

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Man Is Killing the Seas

From a beach, the deck of a ship, or the window of an airplane, the oceans which cover three-fourths of the earth's surface appear virtually limitless. So much water stretches away to the horizon that any thought that it might all become polluted, or lifeless, seems remotely absurd.

Yet, exactly that may be happening. The waste and contaminants of our civilization are becoming so destructive to the oceans that all could one day become dead seas.

The serious and far-reaching pollution caused by oil spills from tanker mishaps and faulty drilling operations has become well known. So has the deliberate dumping of the containers of poisonous junk into the oceans—such as war gases and drums of radioactive wastes.

But perhaps even more insidious is the fact that virtually all of our industrial society's liquid wastes—all of the materials and substances that water can carry or dissolve—find their way into the oceans. Most of the pollutants we discharge into the air come back to earth with the rain, and they, too, drain into the seas.

There is no way to count the thousands of substances—many of them toxic and dangerous—that are now being dumped into the oceans, or into the rivers that empty into the oceans. In many instances the adverse chemical and biological effects which the materials thus disposed of may have on the seas, and on the life which the seas

support, are unknown, or at best are just beginning to be learned.

These toxic substances include the poisonous lead from millions of automobile exhausts spewed into the air, much of which reaches the sea; the mercury wastes from industrial operations, which only recently have been found to poison fish and make them unfit for human use; and the herbicides and pesticides washed from farms, orchards, lawns and gardens.

These accumulating poisons threaten not only man's food fish, but also, and more basically, the plankton in the oceans—the minute plant and animal life upon which the entire marine food chain depends.

DDT, for example—which now, like radioactive substances, contaminates every ocean—reduces the ability of the sea's tiny green plants to manufacture food when exposed to light. If the plankton dies, the fish cannot survive. And half of the world's population depends upon fish protein.

If the ecological disaster, which oceanographers and scientists fear, is to be avoided, concerted action by the civilized world is needed now. The oceans, earth's cradle of life, must not be allowed to become dying cesspools of filth, spreading sickness and death inevitably to the land and the inhabitants thereof.

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Heat May Pollute Our Water Supply

When most of us think of water pollution, we think of solid wastes and chemicals being dumped into our lakes and streams. But a more insidious kind of threat to clean water is thermal pollution—contamination from heat that raises the water temperature.

Industries that utilize water for cooling purposes usually return the water to the nearest lake or river. This water is often 10 to 20 degrees warmer than when it was first tapped.

An increase in water temperature of only three or four degrees can have a profound effect upon fish and other aquatic life. The entire ecological balance of the stream can be affected. Warm water may cause fish eggs to hatch so early in the spring that the fishes' natural food organisms may be unavailable. Fish use temperature changes as a signal for migration and spawning. Warm water may cause trout eggs not to hatch, and salmon may not spawn.

Warmer temperatures may also lower the value of a water source for drinking and recreational purposes. Thermally polluted water is less capable of assimilating other wastes. As water becomes warmer, nuisance plants and rough fish flourish, while useful life dies.

Electric power production is responsible for 70 percent of the "hot" water released back into lakes and streams. By 1980, it is expected that one-fifth of our nation's fresh water supply will be required

to produce enough electrical energy for our needs.

With the threat of thermal pollution growing, scientists are conducting research on how to prevent heat from ruining our water supply.

Some industries have tackled the problem by returning heated water to its source after spraying it through the air for cooling. Other methods of return include running the water through cooling towers or discharging heated water through multiple outlets to dissipate the heat.

Research is also being done to find a productive use for heated water. Water is being channeled into oyster beds in an effort to increase production. Tests are being conducted with the use of warm water for irrigation in hopes of increasing crop yields. And, in Sweden, heated water from a reactor is being used to warm an entire village in the winter.

But despite any promising uses of heated water, the Department of the Interior remains concerned.

State water control standards have been established and approved by the Interior Department, but we cannot afford to stop here when it comes to our water supply. If we err, it is best that we err on the side of safety to protect our precious water supply.

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American Family Life in Trouble

In our modern, affluent, and rapidly moving world, the stable family institution appears to be in trouble.

One of the topics discussed at the recent White House Conference on Children was the imminent danger now being faced by the American family in its effort to remain a viable institution.

The statistics are startling: one out of four U.S. marriages ends in divorce; the birth rate was down from 30.1 births per thousand in 1910 to 17.1 in 1969; and half a million teenagers are running away from home each year.

There are several reasons for the difficulties in the family. Increased mobility has been responsible for many families moving from rural to urban areas, causing greater separation from relatives than in less urbanized days. This trend away from large kinship families has created a more isolated "nuclear" family. The parents in these homes are faced with many additional roles, which in earlier days were provided by grandparents, uncles, and in-laws. The pressures of these new roles have contributed to many broken homes.

Also, many of the teaching functions of the traditional American family are now given to schools, government, and even industry.

Children are no longer sent to work at an early age due to the affluence in our modern society. Many youngsters to-

day are isolated from the realities of the working world sometimes until they are well into their 20's.

Another factor changing the family has been the new working role of many women. With 40 percent of U.S. women now employed, less time is spent at home. And increasing social and civic obligations have further decreased the family's time together. The result has been children who have been hindered emotionally and psychologically by their parent's neglect and over-permissiveness.

Many recommendations came from the White House Children's Conference that were designed to save the family as an institution. Among them were the establishment of a National Institute for the Family, universal day-care centers, health and early learning services, the creation of a cabinet-level Department of Family and Children, and an independent Office of Child Advocacy.

It is hoped that these institutions could be used to re-emphasize the importance of preserving the family as the basic unit of our society. The traditional strong family ties that welded our nation together in its early days must survive if the Republic is to survive.

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America Supplies Food to a Hungry World

For the past 15 years, the United States has been carrying out the most massive food aid program in the history of the world; and, since 1955, over \$20.5 billion worth of American farm products have been exported to nearly 100 needy countries.

The food is exported under provisions of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, which was aimed at creating markets for surpluses of farm products that had accumulated during the post-World War II expansion period.

Primarily, the United States ships the food to developing nations, and receives minimal payment in foreign currencies. It then loans the money back to the countries, stipulating that the funds be invested in agricultural development and other self-help projects.

Over \$12 billion worth of food has been exported in this manner, and the subsequent loans to foreign countries are now being paid back to the United States at the rate of \$225 million annually.

The Act has been amended 32 times since 1954, and, under some of its newer provisions, the government is able to award grants of food commodities to voluntary relief agencies such as CARE and various church groups.

The United States has scored a number of successes directly related to its food aid program. Feed grain exports to Spain enabled that country

to expand its poultry and livestock industry by almost 30 percent since 1955; and American food purchased by Yugoslavia permitted that Iron Curtain country to develop a free enterprise policy toward its farmers, and kept Yugoslavia from becoming totally dependent upon Russia.

There have also been some monetary rewards for America as a result of its program. The foreign currency used to buy American food has aided the development of trade markets for United States industrial products, and has made considerable contributions to our balance of payments problem. In some cases, up to 25 percent of United States overseas expenses have been paid with the foreign currency received through the food aid program.

Between 1955 and 1965, food accounted for approximately 42 percent of the total United States foreign economic assistance program; and American agricultural exports more than doubled from \$3 billion in 1954 to a current yearly average of \$6.5 billion.

Efforts must be made to increase the foreign markets for food grown on American farms. In that way, the United States economy can harvest the rewards of international agriculture.

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Corporate Drug Abuse

The problem of drug abuse is most frequently found among the young, but the problem has now begun to affect a new group—the business world.

The New York Chamber of Commerce recently commissioned a study to determine the extent of drug abuse in the business community.

According to the study, a recent surge of drug abuse has hit company employees, old as well as young. Some firms report that drugs have caused higher turnovers, poorer work performance, increased absenteeism, and a dramatic increase in employee thefts.

Instances of drug sales in the office, the "shooting" of hard narcotics such as heroin in office rest rooms, and the delivering of marijuana in inter-office mail are all too frequent in big companies.

With most companies expecting to see drug usage triple this year, many are planning policies that are aimed at keeping the effects of drug abuse out of the profit and loss statement.

Some companies which were at first shocked at finding drug abuse in their ranks, immediately dismissed those involved. But, as the numbers increased, many firms have adopted more thoughtful solutions to their drug problems.

Many companies are beginning to make educational materials available to their employees by utilizing company communications skills. When

an employee is known to be taking drugs, assistance may be offered to help him overcome his problem.

An advisor is being designated in many firms to handle drug problems by guiding employees to treatment facilities and helping them with personal problems.

