VIRGINIA'S AIR NATIONAL GUARD

West Virginia's Air National Guard -- composed of the 167th Airlift Wing based at Shepherd Field in Martinsburg and the 130th Airlift Wing at Yeager Airbase in Charleston -- is not only a major asset to the U.S. military, but also a vital part of the West Virginia community. As your Senator, I am committed to supporting the men and women of the 167th and 130th by providing them with the resources they need to thrive for many years to come.

In 2005, when Yeager Airbase was placed on the Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list, I worked alongside state, local, and federal officials in coordination with the West Virginia National Guard and grassroots supporters to save the base. I am now renewing my efforts in the Senate to update and expand the Guard's capabilities in Charleston.

To that end, I added \$27 million this year to legislation for the construction of a C-130 fuel cell hangar. Eventually, the C-130 hangar will be connected to a new maintenance hangar that will be built with funds I secured last year. Together, the new facilities would expand capabilities at Yeager and help to protect the facility from potential efforts to close the base.

I have also been working

to support enhancements and upgrades to the Martinsburg Airbase. In 1999, I began working with Pentagon officials to bring ten C-5 transport planes to the 167th in Martinsburg.

One of the largest aircraft in the world, the C-5 is a true marvel. With its unique capabilities, it is invaluable to Air Force military and humanitarian efforts. The first of the new fleet of C-5 aircraft landed in Martinsburg in 2006. Once the C-5 unit is fully operational, the 167th anticipates an additional 200 full-time jobs. The annual economic impact is expected to increase to at least \$50 million a year annually.

To support construction of the C-5, I have worked in the Senate to fund the infrastructure needed to accommodate this project. Recently, I announced \$14.5 million in contract awards for the construction of a C-5 Squadron Operations facility, the continued development of the base's parking apron, and for runway expansion projects at the airport.

Recently, twenty-eight members of the 167th Airlift Wing shipped out for duty in Iraq. I, along with all West Virginians, wish them Godspeed and a safe return home. With top-notch facilities, leadership, and training, I know they will continue to be the pride of our state and the nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

LABOR DAY 2008

The first Monday in September is set aside each year to recognize the dignity of work and to thank American workers for their contribution to creating a better and stronger country.

Labor Day is an honorable American tradition. In 1893, legislation was introduced in Congress to establish Labor Day as a federal holiday. The next year, President Grover Cleveland signed the legislation into law, and 115 years later, we still use this day to honor those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow.

Four years ago, I used my Byrd's Eye View on Labor Day as the opportunity to celebrate some of the great labor leaders our state has produced. That column received so much favorable attention that I decided to honor those individuals again this year and recognize our state's pride in their accomplishments.

Frank Keeney, Fred Mooney, and Bill Blizzard were West Virginia coal miners and rank-and-file leaders who helped lay the foundation for the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in our state. Arnold Miller of Cabin Creek was a leader in the black lung movement in the 1960's who, in 1972, was elected president of the UMWA. Current UMWA president Cecil Roberts also hails from Cabin Creek.

John Easton of Williamstown was a flint glass worker who served

as president of the West Virginia State Federation of Labor during the 1920's and as an official in the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) in the 1930's.

Miles Stanley of Dunbar was president of his local steelworkers union and helped to negotiate the merger that formed the West Virginia AFL-CIO, of which he served as president from 1957 to 1974.

Ned Guthrie of Morgantown was the national legislative director of the American Federation of Musicians Union in the 1980's and was instrumental in bringing collective bargaining rights to that profession.

Joseph W. Powell was president of the West Virginia AFL-CIO for 23 years (1974-1997). Mr. Powell was recently inducted into the Southwestern District Labor Council's Hall of Fame.

And there was the great Walter Reuther from Wheeling, who was president of the United Auto Workers in 1946, president of the CIO in 1952, and vice president of the AFL-CIO in 1955.

This Labor Day, I thank all West Virginia workers. The work they do each day, whether mining coal, pumping gas, cutting meat in a grocery store, or serving the public, is important. West Virginia's history boasts many well-known labor leaders, but it is all of us, working together, that combine to make America a great nation.

August 20, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

CREATE YOUR OWN CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION!

The Constitution of the United States will celebrate its 221st birthday on September 17, 2008. On or near that date, I hope that citizens across our great land will honor our National Charter in thoughtful and creative ways. By law, September 17th has been designated Constitution and Citizenship Day. This is the date, in 1787, on which the Constitution was signed by the Framers in Philadelphia.

In December 2004, I helped to enact the federal law that designates September 17th of each year as Constitution and Citizenship Day. I did so because I care deeply about this precious document. On and around September 17th, I would like all Americans to take the time to read the text of the Constitution. Each and every American needs to better comprehend the genius of this extraordinary document. When I declare that every American needs to dedicate themselves more fully to the study of our Constitution, I refer to Members of Congress and Presidents, as well as all other Americans.

Consequently, I invite all Americans to come together in mid-September to read, analyze, and reflect on the Constitution. It is a learned and dynamic document. Brilliant in its brevity, it remains extraordinary in its wisdom. It protects our individual liberties. It

reveals the courage and creativity of our forefathers. How commendable that they put aside their personal differences to create this special document for the common good! In so doing, they created the unique and incomparable separation of powers that is reflected by the three branches of our government.

My hope is that citizens of every State in the Union, including children, will be inspired to organize local celebrations of Constitution Day. Just as the National Education Project for the past three years has organized "Constitution Day on the National Mall" here in Washington, D.C., people across the nation, in every large city and small town, should organize their own spectacular event in honor of Constitution Day. Let us spread the excitement of celebrating Constitution Day on September 17th far and wide, through every hill and dale, across the Great Plains, through the Deep South, across the West, the Southwest, the Northeast, as well as up and down the Atlantic Seaboard, and especially in West Virginia.

Let us all unite on September 17, 2008, to appreciate our magnificent Constitution.

I hope that you will work with me to preserve and protect our Constitution in this new and exciting way.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

Seven years ago a pleasant autumn morning became a day of horror. Terrorists hijacked four American commercial passenger jets and used them in their barbaric, twisted plot. Two airliners struck the World Trade Center in New York City. A third slammed into the Pentagon. A fourth, on direct course with the U.S. Capitol, was diverted by brave passengers and crashed into a field in Pennsylvania, killing all on board.

We will never forget the sights of that day: the collapse of those buildings, people running through the streets, the plumes of smoke that emerged from Ground Zero and the gaping hole in the Pentagon, the very symbol of America's military might.

The tragic events of that day certainly transformed our world. When we saw that second plane slam into the Twin Towers, we all sensed that America would never be the same again. The world's most powerful and wealthiest nation suddenly and shockingly discovered that it too, was vulnerable. Our great country became a nation under siege as security check points increased and security everywhere intensified. Electronic billboards appeared over our interstate highways telling motorists to report "suspicious activity."

Among the transformations of that day was that, for a while, ours became a united

country. The terrorist attack of 9/11 had cut across all racial, religious, economic and ethnic lines, and, as a result, our country was united in emotion and purpose. For a while, Americans were unified in our determination to seek out and destroy the terrorists who had attacked us.

And, for a while, much of the world was united. "We are all Americans," proclaimed the French newspaper *Le Monde*, shortly after the attacks of 9/11.

For a while, the American people and the nations of the world rallied behind President Bush as he undertook a war against the dreaded terrorists. All of us were ready and willing to go after the butchers who had taken the lives of so many innocent people, so many of our fellow countrymen.

But then President Bush became determined to shift the war to Iraq, and everything changed. The war with Iraq has deeply divided our formerly unified country. And, because of Mr. Bush's War, we find ourselves more and more isolated from the rest of the world. The war on terror has bogged down, and Osama Bin Laden remains alive and well because of the Bush War in Iraq.

That 9/11 has come to symbolize not only the tragic loss of innocent life, but also a lost opportunity, may be among the most far reaching consequences of that autumn day seven years ago.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

THOSE WEST VIRGINIA HILLS

September 15 is a special day in the history of our great state. It was on that day in 1885 that a little newspaper in Gilmer County, the *Glennville Crescent*, published a poem by Ellen Ruddell King.

The poem was only four verses, but in it, Mrs. King, who was born in Glennville, April 22, 1846, not only captured the beauty and grace of the rolling green hills of West Virginia, but expressed the pride that the people of West Virginia have in them. There are some indications that Mrs. King may have collaborated with her husband, the Reverend David H. King, in writing the poem. Nevertheless, the poem is clearly identified as Mrs. King's creation, and it was magnificent and appealing.

A farmer and music teacher from Philippi, Henry Everett Engle, read Mrs. King's poem and was so moved by it that he decided to make a song of it. He composed the music for it along with a chorus. Soon, people all over our state were singing what would become one of the most recognized and beloved songs in our state, "The West Virginia Hills."

In 1960, the West Virginia Music Education Association began urging the state to formally adopt Mrs. King's song as the state song of West Virginia. The effort was successful. On February 3, 1961, the West Virginia State Legislature passed a resolution to

officially adopt "The West Virginia Hills" as the state song of West Virginia.

Two years later, during the state's centennial year, 1963, "West Virginia, My Home Sweet Home," by Colonel Julian G. Hearne Jr. of Wheeling, and "This is My West Virginia," by Iris Bell of Charleston, were also adopted as state songs. Both of these are beautiful and touching songs that express the majesty of our state. But, Mrs. King's creation remains the most recognized and most beloved of our three state songs. I fondly recall the first stanza and chorus:

Oh, the West Virginia hills!
How majestic and how grand,
With their summits bathed in glory,
Like our Prince Immanuel's Land!
Is it any wonder then,
That my heart with rapture thrills,
As I stand once more with loved ones
On those West Virginia hills?

Oh, the hills,
Beautiful Hills,
How I love those West Virginia hills,
If o'er sea or land I roam,
Still I think of happy home,
And my friends among the West Virginia hills.

It all began on September 15, 1885.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Voter Registration Deadline is Nearing

Exercising our right to vote is perhaps the most fundamental responsibility we have as American citizens. An engaged electorate holds politicians and government officials accountable for addressing the needs of the people. It is the only means by which we can truly realize a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people," as described so eloquently by Abraham Lincoln in his famous Gettysburg Address. Millions of Americans have given their lives defending this sacred right.

The next leader of our country will face many extraordinary challenges - from fixing our broken economy to restoring America's leadership position in the world. In this great country of ours, it is up to you - the people - to decide who that leader will be. That is a great responsibility indeed! If you are an eligible West Virginia voter and have not registered, you will miss out on your chance to have a say in this critical matter.

Registering to vote is very simple. West Virginia has a toll-free hotline for voter information - **(866) SOS-VOTE** or **(866) 767 - 8683**. You can also find the West Virginia voter registration form and helpful information on eligibility online at <http://www.wvsos.com/elections/voters/registernow.htm>.

Once you have com-

pleted the registration form, mail it to your county clerk, whose address can be found at <http://www.wvsos.com/service/rosters/county-clerks.htm>. In order to be eligible to vote in the upcoming election, you must register by **October 14th**, which is just a few weeks away.

If you are going to be out of the state during the election, or are unable to vote in person, you can easily request an absentee ballot, which can be mailed or faxed to your County or Municipal Clerk. You can obtain an absentee ballot request form at <http://www.wvsos.com/service/findforms.htm>, or by calling **(866) SOS-VOTE**. You should receive the ballot in the mail in the following weeks. Be sure to return your completed ballot to the County or Municipal Clerk's office in time for them to receive it at least six days before the election.

Voting is essential to the success of democracy. The actions of the government affect your life and the lives of those around you. Make sure your voice is heard, and register to vote before October 14th. If you know of a family member, friend or neighbor who is not registered, please encourage them to do so. On Election Day - November 4th - regardless of which political party or candidate you support, let your voice be heard!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Wall Street in Turmoil

The shock waves storming through our financial markets and the resulting impact on our economy, and on everyday Americans, have left many citizens deeply anxious and justifiably angry. I share those feelings.

Company names like Merrill Lynch, Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers, and AIG, names that have stood for stability to the investing public for many years, have been shaken from their very foundations, causing turmoil on Wall Street and throughout the world's financial markets.

What is the average West Virginian to make of all this? I wish I could say that this will all blow over in a few days, but it will not. What are we to do? Fortunately, within our FDIC system, there are government financial guarantees in place protecting deposit and retirement accounts. A few websites you can visit to obtain more information are: www.fdic.gov, www.federalreserve.gov, and www.occ.treas.gov. Your questions also may be answered toll free by the FDIC Call Center at 877-275-3342.

In hopes of averting further erosion of our financial markets and to help stabilize the economy, the Bush Administration has responded with a request to Congress to place \$700 billion – that is BILLION – in the hands of one government official to spend without review by any court or agency!

Congress must not rush to judgment on this proposal. We need to take a good, hard, close look at this request and carefully weigh its consequences, for the short and long terms for our economy, for our families, and for our government. The Constitutional system of checks and balances in our government must be preserved and not suddenly surrendered in the midst of misunderstood panic.

The request for such unchecked authority is shocking, and the price tag is so staggering, that if approved, our national debt as a percentage of our gross domestic product (GDP) would rise to its highest level since 1954, a time when we were still paying for World War II. Moreover, our federal budget deficit could approach an unfathomable \$1 trillion for a single fiscal year. This could force draconian cuts in almost every federal domestic program and might further hinder economic recovery for people on Main Street.

The poison seeds of this calamity – deregulation and lax enforcement – have been sown over the past eight years by the same Administration that proposes this disturbing remedy. One thing is certain as we move forward with efforts to restore confidence in our financial markets - there must be greater, not less, Congressional oversight of our overwhelmingly complex financial systems and the government entities that oversee and regulate them.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Early Voting May be a Convenience for West Virginians

A reliable, quick, and relatively simple way for registered voters to make certain that we complete our civic duty in the upcoming general election is to vote early, meaning prior to the general election date of November 4, 2008. West Virginia began in-person early voting in 2002, and it has enjoyed increased popularity in recent elections.

This year, the period of in-person early voting in West Virginia begins twenty days before the election, and it continues until three days before the election. This means that most in-person early voting in West Virginia will generally occur Monday through Friday from October 15 to November 1, 2008. Early voting hours on those dates will range from roughly 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,* with the precise hours, listed by county, available at the following website: <http://www.wvvotes.com/voters/documents/EarlyVotingHours.pdf>

Early voting will also be available on the two Saturdays before the election, October 25, 2008, and November 1, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Clerk of the County Commission (County Clerk) is responsible for the administration of early voting. A voter need only go to the County Clerk's Office and ask to vote early in-person. He or she may then vote, just as they

would on election day in a voting booth at their normal precinct. If a paper ballot is used, the voted ballot will be sealed in an envelope and placed in a ballot box. Then, on election day, that ballot will go to the voter's normal precinct, where it will be counted or placed with other ballots for computer tabulation.

The area reserved for early voting at the courthouse must conform to the same requirements applicable to a regular polling place. Such requirements include that a sufficient number of voting booths or devices be available, and they must be arranged to provide the voter with complete privacy. Further, all ballots, both voted and unvoted, must be secured at all times. In addition, the location must be accessible to voters with physical disabilities, and no "electioneering" is permitted on the property of the courthouse during the period of voting.

Additional information concerning early voting is available by writing the Office of the West Virginia Secretary of State, Bldg. 1, Suite 157K, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E.

Charleston, WV 25305; by telephoning (304) 558-6000; or by accessing the web at:

<http://www.wvvotes.com/voters/early-voting.php>

* Some counties' hours of operation may differ slightly on certain days of the week.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FABULOUS FALL IN WEST VIRGINIA

How truly blessed we are in West Virginia by the beauty of our State, and never is that beauty more apparent than with the coming of the lovely fall foliage. As the days turn shorter, and the frost draws nigh, we have a few precious weeks to enjoy all of the colors cascading through the hills. No place on God's Earth can parallel the views of our majestic mountains and valleys, awash with fiery reds, warm amber, vibrant auburn, and golden hues.

So striking is our fall foliage that many travel every autumn to West Virginia to marvel at our wondrous hills, brushed with the colors of the season's pallet. "Leaf peepers," as they are often called, visit West Virginia every year to behold the bountiful beauty, and to take advantage of the renowned hospitality we offer. Luckily, this fall season in particular promises a grand display of color. The U.S. Forest Service is predicting a good year for fall foliage, and West Virginia should be particularly brilliant given the ample rain we received earlier in the year.

As the leaves begin to change, I am reminded of the Robert Frost poem, "Gathering Leaves." The poet wrote:

Spades take up leaves
No better than spoons,
And bags full of
leaves
Are light as balloons.

I make a great noise
Of rustling all day
Like rabbit and deer
Running away.

But the mountains I
raise
Elude my embrace,
Flowing over my arms
And into my face.

I may load and unload
Again and again
Till I fill the whole
shed,
And what have I then?

Next to nothing for
weight,
And since they grew
duller
From contact with
earth,
Next to nothing for
color.

Next to nothing for
use.
But a crop is a crop,
And who's to say
where
The harvest shall
stop?

I encourage all to get
out and enjoy the splendid
joys of our Creator during
this beautiful fall foliage
time.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

“EARMARKS” IS NOT A DIRTY WORD

In recent weeks, there has been an increased focus on the issue of Congress earmarking funds for specific projects. Some Members of Congress and even one of the presidential candidates have asserted that all “earmarked” funding is wasteful spending or an abuse of power which should be ended.

Congress has the power of the purse. That is stipulated in the Constitution. Since the beginning of our Republic, Congress has allocated money for specific projects and purposes. For example, in 1798, \$3,500 was appropriated for firewood and candles for the Treasury Department, and \$454.41 was appropriated for rent at a house, “near Gray’s Ferry on the Schuylkill.”

An earmark is an explicit direction from the Congress about how the Federal Government should spend the people’s money. Yet earmarks are arguably the most criticized and the least understood of Congressional practices. Accounting for less than 1% of the federal budget, there is nothing inherently wrong with an earmark. It is absolutely consistent with the Framers intentions, codified in Article I of the Constitution, giving the power of the purse to the representatives of the people.

Well intentioned though they may be, the civil servants making budget decisions in the Executive agencies of the Federal Govern-

ment do not understand the communities that Members of Congress represent. They do not meet with the constituencies. Bureaucrats can be poor judges of what is necessary and what is frivolous from the perspective of the states and the people. These bureaucrats are not elected and therefore are not directly accountable to the people.

Earmarks serve an important purpose. They are the safety net for situations when formula funding fails or when extraordinary circumstances exist. Recently, I was in Putnam County to dedicate the opening of 2.1 miles of upgrades to U.S. Route 35. This new highway was the result of my efforts to secure dedicated funding, or earmarks, to move this project forward. We all know that it has never been easy to secure federal funds for the building of highways in West Virginia. Our beautiful mountains that we love so much also make it costly--up to \$25 million per mile --to build modern highways. Time and again, I have had to fight the Bush Administration and its supporters in the Congress to ensure that West Virginia is not left out when it comes to safer roads and bridges.

And you can bet that I will continue to push hard in the U.S. Senate, and use my experience, and earmarks, when necessary, to build for the future of the people of the great State of West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WHAT'S AT STAKE ON NOVEMBER 4TH

In these difficult times, some West Virginians are understandably upset with the direction of our country. This frustration, which has been building for years, is a natural response to job loss and the real-life consequences of eight years of a failing economy and a long, dismal war. As Americans suffer through the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, it is important to remember that things could be different. Leadership matters. Elections matter. Your vote really does count.

On November 4th, West Virginians and all Americans will have the opportunity to weigh in and select a new leader for our nation—and the stakes could not be higher.

In the more than six decades that I have served in public office—from the West Virginia House of Delegates to the U.S. Senate—I cannot remember a time when our country was in more urgent need of maximum participation by our citizens.

The question before us is clear. Do we want to continue on the path we have been traveling for the last eight years or do we wish to chart a new course?

Will we be satisfied with four more years of the same policies that have

led to a faltering economy and the loss of millions of jobs or will we opt for a new direction that tries to achieve sustainable economic growth?

Will we continue with what appears to be an endless war in Iraq, which has cost thousands of American lives and hundreds of billions of dollars or will we choose to find a way to end this ruinous occupation and bring our troops home with honor?

On November 4th, I urge you to fully consider what is at stake, and just how important this election will be for our country, for you, and for your family's future.

Voting is much more than a civic duty. It is a sacred privilege. At this pivotal moment in our history, we simply cannot afford more of the same kind of apathy we have seen in past elections. Our citizens need to demonstrate the courage to face challenges, voice their opinions, and participate in renewing the promise of America. West Virginians have always been at the head of the line when it comes to doing our duty for our great country. I am confident we will be there again. Whatever your political persuasion, go to the polls, take a friend, and vote.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

VETERAN'S DAY 2008

President John F. Kennedy liked to quote a poem found in an old sentry box at Gibraltar. The poem read:

God and the soldier, all men adore

In time of trouble and no more,

For when war is over, and all things righted,

God is neglected and the old soldier slighted.

The multitude of churches that cover our great land is a reminder that in the United States of America, God is not neglected. And Veterans Day is a vivid, powerful reminder of the debt that each and every American owes to our nation's veterans, and that they must never be slighted.

Veterans Day is a day of reverence. It is the one day of the year that we set aside to honor the people who have defended our country, our way of life, and our freedom. It is the day that a grateful nation takes the time to pause, to recognize, and to thank our bravest and finest citizens for their patriotism and their willingness to serve and to sacrifice.

The very origins of this day are both historic and symbolic. It began at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, that is, 11/11/11 of 1918, when the Allied Powers signed a cease-fire agreement with the Central Powers,

thus bringing to an end the bloody nightmare known as World War I.

The next year, the United States set aside November 11th as Armistice Day to remember and honor the sacrifices that men and women made during World War I. In 1926, a Congressional Resolution officially named November 11th Armistice Day. And twelve years later, in 1938, Congress made Armistice Day a national holiday.

In 1954, following World War II and the Korean War, Congress made November 11 a day to honor veterans of all wars, and, therefore, changed the name of this most important day to "Veterans Day."

Writing about the thousands of soldiers who lost their lives during the Civil War Battle of Antietam -- the bloodiest single day in American history -- the great historian of that war, Bruce Catton, explained that those men did not die for a few feet of a cornfield or a rocky hill. They died that our country might be permitted to go on, and that it might be permitted to fulfill the great hope of our Founding Fathers.

The same may be said of every person who has worn our Nation's uniform. They served and sacrificed to permit this country to go on, to fulfill the great hope of our Founding Fathers.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Relief for Main Street Americans

The recent economic meltdown on Wall Street has, regrettably, served as the final verdict on the failed economic policies of the past eight years. All the while, Americans on Main Street are facing even tougher times in the form of higher unemployment, rising food costs, and skyrocketing health care costs.