Personnel departments are now taking a much closer look at the people they hire in regard to the use of drugs. After hiring, special training courses dealing with drugs are being offered to new employees.

Many large companies are now calling in environmental specialists to study the whole corporate environment to see if any inherent conditions could be a reason for drug use.

Drug clinics, which are partially financed by business enterprises, have been useful in referring employees and have provided a guarantee of a facility for business-oriented rehabilitation.

The business world has been forced to view drug abuse as an individual problem, as in the case of alcoholism. The approach of rehabilitation, rather than punishment, is a giant step in trying to reach the cause of a problem that increasingly threatens all areas of society.

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Safety Begins at Home

Americans have spent a great deal of money, time, and energy in an effort to reduce deaths caused by highway accidents—and rightly so. Yet, most of the crusades for safety in the United States have neglected to emphasize the need for taking extra precautions in the home.

Last year, for instance, 28,500 persons died as a result of accidents in the estimated 60 million homes in the United States; and another 4.3 million citizens suffered disabling injuries in domestic accidents.

The statistics, which resulted from a National Safety Council study, also show that an additional 17 million minor domestic injuries occur annually in our country.

Over 90 percent of the fatalities that resulted from home accidents were caused by falls, fires, suffocation, firearms, drowning, and electrocution. The number of deaths in these kinds of accidents, although frightfully high, has remained relatively stable in recent years. Hopefully, public service safety campaigns will cause the figure to drop in the not too distant future.

There is one area of home accidents, however, that has been rising in recent years—the area of poisoning, which accounted for about seven percent of the accidental deaths in the home during 1969.

To combat accidental poisonings in the home, the nation's drug manufacturers

formed the independent Council on Family Health in 1966. The primary objective of the Council is to promote safety in the storage and use of medicines in the home; and the objective is being met through extensive educational campaigns aimed at the nation's pharmacists and drug consumers.

The Council advises that all medicines be kept out of the reach of children, and that all medicines should be disposed of at the first signs of their turning bad. Pain relievers, for instance, should be discarded if they become soggy or discolored, or if they develop a vinegar-like odor. Antiseptics should be disposed of when they become cloudy, or when residue collects in the bottom of the bottle; and ointments that dry out, or become hard, should be thrown away immediately.

As the number of medicines on the market and in the home increases, it becomes more important than ever to acquaint ourselves with the potential dangers of their misuse—and to make an extra effort to assure that medicines intended to restore or improve our health do not become an instrument for a possibly fatal home accident.

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Plant Life Being Affected by Air Pollution

Much of the current discussion about the adverse effects of air pollution deals specifically with injury to man's health; but another essential life form being damaged by polluted air is vegetation.

Agricultural losses due to air pollution have been estimated at \$500 million annually. But no true estimates have been made of real economic loss caused by suppression of growth, delayed maturity, reduction in yield, and the increased costs of crop production.

The increasing injury to plant life by unclean air is alarming, and goes much deeper than economic losses. Vegetation injury is a forewarning of air pollution problems that can affect man's ability to live on this planet.

Scientists consider plants a sensitive indicator of airborne pollutants. For that reason, the National Air Pollution Control Administration is conducting studies to detect and evaluate the effects of toxicants upon plant life.

Research thus far indicates gases such as ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen fluoride, ethylene, chlorine, and PAN (peroxyacetyl nitrate) are known to damage vegetation.

These gases destroy plant chlorophyll, disrupt the photosynthesis process, and reduce food production. In industrial areas where these gases are abundant, plant life is often exterminated.

The results of air pollution are often gradual and not

readily apparent. The plant's injury may show up as growth suppression, dwarfing, and early maturation.

Some of the research conducted by the government has utilized plants themselves to measure the presence of pollutants in the air. One variety of tobacco has been used to detect ozone, pinto beans have discovered the presence of PAN, and gladioli have indicated fluoride accumulations. Dahlias, petunias, alfalfa, and cotton are good indicators of sulfur dioxide.

The study of particular gases is complicated by the fact that pollutants may travel freely from their sources due to variations in wind speed and direction. Buildups of various chemicals in stagnant air masses have caused excess pollution in some areas, resulting in unusual injury to crops, trees, and property.

Many of the most serious polluters have been identified, and their effects to plant life have been determined. Studies are also determining the effects of multiple pollutants. It is hoped that this research will find ways of protecting vegetation from the attack of toxic gases.

But in the meantime, the growing loss of trees and crops represents a frightening indicator of further deterioration in our environment.

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Power Shortage—First Stage of an Energy Crisis

As was predicted, this winter has brought power shortages of varying degrees of seriousness across the country. Cold waves have caused increased need for electricity, and some generators have broken down under the strain of trying to supply it.

The Federal Power Commission reports that the Northeast section of the nation has been hardest hit, with numerous voltage cut-backs being necessary. Public buildings have been darkened and unheated, and elevators and subway cars shut down as nervous officials feared a complete power blackout in major cities.

The shortage of power is not just seasonal.

Last summer, many communities were faced with the threat of blackouts when air conditioning and refrigeration loads placed a heavy strain on generators.

So far this winter, the much-feared fuels crisis has been warded off in most areas—at least temporarily.

But the fuels shortage is having its bad effects.

Stockpiles of fuels to keep the huge generators in operation have dwindled, and now are so low that many large power companies fear that the day soon could come when there will be no fuel.

The reasons for America's energy problems are clear.

Too much emphasis has been placed on developing nuclear energy, while natural fuel supplies have been ne-

glected. The increasing demand for power has nearly outgrown our capacity to supply it.

Specifically, the answer to our energy problems seems to lie within one of our most plentiful fuels—coal. The establishment of an intensive coal research program would speed up the efforts to produce liquid and gaseous fuels from coal and solve the air pollution problems involved with burning coal. This research should result in the development of a commercially-feasible process to produce other fuels from coal, and thus assure a generous fuel supply.

The energy shortage in America can only get worse if action is not taken immediately to insure an always sufficient supply of fuel to run power plants. Municipal officials in large urban areas view the coming summer months with great concern. Most large power companies are now operating at maximum capacity, and are unable to do much-needed maintenance on equipment.

It is of the utmost importance that the government undertake intensified research on natural fuels for energy production. The fuels shortage must not be permitted to develop into a full-scale energy crisis.

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Ranks of Elderly Growing Fast

There is, in America today, a great deal of emphasis placed on the problems of youth. Yet, the fastest growing segment of our population is not the young, but rather the elderly—and the time has come for us to pay closer attention to solving the problems that come with advancing age.

One out of every 10 Americans is 65 years of age or older, and another 20 million are between the ages of 60 and 64. In fact, there are 10,000 Americans over 100 years old; and the Gerontological Society reports that, as diseases continue to be overcome, life expectancy will increase by as much as 15 years.

Currently, if a man reaches age 65 in good health, scientists say he will average another 15 years. The average woman who reaches 65 can expect to live 16 more years.

As if to back up their predictions, the scientists point out that of all the people since the beginning of the history of the world who have reached age 65, 25 percent of them are alive today.

All the facts on aging, however, must be translated into human terms. Age 65 should not be some automatic signal for a man to step out of the mainstream of life. It should be marked with a still bright and challenging future.

Strides are being made in that direction.

In 1965, Congress established the Administration on Aging. Each succeeding year,

the Administration has conducted a White House Conference on Aging dedicated to solving the problems that confront elderly citizens.

Out of these conferences have grown programs to strengthen health, education, and welfare services for the aged; programs aimed at increased independence for persons 65 or older; and programs designed to use the talents of the elderly, thus keeping them active participants within our society.

This year, over \$15 million is going directly to state programs for the aged, an increase of more than \$2 million over the 1970 funds which supported 1,000 community service projects.

There are moves, too, in the field of education. Approximately 250 universities have programs designed to attract the aged. Many of these programs train the elderly in recreational activities for their leisure years; but many others teach skills necessary to begin entirely new careers.

Older Americans have a special stake in our country—they have seen it through depressions and wars, and their faith in its greatness has never wavered. The country's faith in the potential of its elderly citizens also must not waver.

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The Problem of Capitol Security

Should the unrestricted movement of tourists and visitors through the U.S. Capitol be curtailed as a result of the recent bombing? Few Americans who have visited the nation's most venerated shrine, or who plan to visit it, would want to see that happen; but some restrictions may have to be imposed.

It is a sad commentary on the times. But our tradition of letting people enter and leave the Capitol at will, and permitting them to roam about it as they wish, lies at the heart of what to do about those in our society who would desecrate and destroy it.