In September, Congress and the White House worked together to craft a package to rescue Wall Street in an effort to restore confidence in our credit markets and to shore up our faltering economy. Now that the government has taken action to address the credit crisis, I believe that we must address the struggles of Americans living on all of the Main Streets in West Virginia and all around the country.

The almost daily dismal statistics facing our economy are simply mind boggling. The U.S. economy has lost jobs every month this year, for a total of over 700,000 jobs. Construction has lost more than 525,000 jobs since September 2006. Manufacturing has lost 353,000 jobs since June 2007, and a recent report has indicated that the nation's manufacturing sector has fallen to a 26-year low. Auto sales have nosedived and consumer confidence is at a near 50-year low. Food prices have increased by

7.5 percent this year after increasing 4.9 percent in 2007. And despite some recent relief from prices at the pump, energy prices remain at very high levels – having risen more than 22% this year alone -- and the winter season has not yet arrived.

When Congress returns to work the week of November 17th, it is my hope that we move forward with a badly needed economic stimulus package that will create jobs, help Americans cope with high energy costs, and provide relief for those struggling to find work and put food on the table. There are major consequences for not investing in America and the American people.

Minimally, this package should include an extension of unemployment benefits for the jobless; a temporary increase in food stamp benefits; additional funding for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program; help for states to pay for Medicaid; and investing in our infrastructure in order to put people back to work.

I believe that the time to act on these priorities is now. If we can provide a \$700 billion bailout for Wall Street, then we in Congress, along with the Bush Administration, should support a targeted investment to create jobs and assist Americans on Main Street.

November 5, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE COMPETITION PROMOTES READING FOR STUDENTS

Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, the three "R's," was the way we were taught when I was young and attended a two-room schoolhouse. I would go to school during the day, finish my chores and homework in the early evening and then fall asleep reading by the light of a kerosene oil lamp. I looked at education as an opportunity to excel and to this day I'm not too old to keep learning. Education, to me, has been a passport to progress.

While education is universal in our country today, it is perhaps hard for some to realize just how much a high school diploma was coveted only a couple of generations or so ago – or actually how few people had one.

Our young people today seem more pre-occupied with video games, watching television, and listening to the latest and loudest music. They are no longer eager to open a book and turn its pages to reveal the next opportunity to stimulate the mind.

But the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress has launched an exciting new program called Letters About Literature (LAL). It is a nationwide writing contest that celebrates the relationship between young readers and authors. Students are invited to write a personal letter to an author explaining how his or her

work somehow changed the reader's view of the world.

Letters About Literature provides a challenging opportunity to young readers by asking them to write to a particular audience, or explain or describe his or her personal reader response to the work they had just read. This encourages meaningful reading and helps to create successful writers. Competition is grouped into three grade categories: 4 – 6; 7 & 8; and 9 – 12.

In addition to the educational rewards students obtain from this exercise, each year LAL awards more than 150 state-level prizes. The program also selects six national winners, each of whom will earn for their individual community or school library a \$10,000 Letters About Literature Reading Promotion Grant. Twelve national honorable mention winners will each earn a \$1,000 grant for the community or school library of their choice.

So I encourage all West Virginia students to participate in this reading and writing competition. The development of the human mind is all too important in this ever changing global environment. Go to the LAL website, www.lettersabout-literature.org to obtain how-to-enter guidelines. But you better hurry, as the postmark deadline for this competition is December 6, 2008. Good luck and good reading.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Giving Thanks in These Changing Times

Thanksgiving is one of America's oldest and most beloved holidays. It is a day devoted to turkey, family, football, parades, and the beginning of the Christmas season. Most importantly, it is, or should be, a day devoted to God.

Four centuries ago, a small but courageous group of people left their homeland, boarded a flimsy, little craft, journeyed across a mighty ocean, and settled in an inscrutable wilderness. They took all of these risks because they wanted to worship God as they pleased.

Think about it! How many of us today profess to be religious, but hate getting up on Sunday morning in order to go to church? How many of us do not like to walk those few blocks or drive those few miles to worship God? But here were the Pilgrims crossing a three-thousand mile ocean and facing the darkest of unknowns in order to exercise this sacred right.

I have always been in awe of the courage of the Pilgrims and their devotion to God. A year after landing in the New World, the Pilgrims set aside time to express their gratitude to God for protecting them, and for preserving their community. Despite all of the hardships and agony they had endured, our

forefathers still set aside time to thank God for His goodness.

Two years later, in 1623, the Pilgrims made this Day of Thanks permanent. A proclamation attributed to Governor Bradford instructed his fellow Pilgrims to "render Thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings."

Today, like the Pilgrims, we also live in a time of uncertainty and danger but, likewise, we have much for which to be thankful.

Too many young Americans will spend this holiday in harm's way, protecting our country and the values we hold dear. Yet, I am thankful that we have the best, the bravest, and the most determined armed forces in the world.

I am thankful to live in a country that can confront a crisis with strength and with moral certitude.

I am thankful that in the United States our form of government provides for the transfer of power peacefully.

Finally, I am thankful for those men and women who, 388 years ago, had the courage, the faith, and the devotion to God to undertake the most difficult and dangerous of journeys simply to be able to go to church.

November 19, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Economic Recovery Involves Helping Our Neighbors

When I was growing up in the coalfields of southern West Virginia, I remember listening to President Franklin Roosevelt's "fireside chats" and messages of hope during the dark days of the Great Depression and World War II. In one statement proposing aid to England in its war against Nazi Germany, President Roosevelt asked his listeners to suppose that their neighbor's house was on fire, and that the listeners had a length of garden hose. The good neighbor would certainly lend his hose because he would not want the fire to spread to his own house.

I have been thinking about that analogy as it relates to the auto industry's request for a \$25 billion loan. Like many West Virginians, I question the wisdom and fairness of such a loan, but I also must consider the consequences of inaction. The downfall of the auto industry would ignite a massive fire that would spread from house to house.

In the eastern panhandle, a General Motors Service Parts Operation employs 165 workers with a nearly \$12 million annual payroll. That facility services 65 auto dealerships in West Virginia, creates business for truckers, railroad workers, maintenance personnel, and groundskeepers. We know these hard-working men and women as our

neighbors and friends. We sit with them at church on Sunday and visit with them at the grocery store. Their houses are on fire and they need our help. To deny them a garden hose when we are able to lend one goes against the Christian principles I learned during those hard years of the Great Depression and World War II.

Helping our neighbors also means extending unemployment benefits for those who cannot find work. It means ensuring Medicaid coverage for the impoverished and elderly, and investing in our transportation and energy infrastructure so that West Virginians can continue to build their communities.

I have introduced legislation in the Senate that would help the millions of Americans hurt by the current economic recession. The legislation would also provide a loan to the auto industry with provisions that will allow us to replace our garden hose when the fire ceases. I believe this bill, which is crafted to protect taxpayers and jobs in West Virginia, is a step in the right direction.

The conditions of our economy have sparked a fire that is spreading to our neighbors' houses. Now is the time to heed President Roosevelt's call. We must lend our garden hose, not stand idly by watching the houses burn, hoping the embers blow away.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Yes, *West* Virginia, There is a Santa Claus!

Christmas is coming. I can feel it. There is no other feeling like it. As the song says, it is the "most wonderful time of the year."

And, as another song says, "it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas."

Everywhere we look we can see the signs of Christmas: Christmas trees, Christmas wreaths, silver bells on lamp posts, women wearing Christmas sweaters and men wearing Christmas ties. We see Christmas carolers and hear Christmas carols, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come."

And then, there is one of the most recognized and cherished symbols of Christmas -- Santa Claus. I just love the jolly old fat man. To me, Santa represents Christmas, happy children, sleigh bells, reindeer, and, of course, presents.

In some circles, nowadays, it is popular to be critical of Jolly Old Saint Nick. For one thing, he is often attacked for being overweight, which is unhealthy. No argument here; Santa would be a better role model for our children if he went on a diet, joined a health club, and got rid of a few pounds.

Santa is also denounced as the very symbol of the commercialization of Christmas. Perhaps. During the Christmas season, commercials saturate our television screens urging us to buy, buy, buy. Store windows feature Christmas displays that tantalize and taunt, and beckon us to come inside and spend money. These highly commercial aspects of Christmas always seem to feature, in one way or another, Santa Claus. But I prefer to see the glass as half full!

The commercialization of Christmas, though taken too far at times, is really an extension of

the tradition of giving, with roots that reach back to the wise men and a manger in Bethlehem, which means that gift giving can actually be viewed as a celebration of the birth of Jesus -- which is, of course, the reason for the Christmas season. In other words, all of those gaudy and tacky displays and commercials would not be there were it not for the birth of Jesus. Think about it. Gifts don't have to be expensive. They can be simple. They can be homemade. But, they are expressions of love. Enjoy them!

I believe that the spirit of Kris Kringle can also represent some of the best of American religious values, including love, justice, fairness, and forgiveness. Fanciful and exuberant, joyful, cheerful, and happy, Santa Claus symbolizes our highest ideals, including the innocence of childhood, selfless giving, and boundless affection. Regardless of whatever faults he may have, Santa also represents the best in all of us. Especially in bleak economic times, the joy which Santa and his reindeer bring to children and adults alike can be counted on to brighten home and hearth throughout the season.

A few years ago, an Associated Press poll found that nearly 90 percent of Americans believed in Santa Claus as a child, and almost two-thirds of Americans with children at home consider Santa an important part of their holiday celebrations. Political leaders should strive for such an approval rating!

The story of Jesus is a story of faith, love, optimism, wonder, goodness and the eternal life of the soul.

Santa is indeed the spirit of Christmas

Yes, *West* Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Art of Giving

A personal expression of love or gratitude is joyous to give, especially when the gift is met with a radiant smile from the recipient. Perhaps no other time of the year is more symbolic of the pleasure of gift-giving than Christmas.

Each Christmas, many West Virginians recall the first gift of Christmas: God's love delivered to mankind as a newborn baby. Shepherds and Magi honored the Savior with gifts symbolizing Jesus' virtue, faith and empathy for human suffering. Centuries later, God's gift continues to bestow hope, respect, and purpose in our lives.

In modern times gift-giving has become more complicated. There is endless advice about the "perfect" gift, with plenty of opportunities to purchase it everywhere you turn. This year, I call to mind the guidance of the seventeenth-century author, Gracián, who offered this advice: *The great art of giving consists in this: the gift should cost very little and yet be greatly coveted, so that it may be the more highly appreciated.* So many of us can find solace in this advice whenever we are feeling overwhelmed by commercial advertising and the pressure to spend, spend, spend this holiday season.

Recently, I was deeply touched to learn about a Wheeling congregation whose good deeds truly

embody the Christmas spirit. The congregation sought and found a way to give the gift of mobility – in the form of a wheelchair – to those who are poor and physically disabled in countries around the world. Members of the church, along with their community, have partnered with a national organization to supply very low-cost wheelchairs (under \$50) to impoverished children and adults.

For the recipients, a wheelchair means the end of their isolation, and the hope of renewed productivity and self-esteem. The caregivers of the disabled benefit as well. Many have spent a lifetime carrying and transporting their children, grandmothers and neighbors, and now have relief from this tremendous burden.

It is estimated that more than 100 million people around the world – of all ages – are in need of a wheelchair but cannot afford one. The need is great, so that is why the recipients of this gift greet their wheelchair with a radiant smile and the anticipation of a more mobile and free lifestyle.

During this Christmas season, I encourage all West Virginians to seek other great stories of faith, compassion and humanity to guide us in our search for the "perfect" gift. May you share an abundance of God's blessing in this Holy Christmas season.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Frosty the Snowman Was a West Virginian!

One of my favorite sounds of the season is "Frosty the Snowman." This joyful song tells about a snowman who comes to life thanks to a magical hat that some children find and place on his head. Frosty plays with the children for a while before he is "hurried on his way"--that is, he melts under a hot sun. But he reassures the saddened children not to worry because, "I'll be back again someday."

I wonder how many West Virginians know that this Christmas classic was written by a West Virginian, Walter "Jack" Rollins! Mr. Rollins was born in Keyser on September 15, 1906. He left Mineral County to work in a glass factory in Pittsburgh, and eventually found his way to Hollywood where he lived for 30 years. He authored about 500 songs, including other classics like "Peter Cottontail" (1949) and "Smokey the Bear" (1952).

It was in 1950 that Rollins wrote "Frosty the Snowman" while Steve Nelson provided the music. The song was first recorded by Gene Autry that same year. Since then, it has been recorded by many famous artists including Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Alvin and the Chipmunks, Jimmy Durante, and Johnny Mathis.

Mr. Rollins died January 1, 1972, and is

buried in Keyser.

So, this Christmas season, whenever you hear the wonderful, happy song that Mr. Rollins wrote about a frozen playmate, take pride in the fact that Frosty the Snowman was a West Virginian.

A few of the lyrics to this classic holiday song follow:

"Frosty the snowman
was a jolly happy soul,
With a corncob pipe
and a button nose,
And two eyes made
out of coal."

"Frosty the snowman
is a fairy tale, they say,
He was made of snow
but the children know how
he came to life one day."

"There must have been
some magic in that Old
silk hat they found. For
when they placed it on his
head,

He began to dance
around."

"Frosty the snowman
knew

The sun was hot that
day,

So he said, 'Let's run
and we'll have some fun
now before I melt away.'"

"Down to the village,
With a broomstick in
his hand,

Running here and
there all

Around the square
saying,

Catch me if you can."

Merry Christmas West
Virginia! May all your
Christmas wishes come
true.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

2008 – A Year of Accomplishments for WV

2008 has marked the completion of many major federal construction projects that have been top priorities of mine for years in the U.S. Senate. The projects that have come to fruition this year include:

Infrastructure

- The new Marmet Lock on the Kanawha River is the culmination of a ten-year long effort. The finished product will allow West Virginia's products to get to market in a much more timely and safe manner.
- The Blennerhassett Bridge in Parkersburg; which also marked the completion of ADHS Corridor D and the beginning of enhanced safety, reduced commutes, and new economic development opportunities for West Virginians. Work on Corridor D in West Virginia began all the way back in 1965.

Medical and Research Facilities

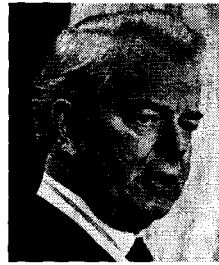
- The new Biomedical Research Center at West Virginia University; which will allow WVU to recruit faculty scientists of national caliber, better compete for research funds, and make huge strides in helping those afflicted by life-threatening diseases. This project began in 2005.
- The Health Sciences Learning Center at WVU; which is serving students in the four health professions schools of the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center. I have proudly supported this project since 1999.
- A new clinical center at Marshall University's Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health, which I have supported since 1993, will be the new home for clinical training for students/residents; primary and specialty care clinical services for the region; and a new heart institute.
- A new WVU clinical teaching center within the Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) Memorial Hospital campus that will improve health care education and services in the Kanawha Valley region. I funded this project in a 2004 Appropriations bill.

Expansion of Federal Facilities

- A new Firing Range Complex at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Advanced Training Center in Harpers Ferry. The new complex is more important than ever for the law enforcement officers who guard the nation's borders because it allows them to receive specialized training to help them succeed in their critical homeland security mission. I have been supporting the CBP's efforts for over 8 years.
- Three new centers at the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory in Rocket Center. These investments will provide the Department of Defense with an improved capability to support U.S. military forces now and into the future. I have supported the ABL facility dating back to 1985.
- The Technology Support Facility in Morgantown, which will support the National Energy Technology Laboratory's (NETL) mission of advancing science and technology for a clean, secure energy future. Over several years, I have added over \$36 million for this project.

After years – in some cases, decades – of hard work, it is wonderful to see these projects become a reality. They will not only serve the public good, but also help to create jobs and strengthen West Virginia's economy for years to come. 2008 has been a banner year. Rest assured, in 2009, there is much more to come from this United States Senator!

December 24, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WELCOMING A NEW YEAR

As the clock ticks its final hours towards the beginning of the New Year, I like to take time to recall the joys of the recent year and, like so many of you, to make those annual New Year's resolutions – many of which for better or worse I find hard to keep.

The celebration of the beginning of a New Year dates back about 4000 years to ancient Babylon. Under the old Roman calendar, the New Year began sometime in the month of March, anticipating the coming of spring – a season of rebirth – and a time for the planting of crops. The Roman senate in 153 BC declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new calendar year. According to Judeo-Christian tradition, New Year's Day is observed as the Feast of Christ's Circumcision, eight days after His birth. January 1 has been given the name of the Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, by the Catholic Church.

The celebration of the New Year was traditionally a religious feast and to this day many people believe that certain foods will bring them good luck, prosperity and good health throughout the coming year. In many regions throughout our country, the traditional meal of pork and black-eyed peas is eaten for good luck.

Others believe that cabbage – the leaves of which are considered a sign of prosperity – or rice bring good fortune in the New Year.

Celebrations on the eve of the New Year, now December 31, have become major events throughout the world. From Sydney to London to New York City, crowds gather to watch grandiose fireworks displays, parades, and the dropping of the crystal ball in Times Square as people cheer the outgoing year and welcome the new. At the stroke of midnight, many celebrants lock arms and join in singing, Auld Lang Syne, which translated means "times gone by."

As the new year unfolds throughout the world, millions attend religious services, watch parades and football games, or spend precious time with family and friends and, yes even a few brave souls actually take a swim in cold bodies of water to cleanse their spirits for the upcoming year.

However you choose to celebrate the New Year, please do so safely. My fellow West Virginians, as we welcome 2009, I resolve to continue to be the kind of United States Senator which our State deserves. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving you. Happy New Year West Virginia.

December 31, 2008



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Blessings of Democracy

On January 20, 2009, the world will witness a rare political act - - the peaceful transfer of power from one world leader to the next. In a demonstration of the strength of our representative democracy, outgoing President Bush will travel with President-elect Obama from the White House to the Capitol. There, on the West Front of the Capitol, President Bush will witness the swearing-in and inaugural address of President Obama before quietly departing from the Capitol's East Front to resume life as a private citizen.

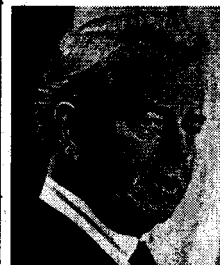
The basic elements of the inauguration are simple, but the symbolism of the day is momentous. Only one element is spelled out in the Constitution: the Presidential oath of office, in Article II, Section 1: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Tradition dictates that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court administers the oath of office to the President. The recitation of the oath may involve placing a hand on a Bible or other book, or no book at all. President-elect Obama will take his oath on the same Bible used by Abraham Lincoln for his swearing in on

March 4, 1861. The location may also vary: Presidents have been sworn in at ten different locations over the course of our nation's history - from Philadelphia to Love Field in Dallas in 1963, following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Some Presidents have held inaugural balls, but not all - President Franklin Pierce cancelled the balls in 1853 and they were suspended again from 1913 to 1949. Worship services, inaugural luncheons, parades and even inaugural addresses are but mere traditions that have existed or been added over the years.

Americans and others watching from around the world will see plenty of pageantry, pomp and circumstance on Inauguration Day. There may even be peaceful protests, affirming every American's right to freely express their views.

Our Constitution provides a stable and reliable way for citizens to effect the changes they seek in their government, through regular and fair elections and through a justice system designed to preserve and protect individual rights. As Americans gather to watch the stately unfolding of events that mark the Presidential inauguration, they will witness both the blessings of our Constitutional system and its promise to the world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

From Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. To President Barack Obama

In 1954, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., began his pastorship at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, in Montgomery, Alabama. At that time, African Americans could not serve on juries in most areas in the south, nor could they drink from certain water fountains, or eat in certain restaurants. Black people could not live in many neighborhoods in the north as well as in the south. Although the U.S. Supreme Court had ordered the integration of schools, in many parts of our country, schools remained segregated. Incredibly, in too many parts of our country, African Americans could not exercise their basic American right to vote!

The next year, in Montgomery, Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. Dr. King reacted to this event by organizing a movement to desegregate the city's bus system and a revolution began — it would be one of the most transforming movements in history, and the participants did it without firing a shot.

The effort to advance desegregation included sit-ins, boycotts, marches, and other forms of non-violent protests. While violence was often committed against the revolutionaries, they remained true to Reverend King's philosophy of non-violence. King's non-violent tactics often seemed strange to his followers as well as to his critics, but as King explained, the goal was not "to defeat" the adversary, but to "convert" him.

King's movement was dedicated

not only to eliminating segregation, but winning civil rights, equality, and equal opportunity for all Americans regardless of race or economic class. For that reason, labor unionists and other social activists joined in his march on Washington in August, 1963 which was officially titled the "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom."

And now, on January 20, 2009, Barack Obama will become the first African American to become President of the United States.

It is appropriate that he will take the oath of office the day after the nation celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, because this will be the fulfillment of Dr. King's Dream. In his "I Have A Dream" address, King said that he dreamed that "one day" his children would "live in a nation where they would be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

President Obama was elected because Americans listened to his ideas, and were attracted to his vision of America, as a "More Perfect Union." They took the measure of the content of Barack Obama's character, and used their right to vote to usher in a new era of governance.

I congratulate President Obama. But, I also want to salute the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King raised the consciousness of the Nation. He established a new moral standard for how we, as Americans, should view and treat each other. He sowed the seed for the historic achievement of President Obama.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Half Century of Senate Service

Thanks to the good people of West Virginia, and with God's blessings, I was able to mark a half century of service in the United States Senate when we convened for the 111th Congress on January 6th. I have been fortunate that the foster son of an impoverished coal miner from the hills of southern West Virginia has had the opportunity to not only serve the people of the Mountain State, but also to walk with Kings, meet with Prime Ministers, and debate Presidents.

During the past 50 years, I have had the unique opportunity to witness history and participate in many history-making events. From the apex of the Cold War to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the fall of the Berlin Wall; from my opposition to the 1964 Civil Rights Act to my role in securing the funds for the building of the memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr.; and from my support for the War in Vietnam to my opposition to Mr. Bush's War in Iraq, I have served in the Senate and I have relished every minute of it.

My half century has also allowed me to experience profound changes in the Senate itself, and, unfortunately, not all of them have been positive. During my tenure, especially in recent years, the Senate has become bitterly partisan. The costs of running for a Senate

seat have become astronomical. In 1958, Jennings Randolph and I spent a combined \$50,000 to win the two Senate seats in West Virginia. Today, Senators can expect to spend about \$7 million. Too much of a lawmaker's time and energy are now consumed in raising money for the next election.

But, I am pleased to say there have been many positive changes in the Senate. It has become more open and more constituent friendly and Americans across the country can watch their Senators debate the issues of the day live on C-Span.

The Senate has also become more diverse. When I started in 1959, there was only one female Senator. Today, there are 17. In the 50 years prior to my service, not a single African American was elected to the Senate. During my 50 years here, three African Americans have been elected to the Senate. While I know this is a small number, one of those three has now been elected to the highest office in our land -- President of the United States. We have come a very long way.

My beloved West Virginians, it has been a wonderful and privileged 50 years serving you in the Senate. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this honor and I look forward to the next 50!!

January 21, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Closing Guantanamo

President Obama, in one of his first official acts, has issued an executive order to close the U.S. military detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, within twelve months and after a careful case-by-case review of each remaining detainee. It is an action long overdue, ending a dark period in American history that leaves a stain on our nation's faith in the rule of law and undermines our standing in the world.

Since October 7, 2001, when the current war in Afghanistan began, almost 800 individuals have been imprisoned at Guantanamo. Approximately 250 remain today. Captured abroad and suspected or accused of terrorist activities or connections, the detainees were taken to Guantanamo, outside U.S. territory, to minimize the application of legal constraints that might otherwise apply on U.S. soil.

A mere handful of these detainees, officially deemed unlawful "enemy combatants" outside the protections afforded by the Geneva Convention, have never even been charged with any crimes. The remainder have been held indefinitely, as long as seven years, without trial. More than a handful are believed to have been subjected to "enhanced interrogation techniques," a Bush Administration euphemism for torture. Of the more than 500 individuals transferred out of Guantanamo, most were released soon after their repatriation. In very few cases did the receiving countries

consider that the prosecution of the individuals was merited.

At home and abroad questions over what has happened at Guantanamo have been repeatedly raised from citizens to prominent legislators. The United Nations referred to the practices at Guantanamo as a "human rights scandal." One human rights organization referred to the Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp as "the gulag of our times." Many in Congress, myself among them, have pressed for the closure of the Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp and insisted that these individuals be treated as we would expect our soldiers to be treated if captured abroad and subjected to the rule of law – no more, and no less.

While I believe it is past time to close Guantanamo and bring those who remain to justice, if appropriate and within the jurisdiction of U.S. law, we must undertake this endeavor with extreme caution. There may be some detainees who, for national security reasons, may be too dangerous to be released. And questions have already arisen as to where to hold these individuals on U.S. shores as they await trial or deportation.

The Obama Administration has indicated that they will establish a number of Cabinet-level task forces to address many of the major issues surrounding the closure of the facility, the procedures to be followed, and the legalities involved. It is a welcome and long overdue action.

January 28, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Healthy Resolution

For many of us, the intention to lead a healthier lifestyle tops the list of New Year's resolutions for 2009. We are prepared to make up for the missed doctor's appointments from 2008, and dust off our gym shoes and get our bodies moving.

But as the year progresses and the responsibilities of work and family overwhelm our daily schedules, we have to recommit to our New Year's resolution. Taking care of our bodies should be a priority, and with minimal effort and some organization it can become a regular habit. When we tend to our health on a regular basis, with a combination of regular check-ups, screenings, and exercise, we can more easily prevent the onset of chronic disease.

During the last few years West Virginians have skyrocketed to the top of chronic health categories. Whether it is hypertension, diabetes, heart disease and stroke, or various cancers, West Virginians have found themselves dealing with the upswing of health problems in greater proportion to the national average. Although this is a troubling situation, there are some simple steps we can take together to begin reversing our state's health care downturn.

The steps to a healthier lifestyle begin with exercise and proper nutrition. It is equally important to incorporate regular doctors' visits

and preventative health care screenings into a health care routine. Research has shown that preventative screenings, which search for potential health complications, can save lives. Even the healthiest individuals, after a primary screening, can find themselves in need of treatment for a number of health problems.

West Virginians are fortunate to have several preventative medical facilities that I helped fund throughout the state. For example, Marshall University School of Medicine now has a virtual colonoscopy program that was established to fight the high rate of colon cancer. West Virginia University's Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanner is a powerful imaging technique that holds great promise in the diagnosis and treatment of many diseases, particularly cancer. Those are just a few of the great resources West Virginians can utilize to help prevent the onset of chronic or life-threatening disease.

This year, I encourage all West Virginians to make a commitment to their overall health and honor this important New Year's resolution. I cannot stress how beneficial a few visits to your doctor may be. Coupled with a few brisk walks each week, these small steps can lead to a longer and more productive lifestyle.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY PRESIDENT LINCOLN

On February 12, 2009, the nation will celebrate Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. In many ways Lincoln's presidency was symbolic. He was Father Abraham. He was the Great Emancipator. He was the Savior of the Union. He was, by almost any measure, one of our greatest presidents.

Lincoln was the president who led our country through its most severe crisis, the American Civil War. With his Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln was the president who set our nation on course to finally abolish the institution of slavery.

Our country owes so much to the 16th president of the United States – and so does the State of West Virginia!

The creation of the State of West Virginia was a controversial matter, but President Lincoln's strong support for statehood led to the creation of our beloved state. In Article IV, Section 3, the Constitution stipulates that a state cannot be created from another state without the consent of the concerned states and Congress. The question of whether the State of Virginia had actually given the required consent was a concern. In both houses of Congress, the admission of West Virginia into the Union encountered fierce opposition. Lincoln's own Cabinet was evenly divided on the question. In other words, the admission

of West Virginia as a state may never have happened without Lincoln's support.

This great man who had so much influence on our state and nation often discussed the major influences in his own life. One was his religion. During a time of pain and mental anguish, for example, Lincoln wrote that he found reading the Bible to be "the best cure for the blues."

Another influence, he explained, was his mother. Lincoln was born in 1809 to Nancy Hanks and Thomas Lincoln. "God bless my mother;" Lincoln told his law partner, "all that I am or ever hope to be I owe to her." I am very proud to point out that his mother, Nancy Hanks, was a West Virginian!

Hanks is believed to have been born on February 5, 1784, in what is now Mineral County. A replica cabin and a stone memorial identify the reported site of her birth along Mike's Run at the foot of New Creek Mountain.

As we celebrate the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth, let a grateful state remember Lincoln's instrumental role in the creation of West Virginia. President's Lincoln faith in God, and reverence for the idea of one America make his greatness eternal. How proud our State should be that his mother, Nancy Hanks, is a daughter of Mineral County, West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

STIMULATING OUR ECONOMY

These are perilous times for our nation's economy. Companies are shedding jobs at an alarming rate. Nearly 2 million Americans have lost their jobs in the last three months, and job creation is the worst in 75 years. While in West Virginia our workforce has been buffered to some degree by the mining industry, we are now feeling the impact of this painful global recession. In December – in just one month – West Virginia lost 4,100 jobs.

Companies that have a long tradition in the Mountain State are reducing their workforce or closing doors altogether: Century Aluminum, Dow Chemical, AGC Flat Glass, Greenbrier Resort Hotel and Simonton Windows are just a few of the companies that have had to make hard decisions about their future and the future of hard-working West Virginians.

The recession to date has created a \$3.6 trillion economic gap over the next five years. This is coupled with the \$2.2 trillion deficit in infrastructure investments that the Bush Administration left to this nation. Highway and mass transit systems, airport and rail construction, energy and water projects, schools and public facilities were starved under the previous Administration. In West Virginia, I have seen how inadequate infrastructure can limit access to jobs, to health care, and to schools. It can strangle and suffocate local economies.

Last week Congress passed and the President has subsequently signed into law "The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," which is expected to jumpstart our idling economy and help create up to 20,000 jobs in West Virginia. Money in this bill for West Virginia will immediately address needed infrastructure repairs, including the backlog of drinking and clean water infrastructure needs and over \$200 million in highway and mass transit funding for "shovel-ready" projects.

For those who are unemployed or facing job loss, the bill contains money to help match unemployed workers with new job opportunities and provide new job training programs. And the Department of Labor estimates that West Virginia could receive more than \$33 million in extended unemployment insurance benefits. And many Social Security beneficiaries, SSI recipients and disabled veterans will see a stimulus check in their mailboxes to help make ends meet.

"The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act" that was signed into law is what we need to be doing to help mitigate this economic downturn. It achieves the principle goals of creating and saving jobs, of cutting taxes for working families, of helping to aid those who are out of work, and of investing in the long-term growth of the U.S. economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

RESCUE UNDER FIRE.... SO OTHERS MIGHT LIVE

Military medics on the ground and the medical evacuation flight teams who bring wounded soldiers to hospitals are true heroes. They are lifesavers who put their own lives on the line in order to give wounded comrades the chance to receive critical medical care.

Over the years, the valor of those who serve as field medics, Army Medivac crews and Air Force Combat Search and Rescue crews has often been overlooked. These brave men and women – pilots, aircraft crew chiefs and medical specialists – work in the heat of battle to evacuate the injured. They are frequently exposed to danger from which there is no protection. Undaunted, they do their lifesaving tasks without hesitation. Our forces deployed on the battlefield rely upon these angels of mercy. Such brave efforts save the lives and limbs of fellow soldiers. And they also provide comfort to the families of our brave troops, who can rest assured that their loved ones in uniform will have the very best medical care when and where they need it most.

I was shocked to learn several months ago that U.S. troops in Afghanistan were being asked to fight in remote areas, which could result in delays of two hours

or more until first-line surgical care became available. Subsequently, I learned that this deplorable situation was allowed to continue unremedied for an extended period of time.

I immediately urged Secretary of Defense Gates to improve the efficiency of medical evacuations in Afghanistan by deploying the necessary resources as quickly as possible. I was pleased to hear Secretary Gates address my concerns during his testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee on January 27, 2009. Secretary Gates assured the Committee that he was working to significantly improve medivac capabilities in Afghanistan.

I have since learned that additional medivac assets and forward surgical teams will soon arrive in Afghanistan. The presence of these additional resources will shorten the time between actual injury and critical medical care. Our hearts go out to these brave crews along with our prayers for their own safety. A grateful nation thanks them for the courage that they display to keep their comrades in arms safe and sound.

I will continue to monitor the progress being made in getting these necessary forces to Afghanistan in the most rapid manner possible.

February 25, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG OUR YOUTH CAUSE FOR ALARM

I recently met with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and expressed my grave concerns about drug and alcohol use and abuse by West Virginia's youth. Each year, more than 70,000 underage children in West Virginia consume alcohol. Forty-two percent of high-school students have admitted to drinking, and nearly thirty percent of these students are binge drinkers. Binge drinking is defined as the consumption of alcohol with the sole purpose of becoming intoxicated.

West Virginia exceeds the national rates for cocaine usage in age groups of twelve to seventeen and eighteen to twenty-five, and sixty percent of our high school students have said that drugs are kept, used, or sold at school. In fact, West Virginia is among the ten states with the highest rates of illegal use of prescription drugs and cocaine in the past year.

This substance use and abuse by our children can mean serious health issues, or even death. Think of the tragedy of these young lives wasted! But there are other costs as well. Providing police officers to enforce our drug laws, imprisoning offenders, and rehabilitating those who become addicted to substances all cost taxpayers money. In addition, substance abuse reduces one's chances of graduating from school or of landing and holding a steady job. In 2006 alone, substance abuse cost West Virginia \$1.8 billion in direct and indirect costs.

Curing substance abuse is not something that Secretary Duncan or I can solve with federal funding or legislation alone. The key to reducing youth substance abuse is parental involvement. Parents need to tend to their children and constantly reinforce the value of an education. They need to alert their children to the permanent damage that drugs and alcohol can do to young bodies. They need to concentrate on being good role models and on providing positive and productive examples of how to live a healthy, successful, responsible life. Parents need to talk to school officials about drugs and alcohol in our schools and about prevention efforts at the local level.

My meeting with Secretary Duncan was heartening because I believe that the new Secretary is well aware of the pervasiveness of substance abuse among our young people. It will take a lot of work and cooperation, but West Virginians must come to grips with the profound danger of substance abuse and join the fight to find solutions. There is a growing epidemic in our state which involves a long list of problems, including crime, disease, child abuse, domestic violence, teen pregnancy, welfare dependency, learning disabilities, and poor performance in school. My staff and I are learning all we can about this major problem in our state. For the sake of your children, perhaps you should too.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY, 2009

"Top o' the mornin' to ye, my fellow West Virginians!" Or, better yet, "to my fellow Irish-West Virginians."

So many of us look forward to the one day each year – March 17, St. Patrick's Day – when we can all proclaim ourselves to be "Irish for a day."

Celebrated by the wearing of green clothing, the playing of Irish music and the eating of Irish foods like corn beef and cabbage, St. Patrick's Day is a most delightful annual observation.

The Irish have observed the day as a religious occasion for over a thousand years. It was on March 17, AD 461, that St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, died.

As the people of Ireland traveled outside the Emerald Isle, the day came to be celebrated around the world in a number of different ways. The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737, when the day was celebrated in Boston. The first St. Patrick's Day parade was in New York City on March 17, 1762. Today, many cities in the United States celebrate the day with huge parades. Some paint their city streets green. The city of Chicago dyes the Chicago River green. And the community of Ireland, in Lewis County, annually hosts an all-out

multi-day festival, complete with harp-playing, road bowling, a King and Queen to rein over the festivities, and plenty of blarney.

On St. Patrick's Day, Irish themes and symbols abound. Everywhere, we see shamrocks – the three-leaved plant that St. Patrick was supposed to have used to explain the Holy Trinity to pre-Christian Irish. Also called the "seamroy" in Ireland, the shamrock was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because it symbolized the rebirth of spring, just the way the ramp does in West Virginia. By the seventeenth century, the shamrock had become a symbol of emerging Irish nationalism.

At any rate, put on some green clothes, eat a bowl of Irish stew, hunt for a rainbow's end, and try to spot a Leprechaun or two because, as the song says, "It's a great day for the Irish!"

On this Saint Patrick's Day, I leave you with this old "Irish blessing":

May the road rise to meet you,

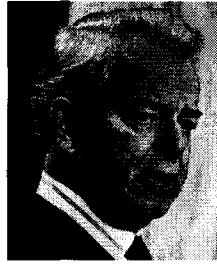
May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

The rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of his hand.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Women Make History!

The women of West Virginia have played important roles not only in the history of our beloved state, but also in the history of our great nation. Therefore, with March being celebrated as "Women's History Month," I want to acknowledge some great West Virginia women and their contributions.

In the days before West Virginia was officially a state, women like Anne Bailey and Betty Zane served as scouts and messengers, and, at times, participated in the fighting of the colonial Indian Wars and the American Revolution.

During the Civil War, Nancy Hart and Belle Boyd carried on espionage work for the Confederates. Another West Virginian, Nancy Hanks of Mineral County, married Thomas Lincoln, and had a baby boy she named Abraham, who served as our 16th President during the Civil War.

When the industrial revolution swept the country, West Virginia women crusaded as union organizers. "Mother" Jones and Fannie Sellins, for example, both played crucial roles in organizing the miners of West Virginia.

In the twentieth century, West Virginia women made their marks as public servants. In 1928, Minnie Buckingham Harper of McDowell County took a seat in the West Virginia House of Delegates, making her the first African-American woman in the United States to serve in a legislative body. In 1969, Virginia

Mae Brown of Charleston became the first woman to chair a United States regulatory commission, the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The women of West Virginia have also enriched the cultural life of our country. In 1908, largely because of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, the first official Mother's Day service in the United States was held in St. Andrews Methodist Church in Grafton. Ida Reed of Barbour County published more than 2,000 Christian Hymns. Ellen King of Glenville, wrote "The West Virginia Hills," which became one of our official state songs.

Our mountains have produced several notable female authors. Pearl S. Buck, the author of 85 books, including *The Good Earth*, which was awarded the 1932 Pulitzer Prize, is certainly the best-known of these. In 1938, Pearl Buck became the first American woman to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature.

But, we must not forget all those unnamed women who have toiled in our coal camps, worked on our farms, labored in our factories, taught in our school rooms, and managed family life in the homes of our state. While their names may not be in history books, many women have played an important part in the economic and social life of our state. This month let us remember the contributions of all of our West Virginia women, past and present. They are the guardians of our West Virginia ways. God bless them all.

March 18, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Whither Iraq and Afghanistan?

March 19, 2009, marked the sixth anniversary of the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq. Since March 2003, when -- despite my warnings -- President Bush initiated a pre-emptive war to destroy non-existent weapons of mass destruction, 4,260 American troops have lost their lives in Iraq, and more than \$700 billion in taxpayers dollars have been drained from the U.S. economy.

Today, the outcome is still in question. Difficult issues involving corruption, refugees, oil profits and Kurdish autonomy are unresolved. We have been told that the surge was a dramatic success, but nearly 150,000 troops remain in Iraq to maintain so-called "stability." Is this really success? The Pentagon continues to wear down active duty forces and rely on reserve and National Guard components and the practice of "stop loss." We have been training Iraqi soldiers for years. When will they be ready? Will Iraq be a stable force in the region and a reliable partner in the war on terror? These important questions underlie our presence in Iraq. The lack of answers is of grave concern.

The White House says that combat forces will remain in Iraq through August 2010, and up to 50,000

troops will be required until December 31, 2011, training Iraqis and protecting U.S. citizens and assets. We will be called upon to pour more billions of dollars into Iraq at a time when many Americans are hurting. Amid an economic crisis, the U.S. continues to shoulder the vast economic and military burden in Iraq, and there are no statutory guarantees that the President will adhere to the timelines.

Meanwhile, after over seven years of floundering policy and 671 American troops killed, stability in Afghanistan remains threatened. I await clarification from President Obama about a strategic policy for that region. Is the principal objective to capture Osama bin Laden and defeat al Qaeda, or to supplant the Taliban? Is our objective to turn Afghanistan into a successful state and develop a partner in the war on terrorism? How long will it take and what will it cost?

As for the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who served and are still serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, history has already judged them heroes. In the finest American tradition, they have served bravely and with great valor, and often with great sacrifice. To each of them, and to their families, we can only say, "Thank you."

March 25, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The First Sign of Spring — The Mighty Ramp!

West Virginia is indeed the Land of the Mighty Ramp! This is a little best appreciated by actually taking part in the annual pursuit of this stinky, but delightfully tasty spring tonic.

Ramps are a member of the lily family, which includes garlic, leeks, and onions. While they grow wild in hardwood forests throughout North America, ramps thrive in the mountains and valleys of Appalachia. In our beloved state, eating ramps is an annual rite of spring and it is an honored tradition.

West Virginians know that ramps are among the first green things to emerge from the forest floor in spring; therefore, all "real" West Virginians consider the ramp, not the robin, to be the first sign of spring.

Ramps are such innocent looking things, with their broad, smooth light green leaves, and scallion-like bulbs, that newcomers to ramp culture will be surprised by the pungent odor they possess.

I am told that the popularity of these little stinkers has skyrocketed in recent years and ramps are now being eaten with gusto all over the United States. As usual, West Virginia was ahead of the rest of the country. The April issue of *Bon Appétit* food and cooking magazine even has a special feature on ramps. I have read that

in New York City, ramps are sold in gourmet shops and are eaten on pizza and in quiche.

Real men may or may not eat quiche, but "real" West Virginians know ramps go well with many different things, especially taters, eggs, ham, brown beans, and steak. And "real" West Virginians know ramps do not belong on pizzas or, heaven forbid, in quiche. And "real" ramp eaters do not buy ramps in gourmet shops. We dig them out of the ground ourselves, or we buy them from roadside stands, or we go to local ramp feeds.

Every spring, ramp festivals are celebrated all over West Virginia. The towns of Buckhannon, Chloe, Pickens, Big Otter, Helvetia, Elkins, Hacker Valley, Parkersburg, Roanoke, Mathias, Bomont, and Romney all sponsor ramp festivals. But, the King of Ramp Festivals has to be Richwood, which is also known as the "Ramp Capital of the World." A few years ago, public television aired a documentary entitled, "The King of Stink," a documentary on ramp festivals that featured the Richwood Ramp Festival.

A friend of mine once said to me that, "enjoying ramps in the springtime is what life is all about."

I say to one and all, spring is here. Go get a plate full of ramps and enjoy life!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

"Easter's On Its Way!"

Easter's on its way! What a wonderful and joyous time of year this is. It is celebrated with Easter eggs and Easter baskets; Easter rabbits and chocolate bunnies; Easter dresses and Easter bonnets; and jelly beans and songs.

The people of our state can take special pride in knowing that it was a West Virginian, Mr. Jack Rollins of Keyser (1906-1973), who composed what has become one of the most popular and beloved Easter songs, "Peter Cottontail." I just love those happy, joyful lyrics that tell of the Easter Rabbit "hopping down the bunny trail." The beautiful lyrics of this happy Easter song give their attention to Peter Cottontail, who is "bringing every girl and boy, baskets full of Easter joy."

*"He's got jellybeans for
Tommy,
Colored eggs for sister Sue,
There's an orchid for your
Mommy
And an Easter bonnet, too."*

But the most important thing is that, wherever he goes, the Easter Bunny showers his blessings on all people.

I like to think that this is a happy, joyous time of year for all of West Virginia's children.

But we must never forget, as they say of Christmas, the "real reason for

the joy." For Christians, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the essence of our religion. The birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ are the premier events in world history. Christians all over the world celebrate this most sacred and holy Easter season.

But, I urge my fellow West Virginians who are of the Christian faith to think about the true meaning of the suffering and resurrection of Christ more often than just at Easter. I believe that Christians should try to take at least a few minutes of each day to meditate about what the resurrection event means to each of us personally, and what it has meant to mankind.

Let us read the powerful message found in Luke 24: 1-3 (KJV) often.

"Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus."

Happy Easter to all and may you enjoy God's holy blessings during this Easter season and throughout the year.

April 9, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

PROMISES TO KEEP

When members of the military ship out to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other dangerous duty stations, they take precautions. They train hard. They don heavy body armor and helmets. And they take comfort in the belief that, if the worst happens, their family members will be taken care of by the government for which they have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Service members who die in combat know that their families will receive a lump sum payment from the government that will help during the first, most difficult years after their death. They know that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will provide a monthly stipend to their families from the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program for a service-connected death. And they believe that their families will receive income from the Department of Defense's (DOD) Survivor Benefit Program (SBP), a voluntary insurance program for which these prudent and caring service members pay premiums from their retired pay in order to protect their loved ones. DOD's SBP insurance provides a monthly payment based on what an eligible service member would have earned in retirement.

Sadly, however, these service members are wrong.