Historically, American citizens have enjoyed much more freedom in this respect than have the citizens of many other countries. Even in such a free and open society as England, guides meet visitors outside the buildings of Parliament, take them on tours in groups of no more than 30, and escort them outside again when the tour is over.

The U.S. Capitol belongs to the people, and they should have access to it. But the building and its treasures—most of which are irreplaceable—must be protected. Moreover, the lives of the hundreds of persons who work in the Capitol and in the office buildings of the Congress must be protected, as well.

Many methods of providing the protection that is needed are being discussed. Putting insignificant nooks and crannies of the Capitol off-limits to casual visitors is being suggested. Sensing devices to detect metal objects and explosives are being considered.

Closed circuit television to monitor movements within the Capitol has been proposed.

Already bags and brief cases being brought into the Capitol and the office buildings are being inspected by the police, and demands are being made that the Capitol Police Force be further upgraded and expanded. The force now has an authorized strength of 622 men, 39 percent of whom are authorized to be patronage appointments. Twenty percent of the total force are students working their way through college, and the remainder of the patronage positions are career-type officers who do not enjoy tenure.

I have made patronage appointments to the force, and I believe I have named good men. But in the future, only fully-qualified, professional police officers should make up the force. The patronage appointments should be phased out by attrition and eventually eliminated. Officers who have patronage appointments should be given the opportunity to qualify for an all-professional force.

The Capitol with its many entrances, various floor levels, scores of rooms, labyrinthine corridors, and countless cubbyholes offers an inviting target for saboteurs because of its symbolic, as well as its intrinsic, importance to the American people. It must be protected and preserved.

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The Junked Automobile Crisis

There are well over 100 million automobiles operating on our roads and highways in the United States. Over 9 million of these vehicles will be retired from use this year.

About 85 percent of these discarded autos will go to dismantlers for the sale of parts, and in some cases these cars will enter the scrap market. But the remainder, which may well be over a million vehicles, will be abandoned or junked on public and private property.

Present estimates show that between 2.5 and 4.5 million junked cars are contributing to the environmental blight in this nation, with over 7 million old cars rusting in storage yards.

The growing number of huge auto graveyards is becoming a national eyesore, but the problem of overcoming this waste of a valuable resource is complex.

When an owner decides that his car is no longer usable and takes it out of service, he must decide whether or not to abandon the vehicle. In most cases, this decision is based on the parts value of the vehicle to the junk or parts dealer.

If the car is worth nothing to the dismantler, it is usually parked or abandoned by its owner. If the dealer buys the vehicle, there are problems to be faced in trying to recycle the car back to steel.

Traditionally, after the removal of parts, the car hulk is burned to remove the seats, plastics, and other contaminants, leaving only the bare steel. But newer air pollution

laws have severely restricted this type of burning, forcing dismantlers to send scrap that is full of impurities to processors.

"Scrap" processors, the next link in the recycling chain, are reluctant to buy these cars because of the low value of the unpure steel. The result has been a decreasing value of out-of-service automobiles and a rising rate of abandonment.

The problem has been compounded in most states because of weak or unenforceable abandonment laws.

But there are some encouraging developments. Research has produced new processes that separate the steel from impurities, thus producing a higher quality steel product. Also, changes in steel production have altered the amount of scrap metal in relation to ore, making scrap more valuable. And, changes in steel fabrication may require more of the scrap products, thus increasing the demand for old cars.

There has also been exploration into the feasibility of government-owned and -operated facilities for controlled recycling of outmoded vehicles.

Whatever the results of studies now being conducted, Americans face another serious environmental problem that must be solved.

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The Necessity of Vocational Education

"Plumbers, carpenters, and electricians make more than many school superintendents and college presidents; only the arrogant will allow themselves to feel that one is more worthy than the other."

That quote from the First Annual Report of the National Advisory Council on Vocational Education sums up the attitude that, until recently, has hindered efforts in training young men and women in the skills of a chosen trade.

The nation has for too long held the attitude that the only good education is a college education. The federal government has invested \$14 in our nation's colleges for every \$1 it has invested in vocational education programs.

High school programs have been almost chiefly devoted to improving college preparatory training, although 60 percent of the young graduates go directly to work and not to college. In the 1980's, fewer than 20 percent of the job opportunities will require a college degree.

The Council on Vocational Education proposes that all high school students should have a free choice to move into and out of various vocational and technical courses of personal interest. A full range of courses should be made available to students in order that their interests and innate talents can be developed to the highest potential.

The Council suggests that: students should be free to leave school temporarily to acquire on-the-job training and be able to return in the

future for further instruction; government should provide training for those high school graduates who finish school and still have no job skills; and adults should be included in the job training courses, possibly through community colleges or adult high schools.

Vocational training should be relevant at the elementary level also. The world of work and pride in craftsmanship should be taught at a young age. Young students should gradually be brought to a realization of their part in our expanding economy.

To build the kind of vocational education program that our nation needs for the future, the Council calls for government funds to be used to support curriculum development, teacher training, and pilot programs in vocational education.

To prepare a student for a job is more expensive than to prepare him for college. The classes are usually smaller, and the equipment and facilities more expensive. The investment will be costly, but the returns could be higher.

Vocational education could be an important factor in lowering unemployment in the future. The number of jobs which the unskilled worker can fill is dwindling rapidly.

Action must be taken to correct the inadequacy of an educational system that allows valuable human resources to be wasted.

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Seniority System Is Best

A stronger than usual attempt has been made this year to eliminate the so-called seniority rule in the United States Senate with respect to the naming of committee chairmen and ranking minority members.

Opponents of the seniority system contend that the work of the Senate could better be carried on if chairmen of committees were elected and re-elected every two years by ballot instead of gaining and retaining their chairmanships through length of uninterrupted service.

The proposal was defeated on a roll call vote, and the seniority system will be retained, at least for the present, in the Senate. It offers a number of important advantages.

Election by ballot, in party caucus, of committee chairmen and ranking minority members would be cumbersome, unwieldy, and time-consuming. Each two years, with the beginning of a new Congress, every chairman and every ranking minority member of the 17 standing committees of the Senate—as well as other committees—would have to be elected in party caucus by ballot.

Such a system would be an open invitation to log-rolling and politicking by outside pressure groups—which would attempt to influence the selection—and possibly even interference in the internal organization of the Senate by the White House.

When members of the Senate know who is in line for what, political maneuvering within the Senate for chair-

manship positions is reduced to zero.

Unnecessary friction, divisiveness, and ill-feeling could easily be caused by organizing committees through an election process based on popularity and vote getting prowess. The orderly conduct of business should not be subordinated to internal jockeying for power among politically ambitious members.

Every system, of course, has drawbacks, and this is not to say that the seniority system is perfect. But it has been tried; it works very well; and no alternative that has yet been suggested can be expected to work any better, if as well.

Few men can serve on committees of the Congress for the length of time necessary to reach chairmanships without gaining a vast amount of knowledge and know-how with regard to the pertinent agencies of the government, the statutes involved in their field, and the all-important background against which legislative proposals must be weighed.

The seniority system, more nearly than any other system, assures that committee chairmen will possess the necessary experience and expertise.

The seniority system is a highly impersonal method of selecting committee chairmen which promotes harmony, avoids needless conflict, and, in the end, expedites the Senate's work.

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Laundry Detergents Are Target of Ecologists

For years, the daily use of laundry detergents has been a commonplace experience of most American housewives. But recently, many experts studying detergents, and additives such as enzymes, have determined that they may be dangerous to the water supply and even to health.

Although no studies have conclusively substantiated the health dangers of enzymes, the American Academy of Allergy earlier this year warned that the use of enzymes in detergents and "pre-soaks" is a potential hazard to health.

Publicity has had such an impact on housewives that the sales of enzyme "pre-soaks"—used to whiten fabrics—dropped by \$50 million in a single year. In addition, sales of conventional detergents, without enzymes, fell drastically in 1970.

Many detergent makers have reacted by stopping the use of enzymes in their products. In addition, the nation's three leading detergent manufacturers have agreed with the Federal Trade Commission to stop advertising that enzymes remove all types of stains. The Commission last year had accused the manufacturers and their agencies of false and deceptive advertising.

Even more concern has been expressed over a basic component of detergent itself—phosphate. Phosphates have been found to cause rap-

id growth of algae in lakes and waterways. Scientists fear that the excess growth of algae may eventually pollute the water supply.

The detergent industry is trying to find a replacement for phosphates in their products. Several new phosphate-free detergents have been developed and placed on the market, but their chemical make-up, as well as any potential dangers to health and environment, are not yet well known.

The effects of what detergents can do to a water supply have already been experienced. Residents of Suffolk County in New York found soapsuds and odors in their faucet water. The county immediately banned the sale of detergents in local stores.