Current federal law requires a reduction in the

SBP insurance-based annuity equal to the benefits received from the Department of Veterans Affairs' DIC program. For most active duty enlisted deaths, this means the service members' insurance annuity is eliminated entirely, leaving survivors to subsist only on the veterans' benefit. That DIC benefit is typically just \$13,848 per year – substantially below the poverty level, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

For active duty deaths since October 2001, Congress has authorized surviving spouses to assign the DOD insurance payment to their children so that the family would receive both payments while the children are dependents. However, that option means that neither the spouse nor the children will get any payments from DOD after the children reach age 18.

It is time to end this inequity and actually provide our service members and their families with all of the benefits that are promised to them. With that in mind, I have cosponsored S. 535, a bill to amend federal law to eliminate the so-called "SBP/DIC offset."

In his second inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln called upon our war-torn nation to "...care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan...." It was the right thing to do then, and it is the right thing to do now.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

NEW HAPPENINGS IN WEST VIRGINIA

During the recent Congressional recess, I had the opportunity to visit three areas of our state to participate in ceremonies highlighting some new and exciting facilities that will improve health care, create new jobs, and help make the marvels of science more accessible to our young West Virginia students.

At Marshall University in Huntington, we dedicated a new teaching and clinical center at the medical school. With this center, the university will be able to accommodate more medical students, train more residents, and provide expanded health care services. It is my hope that this new \$23 million clinical center will provide the tools needed to make a significant difference in improving the quality of life for all West Virginians. Perhaps the elusive cure for cancer or the common cold, or other medical miracles not even conceived at this time will be discovered right here in West Virginia.

In Martinsburg, I joined in marking a significant milestone for the 167th Airlift Wing -- the designation of the 167th as a fully operational C-5 aircraft unit. This ten-year journey, which included a \$280 million investment that I helped secure through the appropriations process for infrastructure improvements, has resulted in the creation of more than 200 new full-time jobs and

increased economic development. With this transformation, we ensure the long-term stability and presence of the 167th Airlift Wing.

And in Green Bank, I was honored to join in dedicating the Erma Ora Byrd Green Bank Science Center and student dormitory. The two facilities are the newest additions to the Green Bank Observatory. The Observatory is the home of the 100-meter, 485-foot tall telescope -- the largest, fully steerable radio telescope in the world. In order to help ensure that the Green Bank Observatory could help stimulate the interest of young people and their teachers, I secured \$8 million in appropriations funding for the construction of these two facilities. These new facilities are helping to make the remotely located Observatory more accessible for students from West Virginia and other states to visit and more likely to spark their interest in the study of science. It is my hope that this will also prove the start of a broader understanding and appreciation by the public of all that science, radio astronomy, and Green Bank has to offer.

It was exciting to see firsthand the work of our efforts over the years and the enormous impact it is making on our beloved Mountain State. I look forward to many more visits such as these.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

HELPING BABY SEE

In these tough economic times, every family has to make difficult choices. Parents with newborn children find these decisions especially tough as they try to prioritize how to spend limited resources on the new little one in their family. One expense that I believe is critically important is eye and vision care, especially for newborn babies as they begin to learn and grow.

Experts agree that visual development in children is most dramatic between 6 months and 12 months of age and that early detection and treatment of potential eye and vision problems can help reduce the threat of serious vision impairments. That is why I have put my full support behind the InfantSEE program and have even helped to secure federal resources to expand the scope and impact of this worthwhile program in West Virginia and across the country.

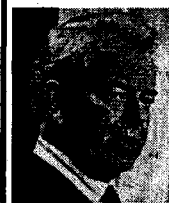
Through the InfantSEE initiative, doctors of optometry provide a one-time, comprehensive eye and vision assessment to infant children, offering early detection of potential eye and vision problems at no-cost, regardless of insurance or ability to pay. Bringing your child in for an InfantSEE assessment can help determine whether that child is at risk for eye or vision problems later in life. And if there is an issue, such problems can

be more easily prevented or corrected if identified early on.

While the InfantSEE program runs year-round, May 4th begins two weeks of a heightened awareness InfantSEE outreach program throughout West Virginia. InfantSEE will traverse our state using a mobile eye clinic for the first time, and during these two weeks, there will be statewide tour stops in Beckley, Bridgeport, Charleston, Lewisburg, and Logan as well as Wheeling, Parkersburg and Martinsburg. At these stops, all infants, regardless of parental income or insurance, will have the opportunity to receive a no-cost comprehensive eye exam. Appointments are not necessary.

In addition to the mobile office stops, many optometrists throughout West Virginia are offering no-cost eye check-ups in their doctor's offices during these two weeks. To find the location most convenient to you, visit www.infantsee.org or call 1-888-396-3937. The phone numbers of each location are listed on the website, making it easy to call and make an appointment.

It is my hope that as many West Virginia families with young children will take advantage of this free program. Preventive action now may help preclude costly treatments and doctor visits later as your child gets older.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

REMEMBERING MOM

Sunday, May 10th is Mother's Day. The second Sunday in May is the day of each year on which our country pauses to honor mothers everywhere. That wonderful woman made sure that you were fed, clothed, and protected. A mother's unselfish sacrifice certainly deserves to be acknowledged with a display of love and thanks.

So on this Mother's Day, take mom out to lunch, to dinner, or to a park. Better yet, make dinner for her. Even if you don't cook very well, she will appreciate the effort -- that's the way moms are.

Celebrate with her. Shower your mom with special attention. Give her your love as she gave it to you despite troubles or your bad behavior. Through good times and lean times, mother was always there. You are not that busy. Make a phone call if you are far away. Mom was never too busy or too far away to show her love for you.

The people of our state can take special pride in knowing that the founder of Mother's Day, Anna Jarvis, was a West Virginian! An-

na's mother, Anna Maria Jarvis had formed Mother's Day Work Clubs to promote sanitary conditions for children. Throughout her life, Anna Maria expressed the idea that one day should be set aside on which everyone could honor mothers. She stated: "I hope someone, sometime, establishes a Memorial Mother's Day, for mothers -- living and dead."

When she died, May 9, 1905, her daughter, Anna Jarvis, vowed to seek the fulfillment of her mother's wish. "By the grace of God, you shall have that day," she remarked at her mother's grave. Afterwards, she began an intensive and successful campaign for that cause.

The first Mother's Day celebration was held in Grafton, West Virginia on May 10, 1908. A few years later, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Congressional Resolution that officially established Mother's Day.

So on this Mother's Day pick up a phone and call your mother. Cook some food. Sing her a song. Let the celebration begin and enjoy the love. You can bet your mother will.

May 6, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MEMORIAL DAY, 2009

Memorial Day is the day on which our grateful Nation honors the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. All across the United States there will be visits to the grave sites of our fallen heroes. Among rows of tombstones, adorned with small American flags, families will pay their respects to loved ones who served our Nation.

Memorial Day is also a time to remember that, even when our world is beset with conflict, turmoil, and hatred, there is still honor, bravery and love.

I am reminded of one of the most memorable events of World War II -- the story of the "Immortal Chaplains:" Reverend George I. Fox, Reverend Clark V. Poling, Father John P. Washington, and Rabbi Alexander D. Goode. When the U.S. troopship Dorchester, was torpedoed by a Nazi submarine, with only minutes to live, these four men of God calmly handed out what life jackets were available to the panicking soldiers and sailors. When they ran short of these devices, the Chaplains took off their own life preservers and gave them to others. And then, as the Dorchester was sinking, the four locked arms and prayed as they went to watery graves.

These were men of different faiths -- two were Protestant Ministers, one

was a Jewish Rabbi, and the fourth was a Roman Catholic Priest -- but they were as one in their devotion to their God, and in their willingness to sacrifice so that others might live.

Memorials honoring the Chaplains' compassion have been built in several states. The U.S. War Department awarded them the Distinguished Service Cross. The Postal Service issued a stamp to commemorate their sacrifice. And the Congress honored them with a Resolution that designated a "Four Chaplains Day."

Along with all of the great military leaders like Generals Patton, MacArthur, and Eisenhower, and all of the historic political figures of World War II like Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, we revere the memory of these four humble men of God and their remarkable act of mercy.

As our Lord Jesus Christ said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

This Memorial Day, let us give thanks for the servicemen and women who stand in harm's way all around the globe. Like the four Chaplains, these brave Americans are ready to sacrifice their lives for others and for the freedoms we enjoy.

May 13, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF '09

During the months of May and June, thousands of young men and women in West Virginia are graduating from high school and college. To the class of '09, I extend my heartiest congratulations on this momentous day in your lives and I wish for you much success in your future endeavors.

As you contemplate the paths that you may tread in the years ahead, I would like to offer a suggestion. Why not a career in public service?

Often, public opinion ranks politics at about the same level as sin and hay fever, with hay fever leading by a nose. Politicians are the favorite target of editorial writers and late night comedians. But after six decades in public office, I can tell you that the vast majority of public servants I have known have been good, honest, dedicated men and women.

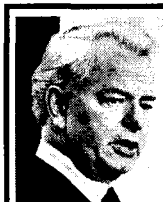
In fact, the pages of American history books are filled with the names of our country's best and brightest who found a career in politics or government. Some, like George Washington and Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, hailed from wealthy American families.

John Quincy Adams left his position as a Harvard professor to serve in the United States Congress and then became President of the United States. Dr. Woodrow Wilson was the author of a number of important books on government,

and president of Princeton University when he entered politics.

The political realm is where desire and determination can spur average citizens to accomplish extraordinary feats. Even a person with little governing experience, like George Washington, became one of the greatest presidents our country has experienced, helping to inspire our early Republic. A country lawyer named Abraham Lincoln, as president, became the Great Emancipator, the savior of the Union, and one of the most brilliant and eloquent American politicians. Franklin Roosevelt, as president, led our country through a Great Depression and a World War with such warmth, humanity, and sense of history that he became a universal symbol of resolve and strength. Obviously public service, more often than not, brings out the best, not the worst, in its participants.

Never has our country needed talented, committed leaders more than we do today. Government is only as good as the people who are willing to give their time and energies. That kind of service always means sacrifice, but few things can be more rewarding than helping your fellow citizens and serving our Constitution and our flag. To paraphrase President John F. Kennedy, perhaps your future lies in asking what you can do for your country? Politics and public service may be the answer.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

AN EDUCATIONAL VISIT

Earlier this year during a meeting with the new Education Secretary, Arne Duncan, I asked him to visit schools in West Virginia. I was pleased that he not only took my advice, but chose to begin the Department of Education's nationwide 'Listening and Learning' tour in our great state. The purpose of this campaign is for the Secretary to gather information as the Congress moves forward in reauthorizing the 'Elementary and Secondary Education Act,' more commonly known as 'No Child Left Behind.' Beginning this venture in West Virginia was a great opportunity for our state to showcase our talents, and our need to ensure a better education for West Virginia's students.

When we met in my office, I discussed some of the problems West Virginia faces in education: teacher quality and pay; community and technical education; and substance abuse in our schools, to mention a few. Secretary Duncan appeared very willing to work with me to help resolve these threats to excellence in education.

I hope that Secretary Duncan saw first-hand the issues we explored during our meeting, including the difficult challenges facing

our teachers, parents, and administrators; and that many of our children who wish to further their education cannot always afford to go to college and need extra help through student financial loans or grants. We both agreed that the temptation of drugs and alcohol our children face every day is a severe problem all across our country.

I like to think that the issues we face in West Virginia are unique, and West Virginians solve them in unparalleled ways. While we are not a wealthy state, we know how to stretch a dollar. We know what it is like to have to tighten up our proverbial boot straps and dive into a problem. When I reflect on my days in a two-room schoolhouse, we did not have computers and high-technology amenities, but the students were disciplined and the teachers were serious about their work. I was afforded the opportunity to obtain a good education, and I believe we owe the same opportunities to our young people today. And after his visit to West Virginia, I stand ready to work with Secretary Duncan to help provide the necessary tools to build a brighter educational future for our children.

May 27, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

CHILD SAFETY BELTS = SUMMER FUN

With many families taking shorter vacation trips this year due to the economy, we can subsequently expect to see an increase in roadway traffic during the summer months. Sadly, we can also expect to see a corresponding increase in the number of traffic deaths on the nation's roads and highways, and some of these will be children, whose promise will never be realized.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children under 14 years old. In 2007, there were a total of 41,059 traffic fatalities in the United States, and of those deaths, 1,670 were children under 14. It is a somber fact that motor vehicle crashes kill five children and injure 548 every single day.

But there is something we can do. Research has shown that, when used, lap/shoulder seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to front seat occupants over age 5 by 45 percent in passenger cars, and lessen the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent. For light truck occupants, the use of seat belts lowers the risk of fatal injury by 60 percent and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 65 percent in the same

age group.

Child safety seats further reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for infants under one year old and by 54 percent in toddlers (1 to 4 years old) in passenger cars. In light trucks, the risk for infants and toddlers is reduced by 58 percent and 59 percent, respectively. There is really no excuse to fail to use child safety seats or shoulder/seat belts to help protect our most precious cargo.

While they are vitally important, child safety seats must also be used correctly. Failure to read the child safety seat instructions, or to properly install the safety seat, undermines the protection that they can provide. Putting children in rear-facing safety seats in the front seat of vehicles with passenger air bags may injure the child if the air bags deploy.

Many local police departments and other safety organizations routinely offer to check the installation of child safety seats. I encourage parents and grandparents to have their safety seats checked by these experts wherever such services are offered. These safety professionals would much rather see you for a safety seat check than to see your injured child at the scene of an accident.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

REMEMBERING DAD

Sunday, June 21 is Father's Day. Father's Day does not have quite the aura of Mother's Day, but it is certainly meaningful that our country also sets aside a day to pay tribute to fathers.

Although men might handle their parenting roles in many different ways, a good father, like a good mother, is basically a nurturer. Children need the warm and protective presence of a father figure in their growing years. In my Father's Day remarks in 1988, I pointed out: "A society without a strong sense of fatherhood is courting an increase in personal and social problems among its young people."

An English proverb says that "one father is worth more than 100 schoolmasters." When I think back on how much I learned from my coal-mining dad, I know that, despite the poverty and hardships of my youth, I was truly blessed by his presence in my life. The example of strength and wisdom, tempered by love, which the father provides in the home is extremely important to the development of a child.

The idea of making Father's Day a national day of recognition is credited to Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd, of the state of Washington, who began to champion the idea of Father's Day in 1909 after listening to a Mother's Day sermon. It was in 1972 that President Nixon established the third Sunday of June as a permanent national observance

of Father's Day. But the people of West Virginia can take pride in knowing that the first observance of Father's Day took place in our own State.

On December 6, 1907, a horrible mine explosion at Monogah killed more than 360 coal miners. The explosion left more than 1,000 children fatherless. Soon after that tragedy Ms. Grace Clayton proposed to her minister, Dr. Robert Webb, the pastor of the Williams Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church South (now known as Central United Methodist Church) of Fairmont, that fathers be given a day to be honored and remembered. "It was partly the explosion that set me to think how important and loved most fathers are," she explained. As a result, on July 5, 1908, the church celebrated the first Father's Day. This was just two months after the first Mother's Day service had been held 20 miles away near Grafton on May 10, 1908. What a tribute to West Virginia family values - - that both Mother's and Father's Days were first celebrated in our state!

In 1985, the state of West Virginia erected a historical marker declaring Fairmont as the site where Father's Day was first observed.

This Father's Day, I encourage you to keep Ms. Clayton's words in mind. Show your dad "how important and loved" he is.

And to all West Virginia dads, let me personally wish you a happy Father's Day!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Beauties of Vacationing at Home

June 20th is West Virginia Day. It was on this day, 146 years ago, that our beloved State was born.

This glorious day is a time to celebrate the natural beauties of our State! West Virginia has been blessed with unparalleled mountain views, cool green forests, sparkling lakes and rivers, and awe-inspiring geological wonders. And all of these glories are easily accessible because they are preserved in our magnificent State Parks.

This year, with our country in the midst of a recession and many families limiting their vacation plans, I would like to suggest that you enjoy your summer vacation in the state parks of wild and wonderful West Virginia!

If you do, you will be treated to some of the greatest natural beauty in the United States. And you will have a great time! Stay in a picturesque lodge or secluded cabin, or pitch a tent in a park campground. Set up camp, and cook dinner over an outdoor stove. Gather the family around the campfire at night and share some tall tales while roasting marshmallows. Spread a sleeping bag and fall asleep under the stars while pondering the Almighty's infinite majesty, and thanking Him for

creating such a magnificent State.

If it is exercise you crave, go hiking or biking in our lush hardwood forests. Or if a less energetic respite is sought, get on board the sternwheeler at Blennerhassett Island, or take a trip back in time on the Cass Scenic Railroad.

West Virginians are so lucky to have so much recreation available right at home. Thanks to our state parks and forests, West Virginia offers some of the greatest hunting and fishing in the eastern United States. You can catch dinner for the family by going bass or trout fishing in a beautiful mountain stream. Our lakes also offer great recreational opportunities for swimming, boating, and white water rafting.

If you are a history buff, our state parks, among other things, have preserved the colonial frontier as well as Civil War battle sites.

There is much to do to have a great time for you and your family, and think of the money you will save on gasoline or airline tickets.

Happy Birthday, West Virginia! May we continue to be blessed with natural beauty and the best people in the world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

July 4th: Reason for the Season

Independence Day is here. It is our nation's birthday! The Fourth of July is a celebration of the day, 233 years ago, when our forefathers threw off the yoke of tyranny and declared themselves to be free and independent people.

What courage they had. With the signing of the Declaration of Independence, they had committed an act of treason against the British crown, and the British government had a history of crushing colonial rebellions. Benjamin Franklin was quite sincere when he remarked at the signing of the Declaration: "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

Therefore, on Independence Day, we rightly celebrate and honor the incredible courage of these men as well as their tremendous vision.

What a collection of political talent they were. In addition to Franklin, there was Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Sam Adams, and John Hancock. On July 4, 1776, these and 51 other determined, patriotic Americans adopted the final draft of the Declaration of Independence, thus beginning the world's greatest experiment in government. And with the signing, these men established that "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" are not only "unalienable Rights" of all people, but that "Governments are instituted among men" to secure these rights.

As we celebrate this glorious day, however, we should never forget, as we say of Christmas time, the "reason for the season!" In the last line of the Declaration of Independence, the signers acknowledged their "firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence."

One of those signers, John Adams, wrote that the American Independence "ought to be solemnized with pomp, shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, illuminations." But he also pointed out "it ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty."

Therefore, on this Fourth of July, I urge you to enjoy the picnics, parades, ball games and fireworks. But I also urge you take time to remember our forefathers, those brave Americans who paved the way for the rights and liberties we have today. And, I ask you to take time to thank our Creator with "solemn acts of devotion."

Happy Birthday America! May God Almighty continue to smile upon you, and forever bless you. In the words one of America's greatest poets, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!

June 24, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Honoring Women Airforce Service Pilots

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest and most distinguished award that Congress can bestow on civilians. On May 20, 2009, the Senate acted to allow the awarding of a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots, most commonly known by their acronym, WASPs. I was proud to cosponsor this legislation, which rightly, if belatedly, acknowledges the unheralded heroism of these brave pioneering women pilots of World War II.

WASPs were the first women in history to pilot America's military aircraft. As Eleanor Roosevelt noted in 1942, "This is not a time when women should be patient. We are in a war and we need to fight it with all our ability and every weapon possible. Women pilots, in this particular case, are a weapon waiting to be used."

The 1,102 women who wore the WASP wings flew over 60 million miles in every type of aircraft and on every type of mission flown by Army Air Force male pilots, except direct combat missions. They delivered aircraft to battle zones around the world during the war. They towed targets for live anti-aircraft artillery practice, simulated strafing missions, and hauled cargo. Some 300 WASP veterans still survive and are living throughout America. What stories they can tell!

Although these brave women took the military oath and were promised military status when they entered training, they were never afforded active duty military status and were never commissioned. Thirty-eight WASP fliers lost their lives serving their country during the war, but because they were not commissioned, their bodies were sent home at their family's expense without the traditional military honors. Then, when victory during World War II seemed certain, the WASPs were quietly disbanded, leaving the former WASP pilots to pay their own way home!

WASP records were classified and sealed for 35 years, so these women never received honors or recognition for their service to their country, never took part in a ticker-tape parade, never received a medal or any of the benefits offered to male veterans –but, in the true spirit of the citizen-warrior, they never complained.

The G.I. Bill Improvement Act of 1977 finally granted the WASP corps the distinction of full military status for their service, and in 1984, each WASP was awarded the WWII Victory Medal and other appropriate campaign medals. Now, Congress will, at last, have the opportunity to honor these brave women for their pioneering wartime service by awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal.

July 1, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS

Home foreclosures are affecting West Virginians from every walk of life in nearly every county. Some borrowers made poor choices at the time of purchase, like purchasing homes they could not afford, or using equity from their homes to finance other expenses. However, many West Virginians facing foreclosure have experienced job loss, have been struggling to pay medical bills, or have been the victims of unscrupulous lending practices.

What follows is some information that may be of assistance to homeowners who are trying to make ends meet. If you are already at risk of delinquency on your mortgage or are already in foreclosure, you need to take immediate action. Gather financial documents and contact your mortgage lenders. Banks or mortgage lenders may provide the homeowner with specific information about possible options available.

In addition to contacting their lenders, homeowners may also wish to contact the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) at 1-(800)-CALL-FHA (225-5342). Officials of the FHA may be able to help in determining eligibility for assistance with individual mortgages. If homeowners would like to speak with housing counselors approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), they may visit the HUD website at <http://www.hud.gov> for a list of counselors in

HUD recommend that those in need of assistance call 1-888-995-HOPE (4673).

West Virginians seeking assistance with their mortgages may also contact the Federal National Mortgage Association, commonly known as Fannie Mae, at 1-800-7FANNIE. To determine if specific mortgages are owned by Fannie Mae, visit their website at www.fanniemae.com/loanlookup. Likewise, to determine if specific mortgages are owned by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, commonly known as Freddie Mac, homeowners may call 1-800-FREDDIE, or visit the Freddie Mac website at www.freddiemac.com/mymortgage.

For general information and updates concerning housing assistance programs, you can also visit www.MakingHomeAffordable.gov, and www.FinancialStability.gov.

Information about mortgage assistance is free, and homeowners should beware of any organization that tries to charge fees for assistance with mortgages. Make sure never to sign your property deed over to any organization or individual promising to "save the home." In addition, never make your mortgage payments to anyone other than your mortgage company, unless the company has approved it.

Even when times are tough, I know that West Virginians will continue to work hard to help their friends and family over-



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

HEALTHCARE FOR CHEMICALLY EXPOSED SOLDIERS

War is always a dangerous, messy, dirty business. Although American troops in Iraq today do not face the imminent threat of chemical and biological warfare, as they did in the 1991 Persian Gulf War, there have been several serious incidents in which troops were likely exposed to toxic materials during their Iraq deployments. Military commanders sometimes fail to address such exposures with the immediacy that they merit, which can mean difficulties for soldiers who later need care for injuries caused by these exposures.

In 2003, members of the West Virginia National Guard were deployed to Basra, Iraq, where they may have been exposed to toxic materials, including sodium dichromate. According to the Army, this chemical, used by former Iraqi plant workers to prevent corrosion, was found on the ground and measured in the air. The chromium VI (six) in sodium dichromate is considered a serious health hazard. Members of an Indiana National Guard unit that were deployed nearby also attributed post-deployment illnesses to the same exposures in the same area. In July 2005, a senior Department of Defense official testified about

numerous other incidents involving hazardous materials.

To help remedy this critical situation, I joined with Senators Bayh, Wyden, Rockefeller and others to introduce S. 642, the "Health Care for Servicemembers Exposed to Chemical Hazards Act."

The bill establishes a registry of members and former members of the armed forces who have been exposed to occupational and environmental health hazards in the line of duty, and makes these veterans eligible for medical examinations and laboratory tests. It requires that the Department of Defense conduct a scientific review of the evidence linking medical conditions to hazardous substances, and makes veterans eligible for treatment at Veterans Administration hospitals for these conditions. The legislation also requires military commanders to promptly report hazardous material exposures to their non-deployed headquarters.

The hazards of war are many and often unavoidable. But we owe it to our troops, who risk so much for our nation, to provide the best possible health and medical care, whether they are injured by a bullet or by a cloud of toxic chemicals.

July 15, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Music is Brain Food

Scholars have long praised the worth of music for the enrichment of human existence. The Greek philosopher Plato observed “Music and rhythm find their way into the secret places of the soul.” The English playwright, George Lillo wrote that, “There’s no sure passion in the human soul, but finds its food in music.”

All of us have experienced how music can influence our mood. Now, there is growing scientific evidence that music can be a “mega vitamin” for the developing brains of children and for adult brains as well—even for individuals whose brains have been damaged by injury or disease.

Music training is often greeted by students with about the same enthusiasm as getting a tooth pulled. However, a recent Harvard University study found that children who study a musical instrument for at least three years outperform children who lack such training, even on tests measuring verbal ability and visual pattern completion—skills not normally associated with musical training. Music students also scored better on tests involving auditory discrimination and finger dexterity.

The longer and more intensely a child studied his or her instrument, the better he or she scored on all tests. These findings highlight the importance of music instruction for our youth.

Whether it be singing or playing an instrument, music has also been found to help brains damaged by disease or injury to find re-routed neural pathways, influencing and improving motor function, communication and even cognition. In one Finnish study, something as simple as listening to music for several hours a day was found to enhance the recovery of stroke victims. Musical and rhythmic cues have also helped the movement and balance of people with degenerative disorders, as well as aphasia, a disorder resulting from damage to the portions of the brain responsible for language.

As much as I love music for its own sake, I am even more gratified to find out that music has benefits beyond the joy in its making and the beauty in hearing it played. It is clear that music is more than food for the soul—it is food for the brain as well. We would all do well to make it an integral part of our daily lives.

July 22, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

“MOVE”-ING TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION FOR MEMBERS OF ARMED SERVICES

Freedom is never free. For more than 230 years the brave men and women of our armed services have been defending the ideals and freedoms of our democracy that we take for granted.

One of the greatest responsibilities in our democratic society is the right to vote and actively participate in and influence government policies. In many instances, however, the men and women who are overseas in service to our country have not been afforded their full opportunities to vote in our elections.

The Election Assistance Commission has estimated that there are almost 43,000 West Virginia citizens abroad, many of whom are service members and their families, eligible to vote by absentee ballot. But in the 2006 general election, only 309 (less than one percent) of those West Virginians requested absentee ballots, and only 162 of those ballots were actually counted. The abysmal voting statistics from our citizens abroad exist due to lack of information about absentee balloting, the time it takes to receive and return absentee ballots, the difficulties involved in getting ballots to localities where mail services are limited, and the movement of troops between elections.

I have long been an advocate of encouraging our military and overseas citizens to fully participate

in the democratic process. With a voting participation percentage in this country which is far below that of other major democracies, it is imperative that we make it easy for those who are entitled to participate in our electoral process from abroad to do so.

Recently, the Senate adopted legislation that I cosponsored — the “Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act.” This legislation will provide further opportunities for members of our armed services and others to vote in elections through absentee balloting.

The legislation requires States to maintain an electronic system for sending election materials, to send ballots at least 45 days before an election, and to accept ballots post-marked on or before the election if received within 10 days of the election or before the State certifies the election.

Voting is much more than a civic duty. It is a sacred privilege. Our citizens, including those in the armed services, need to voice their opinions, and to fully participate in renewing the promise of America. West Virginians have always been at the head of the line when it comes to volunteering to be of service to our great country. They deserve nothing less than an extra effort to make sure that they can vote and that their vote counts.

July 29, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

REACHING OUT TO VETERANS

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan combined with the U.S. military's increased reliance on National Guard and Reserve forces to serve in those missions, has created a growing population of combat veterans who hail from rural towns and communities across the United States.

West Virginia's current and former service members may not live on or near military bases, but they come back from tours of duty overseas with the same mental and physical injuries seen in active duty forces who receive immediate access to medical care. For many former service members, the fight does not end when they return home. They continue to struggle to readjust to civilian life or to cope with battlefield injuries and stress.

Studies have shown that veterans are more than twice as likely to commit suicide as non-veterans. The highest suicide rate among veterans is in the 20-24 year old age group of veterans who may have served multiple deployments in Iraq or Afghanistan. This group is 2-4 times more likely to commit suicide as civilians of the same age.

These shocking statistics underscore how important it is for our service members to have counseling services available to them. Unfortunately, many rural veterans must travel long distances to seek help at Veterans Administration (VA) medical facilities,

even when the services they need do not require expensive hospital-based medical technology.

To bring some VA services closer to the veteran population they serve, a fleet of 50 new mobile Veterans Centers has hit the road in the last year in an effort to bring counseling and therapy to veterans in rural areas.

Two of the new mobile centers are now roaming the roads of West Virginia. Based in Morgantown and Beckley, the 38-foot motor coaches have spaces for confidential non-medical readjustment counseling and psychological counseling for traumatic military-related experiences as well as family counseling when needed for a veteran's readjustment.

The new mobile vet centers are used to provide outreach and counseling at active-duty, reserve and National Guard activities, including post-deployment health reassessments for returning service members. They will also make appearances at events typically staffed by local VA Center staff, as the Beckley-based mobile vet center did at a "Welcome Home Celebration" for veterans held in Beckley on June 13th.

Hopefully, bringing urgently needed counseling and support services closer to rural veterans and their families will help our veterans and their families mend the lingering wounds of war.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A SUPREME CHOICE

August 8, 2009, marked yet another historic first in our nation's history. On that day, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court John Roberts administered the oath of office to Judge Sonia Sotomayor, who became the first Hispanic Justice to serve on the United States Supreme Court, and only the third woman in our Nation's history to serve on the highest court in the land. Judge Sotomayor, with my support, was confirmed by the United States Senate on August 6, replacing retiring Justice David Souter for the Court's upcoming term.

I take the Senate's role of providing advice and consent on nominations very seriously. In more than 50 years in the Senate, I have never missed a vote on a confirmation for a Supreme Court Justice. I submitted questions to Judge Sotomayor on matters of great importance to the preservation of Congressional power: the Constitutional grant of the purse strings to the Congress; the role and responsibility of the Legislative Branch to conduct oversight and investigation; and the deliberate restraints on the Executive Branch created by the Constitution's separation of powers.

I am not a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, but I watched the hearings intently; and I studied Judge Sotomayor's words. What struck me about the Judiciary Committee's hearings was

the dearth of questioning by Senators about Judge Sotomayor's judicial record. Indeed, her record is certainly substantial; the most substantial record I have seen in some time. I was disappointed however, that instead of delving into her many opinions, or questioning her on Supreme Court jurisprudence, Judge Sotomayor was asked the same few questions over and over again, in my opinion, needlessly.

The Senate's ability to question a nominee is a precious gift from our Founding Fathers—a check on both the Judiciary and on the Executive Branches. While the President may nominate, under the Constitution, the advice and consent of the Senate is required for confirmation. But, in this particular instance, some of Judge Sotomayor's statements, taken out of context, were exhaustively examined, while volumes of her judicial record went unquestioned, and likely unread. Unfortunately, by not probing, the Senate shirked its responsibilities.

As I said in my remarks in support of Judge Sotomayor's nomination, I hope that the Senate will reflect on the nomination and confirmation processes as envisioned in the Constitution, and ask ourselves whether we can do a better job in living up to the spirit of the law in the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

LABOR DAY 2009

The first Monday in September is set aside each year to recognize the dignity of work and to thank American workers for their contributions to making our country better and stronger. It is a day when men and women from all vocations join in celebration and recreation.

Labor Day is an honorable American tradition. In 1893, legislation was introduced in Congress to establish Labor Day as a federal holiday. The next year, President Grover Cleveland signed the legislation into law, and 116 years later, we continue to honor those who earn their bread and butter by the sweat of their brow.

As the son of a coal miner and as a person who married a coal miner's daughter, I have always taken great pride in my coal miner background. And I have always considered the working people of West Virginia as my best friends.

When I think of all the great things that the labor movement has accomplished for the people of our state, from raising the standard of living for our workers to ensuring that they have better, safer, and cleaner places in which to work, my heart swells with pride in being able to represent the working men and women of West Virginia

in the United States Senate, and help them to achieve their goals.

The West Virginia AFL-CIO recently sponsored a "Turn America Around" rally at the West Virginia State Capitol in Charleston. It was well-attended and everyone had a great time.

But I especially liked the theme of it is time to "turn America around." We now have a young, dynamic president who understands working people, and who is striving to put Americans back to work. Although one may not agree with President Obama on every issue, he is a President who cares about workers and families. He is a President who listens.

Health care reform which insures quality, affordable care as the unalienable right of every American; fair trade policies which help stop the exporting of American jobs overseas; and labor law reform which means that every American worker has the opportunity to join a union—these and other causes are in the best traditions of the great American labor movement. I look forward to standing side-by-side with the working men and women of West Virginia to try to make the dreams reality.

August 19, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FREEDOM OF SPEECH REQUIRES TOLERANCE OF OTHERS VIEWS

In September 1787 in Philadelphia, some of the brightest and bravest men came together to forge the document that to this day guides our great nation: the Constitution of the United States.

The Constitution's preamble established our government's purpose in one short paragraph, followed by a few pages which gave this nation direction and structure. And for almost 222 years, the Constitution has remained a living, breathing document – the foundation of our freedoms and the bedrock of our rights and liberties – that we all cherish.

One of the most sacred of the freedoms contained in our Constitution is the guarantee of freedom of speech. As I have said repeatedly over the years, no citizen should be a mere spectator in our government. We should express our opinions, petition our elected representatives, and engage in an open and civilized debate on the important issues that confront our country.

However, as I have watched the health care debate unfold in many areas and venues across this country during the past month, I have become increasingly concerned with the tone and tenor of a “civilized discourse” that I believe the Framers of the Constitution had in mind when they established the

right to free speech. In many town hall meetings logical and open discussion has been supplanted by disruptive shouting matches where no one is heard and no debate ensues. Members of Congress have been rudely interrupted during their responses and various attendees have engaged in physical confrontation with one another requiring law enforcement officials to remove them from the town meetings.

As a strong defender of our Constitution, I am in no way suggesting that free and open discussion on any topic should be limited. I am heartened by the amount of discussion that is taking place all across this country on the issue of health care and the desire by tens of millions of Americans to become fully informed on the many proposals under consideration in Congress.

But as we go into what will be a critical debate on the future of our nation's health care system, I encourage all of us to take a deep breath, exhale, and be tolerant of others views. Shrillness and violence will not move the debate forward – it will only attempt to undermine the type of freedom of speech that our Founding Fathers envisioned back in 1787 when they rose to that dramatic challenge of establishing what has become the greatest Republic in the world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MY FRIEND TED

August 26, 2009 was a day I had hoped and prayed would never come. It was the day when the good Lord took my dear friend, Senator Ted Kennedy, away from us after a courageous and valiant fight against brain cancer. My heart weeps at the loss of my best friend in the Senate, and for Ted's wife, Vicki, his family, and the Senate that he served so ably.

President John F. Kennedy was fond of quoting the biblical passage that tells us: "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." (Luke 12:48, KJV) When I think of that passage, I think of the life, career, and accomplishments of my dear friend and colleague, Senator Edward Kennedy.

When Ted Kennedy came to the Senate in 1962, much had already been given to him. He had been born into a wealthy and remarkably talented family. His father had been an Ambassador to England. One of his brothers had been President of the United States. Another brother was the Attorney General of the United States.

Throughout his career, Senator Kennedy believed in a simple premise: that our society's greatness lies in its ability and willingness to provide for its less fortunate members. Whether striving to increase the minimum wage, ensuring that all children have medical insurance, or securing better access to higher education, Senator Kennedy always cared deeply for those whose needs exceeded their political clout. Unbowed by the terrible sorrows that had fallen upon his family, his spirit continued to soar, and he continued to work to make his dreams a reality. Neither years of age nor years of political combat, nor his illness, diminished the idealism and energy of this talented and intelligent man.

The institution that he served so ably will be diminished without his voice of eloquence and reason. I know that the people of the great State of West Virginia join me in expressing our heartfelt condolences to the Kennedy family and to the people of Massachusetts who have lost an extraordinary public servant. Ted, my dear friend, I will miss you dearly.

September 2, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

CELEBRATE OUR CONSTITUTION

Next week, our beloved U.S. Constitution turns 222 years old! On September 17, 1787, the Delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document they had created. It was signed by thirty-nine brave men who changed the course of history, and created a most unique form of government. Later ratified by the requisite nine states in 1788, this precious document was the blueprint for our system of government today.

While some may take for granted the existence of our national charter, it was the result of the toil and imagination of our Founding Fathers, including George Washington, who served as President of the Constitutional Convention, James Madison, known as the "Father of the Constitution," Alexander Hamilton, and Benjamin Franklin. The debate on the particular form the government should take was long and intense, but the Framers put aside their personal differences to create a national charter for the common good. Prepared in secret, locked behind doors guarded by sentries, the Framers struck the unique balance between a national government and the states, known as federalism, and established the three branches of government and its separation of powers.

In December 2004, I helped to enact the federal law that designates September 17th of each year as "Constitution and Citizenship Day." I did so because I care deeply about this precious document, and have made it my life's work to study it and let it guide my work in the U.S. Senate. Of the written national constitutions, the U.S. Constitution is the oldest and shortest, and has been in force longer than any other written constitution in the world today. Brilliant in its brevity, it remains extraordinary in its wisdom. It protects our individual liberties. It encapsulates the courage and creativity of our forefathers.

On September 17, I encourage all Americans to spend time reading the text of the Constitution. It is my hope that parents will discuss it with their children, and citizens everywhere will take note of the day's significance. There will be celebrations all across our great land dedicated to our founding document, and reflecting on its importance. I am so excited about the many events that are taking place this year all across our great country, and encourage everyone to use this opportunity to engage in civic discussion and pride. We make ourselves better citizens and patriots by studying and reflecting on the history of our Republic.

September 9, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

SLEEPING THROUGH SCHOOL

A new school year has begun and both students and parents are beginning a routine that entails getting up earlier and completing and overseeing homework assignments to ensure a successful school year. To really get ready for the academic year, however, parents may want to stress that their children get enough sleep. Staying up late and then sleeping in until noon is not a good option during the school year, because sleep deprivation has serious consequences for students of all ages.

A recent Columbia University Medical Center study of 15,659 teens found that middle- and high-school-aged teens whose parents did not require them to be in bed before midnight on school nights are 42 percent more likely to be depressed than teens whose parents enforce a 10 p.m. or earlier bedtime. The study also found that teens who are allowed to stay up late are 30 percent more likely to have had suicidal thoughts in the past year.

Other studies have shown that shortened sleep hours adversely affect student performance on learning and testing. Cutting back on sleep by an hour a night is equivalent to the loss of two years of cognitive maturation and development. Even staying up late only on Friday and

Saturday night can impair a child's I.Q. by as much as seven points.

New research is also exploring the link between sleep loss and obesity. Three studies of students in Japan, Canada and Australia show that children who get fewer than eight hours of sleep each night have about a 300 percent higher rate of obesity than those who get a full ten hours of sleep. A University of Houston study showed that the odds of adolescent obesity went up 80 percent for each hour of lost sleep.

Teens need approximately nine hours of sleep each night, but most get only about seven and a half hours of sleep; according to the National Institutes of Health. If a teen is an athlete as well as a student, they may need even more than nine hours of sleep.

A Stanford University study showed that when a small sample of student tennis players were asked to sleep for ten hours a night, their sprinting drills were faster, their strokes were more accurate and deep, and their outlook improved. Some experts suggest that natural hormones released into the brain during sleep aid in the physical recovery process. The bottom line is that more sleep equals better mental and physical fitness.

So, this school year, make time for sleep.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

ADOPT A WILD MUSTANG OR BURRO DAY

September 26th marks the first National Adopt a Wild Horse or Burro Day, a combined effort by the Bureau of Land Management and non-profit groups including Wild Horses 4 Ever, the American Horse Protection Association, the Mustang Heritage Foundation and the Humane Society of the United States to find homes for 1,000 wild horses and burros.

The Bureau of Land Management, or BLM, is charged with maintaining America's wild, free-roaming horses and burros in harmony with the public lands they range. To keep herd sizes from growing too large for the land to support, BLM regularly conducts gathers to remove excess horses; the animals pulled off of the range are then offered for adoption to the general public.

On National Adoption Day, wild horses and burros will be available for public adoption at nineteen locations around the United States. Other adoption events are scheduled for other dates in September and October.

Achieving 1,000 adoptions is a very laudable goal, but still leaves more than 20,000 other wild mustangs in long-term holding facilities at taxpayer expense. BLM needs better options to manage America's wild horses in order to avoid using its authority to destroy wild horses over the age of ten or which have been

passed over for adoption three times.

That is why I have been proud to introduce S. 1579, a Senate bill that matches H.R. 1018, the Restore Our American Mustang Act, introduced by my West Virginia House colleague, Nick Rahall. S. 1579 and H.R. 1018 would provide BLM with additional authority necessary to maintain wild horses and burros living on federal lands in a thriving ecological balance while prohibiting the sale for slaughter of wild horses and burros. These bills would enhance adoption efforts and encourage modern contraceptive methods to limit reproduction, among other equine management methods.

Importantly, S. 1579 and H.R. 1018 would also give BLM the authority to begin restoring wild horse and burro ranges to the 53 million acres they roamed as recently as 1971. That vast rangeland has dwindled over time to just 35 million acres -- isolating herds and creating the need for more 'gathers' and more horses filling long-term holding facilities.

Americans value the nation's great Western heritage embodied in a wild horse running free.

While I hope that those up to the challenge will adopt a wild horse or burro, we also need to do more to ensure that this part of our unique American heritage will endure forever free.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MY CORRIDOR H CRUSADE

The ancient Romans understood that good roads are key to increasing commerce and facilitating trade. They built an empire that stretched across the globe based on that belief.

Of course, good highways remain essential to economic development today, and roads have always been an especially difficult challenge for West Virginia. What irony that the magnificent "summits bathed in glory" that virtually define us can also sometimes hinder economic prosperity.

In 1965, the Appalachian Development Act was authorized by Congress. That legislation was the federal government's promise to help us overcome barriers and promote the region's economic development. The ADA proposed a system of Corridor highways that would traverse some of the most rugged terrain in the eastern United States, opening commerce to the entire Appalachian region, stimulating growth, and alleviating poverty.

Corridor H remains the only unfinished Appalachian corridor highway in West Virginia's portion of the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS). Corridor H in West Virginia is planned to stretch from I-79 at Weston through the Potomac Highlands to the Virginia state line. Completing it has become my transportation crusade.

Nearly 66 miles of the corridor in West Virginia

have been completed and are open to traffic. An additional 23 miles are under construction and a 19-mile segment is under final design and awaiting funding. On September 17th, a ceremony marked the completion of a 7-mile segment of Corridor H which included a new bridge over the South Branch of the Potomac. This ceremony also included the groundbreaking for a new ten-mile segment of Corridor H, which will connect the western edge of the Moorefield Bridge to Patterson Creek Road and Forman, West Virginia.

Recently I secured \$4.5 million in the FY 2010 Transportation and HUD Appropriations bill which will be used primarily for work on the roadway between Bismarck and Forman. And to date I have secured over \$350 million in past appropriations bills for Corridor H construction. The State of West Virginia also receives annual ADHS funding to help in our construction efforts.

The good people of central and eastern West Virginia need Corridor H to be able to get to their jobs, their schools, their hospitals, and to get the products they manufacture to market. I am as ardent as ever in my intent to see that the promise made by the Federal Government to the people of Appalachia is kept. The people have been waiting for this system for 45 years, which is far too long. Corridor H -- Finish it!!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A BOOST TO OUR ECONOMY

Earlier this year, our Nation appeared to be on the precipice of a second Great Depression. The economy was losing, on average, nearly 700,000 jobs per month, and many feared what may lie ahead.

In response, the Congress acted boldly and swiftly by passing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). And President Obama signed this legislation into law in mid-February. By providing assistance to working families, and incentives to businesses and state governments to hire and retain workers, the Recovery Act has played a leading role in stabilizing the U.S. economy.

In West Virginia, I am proud to report that, so far, nearly \$1.5 billion has been committed to our state, in the form of tax relief for working families, investments in state-based infrastructure like roads and water systems, and assistance for those directly hurt by the recession.

The Recovery Act has created or saved over 5,000 jobs in the state. It has provided one-time payments totaling \$118 million to nearly 474,000 West Virginia veterans, seniors, and railroad retirees. It is providing emergency unemployment benefits to 26,000 West Virginians who have lost their jobs and exhausted their regular unemployment benefits.

Stimulus dollars are being used for highway and bridge projects, like the Mon-Fayette Expressway to Morgantown, and

West Virginia Route 9 in Jefferson County. They are being used for mass transit in urban areas like Charleston and Wheeling, and to make improvements and upgrades at airports like Yeager and Greenbrier Valley.