Several bills have been introduced in the 92nd Congress to protect the environment against the dangers of detergents. A House bill would ban phosphates in detergents by June 1973.

Manufacturers are now searching for safer and better tested ingredients for their products. Declining sales have proved that housewives demand products that will not damage health or environment.

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Farmers Not to Blame for High Food Prices

Nowhere in America is the impact of inflation felt more forcefully than in the grocery store, where shoppers are now paying over 20 percent more for food than they did at the beginning of this decade.

However, the rising costs for food products have not resulted in any substantial increase in profits for American farmers.

In 1969, for example, farmers in the United States produced \$32 billion worth of food materials; by the time those materials appeared on the grocery shelves, the cost to the consumer had tripled to \$96 billion. Yet, the farmers' share of the grocery dollar was actually less in 1969 than it was in 1960.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the major reason for high food prices has been the need for the food industry to keep pace with our modern society.

Consumers today have more money to spend, more time for recreational activities, and less time to spend in the preparation of food. Thus, they have demanded more ready-to-eat products.

In 1970, Americans spent an estimated \$500 million on frozen dinners—nearly double the amount spent on prepared meals in 1965.

To meet the growing demands of the modern consumer, the food industry has invested heavily in up-to-date marketing devices such as

processing plants, super markets, and attractive packages. The amount spent on marketing foods jumped from \$42 billion in 1959 to \$64 billion last year. Today, approximately 66 percent of our food expenditures are directly related to marketing costs.

The emphasis on marketing in the food industry has also resulted in increased labor costs, which averaged 59 percent higher in 1969 than 10 years earlier.

All these added costs have been passed on to the consumer, who, for a short time in the early 1960's, reacted by buying less. That cutback in purchasing caused a decline in prices at the farm level, resulting in the farmer actually suffering because of the cost advances in the food industry.

However, authorities claim that food purchasing today is at an all-time high, and that the added costs are going toward the debts incurred by the food industry as a result of the revamped marketing system.

When those debts are paid, the farmer should begin to receive some of the profits that have bypassed him over the past several years. And, hopefully, the price of food will stabilize, thus benefiting the consumer as well.

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Scientists Hardest Hit by Recession

Unemployment has struck a brutal blow to America's scientific community. The U.S. Labor Department estimates that joblessness in the technical, engineering, and research fields is near the 65,000 mark.

About half of these workers have been victims of cutbacks in the aerospace industry. The recent Congressional defeat of the supersonic transport plane added to the unemployment roles.

Approximately 3,000 of America's 20,000 physicists with Ph.D.'s are out of work. Many of these have had to select new vocations and take much less money than they would have earned in their chosen profession.

The unemployment crisis that we are experiencing today in the technical fields began with a dip in space employment in 1966. Then, in 1968, defense industry employment began to drop while the Administration was attempting to stop inflation by slowing down the economy. At the same time, the civilian aircraft market began to feel the adverse effects of the slowed economy. This, in turn, caused a great cutback in research.

What we are feeling today may not be the peak of the job recession. Some experts are predicting that unemployment in technical fields could reach as high as 150,000 men by the latter part of the year.

However, the government has already started to come to the aid of those out of work. The Departments of

Labor and Housing and Urban Affairs will retrain some 2,000 unemployed engineers for work on urban problems.

President Nixon has announced a \$42 million program to train and relocate the unemployed. Several bills have been introduced in the Senate to aid jobless scientists, technicians, and engineers. Among the ideas presented in this legislation is funding for the National Science Foundation for fellowships and subsistence grants to scientists and engineers who participate in conversion retraining programs. Another bill would authorize the setting up of non-profit "community conversion corporations" for non-defense research by those out of work, as well as give the Small Business Administration funds to help start small scientific and technical firms.

Some West Coast universities have set up special training programs to teach the unemployed scientists and engineers in new fields. The University of California at Irvine and Stanford University are offering a one-year Master's program in societal and environmental fields. Response has been enthusiastic.

It is hoped that these steps will help to ease the pressure on those being laid off in this job crisis. America cannot allow this wealth of talent to be wasted.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Drug Smugglers Stopped At Borders

The U.S. Bureau of Customs last year seized over 88 percent more smuggled narcotics at American borders than in 1969.

One of the reasons for the increase in arrests stems from a beefed-up program that has added 915 men to the Bureau for narcotics control.

The amount of illicit drugs seized by customs agents last year was considerable. The quantity of cocaine seized leaped from 23 pounds in 1969 to 376 pounds in 1970. The percentage of other drugs rose dramatically. Heroin was up 65 percent, hashish increased 138 percent, and marijuana climbed 148 percent.

Although larger quantities were seized, there is no accurate way of knowing the amount of narcotics successfully smuggled into the United States. Thousands of Americans each week return from areas where narcotics are plentiful and inexpensive. And with the popularity of drugs growing in this country, more travellers are bringing narcotics home from abroad. Two-thirds of those arrested for smuggling narcotics are under the age of 25.

Smugglers have used some very ingenious methods to transport narcotics across boundaries. The more traditional tricks—such as false-bottomed suitcases and jackets lined with drugs—have been replaced by much more sophisticated means: a shipment of Boa constrictors sent

from Colombia, South America to Miami contained over 95 pounds of marijuana inside the cage; a man with a wooden leg coming into California was arrested after agents discovered the leg contained heroin; and a shipment of molded, baked, and painted pottery turned out to be carefully compacted hashish.

Other hiding places have been in corsets, auto gas tanks, wine jugs, baby diapers, cans of seafood, and hollowed-out surfboards.

The Bureau of Customs' chief desire is to intercept shipments of large commercial drug dealers. The 11,500-man force has become so effective in its border inspections that commercial dealers have chosen to avoid the risk incurred by attempting to smuggle small quantities. Many large operations have turned to airplanes in an effort to evade Customs agents, but the Bureau has been quick to respond by sharing the police intelligence of other agencies and intercepting many of the flights.

As the methods of the drug smuggler become more sophisticated, Customs agents are becoming increasingly successful in curbing the drug traffic entering the United States.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Financial Crisis on Campus

A recent report by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education says that America's colleges and universities face an "acute financial crisis."

Nearly 1,000 colleges, where about 77 percent of the nation's college students are enrolled, are feeling the pinch from bigger spending and lower income. The fact that such a large percentage of colleges are operating in the "red" should cause great concern for the nation's future in higher education.

Schools are reacting to their new financial problems by cutting back in many areas. Some institutions have been forced to drop entire departments and academic programs, sharply reduce student loans, cut back faculty hiring and raises, increase teaching loads, limit enrollment, and cut back campus construction and maintenance.

The Carnegie Commission traces the beginning of the recession in higher education back to the late 1960's, when inflation and growing demands for services, coupled with the needs for better quality in education, caused college costs to soar. College enrollment in the 1960's also rose from 3.5 million students to over 7 million.

Campus unrest was a major factor that added to the financial burden. Increased security, insurance, and property expenses became top priority items in many college budgets.

With costs rising, most schools found that the money was becoming less plentiful. State and federal grants became harder to obtain—after

a boom when federal funds for colleges rose nearly 42 percent from 1964 to 1965. The situation was worsened by a decline in alumni contributions, foundation support, and donations from the private sector.

In addition, some large colleges and universities found that they were unprepared for a recession. Money was spent lavishly in the early 60's. Faculty salaries increased by 75 percent between 1959 and 1969 and prestigious schools openly competed for the most famous, as well as highest paid, professors in the country. Many experimental and research programs were being conducted with funds from pre-recession days. Until recently, many colleges were not forced to conform to tight budgetary procedures.

Already, a few small institutions have announced plans to close down due to their financial plight. Others are barely staying open. Even for the major institutions the future appears bleak.

Our colleges and universities cannot be allowed to suffocate and die due to a lack of funds. If government has to step in to save higher learning from a disasterous fate, it would be an investment of necessity. Education is a key to America's growth, and our nation cannot allow a decline in the quality of learning.

Robert C. Byrd

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Help Wanted in Health Work

According to reports from the National Institutes of Health, there is a crying need in the United States for more young people to pursue careers in medicine and health-related fields.

For one thing, officials at NIH estimate the doctor shortage in America to be at about 50,000; they state further that the nurse shortage, is proportionately, equally severe; and the need for medical technicians, researchers, and laboratory personnel is just as great.

The federal government has expended several programs, and initiated others, to meet the challenge of a critical manpower shortage in the field of health.

In an effort to increase the number of doctors, the government this year is spending approximately \$21.4 million on grants to medical schools, and another \$5.1 million on special educational improvement grants for medical students, programs, and schools.