West Virginia will be able to invest in law enforcement and first responders, like in Hinton, where stimulus funds are being used to build a new fire station.

In many counties, like McDowell, Calhoun, and Roane, stimulus funds will be used to extend and upgrade water and sewer lines. In Wheeling, stimulus funds will enable water improvements for commercial development at The Highlands shopping complex. In Wyoming and Mineral Counties, funds will be used for watershed and flood prevention.

The recovery legislation will enable upgrades for National Guard facilities in Bluefield, Charleston and Bridgeport, and Veterans facilities in Huntington and Martinsburg.

These are real benefits for West Virginians – for our families, for our communities, and for our state. Despite the hyperbole and rhetoric one may hear on the radio, see on the television or read on the Internet, over 5,000 West Virginians have jobs today that otherwise would not, thanks to the Recovery Act.

The stimulus package is working. The provisions which invest in our Nation's infrastructure and in the American worker are the right way to help our economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT MONTH

During my years in the United States Senate, I have been privileged to work with some very talented and inspiring individuals -- Senator Daniel Inouye, Senator John McCain and former Senators Bob Dole, Max Cleland and Bob Kerrey, all war veterans, have each been severely wounded. These men suffered grievous injuries, and some lost limbs in battle. After their recoveries, no one would have blamed them for taking it easy and spending the rest of their lives at home - but our nation is a better place because they each continued their lives of public service.

October may be designated as "National Disability Employment Month," but smart employers know that any time can be the right time to hire a worker with a disability. To attract and retain talented and dedicated employees, being inclusive of people with disabilities - in recruitment, retention, and advancement - can offer companies a competitive edge. People with disabilities are experienced problem solvers with a proven ability to adapt, like those Senators I have mentioned.

People with disabilities have many talents that should not be overlooked by employers. It is therefore distressing to learn that only 22 percent of people with disabilities are employed, and that the unemployment

rate for disabled workers is 16.2 percent, compared to 9.2 percent for workers who are not disabled, according to Department of Labor statistics.

The National Campaign for Disability Employment aims to improve the job prospects for disabled workers. Supported by West Virginia University with technical assistance from the Job Accommodation Network, the National Campaign for Disability Employment seeks to educate businesses and the public about the incentives available for employing disabled workers and the returns that a company could see from investing in disabled workers.

Advances in technology have made it easier for the disabled to perform at their best. For example, texting was originally developed as a means for deaf individuals to communicate over phone lines. Job accommodations for people with disabilities are usually low cost or no cost. Some 56 percent of workplace accommodations cost absolutely nothing. Of those accommodations that do have a cost, the typical one-time expenditure by employers was \$600, according to the Job Accommodation Network.

I encourage all employers to look beyond a prospective employee's disability to discover the talents and ambition that can help drive their company forward.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE HEALTH CARE DEBATE

Congress is currently working on a plan to make good health care affordable for more Americans, while keeping the size of our deficits down. Five Congressional Committees have reported health care legislation and the negotiating between the White House and the Congressional Leadership has just begun. Because health care spending accounts for one-sixth of the U.S. economy the ramifications of reform are enormous. Health care reform is certainly a job in need of doing, but the question is, can we get it right?

What has been singularly unhelpful so far is the fevered pitch of the debate and the demonization of proponents and opponents by one side or the other. Constructive reform will never be accomplished unless the noise level is reduced. Let us hope for at least that much as Congress proceeds. The challenges are many and complex. Can we accomplish reform without creating a huge new bureaucracy? What do we do to restrain the actual costs of health care services? How do we encourage the insurance industry to provide better, more affordable

coverage? Should reform be accomplished through the tax code? What about real world problems, like the shortage of doctors in West Virginia, the distance from hospitals and clinics in rural America, or the fear of law suits which fuels expensive over testing by physicians? How do we encourage healthy life styles among our people, which could avoid major health problems in the first place?

This Senator has always believed that access to decent, affordable health care is the birthright of every citizen, and should not be just a privilege for the better off in our society. The challenges vary from state to state, but in West Virginia — with its difficult topography, large elderly population, low wages, air and water quality issues, occupational diseases, and higher rates of smoking, obesity, and drug and alcohol abuse — the task of crafting meaningful health care reform becomes especially difficult. An effective health care plan for the nation must be flexible enough to adequately accommodate states which have special needs. Anything else will not be fair and effective and should certainly not be enacted.

October 20, 2009



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Recognizing the Last Remaining Veteran of the "Great War"

Veterans Day is the day we set aside to honor the men and women who have defended our country, our way of life, and our freedom. It is the day that allows us to thank our veterans for their patriotism and their willingness to serve our Nation. It is the day of the year that a grateful nation shows its gratitude to its bravest and finest citizens.

The origins of this day are both historic and symbolic. It began at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, that is, 11/11/11 of 1918, when the Allied Powers signed a cease-fire agreement with the Central Powers, thus bringing to an end the bloody international nightmare known as World War I, the "Great War" as it was called. The next year, the United States set aside November 11th as Armistice Day to remember the sacrifices that men and women made during World War I. In 1954, Congress made November 11 a day to honor veterans of all wars, and, therefore, changed the name of the day to "Veterans Day."

Of the 4.7 million Americans who served in World War I, only one is still living — my good friend and our fellow West Virginian, Mr. Frank Woodruff Buckles of Charles Town, who has

become a national treasure and a West Virginia legend.

Mr. Buckles was only 16 years of age when the United States entered the war. As a dough boy, Private Buckles drove dignitaries around England, and an ambulance around France. Mr. Buckles downplays his wartime experience explaining, "There was nothing dramatic about it. Sometimes I was driving in Winchester, England, sometimes France." But his experience was indeed important. It was his willingness as well as that of 4.7 million brave Americans to enter the military and to serve our country that won that war.

While Mr. Buckles was actually born in Missouri in 1901, he became a West Virginian by choice in 1954, when he and his wife settled on a farm in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, the same area where his ancestors had settled in 1732.

On November 11, 2009, Veterans Day, we need to remember Mr. Buckles, and all of our nation's veterans, as well as the men and women currently wearing our nation's uniforms. We must keep all of them in our hearts and prayers, and make sure that our country serves them well and honorably, just the way that they have served our country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FLU PRECAUTIONS

As the first shipments of H1N1 flu vaccine make their way into the state of West Virginia, it is clear that the flu has spread much farther and faster than have the vaccines. Many people are concerned about getting vaccinated in time. The first doses must treat high priority patients first – health care providers, pregnant women, young children and their caregivers, and those with existing medical conditions which put them at higher risk.

In the rush to line up for a flu shot, however, we should not overlook the tried and true basics of flu prevention. The flu spreads primarily through person-to-person contact, so your mother's advice still applies: cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you sneeze or cough; wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub; avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; avoid crowds and limit your exposure to flu victims as much as possible. Disinfect surfaces and clean toys and other objects which your children share. Don't share food or dishes. These simple precautions can help to reduce your and your family's chances of catching the seasonal flu as well as the H1N1 flu and other illnesses.

If you or someone in your family becomes

ill, try to isolate them or yourself as much as possible. Get plenty of rest and drink clear fluids. Stay home from work or school for at least 24 hours after the fever has broken. Children may remain infectious for a longer period of time. Following this simple plan will mean that you will recover faster, and that you will also reduce the chances of co-workers and their families becoming ill. Be careful about handling the dishes and laundry of those who have flu symptoms, and wash clothes and other items they use in warm, soapy water. Consider wearing a mask if you are sick and must interact with your family, or with an ill family member. If you or a sick family member has any special medical conditions or if the illness becomes severe, contact your doctor.

Plenty of helpful advice and information about the flu and vaccine status is available on the Internet at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/ or at www.wvflu.org, or you can call 1-800-CDC-INFO for more information about the H1N1 flu. You can even sign up to receive email updates or link to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for "Twitter" updates on the flu. The flu is here, but common sense precautions plus vaccinations can reduce the risk of catching it.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

CELEBRATING ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

November 21 is the 10th anniversary of National Adoption Day. As an adopted child myself, I am happy to join in celebrating those families who open their hearts and their homes to children in need. Unfortunately, there are still many children in need.

In 2006, an estimated 510,000 children were in foster care in the United States. Many of these children are eventually reunited with their parents, but more than 100,000 need permanent foster homes. Of the estimated 289,000 children who left foster care in 2006, 17 percent, or 49,130, were actually adopted. That is 49,130 happy new beginnings for children who may someday return the favor by achieving great things and raising great families themselves. After all, John Hancock, author James Michener, Apple Computer founder Steven Jobs, Oracle Corporation founder Larry Ellison, Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Palmer, and singer Faith Hill were all adopted.

The children in foster care awaiting adoption are as varied as the families they will join. Their median age is 10.2 years old. Some 40 percent are Caucasian; 32 percent are African-American, and 19 percent are Latino. Just over half are boys. Some have special needs and some have siblings. How many will grow up to be great artists or athletes or

businessmen or U.S. Senators is anyone's guess, but we can be sure that without adoptive families to give these children a second chance, those numbers will be smaller.

National Adoption Day began in 2000 with events in nine cities. It has grown to include more than 300 events in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. More than 25,000 children's adoptions have been finalized on National Adoption Day since its inception, thanks to the collaboration among local adoption agencies, the courts and advocacy organizations like the Children's Home Society of West Virginia, the Alliance of Children's Rights, Casey Family Services, Children's Action Network, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, and the Freddie Mac Foundation. These groups and their efforts have raised public awareness of the many children in foster care who need a family to call their own.

Adoption, like all child-rearing, is not for the faint of heart. It is, instead, for the great of heart. I hope that more parents who may be considering adopting a child from foster care will take that leap of faith, and I applaud those who already have. Somewhere out there, a foster child is waiting.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

THANKING GOD FOR OUR BLESSINGS

Thanksgiving is one of America's most beloved holidays. It is a day devoted to turkey, family gatherings, football games, parades, and the beginning of the Christmas-holiday season. But it also should be a day devoted to giving thanks to God for our many blessings. It always has been.

Most of us learned about the Pilgrims conducting the first Thanksgiving in 1621 in Plymouth Colony. To the Pilgrims, Thanksgiving was intended as a religious celebration to give thanks to God for helping them survive that first brutal year in the new world.

But before Thanksgiving became an annual tradition in 1863, and an official federal holiday in 1941, it was celebrated on a number of other occasions – and always as a day of giving thanks to God.

During the American Revolution, following the American victory at the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777 that marked a turning point in the war, the Continental Congress approved a resolution proclaiming a day of "Thanksgiving and praise." In his personal notes on the war, General George Washington wrote: "Tomorrow being the day set apart by the honorable Congress for Public Thanksgiving and praise, ... duty call[s] us devoutly to express our grateful acknowledgments to God for the manifold blessings he has granted us."

Following the establishment of the new government of the United States in 1789, President George Washington issued a "Thanksgiving Proclamation" designating a "day of public thanks-giving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness." At President Washington's request, Americans assembled in churches to thank God for his blessings.

During the American Civil War, following the Battle of Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln asked the people of the United States to set aside the last Thursday of November "as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father." "In the midst of a Civil War of unequal magnitude and severity," President Lincoln proclaimed, the country should take a day to acknowledge the "gracious gifts of the most high God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy."

On this Thanksgiving, I would like to thank God for the young American men and women who will spend this holiday in harm's way protecting our country and the values we hold dear. And I thank God for the privilege of representing our beloved State and our great people in the U.S. Senate.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FOR AMERICA'S HEROES

Spending the holidays away from family and friends is difficult for anyone, but it is even more stressful for individuals serving tours of duty in combat zones or hospitalized while recovering from battlefield injuries. Holidays are also difficult for the families lighting the candles, baking the cookies, or decorating the tree without the companionship of their uniformed family member. Kind words and warm wishes to let our military heroes, families, and veterans know that they are in our thoughts and prayers are always appreciated, but they mean even more during the Christmas season.

With that thought in mind, I hope that many West Virginians will join in the Red Cross's "Holiday Mail for Heroes" campaign. Begun in 2007, when the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., asked the Red Cross to distribute thousands of holiday cards to members of the military, the program grew to include more than 1.4 million holiday greetings sent from Americans to service members, veterans and their families around the world.

In 2009, the Red Cross, with logistical help from corporate partner Pitney Bowes, hopes to reach even more service members and veterans who may be spending the holidays away from home. The United States has 1.4 million active duty members, reservists

and guards on duty, and more than 24 million veterans.

If you and your family would like to warm the heart of a service member, their family, or a veteran this Christmas, send your card before December 7th to:

Holiday Mail for Heroes
P.O. Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

Be sure to affix adequate postage. The Red Cross has requested that you not include excessive glitter, inserts, money or "care packages," as these will cause your card to be discarded during processing. Address cards to "Dear Service Member, Family or Veteran," and sign them, but do not send letters or personal information such as home or email addresses.

Red Cross and Pitney Bowes volunteers will screen the cards for hazardous materials, sort, package, and deliver them to military bases and hospitals, veteran's hospitals and other locations in the United States and abroad during the holidays.

The thousands of hours offered by these volunteers and the support provided by Pitney Bowes demonstrate the generosity and caring that are in the true spirit of Christmas. Please consider joining them in sharing a bit of your Christmas spirit with our military service members, their families, and our Nation's veterans. It will mean so much.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

DIABETES AWARENESS

Last month was American Diabetes Month. Many of us know someone with diabetes, or suffer from it ourselves. More than 24 million Americans have been diagnosed with diabetes, and more than 57 million Americans are pre-diabetic. Every 20 seconds, someone is diagnosed with diabetes. If current trends continue, one out of every three children faces a future with diabetes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For the individuals involved and their families, diabetes is a daily struggle that can involve the loss of eyesight, amputations, or dangerous drops in blood sugar that can lead to coma and even death. Every day, nearly 200 people with diabetes undergo an amputation. Another 55 people each day become blind because of diabetes. Another 120 people daily enter end-stage kidney disease programs.

For employers and for society as a whole, the increasing number of diabetics means higher health care costs and lost productivity. Diabetes is one of the leading causes of death and disability in the United States. It leads to heart complications, stroke, and kidney disease. The United States spends \$174 billion a year treating diabetes and its complications.

As devastating as diabetes can be, it is also an avoidable disease. During the month of November, the American Diabetes Association launched a movement called "Stop Diabetes," with the goal of inspiring millions of people to take action against diabetes.

I encourage you to visit the American Diabetes Association website, at www.diabetes.org, to learn more about steps you and your family can take to prevent diabetes or reduce the impact of a diabetes diagnosis. You can find out what researchers are doing to help prevent and treat diabetes, as well as how to make living with diabetes easier.

One can avoid becoming a diabetes statistic, by following that tried and true formula for healthy living – eat right, exercise, and get enough rest. The American Diabetes Association website has recipes and fitness advice that can make nutrition and exercise become a part of our daily lives.

The steps we take today to prevent or stop diabetes may be the best gift that we can give to ourselves, our families and our friends this holiday season. Good health makes every day a joy – just ask someone who lives with a chronic disease like diabetes.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

LIGHTING UP THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Christmas season is here. It is that glorious time of the year when, everywhere we look, we will see celebrations of the birth of Jesus. There will be Christmas decorations, holly wreaths, Christmas carolers and Christmas trees. And there will be holiday lights – lots of them.

Holiday lights have become so popular that cities and organizations around the country now offer annual holiday festivals of lights. I am pleased to point out that one of the largest and oldest of these light festivals is here in West Virginia, at Oglebay Park in Wheeling.

Upon his death in 1926, Earl W. Oglebay willed his beautiful country estate to the people of Wheeling “for public operation.” Two years later, Oglebay Park was established. Over the years, the Park has been developed into a multi-purpose, all-season resort that features a swimming pool, championship golf courses, skiing and many other recreational activities. I am proud to have contributed to the growth of this magnificent park by obtaining federal monies for the expansion of Wilson Lodge and the National Training Center for Public Facility Managers.

In 1985, the Park added what has become one of its most popular features, the Winter Festival of Lights. This holiday light show has attracted

millions of visitors and is rated as one of the top 100 international events by the American Bus Association and one of the top 200 events in the country by Discover America.

The Oglebay Winter Festival of Lights covers more than 300 acres and features over a million lights. The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers spans 45 feet across and contains more than 3,000 lights. A giant Poinsettia Wreath with Candles stands 60 feet high and 50 feet in diameter. The delightful Dinosaur Dell presents an animated display of these extinct reptiles.

There is so much to see at what has become one of our State's top tourist attractions. A display featuring the “Twelve Days of Christmas” covers the length of a football field. You will find Charlie Brown, Lucy, and the rest of the Peanuts gang, as well as a rotund “Willard the Snowman,” a beautiful Nativity Scene, and a picturesque Candy Cane Wreath. When you drive through “Snowflake Tunnel” with its 36-foot arches containing 85 giant, twinkling snowflakes made of 6,000 bulbs, you feel that you are driving through a snowstorm.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Winter Festival of Lights. I congratulate Oglebay Park on this milestone anniversary and encourage all to visit this wonderful holiday extravaganza.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

RETAINING "OLD VALUES" IN A NEW YEAR AND A NEW EPOCH

We will soon be crossing the threshold into a New Year, a New Decade, and what promises to be an exciting New Epoch for America.

Having the advantage of my many years on this earth and in political office, I am far from naive. I realize that we will continue to face many challenges, especially those that President Kennedy labeled, "the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war."

But I am optimistic about the future because I have witnessed the wonders of science and the technological breakthroughs that have helped improve the quality of life over many generations. And I know that those accomplishments of the past are just the edge of the realm of possibilities that lie before us.

America will continue to develop the programs and state-of-the-art techniques needed to address our problems and concerns. This will require new visions as well as renewed energies, but, like Americans of the past, we will not deny these responsibilities, we will welcome them.

As we enter this New Epoch, I also urge my fellow West Virginians not

to forget the past! More than ever, we will need to hold onto those values that made this country great - what I call the "old values."

Religious faith, patriotism, family, respect for authority, hard work, and honesty were the building blocks of our communities, our state, and our nation. They must continue to be the building blocks of our future. The Bible says: "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." (Proverbs 22:28)

These "old values" include our Divine duty to be good stewards of God's creation. The Scripture tells us: "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof..." (Psalm 24:1) And, one of my favorite passages reads: "[S]tand still, and consider the wondrous works of God." (Job 37:14)

When I look at our beautiful state, I see the "wondrous works of God."

And when I meet with the people of our state who still hold dear the "old values" — who are honest, hard-working, patriotic, loyal, humble, and generous — I know the future will be good.

Happy New Year, everyone!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE CENSUS: A CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT

Once again, it is time to stand up and be counted, because 2010 is a census year. Article 1, Section 2, of the Constitution of the United States mandates that, "The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of 10 years, in such manner as they shall by Law direct."

Many people may wonder why a census, or count, of the population is so important that it rates a direct order in the Constitution. The answer is that census data play an important role in determining how government resources are allocated. The number of seats that each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives is based on state population. More than \$400 billion in taxpayer funds are allotted to states or within states each year based on formulas that use population or other census data. These funds are used for things like hospitals or job training centers, schools or senior centers, bridges and other public works projects, and emergency services.

For privacy and security reasons, the 2010 census forms cannot be completed on line, but will be mailed or delivered to primary residences in March. It will contain just ten questions, including

name, sex, age, birth date, race, household relationship, and whether you own or rent your residence. Neither the form nor actual live census takers will ask for your Social Security number or the legal status of respondents. It will take only a few minutes to complete and mail back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you do not respond to the census, as required by April 1, expect to be visited by a census taker to obtain information in person.

The Census Bureau will protect personal information, and private information is never published. It is against the law to disclose or publish individual names; addresses, including GPS coordinates; Social Security numbers; or telephone numbers. All information collected is used to produce only aggregated statistical information.

In preparation for the census, the U.S. Census Bureau is now recruiting temporary, part-time census takers. These jobs offer good pay, flexible hours, and paid training. Hundreds of thousands of census workers will be needed across the United States to help locate households and conduct brief personal interviews with residents. Interested applicants can contact their local Census Office, or call 1-866-861-2010.

So stand up and be counted — It is the American thing to do.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

In his pursuit of equality for African Americans and the social and economic rights of all people, the Reverend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the supreme instigator of change. Because of his refusal to obey unjust laws, and his ability to stir things up, he was, as I said at the time, a "rabble rouser." No person could enter a town, stage an event, or create more upheaval than he could. Nothing he touched was ever the same again. And because of that America is a better country.

But Dr. King's incredible efforts came at an enormous personal price. Crosses were burned on his yard. His home was bombed. His phone lines were tapped by the U.S. government. He was kicked, punched, and stabbed. He was mocked and ridiculed, and thrown into jail.

What was truly inspirational was the way that this man of God answered his critics and their abuse. "Don't ever let anyone pull you so low as to hate them," he told his followers: "We must have compassion and understanding for those who hate us."

In his powerful "I Have A Dream" speech, he asked: "Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline."

Dr. King pursued his "Dream" by avoiding extreme or radical actions, especially violence. "The ultimate weakness of violence," he explained, "is that it is a descending spiral.... Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it." "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that," he said.

Such an approach to the hostile opposition he was encountering might seem naive, or even foolish, but Dr. King was neither. While an idealist, he was an idealist without illusion. He knew the path he had chosen would be rough and tumultuous. But, as he said: "Even though we face difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a Dream."

Martin Luther King's efforts resulted in the most important and sweeping social transformations in American history, and he did it without firing a shot!

For his efforts, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. A national holiday was established in his honor and soon a monument will be constructed on the National Mall in his honor.

We should all heed the wisdom of Dr. King to "conduct our struggle[s] on the high plane of dignity and discipline." Given the heated political climate of today, adhering to these words would be a true testament to the life of this great American.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A BOON FOR CLARKSBURG

Late last month, the City of Clarksburg got notice of an early \$328 million Christmas present as I had the pleasure to announce that a new Biometrics Technology Center is slated for construction on the campus of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division in Clarksburg.

This joint FBI and Department of Defense (DOD) facility will serve as a center of excellence for research, development, and application of biometrics in support of national security and law enforcement. The 360,000 square-foot, four-story building, will nearly double the space capacity of the existing 2,500-employee FBI CJIS Division campus. When completed in 2013, it will also enable the FBI to consolidate all of its biometrics operations, many of which are in satellite facilities in Fairmont, and will accommodate nearly 2,000 employees. The Center will greatly enhance our efforts in fighting the global war on terrorism.

It will allow the FBI CJIS Division and the Department of the Army to make advances into other identification technologies, such as DNA, iris, palm prints, and facial recognition. These enhancements will provide further opportunities to positively identify individuals and prevent terrorists, criminals, and other ineligible individuals from entering the United States, thus improving our

border security and making our homeland safer.

Dr. Myra Gray, Executive Manager, Department of Defense Biometrics Task Force, has pointed out that, "The Center will provide even greater collaboration for the research and use of biometric technologies across the federal government. The successes we have realized utilizing biometrics to aid war fighters in identifying known and suspected terrorists have significantly advanced our defense capabilities."

This new facility will be a major shot in the arm as we continue to seek ways to diversify West Virginia's economy. The economic spillover effect for the Clarksburg area could be enormous. There will be a significant influx of workers for the construction phases of the project. Once completed, the facility will provide the FBI with the opportunity to expand the employment base as new advances in biometrics research emerge.

One of my goals in bringing federal operations to West Virginia has been to provide our young people with the opportunity to land quality jobs in our state. I have worked with West Virginia University and Marshall University to establish forensic science and biometrics curriculums that have relevance to the work performed at the FBI CJIS. It is my expectation that our West Virginia graduates will be well poised for these future career opportunities.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

DISASTER IN HAITI

On January 12, 2010, a near the surface 7.0 magnitude major earthquake shook the island nation of Haiti, causing still-untold casualties and massive destruction. The pictures we have seen on a daily basis have been gut-wrenching. Many buildings have collapsed or are unstable, including hospitals, police stations, and government buildings. Millions of people are without shelter, food, power or medical care.

The U.S. government, the United Nations, many other nations, and many non-governmental relief organizations are rushing to provide humanitarian relief to the people of Haiti as quickly as possible. Our military's U.S. Southern Command is coordinating the U.S. government response and is sending the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, four amphibious landing ships with Marines from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, the USNS Comfort hospital ship, and additional ships, helicopter units, construction, security, civil affairs and logistical support. The Coast Guard and Air Force are also supporting the humanitarian relief efforts in Haiti.

Americans who are missing U.S. citizen family members in Haiti can call the Department of State at 1-888-407-4747 or provide information via email to Haiti-Earthquake@State.Gov. Please include the following information in your emails: full name, date of birth and passport information (if known) of the persons in Haiti you are trying to contact; contact information in Haiti; your name and contact

information; your relationship to the person in Haiti; and any special or emergency circumstances. Embassy personnel will attempt to locate U.S. citizens and report back on their status.

Disasters call forth a compassionate response from Americans, and many people are seeking ways to help. The destruction in Haiti has severely limited access to that nation, creating bottlenecks in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Therefore, most relief organizations are requesting cash donations rather than food and material items. For those looking to make contributions to the relief efforts in Haiti, the White House has information and links at www.whitehouse.gov/haitiearthquake_embed. The web site www.interaction.org/crisis-list/earthquake-haiti provides information about non-governmental relief efforts. Visit these sites to learn more about the ways individuals can help.

Anyone with disaster response experience or other specialized technical training who wishes to volunteer his or her services should contact the Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at www.cidi.org/incident/haiti-10a to register.

Finally, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has issued a warning about scam artists who solicit funds in the name of bogus Haiti relief efforts. You can read the warning at www.fbi.gov/cyberinvest/escams.htm.

The American people have always responded to those in need. I encourage all to join in this humanitarian and life saving endeavor.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MAINTAINING THAT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Every January, many Americans resolve to diet and exercise. Though few sustain these good intentions, our determination does seem to be making a difference. A recent report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* delivered some rare good news – the obesity rate in the United States, which had been rising for twenty-five years, held steady from 2000 to 2008.

This plateau is encouraging, but U.S. obesity rates are still higher than any other nation. Some 67.2 percent of American adults qualify as obese. Children between the ages of 2 and 19, a group that had recorded the steepest increase in obesity, held steady at a rate of 16.9 percent. Sadly, West Virginia has the third highest percentage of obese adults in the U.S. in 2009 at 31.1 percent, and the eighth highest percentage of overweight children at 35.5 percent. So, we must take this new report as incentive to actually lower the obesity rate.

On a personal and societal level, obesity remains a concern. It has overtaken smoking as the greatest overall health threat facing the country. Obesity is a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease, stroke, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, joint disease, sleep apnea, asthma, certain types of cancer, and type-2 diabetes.

Studies have shown that obese individuals may face social and employment discrimination and lower average wages. Obese individuals and their families must deal with the pain, suffering, and medical costs of obesity related health conditions, and the possibility of dying or losing a loved one to death at a younger age. Employers must deal with increased absenteeism and lower productivity due to employees' ill health.

Health insurers also face increased expenditures due to obesity complications. A 2004 study cited by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated adult obesity expenditures by state, with West Virginia's costs estimated at \$588 million. With approximately half of all obesity related health care paid by Medicaid and Medicare, all taxpayers help to shoulder these costs.

Americans have done well to stem the rising tide of obesity in the United States. I have long supported the Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity program at the CDC to provide funding for state and community programs to help prevent and control obesity and other chronic diseases.

For our health as well as our economic well-being, we need to further reduce the numbers on the scale and on the obesity chart.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

GEORGE WASHINGTON SLEPT IN WEST VIRGINIA

In February, our Nation celebrates the birthdays of two of our greatest presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. West Virginia was born from the Civil War conflict during which Abraham Lincoln was President. However, George Washington made little known, but notable contributions to our state before it was a state.

In 1748, at the age of 16, George Washington ventured into the land that would become West Virginia for the first time to survey the Eastern Panhandle and Potomac Highlands.

By the time he was 20 years of age, Washington had purchased several tracts of land in what was to become the State of West Virginia, with Rock Hall Tract, just west of Charles Town, being the first. Within a few years, he had acquired extensive land holdings. As a result of his service in the French and Indian War, Washington was granted thousands of acres along the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers, and titles to land around Belle and Moundsville.

Washington became a promoter of the early development of our State. In 1775, he sent an expedition to colonize his holdings along the Kanawha River. The colonists cleared the land, planted orchards, and built houses. But after a few years, the colony mysteriously disappeared, becoming Washington's and West Virginia's "Lost Colony."

Washington also promoted our State's early infrastructure.

He proposed the building of various canals and roads, including the Staunton (Virginia)-to-Parkersburg turnpike. In 1785, Washington secured funding for a route from the Atlantic Ocean to Cedar Grove which was eventually designated Route 60, and became a part of one of America's first trans-continental highways. The Washington Heritage Trail is a 137-mile highway that was inspired by a trip Washington made through what is now the Eastern Panhandle.

George Washington was a regular visitor. In 1770, he made a trip that began in Wheeling and followed the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers, making camp and hunting along the way. He enjoyed the spas at Berkeley Springs, which still features Washington's bath tub. And he was also fond of visiting his brother Charles, the founder of Charles Town, at his house there, "Happy Retreat."

Washington also made West Virginia an integral part of our national security. As a Colonel of the Virginia Regiment (1755-1758), he ordered the construction of Fort Edwards (Hampshire County), Fort Ashby (Mineral County), and Forts Seybert and Upper Tract (Pendleton County). And, it was President Washington who selected Harpers Ferry as the site for the federal arsenal, thus setting the stage for John Brown's uprising.

Happy Birthday President Washington and thank you for your contributions to our great State.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

February is African American History Month Part I. West Virginia History Made

West Virginians are aware that a number of nationally prominent African Americans like Carter G. Woodson and Booker T. Washington are from our State. And West Virginians are aware that many nationally significant events in African American history, like John Brown's Raid and the founding of the Niagra Movement, took place in West Virginia. This February, I want to recognize African Americans who have made and are making history on the State level.

Christopher Payne was the first African American to serve in the West Virginia Legislature. Born in 1848, Payne was educated by his mother, later attended night school in Charleston and became one of the first black teachers in Summers County. He was ordained as a Baptist minister, and organized the Second Baptist Church in Hinton. Payne also established three newspapers, *West Virginia Enterprise*, *The Pioneer*, and the *Mountain Eagle*. In 1896, this talented and accomplished man was elected to the State Legislature. In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt named Mr. Payne as Consul General to the Danish West Indies (present day Virgin Islands). When the United States acquired the islands in 1917, Payne was named prosecuting attorney in St. Thomas.

Minnie Buckingham Harper was a housewife in McDowell County who was destined to make

history. Born in 1886, she married E. Howard Harper of Welch, who was elected to the West Virginia State Legislature. When Delegate Harper died in 1928, Governor Howard Gore appointed his wife to fill his unexpired term. When Mrs. Harper took her seat in the State Legislature, she became the first African American woman to serve in a legislative body in the United States!

Elizabeth Simpson Drewry was the first African American woman elected to the West Virginia State legislature. Born in 1893, Drewry graduated from Bluefield State College, and taught in the public schools of McDowell County. In 1950, she was elected to the State Legislature, where she served for 13 years. Delegate Drewry chaired both the Military Affairs and Health Committees, but established herself as an advocate for education, labor, and health care reform. She is credited with introducing important pieces of legislation, including a bill to compensate victims of pneumococcosis ("black lung") and legislation that led to the constitutional amendment that allowed women to serve on juries. In 1956, *Ebony* magazine honored her as one of the ten outstanding black women in government.

In my next column, I will focus on an outstanding West Virginia African American leader who is making history today.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

February is African American History Month Part II. West Virginian Making History

Last week, in my Byrd's-Eye View, I discussed three African Americans who had made history in our State Legislature. This week, as part of African American History Month, I want to highlight Judge Irene C. Berger, who is currently making history in the judicial branch of our government.

Judge Berger grew up in McDowell County, the youngest of nine children, and the proud daughter of a coal miner. After graduating from West Virginia University, she earned her Juris Doctor degree from the West Virginia University College of Law in 1979. Following law school, she worked for Legal Aid Society where, as a young attorney, she provided legal services to the needy. Next, she worked in the Office of Prosecuting Attorney in Kanawha County for twelve years, obtaining more than 40 felony convictions, dozens of which were high-profile cases.

In 1994, Governor Gaston Caperton appointed her circuit court judge for the 13th Judicial Circuit of West Virginia. During her 15 years on the bench, she developed a reputation as an outstanding and thoughtful jurist who was dedicated to the principles of fair and impartial justice. Her judicial temperament and professional conduct earned her superb ratings from the American Bar Association, and resulted in her

being honored by the NAACP, the West Virginia University Alumni Association, the American Bar Foundation, the Mountain State Bar Association, the West Virginia State Bar Foundation, and the West Virginia Women's Commission.

Therefore, it was an honor for me to join my colleague Senator Jay Rockefeller in recommending her to President Obama for appointment as a federal judge on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia. As I wrote to President Obama, she is "uncommonly qualified" for a seat on the federal bench. I pointed out how she had broken down barrier after barrier. She was the first in her family to attend an integrated school. She was the first in her family to attend college. And she was the first African-American woman to serve as a circuit judge in West Virginia.

In July, 2009, President Obama nominated Judge Berger for the federal judgeship and on October 11, 2009, the U.S. Senate confirmed Judge Berger by a vote of 96-0.

On December 11, Judge Berger was sworn in as Federal District judge for the Southern District of West Virginia, thus breaking down yet another barrier -- becoming the first African American to serve as a federal judge in West Virginia.

All of West Virginia can be proud of our history-making judge.

February 17, 2010



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

PET ADOPTION

Most Americans are proud to proclaim that they are animal lovers, and many are loving and responsible pet owners. We are all disturbed and saddened when we see animals being starved or abused, or when we learn that animals must be destroyed because there are just not enough loving, responsible homes available.

But the sad fact is that, according to the Humane Society of the United States, more than 4 million pets are put down in U.S. shelters each year. Approximately 3.7 million of these are cats or dogs. A single cat can give birth to 18 kittens each year. One dog can produce 20 puppies each year. While kittens and puppies are cute, every unspayed or unneutered cat or dog that is allowed to roam free, or that is "set free" to fend for itself, contributes to the burgeoning overpopulation of dogs and cats that end up in shelters or dying of disease or starvation on the streets.

The only effective way to reduce the suffering of these loving companion animals is to limit their numbers to the amount of homes available. The best way to do this is to spay or neuter them, a relatively simple surgical procedure that can be performed in most veterinary clinics.

In February of each year, the Humane Society of the United

States sponsors "Spay Day," a day of action to promote the spaying and neutering of pets. Inaugurated by the Doris Day Animal League in 1995, the Humane Society joined in sponsoring "Spay Day" in 2006 to encourage pet owners to spay or neuter their pets as an effective and humane way of decreasing the euthanasia of homeless animals in shelters.

In its first 15 years, "Spay Day" participants spayed or neutered approximately 1.5 million animals, potentially sparing many millions of animals from euthanasia and saving hundreds of millions of dollars in shelter costs. The Humane Society's web site, at www.humanesociety.org, has information about "Spay Day" events.

On "Spay Day," many veterinary and humane society offices offer discounted spay/neuter clinics. Other reduced cost spay/neuter clinics may be available near you year round. Your local animal shelter may have recommendations from local veterinarians or other sources that can help cover the cost of spaying/neutering your pet.

I encourage everyone to be a responsible pet lover: look for your next pet at homeless animal shelters, and spay or neuter your animals to keep the population in the shelters and euthanasia down.

February 24, 2010



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

GOD'S GIFT TO WEST VIRGINIA

This year, 2010, is the fortieth anniversary of the premier of John Denver's musical tribute to West Virginia as "almost heaven."

When I think of Denver's classic song, "Take Me Home, Country Roads," (which was co-written with Bill Danoff and Taffy Nivert) I think about the things that make West Virginia so unique. First, of course, is the kind and generous nature of the people of our beloved state. Next, I picture the beauty and serenity of our mountains. They seem sacred, and, in fact, mountains are a frequent location for events in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. It was on Mt. Sinai that God revealed himself to Moses and gave Him the Ten Commandments (Exodus 19:16 and 20:17). God allowed Moses to view the Promised Land from a mountain. It was on Mt. Carmel where Elijah challenged the false prophets of Baal, and, on Mt. Ararat that Noah's Ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4).

Some of the most important teachings of Jesus, as well as the critical events in His life took place in the mountains. The Transfiguration of Jesus, one of the most important Miracles, took place on a mountain, probably Mount Tabor (Luke 9:28-43). It was on Mount Olives that Jesus instructed His disciples (Matthew

24:3). The third temptation of Christ took place on a mountain, so that Jesus could see the kingdoms of the world. (Matthew 4:8-9). And, of course, Jesus delivered perhaps His most important Sermon, the "Sermon on the Mount," from a hillside, where he also gave us the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 5-7). Jesus gave His life for our salvation and was crucified on a hill, Golgotha (Calvary).

Throughout the Bible, examples of the powerful and mystical significance of mountains can be found. For example, Isaiah 25:6 tells us of the celestial banquet on Mount Zion that is a symbol of eternal happiness, and the coming of the Kingdom of God. And one of my favorite passages from the Bible, Psalm 121:1, reads: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."

Contemplating the use of mountains and hillsides as symbols in Holy Scripture, underscores what a special gift our mountains are for the people of West Virginia. Majestic, inspiring, and, at times, intimidating, our mountains remind us of the glory of the view after the challenge of the climb. Perhaps that is why West Virginians retain a stalwart and independent character, always inspired by possibilities and undaunted by difficulties.

March 3, 2010



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

PEARL S. BUCK Great Author, Great Humanitarian, Great West Virginian

March is Women's History Month, a time when we celebrate the contributions of women to American history and society. This year, I want to recognize a woman with whom every child in West Virginia should be familiar.

Pearl S. Buck was born in Hillsboro, West Virginia, on June 26, 1892, to Caroline Stulting and Absalom Sydenstricker. Her parents, who were missionaries, took their young daughter, Pearl Comfort Sydenstricker, to China, where she spent most of her youth.

Pearl returned to the United States to obtain a college degree from Randolph-Macon Women's College in Virginia (1914), and then returned to China. In 1917, she married Dr. John Lossing Buck, an agricultural expert who was working in China.

The couple lived for several years in the rural village of Nansuchou, the home of thousands of impoverished farmers. This was the village that served as the setting for many of her early works, including her most famous, *The Good Earth*, which was translated into more than thirty languages, sold nearly two million copies, and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1932.

In 1938, Pearl Buck became the first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. At the time, she was only the third American to win the Nobel Prize

for Literature, following Sinclair Lewis and Eugene O'Neill. Pearl Buck eventually wrote more than 100 books, and hundreds of short stories and magazine articles.

While best known for her writings, she was also a great humanitarian. Pearl Buck was an advocate for racial equality and women's rights, years before the issues became national movements. In 1949, she established the Welcome House which found homes for mixed-race children who had been fathered by American servicemen in Asia. In 1964, she launched the Pearl S. Buck Foundation to provide foster care for Asian-American children.

I am proud to point out that this world-renowned writer and humanitarian never forgot her roots. In the 1960s, she toured West Virginia to raise money to preserve her family home in Hillsboro. She expressed the hope that the house "would belong to everyone who cares to go there" and would serve as a "gateway to new thoughts and dreams and ways of life."

Today, the house, The Pearl S. Buck Birthplace, is a National Literary Landmark, a historic house museum, and cultural center. It is open for tours May 1 through November 1. For more information, the phone number is 304-653-4430. Its web site is <http://www.pearlsbuckbirthplace.com>.

March 10, 2010



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Volunteers Saving Lives

Since 1943, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt first proclaimed it as "Red Cross Month," the month of March has been dedicated to the impressive humanitarian and volunteer spirit embodied in the international Red Cross and Red Crescent organization. In the wake of the massive disasters that have struck Chile, Haiti, China, Southeast Asia, and the United States in recent years, people around the globe have many reasons to thank the Red Cross and all of the volunteers who support its lifesaving work.

Since 1863, Red Cross volunteers have been helping the victims of wars, natural disasters, and everyday crises to recover and rebuild. The 700 locally supported chapters of the American Red Cross, manned by more than half a million volunteers and 30,000 employees, respond to more than 70,000 disasters nationwide each year, ranging from single-family and apartment home fires to major disasters like Hurricane Katrina or massive western wildfires.

The Red Cross is the nation's largest supplier of blood and blood products. Blood collected by the Red Cross meets the needs of accident victims, cancer patients, surgical candidates and children with blood disorders.

The Red Cross also supports active duty, National Guard and Reserve service members and their families before and during deployments and in the event that

a service member is wounded.

As well as responding to catastrophes, the Red Cross provides training and educational programs to help individuals and families prevent and respond to emergencies. More than 15 million Americans each year receive first aid training, instruction on CPR and the use of defibrillators, swimming lessons, and water safety classes from their local Red Cross chapters. This training, and the emergency planning preparations encouraged through the Red Cross's "Be Red Cross Ready" program, has undoubtedly saved countless lives.

The Red Cross provides all of these lifesaving services through the generosity of citizen donors, who provide donations of money, to be sure, but also of time and blood. The most lasting way to honor the many people who make up the Red Cross is to become a "Red Crosser," by donating blood or volunteering through a local Red Cross chapter. You can save lives by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE, or visiting www.givelife.org to schedule a blood donation appointment.

To locate the local Red Cross chapter closest to you, visit www.redcross.org/where. West Virginia has eight local Red Cross chapters, in Charleston, Kearneysville, Oak Hill, Lewisburg, Parkersburg, Clarksburg, Morgantown and Williamson. To all of these volunteers – thank you!

March 17, 2010



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Easter The Hope and the Promise

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the essence of Christianity. To Christians, it is the premier event in the world. The resurrection of Jesus not only established Jesus as the Son of God, it provided the basis for the belief that all Christians will triumph over death. The resurrection of Christ from the dead offers the opportunity of a new birth.

Therefore, Easter is a time of hope – the hope that those whom we loved and have lost will indeed live again. Therefore, Easter is a promise – the promise of eternal life and the forgiveness of sins.

It is just and proper that we recognize and celebrate this most sacred and holy of events once a year at Easter. We should, however, be thinking about the resurrection every day of the year. Therefore, this Easter, I want to urge all of my fellow West Virginians who are Christians to take a few minutes of each day to meditate about this miraculous event and what it means to us, and what it has meant to the world. I offer the following passages from the King James Version of the Bible that deal with the resurrection, which you might recite to yourself throughout the year.

“Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had

prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.” (Luke 24:1-3).

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” (John 11:25-26).

“Knowing that He which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.” (2 Corinthians 4:14).

“And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.” (Matthew 28:5-6).

On this Easter Sunday, put on your new Easter clothes and bonnets, and enjoy your Easter eggs, jelly beans, and chocolate bunnies. But please remember “the reason for the season.”

Please remember that on that first Easter Sunday, so long ago, a wondrous gift was given to the world. It was a promise of life everlasting, of immortality.

Easter is a time to remember that the tomb was empty.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

National Symphony Orchestra Is Coming To West Virginia

I am so pleased that this year the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has selected West Virginia as the host of its 2010 American Residency Program.

The NSO began the American Residency Program in 1992; it selects one state each year as the host for this unique project.

The goals of the Residency Program are 1) to share all elements of classical instrumental music throughout a given region, 2) to explore the diversity of musical influence within the state, and 3) to give the state a musical voice in the nation's center for the performing arts through training programs, career development opportunities, and commissions. NSO manager, Cynthia Steele explains: "The American Residency is one of the signature projects of the National Symphony Orchestra and our musicians are incredibly committed and generous with their time and talents."

The NSO will be in West Virginia from April 5 to April 13, and will participate in approximately 150 education and performance activities throughout the state. During its visit, NSO will conduct orchestral concerts in Morgantown, Wheeling, Glenville, Huntington, Princeton, and Charleston. There will also be a NSO Young People's Concert in Charleston.

After the orchestra finishes its residency, up to six West Virginia

students will be awarded full scholarships to attend the 2010 Summer Music Institute at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. And a West Virginia music educator will receive a 2010 NSO Teacher Fellowship, and the Orchestra will commission a chamber work from a West Virginia composer.

Because of the generous support of many organizations, especially the Kennedy Center and the U.S. Department of Education, all proceeds from ticket sales resulting from the events remain in the state to support local arts organizations.

NSO is seeking a West Virginia composer to write a new piece of music. The symphony is partnering with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History to commission the work. A resident West Virginia composer will be commissioned to write a work of about 10 to 15 minutes.

A panel convened by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the Appalachian Education Initiative will narrow the applications to three finalists. A National Symphony Orchestra jury making the final selection will be overseen by principal conductor Ivan Fischer.

I welcome the NSO to the Mountain State, and encourage all of our people to try to take advantage of this unique and wonderful opportunity.