Aside from massive federal spending, however, NIH is studying a proposal to allow exceptional students to begin their medical training during their undergraduate years, thereby reducing by up to two years the time it takes to earn a medical degree. Other programs have been designed to direct more physicians into practice in rural areas of America, where the doctor shortage is most acute. Important steps are also being taken to train more persons in the field of nursing, and there are signs that these steps are being successful.

Currently, enrollment in nursing programs stands around 160,000, as compared to 145,588 in 1968. There are now more than 950 schools participating in the federal Nursing Scholarship Program, whereas only 677 schools took part in 1970.

Nursing scholarship funds this year will total more than \$17 million, or just about double what they were in 1970; and these scholarship monies will be supplemented with \$9.6 million in funds available for student loans for nurses.

In order to fill the manpower shortage in the allied health professions, NIH is concentrating its efforts on the community colleges that have been springing up at a rate of 70 per year. NIH allocates about \$3 million annually to underwrite their programs in health-related areas.

Health-education specialists at NIH also assist in curriculum development at community colleges, and have urged high school guidance counselors to direct more students to the burgeoning opportunities presented by the allied health professions.

All these steps are encouraging, but much more needs to be done, and must be done, because the medical advances of our modern era will go for naught if we do not have the manpower to exploit and utilize them.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Coins Keep Economy Moving

Coins, along with paper money, are a vital part of our monetary system; yet, no one knows exactly how many coins are in circulation today in the United States.

Treasury Department officials estimate that, since 1792, the first year of production, close to 104 billion coins have been put into circulation.

Last year alone, the Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco Mints produced 5 billion pennies, 709 million dimes, 322 million nickels, 290 million quarters, and 129 million half-dollars.

Coin production is big business. During our Nation's history, 19 different denominations have been issued for circulation. Denominations no longer being produced include the \$20, \$10, and \$5 gold coins, and the 3¢ and 2¢ copper coins.

The government agency vested with the awesome responsibility for manufacturing and distributing our coins is the U.S. Bureau of the Mint. The Bureau also receives deposits of gold and silver bullion, and disperses these valuable metals for industrial and artistic purposes.

The inscriptions placed on our coins by the Mint are established by law. The word "Liberty" must be imprinted on one side of all U.S. coins. Upon the reverse side of each gold and silver coin, a figure or representation of an eagle, with the inscription "United States of America," must likewise be imprinted.

In addition, all our coins carry the motto "In God We Trust," which was made mandatory in 1955.

Statesman and inventor Ben Franklin is the only non-President of the United States to have his picture imprinted on American coins. The Franklin half-dollar was recently replaced by the Kennedy half-dollar, minted in honor of the late President.

In 1964, the country began to run short of change; and the Mint's original expectations that its coins would remain in circulation for a period of 25 years became only a wish.

The shortage was caused by substantial increases in population, vending machines, and by silver hoarding among some citizens. Congress, in 1965, faced with an insufficient supply of silver to meet the rising demand for more coinage, eliminated the silver content of the dime and quarter, and reduced the percentage of silver content in the half-dollar.

Today, there is enough coinage to adequately meet our monetary needs. But, we should be mindful that future coin shortages might seriously impair our growing economy. By keeping our coins in circulation, we can keep America's economy moving.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Two Faces of a Paper Tiger

Communist China, after inviting the American table tennis team to visit the Mainland, has reverted back to its policy of total hostility toward the United States.

The return to hostility was a move that should have been expected; and it shows that Red China, rather than putting on a new face during the "ping pong diplomacy," was just taking on a second one.

In recent days, Premier Chou En Lai has reminded the people of Communist China that the government of the United States is both "repressive" and "imperialistic."

This is the same Chou En Lai who, just a short time ago, described the U.S.-Chinese table tennis matches as opening "a new page" in relations between the United States and The People's Republic of China.

The contradictory statements point up the need for the United States to proceed with extreme caution in its dealings with Communist China. Further steps should be taken to open additional channels of communication between the two countries, but the United States cannot afford to concede too much simply to assure a return match of table tennis.

For instance, as long ago as 1965, America lifted the travel ban for doctors and medical scientists to travel behind the Bamboo Curtain. A year later, the ban was lifted for scholars, writers, and persons engaged in cultural, athletic, and educational activities.

But China would admit none of these Americans.

Only July 21, 1969, the

United States made another move, announcing the automatic validation of passports for Americans to travel to Mainland China. However, of the 1,000 passports validated, China allowed only three Americans to enter.

Even in the field of trade, the United States has been making overtures toward China for the past 12 years. The trade ban invoked on December 17, 1950, has been gradually lifted. American drug manufacturers were told they could sell medicines to Communist China; and the limitation on the amount of Chinese-made products that could be purchased by American tourists was lifted.

The Chinese response to all these initiatives was to invite the United States table tennis team to visit the Mainland—hardly a magnanimous gesture when compared to the American moves that preceded it.

It would be a mistake for the United States to welcome Communist China into the international family of nations without first waiting for Peking to show some stronger initiatives.

Ping Pong Diplomacy is one thing—and it should continue. However, the real world in which we have to live demands that we proceed with caution, and on a more substantive diplomatic level, when dealing with Communist China.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
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Mine Academy for West Virginia

The new Mine Health and Safety Academy, which is to be built in West Virginia, could go a long way toward solving two major problems now facing both the mining industry and the men who work in the mines.

The first goal of the \$13-million Academy will be to end the serious shortage of government and industry personnel who have formalized training in mine health and safety; it will have as a dual objective the reduction of safety and health hazards that now exist in some of our nation's mines.

The Bureau of Mines has established a curriculum that will offer 2,720 classroom hours of instruction to a student body of 600--about 350 Bureau of Mines employees and 250 other students recruited for mine health and safety work.

One result of the Academy's 18-month programs should be to direct a number of younger men into this vital work. Currently, the average age of coal mine inspectors is slightly over 46, and the average age of the new recruits to this field is just under 42. The gruelling work of mine safety requires that men be recruited to this field at an earlier age than is presently the case.

The facility, when completed, should be the major source of supply for the Federal government's force of 1,250 mine inspectors, and for the increasing number of health

and safety workers needed by the mining industry. As the need for these men grows, it is hoped that the programs at the Academy can be proportionately expanded.

Expansion could be easily accommodated because the Academy will be located on a spacious, 40-acre tract of land in Raleigh County. The campus will include a classroom-laboratory building, an auditorium-physical fitness training building, a 300-student dormitory, a small administration building, a cafeteria, and provisions for outside recreational activities and parking.

The Academy, when finished, will cost almost \$1.5 million a year to operate and will be furnished with close to \$2 million worth of equipment.

Obviously, this represents a huge investment for the Federal government; but it is an investment that should return large dividends in improved mine health and safety--both for West Virginia and the nation.

In this way, we will be certain that the doors swing open, not only to the Academy, but also to a new era in the field of health and safety for coal and other types of mining.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Mob Action and Mass Arrests

The radicals who organized the anti-war May Day disorders in Washington are planning more demonstrations this fall. As a result, President Nixon has announced that militants who try to disrupt government activities will continue to be arrested on a mass basis. The President is to be commended for having the courage to take a hard line against these demonstrators.

More than 12,000 persons, most of them young hippie-type characters, were jailed in the May Day outbreak. The police were forced to resort to mass arrests to break up the mobs which tried to paralyze the city and "stop the government."

These arrests — as might have been expected — stirred up a storm of criticism from left-wing civil libertarians, who proclaimed loudly that the demonstrators' constitutional rights had been violated. But should the constitutional and civil rights of law-abiding federal workers trying to get to their jobs, should the inherent right of government to defend itself, be subordinated to the presumed rights of a lawless mob?

The police faced an emergency of near-riot proportions. Demonstrators were jerking the wires out of car engines, pushing stalled vehicles into intersections to block traffic, slashing tires, and throwing trash, nails, and broken glass into the streets.

The police had no time to fill out the usual papers in which accused persons are identified and crimes specified. Their first job was to protect the citizens of the Nation's Capital, and to keep the streets, bridges, and

thoroughfares open—not only for government workers but also for fire trucks, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles.

It is true that some innocent persons—or persons who claimed to be mere bystanders—may have been arrested. It is also true that some may have been detained longer than they liked before gaining their release. But no one would have been arrested if he had not been where the demonstrations were taking place.

I have yet to hear anyone whose heart is bleeding for the constitutional rights of the demonstrators to offer any practical alternative for what was done. Should the police have arrested one at a time in the usual manner while hundreds of others were breaking the law? Or should the police have stood by and arrested no one?

The founders of this Republic—who drafted our Constitution nearly 200 years before the techniques of mass civil disobedience were perfected—did not intend that the police should be powerless to deal with incipient rebellion, insurrection, and anarchy. In the judgment of most thoughtful observers there was no alternative. The police did what they had to do in the May Day situation. And most Americans will be glad to know the President has indicated that the police will do it again when confronted with a similar situation.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Unjustified Attacks on the FBI

In recent weeks, critics of the FBI have been stepping up their attacks, both on the Bureau and on its Director, J. Edgar Hoover. A careful study of the criticisms shows that they are based on emotions rather than facts, and that few—if, indeed, any—of the criticisms are justified.

Probably the most vocal attack on the FBI centers around the Bureau's use of electronic surveillance devices—hidden microphones, telephone taps, and the like. There have been charges that the FBI has employed these devices to spy on innocent, private citizens, and that no one who dared to disagree with the government was immune from having his privacy invaded.

These charges drew the huge headlines their sensational nature warranted, but it is extremely important for all Americans to be aware that none of the charges has been proven.

The facts are that the FBI currently has less than 50 telephone taps and bugging devices in operation—about half of them monitoring the activities of organized crime, and the other half being used in cases of national security. Last year, when critics charged that the FBI was escalating its electronic surveillance program, there were 47 taps and "bugs" in operation.

Thus, the situation has remained relatively stable. In fact, the FBI's activities in this field have not increased over the past five years. It is only the criticism that has increased.

As for J. Edgar Hoover, the critics say that he is too old, and that he is more concerned about his own reputation than he is about the work of the FBI.

At age 76, Hoover is just two years older than Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, and nine years younger than Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black. Yet, the same critics who claim that Hoover is too old to head the FBI are curiously silent on the matter of retiring those two justices.

A man's capabilities should not be determined by his age alone. The FBI Director is still an efficient leader, and is making as great a contribution today as when he took over the FBI 47 years ago.

If Hoover and the FBI are sometimes viewed as one and the same, the reason is that the Director has devoted the better part of his life to building an agency that, like Caesar's wife, is above reproach. He has also kept his personal life free from any hint of scandal.

When criticism is justified, the FBI should be criticized. But the criticism should be based on facts of actual wrongdoings, and not on misleading allegations—and a look at the facts show that, for its work over the past 47 years, the FBI deserves mostly praise.

Robert C. Byrd

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Robert C. Byrd



The Environment and the Economy

Americans, divided on many questions, appear to be in agreement that the nation's environment must be cleaned up, and that it must be protected and kept clean in the future. To this end, Congress has passed strong anti-pollution laws, which I have supported and will continue to support.

But it should be recognized that a backlash against the environmental cleanup could result from fanatical insistence on anti-pollution standards which do not take into account the nation's need for energy, full employment, and economic growth.

Clean air and water are important—indeed, they are essential. But so are jobs and the standard of living of the American people.

Some ardent environmentalists have tended to go overboard in their cleanup zeal. A few actually seem to believe that the nation's economic well-being should be made secondary and subordinate to environmental considerations.

Such an approach fails to take into account the fact that modern civilized progress—with the better lives that it has brought for millions of the world's people—stems from an industrial revolution that is still going on.

It is true that airplanes and cars, steel mills and power plants pollute the environment. But would our people wish to turn the clock back to an 18th or 19th Century mode of life?

It is unlikely that West Virginia citizens, for example, would favor banning coal as a fuel in industrial plants because sulphur oxides, a product of coal's combustion, pollute the air. Yet, that is the prospect in some areas.

It is much more likely that West Virginians, and most Americans, would think that a technology which can put satellites in orbit and send men to the moon can also solve the problem of removing coal's pollutants. That is the approach which is needed.

The willful polluters and exploiters must be dealt with. But the total public interest must also be served.

The approach to our environmental problems must be realistic and reasonable. The goal should be a balanced one—to eliminate pollution, and, at the same time, permit our technological and industrial society to advance and develop so as to assure jobs for a growing labor force and to assure the kind of economic growth which will financially sustain the costly progress calculated to serve the social needs of our people.

A fanatical approach which would ban coal, close plants, and cause unemployment and economic distress, could have a reaction that would imperil the whole effort to improve the environment.

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Drug Laws Openly Disobeyed

The problem of drug abuse in the United States has long been recognized as severe. But one aspect of the problem, which is just now coming to light, is the fact that drug users and pushers are openly flouting both the traditional set of values in our society and the laws aimed at controlling the problem.

The blatant disregard for drug laws was recently brought to light when a group of United States Senators visited the Harlem section of New York City. In one experiment, a 12-year-old boy was sent onto the street with a \$10 bill. Fifteen minutes later, without ever leaving his streetcorner position, he openly purchased three small bags of heroin.

A short time later, the Senators walked into a basement dwelling and stumbled upon a "shooting gallery"—a place where heroin addicts gather to inject themselves with narcotics.

Neither the pusher who sold heroin to the 12-year-old, nor the addicts in the basement were arrested. And one of the most distressing facts is that they obviously knew they were relatively safe from the law.

To be sure, narcotic addiction is nothing new. In fact, the National Institute of Mental Health reports that there were five times as many heroin addicts in 1900 as there are today. But the same officials are quick to point out that the problem today is much more serious than it

was at the turn of the century.

For one thing, today's market is filled with new drugs, more sophisticated than heroin—but, in many cases, just as dangerous. And some of these new drugs have attained a strange sort of social acceptance.

This acceptance has led to two occurrences. First, the domestic production of amphetamine and barbiturate pills has increased to eight billion pills a year—enough for 35 doses for every American; and the smuggling of illegal drugs from foreign countries has increased tremendously over the last five years.

Second, the acceptance of drugs has led to a growing apathy on the part of many citizens, and this apathy has also permeated the ranks of some law enforcement officers and judges, who often overlook or give only a minimum sentence to persons except in cases involving the hardest narcotics.

A strict enforcement of the laws is needed to go after the pusher and to discourage more persons—especially the youth of the nation—from embarking on a life of "highs" with dangerous drugs, and to keep more persons from joining the ranks of the country's nearly 300,000 known heroin addicts, 80 percent of whom started by smoking the "soft" drug of marijuana.

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The Pentagon Papers

Publication of the Pentagon papers on Vietnam may, in the long run, turn out to be a good thing for the country.

It is obvious that the people must be accurately informed if Democratic government is to work. Under the First Amendment to the Constitution press freedom is guaranteed. Some abuses of this privilege may occur; but that is a part of the price we pay for liberty. The U.S. Supreme Court has strengthened the press in its freedom and in its function. And that is as it should be.

But the Court did not hold that freedom of the press is absolute — as no freedom which we enjoy can be absolute. Where vital matters are concerned, national security must be the over-riding consideration.

It should be borne in mind that the documents in question were classified "top secret," and that they were illegally removed from government files—stolen. The former employee who says he took them has been indicted for theft and unauthorized possession of secret papers.

It is true, of course, that too many government documents are classified as secret. But that does not mean that unauthorized persons have the right to declassify them. What is needed is a revision of the classification system that will make public all doc-

uments that can properly be disclosed.

Fortunately in this case, although the papers deal with sensitive subjects and may be embarrassing to some persons, much of what is being published was already known, although not in the same context; and military security is not involved—at least in what has come out so far.

The damage that may have been done lies in two areas: first, in the possibility of drawing wrong or distorted conclusions from what is, at best, partial history; and, second, in the double possibility of jeopardizing confidential negotiations between the U.S. and other governments and hampering the defense and contingency planning which any national administration must carry on. Government leaders may be reluctant to commit to paper the thinking which must precede decision-making if it is likely to become public property.

Outweighing all other considerations, however, is the hope that publication of the papers may influence both our government and our people in such a way as to help keep the U.S. out of another Vietnam.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

**By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd**



Cruel and Unusual Punishment?

After many years of discussion pro and con by concerned American citizens, the matter of abolishing capital punishment is going to be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The question which the Court has taken under consideration is whether or not the death penalty violates the Eighth Amendment's ban on "cruel and unusual" punishment. In four appeal cases, condemned slayers contend that it is.

There have been no executions in the United States since 1967 because of appeals and court rulings which have left the issue in doubt. There are now some 669 persons held on "death rows" throughout the country.

Ten states have outlawed capital punishment completely—West Virginia, Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon and Wisconsin. Four others—New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and Vermont, have abolished it except for crimes like the killing of a policeman or treason.

Victims of premeditated murder are victims of the "cruel and unusual." It is not likely the framers of the Bill of Rights had legal executions in mind when they wrote that phrase; it is more likely they were thinking of punishment such as the torture practiced in earlier ages.