March 31, 2010



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

PLAY BALL! Baseball Season Arrives

Baseball season is here. We will be hearing the crack of the bat, the singing of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," and the umpire's shout of "strike three, you're out."

Whenever I think about baseball, I like to think about the contributions that West Virginians have made to the history of our national pastime. The people of our State will always proudly remember the Hall of Fame career of George Brett of Glen Dale. I recall Hall of Famer Bill Mazeroski of Wheeling hitting that dramatic, ninth-inning home run during the seventh game of the 1960 World Series to make the Pittsburgh Pirates world champions. And Lew Burdett of Nitro who was named the MVP of the 1957 World Series for pitching three complete-game victories that made the Milwaukee Braves world champions.

Then there is John Milton "Jack" Warhop!

Who was Jack Warhop you may ask? I wonder how many of the folks in Hinton, where Warhop was born on July 4, 1884, can tell you who he was.

Warhop was working on the C&O railroad, when he began playing for the company's local baseball team. Eventually, his pitching took him to the major leagues, where, on September 19, 1908, he pitched his first game for

the New York Highlanders, later renamed the New York Yankees.

Warhop's date with baseball immortality came on May 6, 1915, while pitching for the Yankees. It was the third inning of a scoreless ball game, Warhop was pitching and the batter was a rookie pitcher for the Boston Red Sox. The 5,000 fans in attendance did not expect much from the batter because of the prevailing notion that pitchers couldn't hit. However, according to the Boston Globe, that rookie pitcher "impressed the onlookers as being a hitter of the first rank," because he "swatted a low ball [from Warhop] into the upper tier of the right-field grandstand" for a home run.

It was the very first home run ever hit by the legendary home run hitter Babe Ruth!

The Great Bambino, the Sultan of Swat, the King of Clout, as Ruth would also be called, went on to hit 713 more home runs.

The people of our State can take pride in knowing that it was a West Virginian who started Babe on his glorious, home-run hitting career. Someone had to do it, and it was a West Virginian who did it!

I have often pointed out that no sports event ever changed the course of history, but this one pitch was truly a great moment in baseball history.

April 7, 2010



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

GOD BLESS OUR MINERS

I am the son of a coal miner who married a coal miner's daughter, and I feel a special, familial relationship with our state's coal miners. I know about the grueling work that they do, the hardships they endure, and how they risk their safety every day to produce the energy that powers our country.

Tragedies such as the explosion at Upper Big Branch Mine-South in Raleigh County on April 5, are an outrage.

I mourn the loss of life. I am saddened when I think of the wives who will now face tomorrow without husbands, and the children who will grow up without fathers. I firmly believe that such a terrible loss of life in the mines can be avoided.

Growing up in the southern West Virginia coal fields, I saw the bodies of too many coal diggers pulled from the coal mines after an explosion. I helped carry the coffins of too many miners who perished in mine accidents. To this day I carry the memory of the faces of their grieving widows and children.

I have worked to improve the health and safety conditions of the men and women who work in our nation's coal mines. I have sponsored and supported legislation to expand and improve federal mine safety laws.

I am especially proud of my role in the formulation and passage of the groundbreaking, landmark Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 which was enacted following the explosion at Farmington #9 that took the lives of 78 of our fellow West

Virginians. This is the most comprehensive legislation covering the mining industry in history, and to this day, the strongest worker protection law in the world. But clearly more is needed.

Following the Sago mine disaster of 2006, which took the lives of 11 miners, I helped formulate and Congress approved the MINER Act which provided for post-accident emergency response.

This and other pieces of legislation and increased funding resources should mean that tragedies on the scale of Upper Big Branch Mine-South no longer happen.

Once investigations are completed and we learn the cause of this disaster, action must be taken. But, laws only work if they are enforced. There must be stronger enforcement. Companies with dismal safety records and multiple violations must be punished. Companies with exemplary safety records should be rewarded for their efforts.

And attitudes have to change. The coal in our mountains belongs to the people of West Virginia. It is our birthright and our sons and daughters work hard to mine it. West Virginians must never feel beholden to a coal company. If a mining company disregards the safety of our miners, that company should not continue to enjoy the fruits of our citizens' labor or the profits from our "black gold." Make no mistake about it. Many other responsible companies will be lining up for the privilege of working in West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

When I was a young boy, it was common for children to recite poetry in school and at assemblies before audiences of their parents and friends. Some of the poems told stories or taught lessons. Some were humorous, some were silly, and some were both beautiful and moving. Memorizing and reciting the poems inspired in me a love for words, cadence, meter and rhyme that has never left me. I can still recite from memory some of the poems I learned so long ago.

Although public recitation has fallen from favor, poetry has not lost its fascination for lovers of words. In 1996, the Academy of American Poets inaugurated National Poetry Month to celebrate the enduring beauty of verse. Now, each April is filled with events designed to introduce and share poetry with the public and to highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets.

Poets have also utilized technology to reach out to new and established poetry readers. By visiting www.poets.org/m from any mobile device, one can browse more than 2,500 poems, poet biographies, and historical essays from the archives of the Academy of American Poets. Poetry lovers can also sign up to have great poems from new books e-mailed to

them, or visit the National Poetry Map to discover where poetry events are taking place.

One goal of National Poetry Month is to help teachers and librarians make poetry a more important part of the school curriculum. With that in mind, the Academy of American Poets creates and distributes posters announcing National Poetry Month as well as offering lesson plans and tip sheets for teachers and librarians. Their web site, at www.poets.org, offers a list of 30 ways to celebrate National Poetry Month – an idea for each day of the month.

Since 2002, New York City has celebrated each April 29th as National “Poem in Your Pocket” Day. Participants are encouraged to carry a favorite verse in their pocket, and to share it with friends and acquaintances.

I would be hard pressed to pick just one poem to carry on “Poem in Your Pocket” Day -- a few lines that capture the beauty of a spring morning? A poem that honors a loving mother or father? A stirring metaphor that teaches us a lesson for our times? There are so many wonderful poems, and new ones written every day. I hope that, this April, everyone can find beauty, wisdom or humor wrapped in the words of a poem.

April 21, 2010



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

HOMELESS HEROES

During a conflict, soldiers face many risks from gunfire, bombs, chemicals, and other battlefield dangers. However, once safely back at home, some veterans face a new risk—homelessness. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that approximately 107,000 veterans are homeless on any given night and more than 200,000 veterans are homeless at some time during the year.

These veterans have served in every war and military operation since World War II. More than 67 percent served in uniform for at least three years and 33 percent were stationed in a war zone.

What factors help to make our veterans vulnerable? The shortage of affordable housing, lack of jobs, and access to health care, in addition to homelessness, put our vets at risk. Displaced and at-risk veterans often struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and substance abuse, compounded by the absence of family and social support networks. Homelessness is directly linked to ones' ability to secure employment and health care, making it harder for homeless Americans, including veterans, to escape a cycle of despair. Unfortunately, existing federal homeless programs do not focus on veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is working to reach homeless veterans, currently servicing an estimated 92,000 of those-in-

need, but that still leaves more than 100,000 veterans in need of help.

I recently cosponsored S. 1160, the Homes for Heroes Act of 2009. S. 1160 would direct the Department of Housing and Urban Development to expand homeless veterans' access to existing housing assistance programs. I have also cosponsored S. 1547, the Zero Tolerance for Veterans Homelessness Act of 2009, which would direct the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to establish a program within the Veterans Benefits Administration to combat homelessness among veterans.

Veterans caring for children make up a small but growing percentage of homeless veterans. Therefore, I have also cosponsored S. 1237, the Homeless Women Veterans and Homeless Veterans with Children Act of 2009. S. 1237 would expand the existing grant program for veterans with special needs to include homeless veterans who care for minor children. It would also direct the Secretary of Labor to make grants to programs and facilities that provide services to homeless veterans with children that help reintegrate these veterans into the labor force.

America's veterans have given their best service to our country on the battlefield; we owe them our country's best efforts to help them deal with a return to civilian life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MOTHER'S DAY

The origins of Mother's Day are rooted deep in the West Virginia hills. Anna Jarvis was born in Webster, West Virginia, on May 1, 1864. Her family moved to Grafton, West Virginia when she was a child. On May 12, 1907, two years after her mother's death, Anna Jarvis arranged a memorial service to honor her mother's memory. That event sparked her successful campaign to make "Mother's Day" a recognized holiday. That dream came true for Anna Jarvis in 1914.

Today, the International Mother's Day Shrine, located in Grafton, commemorates Anna Jarvis' accomplishment. However, I believe that the best Mother's Day shrine is the one which each of us builds in our hearts of the memories of our own mothers.

While Mother's Day will be joyful for many, it is heartbreaking to think of the mothers who will not receive cards or flowers, or enjoy a Mother's Day brunch with their husbands and children. In Montcoal, West Virginia, there are twenty-nine families who are grieving the loss of sons, husbands, brothers, and friends. The community, the state, and the nation grieve with them, but that is of little comfort for the mothers

who will wake on this Mother's Day to quiet houses and silent phones.

Mother's Day is lonely as well for the mothers, wives, and families of soldiers who have been lost in battle in Iraq and Afghanistan. Miner's mothers like soldier's mothers know well of the constant tension of having a beloved child in harm's way.

These "mother's fears" have not changed since I was a child growing up in the coalfields or during all the wars and conflicts since. Neither have the vigils outside of a mine disaster, nor the tearful memorials and funeral services that follow. The haunting bugle call of "Taps" brings a lump in my throat today just as it did the first time I watched a soldier be buried with military honors. During those services, often the most tragic figure of all was the mother.

Tragedy reminds us just how much mother's care means to children, and how much their children mean to mothers. This Mother's Day we have an opportunity to thank our mothers for that care, either in person or in our prayers, and to think about that great generosity of spirit that marks all mothers.

May 5, 2010



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

THE 1960 WEST VIRGINIA PRIMARY AND THE MAKING OF A PRESIDENT

May 10 was the fiftieth anniversary of the 1960 Democratic presidential primary in West Virginia. This was, perhaps, one of the most important presidential primaries in recent history. It was the election that made Senator John F. Kennedy the presidential nominee of the Democratic Party. "It was in West Virginia," wrote Kennedy's press secretary Pierre Salinger, "that Kennedy really sewed up the Democratic nomination for President." Speaking in Wheeling in 1962, President Kennedy declared, "West Virginia ... is the State which sent me out into the world, and you are the people who made me the Democratic candidate for President of the United States."

And the 1960 Democratic primary was the political contest that paved the way for America's first Catholic president. With West Virginia being an overwhelmingly Protestant state in 1960, religion was seen as the "burning issue" of the contest. Therefore, if Kennedy, who was Catholic, defeated his only opponent, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, who was a Protestant, it would show that religion would no longer be a defeating handicap in a presidential contest.

For weeks, both national and international media swarmed our state as people, not only around the United States, but also around the world, closely followed the West Virginia primary to see if a Catholic had a chance of becoming president.

According to the media, the prospects did not look good for Kennedy. *Newsweek* noted that the "deck looks to be hopelessly stacked against Jack Kennedy in West Virginia.... This state is 95 percent Protestant." The *Wall Street Journal* predicted that Kennedy "would lose—perhaps heavily. The vote against him could go as high as 60% of the total." The *Baltimore Sun* predicted that Humphrey would take "two out of three [voters], solely because he is a Protestant and Kennedy is a Catholic."

On May 10, 1960, the people of West Virginia stunned the nation! Kennedy won a sweeping victory in the Mountain State. His victory was a 61-39 percent margin and he carried 50 of 55 counties.

It was an historical moment. The *Congressional Quarterly* reported: "The results were viewed by political observers as proof that Kennedy's Roman Catholicism would not bar him from winning the nomination or general election."

Journalist Theodore White, who was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for his book, *The Making of the President, 1960*, called the West Virginia Democratic presidential primary "a turning point in American history."

The best assessment came from Kennedy himself, who, the day after winning the primary, proclaimed: the religious issue was "buried here in the soil of West Virginia."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MEMORIAL DAY, 2010

In the United States, Memorial Day, the day on which we commemorate our fallen heroes, also marks the beginning of summer, and, therefore, it is happily celebrated with picnics, ball games, and family gatherings. But while we enjoy this special seasonal holiday, we should also bear in mind that this is a most solemn day. On Memorial Day, we remember the Americans who gave their lives in service to our country, and pay homage to their sacrifice. Their graves are a reminder of the high cost of maintaining freedom.

I once read of a small town in the Netherlands (Castricum), where the local schools pledged to care for the graves of the American servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice to liberate the Netherlands from Nazi tyranny during World War II. Caring for a grave meant keeping the grave in "excellent" condition. The children in the Netherlands undertook this commitment because they understood what had been preserved for them by the Americans. Obviously, these children did not take their freedoms for granted.

I have always been proud to represent a state, in which freedom also is not taken for granted. In every American armed conflict, West Virginians

have been in the forefront of enlistments and casualties. Our State has one of the largest numbers of veterans per capita in the Nation. West Virginia's citizens have contributed greatly to the safety and welfare of our country. They are a shining example of the patriotism which is so characteristic of our State.

As we remember our heroes, it is appropriate that we also take time to reflect upon the courage and service of those Americans now serving in harm's way in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere around the globe. I join with you in praying for their safe return from faraway lands.

Writing about the thousands of soldiers who lost their lives during the battle at Antietam, Civil War historian Bruce Catton explained that those men did not die for a "few feet of a cornfield or a rocky hill." They died so that "this country might be permitted to go on," and that it might be permitted to fulfill the great hope of our Founding Fathers.

The same can be said of all the courageous men and women who fought and died in our Nation's wars. They served and they made the ultimate sacrifice to permit this country to carry on and to fulfill the great hope of our Founding Fathers.

May 19, 2010



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A CALL TO (HEALTHY) ARMS

Generally speaking, Americans love "Ten Best" or "Ten Worst" lists, and we avidly scan the rankings to discover who or what occupies the top or bottom spot. But I, for one, am tired of seeing West Virginia at the top of the obesity and smoking lists. I know I am not alone in my concern about the health of West Virginians when I read the statistics on heart attacks, diabetes, and cancer.

There are many factors when it comes to the reasons for the generally poor health of West Virginians. Access to affordable health care, busy schedules and long commutes, the demands of work and family, education about proper nutrition and exercise, too much television, too much alcohol, too much tobacco use, poor eating habits, and obesity — all are contributing factors. But, all of these factors can be, in large part, overcome by characteristics that I know West Virginians have in abundance: grit, determination, and discipline.

Each one of us, no matter our age, has the means within us to improve our health and the quality of our lives. We cannot all become fitness gurus or Olympic

athletes, but we can take simple, low cost steps to become healthier and more fit. The steps are many, but none are hard, and the rewards for our families and ourselves are lasting. Improving our own health, and the health of our children, should be our highest priority.

Thanks to investments in health research made by the federal government and privately-funded nonprofit organizations, information about health, nutrition, exercise, smoking and alcohol cessation, dental health, and related topics is widely and publicly available over the internet and in many public libraries. Over the coming weeks, I will summarize some of the information that is available, and provide links to additional resources on nutrition, exercise, smoking and alcohol cessation, and dental health.

We must provide our children and grandchildren with the examples and the tools to live long and healthy lives. Children put no stock in "Do as I say, not as I do," so we must — must — begin to set the example we want them to follow. Mountaineers should not only be free, they should be healthy.

May 26, 2010



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

OUR HEARTS BEAT TRUE FOR THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE

June 14 is Flag Day, the day that Americans celebrate and show respect for our great national emblem, the American flag. This is not a federal holiday, but, in my opinion, it is one of the most important days of the year. This is a day filled with much history and meaning.

It was on June 14, 1777, that the Continental Congress adopted the Flag Act that established the official flag of the United States. The thirteen colonies assembled in the Continental Congress took this action because they understood the need for a symbol of national unity.

Early in the American Revolution, the colonial armies were fighting under the banners of their individual colonies, or of their local militia units. The banner of New England, for example, was the Liberty Tree, which showed a pine tree on a field of white, with the words, "An Appeal to Heaven." The Minutemen from Culpepper County, Virginia, waved a flag with a coiled rattlesnake which carried the motto, "Liberty or Death."

This diversity of flags seemed to reflect a lack of unity among the colonies. Feeling the need to establish a symbol of national unity, the Congress resolved:

"That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the

union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

I have always been impressed with the wisdom of the founders of our country, and here again we can see their brilliance and foresight. The simplicity of that pattern, alternating stripes and crisp white stars on a field of blue, allowed our flag to evolve along with the ever-changing map of the United States.

And the flag they chose has become the most visible symbol of our Nation, and our most beloved national icon. It symbolizes our strength, honor, ideals, and national purpose. It recognizes our glorious past, while it celebrates a more glorious future.

The flag symbolizes our values and ideals, as well as our power, our economic and military might. The flag rallies our courage as it inspires deeds of valor and sacrifice. When we think of the American flag, we think of the Marines heroically planting it on top of Iwo Jima during World War II, American astronauts planting it on the moon, and those valiant New York City firefighters hoisting the American flag in the rubble of the World Trade Towers on September 11, 2001.

Above everything else though, our flag is representative of our national unity – "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

DENTAL HEALTH

A bright smile is an obvious asset for anyone, whether in a business or social setting. But, clean teeth mean more than pleasant breath and fewer cavities. A lifelong commitment to good dental health through the simple habits of twice-daily brushing and regular flossing can reap many other health benefits.

Good dental care may also prevent problems like gum disease or oral cancer. According to the American Dental Association, some studies have also linked gum disease with the development of heart disease, arterial blockages and stroke. Smoking and diabetes may increase one's risk of gum disease and resulting tooth loss, especially for those over age 45. Gum disease in pregnant women has been linked to low-birth weight babies. These dire outcomes make daily brushing and flossing, along with regular dental checkups, an easy first step to improving overall health.

Tooth care should begin early. Brush baby's gums and teeth gently with a wet washcloth, moving to water on a child's toothbrush until age two. Do not let an infant go to sleep with a bottle. Juice or milk on the teeth can lead to "baby-bottle tooth decay." Limit sugary snacks for tooth health in children as well as weight management. Initiate regular visits to the dentist starting with a child's first birthday.

As children grow, they should brush twice daily

with fluoride toothpaste, and get in the habit of flossing daily. Aside from other health considerations, teens should not smoke or chew tobacco, which can stain teeth, worsen bad breath or even cause mouth cancer. Wearing protective headgear while playing contact sports will help protect a teen's smile. Adults should continue to brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste, and floss every day. In addition to not using tobacco products, adults should ask their doctor about any medications they use which may have side effects that could damage teeth. Older people or anyone with problems brushing effectively should consider investing in an electric or battery operated toothbrush. If sores in the mouth will not heal, or gums become irritated, see a doctor or dentist promptly.

These simple steps – brushing, flossing, and seeing a dentist regularly – are the cornerstones of a bright smile and a healthier life, and are easy to do. Limiting sugary and starchy snacks, including sodas and alcohol, and stopping smoking, are additional steps that offer life-style benefits far beyond healthy teeth.

For additional information you can go to: www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/dentalhealth.html, or <http://familydoctor.org/online/famdocen/home/healthy/prevention>.

And make sure you smile a big healthy smile for me!!!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 20th, is Father's Day. Father's Day sparks memories of my two fathers and of all the lessons they taught me. My birth father had the faith in his wife, my mother, to heed her wish that I be raised by my aunt and uncle in West Virginia if she were to die while I was still an infant. After my mother's death in the influenza pandemic of 1918, my father did as she had asked, and I went to live with Vlurma and Titus Byrd, my aunt and uncle.

My second father, my "Pap," was the hardworking West Virginia coal miner, Titus Byrd, who reared me. His daily quiet example shaped my goals and my future outlook. I cannot thank him enough for his willingness to take on the lifelong task of parenting a child not his own. We never had an extra penny, but "Pap" always made me feel loved.

Jean Paul Richter observed that, "What a father says to his children is not heard by the world, but it will be heard for posterity." A father must

balance on a fine edge – pushing his children to be not just *their* best, but teaching them to strive to be *the* best. A father must teach his children an idealism that inspires them to make the impossible real, but he must also know when to back off and simply be proud of his children's effort. Fathers must set the example for their children to follow in respecting others and dealing with life's setbacks. Mixing elements of the tough taskmaster, hard-charging coach, protector and defender, mentor and teacher, hands-on or hands-off participant in family life – there are as many roles as there are fathers. The results of each father's work are on public display as his children grow and take their places in society.

This Father's Day, I will remember both my father and my "Pap", with great fondness. I hope all of us, whether grown or not, will remember their fathers with pride and love, and thank "Dad" for his caring example and his hard work.

June 16, 2010



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

WEST VIRGINIA DAY

June 20, in addition to being Father's Day this year, was also the 147th anniversary of the birth of West Virginia.

It was on June 20, 1863, that West Virginia, by an act of Congress and the signature of President Abraham Lincoln, became the thirty-fifth State of our Union. The official ceremonies to celebrate the event took place in Wheeling. The *Wheeling Intelligencer*, called it a "great gala day" -- and it was! Although our country was in the middle of a bitter, divisive, and bloody Civil War, the newspaper reported that, "thousands of people from abroad" as well as the new state officials and the "entire population" of Wheeling engaged in the festivities of the day.

Flags of all sizes were flown from every housetop and every business in the city. Ceremonies included bands playing patriotic songs, and the West Virginia militia parading through the town.

In the inaugural prayer at the ceremonies, the Reverend J.T. McClure proclaimed:

"We pray Thee, almighty God, that this State, born amidst tears and blood and fire and desolation, may long be preserved and from its little beginning may grow to be a might and a power that shall make those who come after us look upon *it with*

joy and gladness and pride of heart."

The man who is considered the "father of West Virginia," Francis H. Pierpont, declared: "May [West Virginia], from this small beginning today, grow to be the proudest state in all the glorious galaxy of States that form the Nation."

Waitman T. Willey, one of our State's first two U.S. Senators, proclaimed: "What we have longed for and labored for and prayed for is [now] a fixed fact. West Virginia is a fixed fact."

After the speeches, 35 children, representing the 35 States of the Union, sang more patriotic songs and a band played the "Star Spangled Banner."

The day closed with a brilliant display of fireworks over the Ohio River.

The next day, the *New York Post* reported: "born amid the turmoil of the Civil War and cradled by the storm ... the 35th State is now added to the American union."

The *New York Times* echoed the words of Senator Willey with the headline that read: "West Virginia is now a fixed fact."

A belated Happy Birthday, West Virginia! 147 years later, we can, as the Reverend Mr. McClure predicted, continue to look upon our State everyday "with joy and gladness and pride of heart."