But aside from the possible constitutional question, the most important consideration

is whether the death penalty is a more effective deterrent than life imprisonment for crimes such as rape, kidnapping and premeditated murder. Opponents argue that it is not; proponents insist that it is. There are arguments on both sides.

The most important point, however, and one that is frequently overlooked, is that a very wide disparity, indeed, exists between the laws on the books providing for capital punishment and the carrying out of those laws. The death penalty was imposed on only some four percent of persons who committed murders in the first degree in this country even before executions were suspended.

Capital punishment, if it were certain, could be a highly effective deterrent to serious crimes, in my judgment. But no law that is not enforced and no penalty that is not imposed can ever provide a deterrent for any crime.

The most important issue before our people in this age of rampant criminality is whether our society has the will to enforce its laws, whatever they may be, and to make the penalties provided for the willful and premeditated violation of those laws swift, inevitable, and unavoidable.

Robert C. Byrd

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By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Worry Over U.S. Crime

A recent Louis Harris poll shows that the number of Americans worried about crime in their communities has now reached the highest level in the six years of poll taking on this subject. Fifty-five percent say they are more worried in 1971 about violence and their own safety than they were a year ago.

There is little wonder that they are worried. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports show that for the first three months of 1971, crime in the United States—already at the highest level it has ever been—increased six percent over the same period in 1970.

Worse, violent crimes as a group were up 13 percent. Robbery increased 17 percent, murder 11 percent, aggravated assault 8 percent, and forcible rape 2 percent.

In Washington, D.C., the Nation's Capital, there were nine murders over the Fourth of July weekend alone, setting an all-time record for killings in a 60-hour period. The pace of slayings in Washington in 1971 is now ahead of the record year of 1969, when 293 persons were slain.

The spread of drug abuse and the necessity for obtaining money to support the habit is advanced as one reason for the increase in crime; and social theorists offer others, most of them related to unemployment and condi-

tions in the so-called city "ghettos."

Many of the real causes of crime may defy definition. It may be the inherent nature of some people to commit crimes; and there may be no way to rehabilitate them, however unacceptable that fact may be to certain schools of thought. And surely, undisciplined years of early home life contribute later to the upward spiral of crime.

But more responsible than any other factor, in my judgment, is the significant and appalling fact that relatively few persons are ever punished for their crimes. As shocking and unbelievable as it may be, for every one hundred serious crimes committed in our country today, no more than three adults ever pay any penalty. There are no available figures for juveniles.

The answer to the problem of crime lies not only with preventive measures and effective police work, but also in better discipline in the home and school, and—importantly—with the courts and with our system of justice, punishment, and rehabilitation of those who can be rehabilitated.

Robert C. Byrd

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Improved Coal Mining Studied

Research and development may revolutionize the nation's coal industry in the years ahead. The increasing demand for energy and the new emphasis on health and safety are stimulating the most extensive efforts ever made to improve coal mining methods and conditions in the mines.

Consolidation Coal, Island Creek, and other big producers are pushing numerous studies of better ways to get coal out of the ground and better ways to protect coal miners. Joining in the efforts are manufacturers of mining equipment, various other concerns, and the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

From almost nothing in 1969, the Bureau's spending for safety research jumped to \$10 million in fiscal 1970 and \$20 million in fiscal '71. It is expected to rise to \$30 million in the current fiscal year.

The objectives of this research are to eliminate—or at least to better control—the hazards to which the coal miner is exposed, such as "black lung," roof falls, and explosions. A concomitant result is expected to be more efficient mining.

Consolidation Coal Company is studying hydraulic mining. It seeks to determine the feasibility of cutting coal from seams underground with high pressure jets of water. Such a method would eliminate the coal dust incident to machine cutting, which causes pneumoconiosis and fuels mine explosions. Consol is also studying hydraulic transportation, utilizing moving water to bring coal out of a mine.

Island Creek has made a study of "oxygen-free mining." Mines would be sealed and pumped full of nitrogen or carbon dioxide—or even be allowed to fill 100% with the methane gas normally present in coal mines, which would be non-explosive without oxygen. Miners would work in space-type suits, or life support equipment, with oxygen masks. Explosions and stream-polluting acid mine drainage, caused by elements in the coal reacting with oxygen, could be eliminated in this way.

"High energy impact mining" is also being studied. This method would employ a device like a huge wedge-shaped hammer, on a mobile platform, which would fracture the coal from the seam and allow its removal in big lumps, cutting down on the dust spewed out by continuous miners and conventional cutting machines.

Still other studies being made include remote-control cutting and loading machines. These would be maneuvered by operators using electronic sensors, laser beams, and gamma rays from safe areas back from the working face. And the possibility of taking the energy from coal by burning it in its underground seams is being investigated.

No one knows which, if any, of these innovations may prove practical. But it is encouraging that such research is underway.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Church Support Declines

A sign of the times is the decline of religion in our country. In contrast with the years following World War II when church membership and attendance were climbing, the last few years have seen a marked drop in the statistics reflecting religious interest.

Churchgoing by Americans has declined some 15 percent in the past 10 years. Sunday school attendance has gone down steadily. Church construction is about a third less than it was in 1965. Contributions have fallen off enough to hurt some churches badly. And church membership, which for years had risen, grew only 0.03 percent in the last year for which figures are available, 1969 — the smallest gain in modern times — while the population grew 1.1 percent. In 1969, 62.4 percent of our population were church members compared with 63.1 percent a year earlier.

A few denominations have gained in recent years, among them the Southern Baptists, Lutherans of the Missouri Synod, Primitive Baptists, Mormoms, Nazarenes, Assemblies of God, and the Churches of Christ.

But major denominations such as the United Methodist, Lutheran Church in America, Roman Catholic, Southern Presbyterian, United Presbyterian, American Lutheran, Episcopal, and United Church of Christ have all suffered losses.

Hardest hit in the area of contribution losses is probably the Episcopal Church, which has had to cut its national headquarters staff in half and reduce many of its programs.

But budget cuts were also put into effect in 1970 by the U.S. Catholic Conference, the United Methodist, both major Presbyterian groups, the American Baptists, and the Unitarian - Universalist Church.

What has caused the decline in churchgoing and church support? And why have some denominations at the same time gained?

History will have to record the final answers. But some things can be said now. The permissiveness of our society, its moral laxity, its mobility, and the waning of parental and family influence are certainly factors. Many persons who look to the church for spiritual guidance have also been turned off by the preoccupation of some church leaders with secular social concerns and by church support for militant, activist groups.

It is worthy of note, I believe, that the "liberal" churches, which have most actively espoused social causes, have been hurt more than the conservative or fundamentalist churches which concern themselves most with the religious lives of their adherents.

Our people and our country could benefit immeasurably from a reawakened interest in religion and spiritual things. I do not believe that America can survive as an irreligious land.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



America in Motion

The United States is becoming an increasingly mobile society; but that mobility, although reflecting the affluence and freedom of American citizens, is also presenting major problems for both the transportation industry and the nation.

Transportation—including the purchase of automobiles, passenger tickets, and the like—now accounts for 20 percent of the Gross National Product. And experts predict that, if transportation needs continue to grow in the United States, they will take more land and air space than is now available.

If that happens, Americans will find that travelling in their private automobiles will be more of a problem than a convenience. "This country could become a gigantic parking lot," according to one pessimistic transportation official.

There is, to be sure, plenty of land left in America. But most of this available land is in sparsely-populated areas, where there is no need to construct a jet port or super highway. In the crowded areas of our country, where new transportation facilities are needed, there is very little room to grow.

New Jersey, for example, is expanding its six-lane turnpike to 12 lanes; but, when that construction is completed, it will have gone as far as it can go.

What can be done? For one thing, transportation officials continue to push for technological advances, and most of the officials are hopeful that the advances will occur fast enough to keep the problem

from becoming impossible to solve.

They point out that the Interstate Highway System is now 80 percent complete, and is providing not only better, but also more safe transportation for millions of Americans. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that the Interstate highways now open save more than 5,000 lives a year—or about 150 to 200 lives annually for each 1,000 miles of highway.

Technological advances can also be seen in the field of urban mass transportation, and one of the most innovative projects will be established in Morgantown. Referred to as the "people mover," this project will include a series of trolley-like vehicles controlled by computers, rather than by individual operators.

Officials hope that systems like the "people mover" will cut down the number of private cars operating within the city; and they add that the Morgantown project could be the forerunner for future mass transportation systems elsewhere.

As chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, I have become acutely aware of the transportation problems facing this nation. We must encourage all aspects of transportation research, and move ahead quickly—or else we may find ourselves unable to move at all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. Byrd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



"Hats Off! The Flag Is Passing By!"

More and more U.S. citizens are displaying the American flag. The colors waving in the breeze, the auto and window decals, the lapel pins show that patriotism is far from dead in our country. It is a good trend. The proud display of the stars and stripes by our citizens does much to counteract the defilement of the flag by war protestors and demonstrators.

Most citizens know the rudiments, at least, concerning the proper display of the flag and the respect that should be accorded it. But occasionally we may wonder about this or that point of flag etiquette, especially as the public display of the flag increases. What, for example, should the citizen do when the flag goes by in a parade, or when the Star Spangled Banner is played?

When the flag is hoisted or lowered in a ceremony, or when it passes in a parade or review, all persons should face it and stand at attention. Persons in uniform, of course, give the military salute. Men in civilian dress should place their right hands over their hearts—holding their hats, if any, at the left shoulder. Women should also salute by placing their right hands over their hearts.

When the National Anthem is played and the flag is on display, the same salutes are rendered, facing the flag. If the flag is not present, civilians should simply stand at attention, facing toward the music.

The flag may be displayed on any day when the weather is not inclement; and it should be flown on all federal and state holidays. On Memorial Day, it should be flown at half staff until noon.

By general custom, the flag is flown only from sunrise to sunset, except for some specially-designated places, such as the Fort McHenry National Monument in Baltimore—birthplace of the National Anthem—where it is flown 24 hours a day.

When displayed with other domestic flags, either stationary or in marching formations, the American flag should be on the right—that is, the flag's own right; or it should be to the front or above other flags.

There are many more rules and customs, of course, which govern display and respect for the flag. Libraries and encyclopedias and various publications contain this information, with which citizens should familiarize themselves.

The stars and stripes are the symbol of America. But as Woodrow Wilson once said, the American flag "has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation." In this troubled time, let us see to it that our flag continues proudly to wave.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



A 'Winged Forest Fire'

West Virginia's forests may be threatened with extensive damage unless effective means can be found for controlling the gypsy moth.

An unfortunate side effect of the ban on DDT has been a vast increase in this insect's depredations in the northeastern states. West Virginia has escaped so far. But with Pennsylvania forests now being attacked by the gypsy moth caterpillars, it is probably only a question of time before they will wreak damage upon the forests of our state.

The female gypsy moth does not fly. She lays her eggs, however, on all sorts of objects including automobiles and camper trailers; and in recent years vehicles have carried the eggs from infested states into many new areas.

When the larvae—hairy black caterpillars with red and blue spots—are hatched in April or May they begin immediately to feed upon the nearest foliage. Oak leaves are their favorite; but apparently they will eat the leaves of almost anything. One 2-inch caterpillar can consume a square foot of leaf surface in 24-hours. It takes little imagination to visualize how much a few thousand of these voracious crawling pests can destroy.

In Pennsylvania, 80,000 to 100,000 acres of forests have been heavily to completely defoliated this summer, and half a million acres have suffered light to moderate damage. The effect, it has been

said, is like a "winged forest fire." Some trees succumb after one defoliation; most will die after a second.

The gypsy moth was accidentally introduced into Massachusetts a little over a hundred years ago when a cage in which a naturalist had brought the moths from France was ripped open in a windstorm. The colder habitat than the pests were accustomed to, plus the use of DDT in more recent years, kept them reasonably in check in such states as Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey until very recently.

But with the use of DDT prohibited because of its long-lasting toxic effects, and with the insect moving south into warmer climate more favorable to it, the destruction of which it is capable has been intensified.

Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey have all suffered extensive damage; and the pests are now in parts of eastern Maryland and a few have been found as far south as North Carolina and Alabama.

It is imperative that an integrated control plan using parasites, biological means, new chemicals, or other environmentally acceptable methods of control of the gypsy moth be developed.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Coming of Megalopolis

For the past several years, there has been a growing concern about the population explosion, and a number of efforts have been made aimed at stopping that explosion in the United States. However, while the concern is understandable and the efforts generally praiseworthy, there has been a tendency to overlook one possible solution to the immediate problem—namely, population dispersal.

The United States continues to experience an exodus of its citizens from rural areas to large urban centers; and, today, well over half our population lives on just a little more than 10 percent of the land. One result has been the development of the megalopolis—a sprawling, heavily-populated corridor that extends from one urban area to another.

Over 36 million people—one-sixth of the nation—live in the largest megalopolis, which is a 450-mile corridor from Boston to Washington, D.C., that has urbanized the lifestyle of Americans in 10 states. Social scientists predict that the megalopolis will become even more dominant unless steps are taken to redistribute the population.

And there seems to be a need for efforts along this line.

For instance, in 1960, two-thirds of the population was classified as being urbanized; last year, three-fourths of the population was recorded as living in urban areas. And

preliminary statistics from the 1970 census show that citizens are leaving rural areas just as fast today as they did in the 1950's—the decade in which the largest exodus to-date occurred.

There is no doubt that America has enough land to accommodate those citizens who want to escape congestion—in fact, there was more lived-on land in the country in 1920 than there is today, and the six states of New England have more wilderness and woodland areas now than they did at the beginning of this century.

What is needed to take people back to rural America? The answer is a simple one—jobs. Incentives must be provided to attract industry to the less-densely populated areas, and industry must be encouraged to provide jobs challenging enough and rewarding enough to keep the bright young people of rural America in rural America.

There are currently a number of proposals under consideration by the Administration and the recently-created Commission on Population and the American Future. Hopefully, some positive plans will be forthcoming and people will again settle in America's abandoned frontiers.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Organized Crime and the Stolen Car

Local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies have escalated the fight against major auto theft rings throughout the United States; but, according to a report by the FBI, the police are still fighting a losing battle.

In the decade of the 1960s, auto thefts increased by an astounding 168 percent. There were 871,900 cars stolen in 1969, as compared with 325,700 in 1960.

The major reason given for the increase is the growth of the auto theft ring, a sophisticated arm of organized crime. In the past, the FBI says, the majority of automobiles were stolen by individual criminals — juvenile delinquents looking for a joy ride, or gangsters stealing a car for use in another crime.

It has only been within the past 12 years that organized crime realized the potential profit to be made from stealing and re-selling cars. Once realizing this potential, however, auto theft rings stretching from coast to coast were quickly established.

The rings depend largely on amateurs to actually steal the car, and the thief is usually paid between \$25 and \$50 for delivering the vehicle to the professional criminals. Specialists are employed to make major alterations, such as document forgery, changes in the Vehicle Identification Number, license plate replacement, and body work.

After the changes have been made, and false papers

secured, it is a simple task for the auto theft ring to resell the stolen car, either to a private buyer or to a dealer. One of the 100 rings investigated by the FBI even had an outlet through a band of car thieves in Scandinavia.

The extent to which these auto theft rings are organized can be seen in the fact that, while in 1960 cars were stolen at the rate of one every two minutes, the rate skyrocketed to one every 36 seconds in 1969. Based on population, auto thefts per 100,000 citizens increased from 182 to 432 between 1960 and 1969.

To be sure, increased police efforts have had positive results. In fact, 50 percent of all cars stolen in 1969 were recovered within 48 hours of the theft, and, overall that year, 84 percent of the vehicles were found. However, the remaining 16 percent of the stolen autos resulted in a \$140 million loss to the public; and, as the number of thefts increases, the loss will increase.

Obviously, law enforcement agencies must continue to intensify their activities in this area; the public must give its full cooperation and support; and laws regarding auto thefts must be reviewed with an eye toward stiffening the penalties for this kind of grand larceny.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The American Consumer Grows Up

At one time, the accepted theory of advertising on America was to shout the message; and the result, more often than not, was that the American consumer would buy the product that shouted the loudest. Such is not the case today.

Marketing specialists are well aware that the consumer in the United States has grown up, and is now the most sophisticated, most discerning shopper in the world. And the facts that are available on the consumer clearly prove this.

The average American reads 10,000 - 20,000 printed words a day, and mentally digests an equal amount through radio and television. Because of this intake, most people blot out all but a few of the estimated 560 advertising messages they come in contact with daily; and in an effort to have messages accepted, advertisers now spend \$20 billion annually.

What the advertisers are selling, of course, are new products—more than 6,000 in grocery and drug lines are introduced each year. What the advertisers are finding out, however, is that in order to succeed in the American marketplace, the products have to be good—between 50 and 80 percent of the new goods fail.

And they fail fast.

As recently as 1961, the life cycle of a new consumer product—for example, a laundry detergent—was 36 months. If it did not make good in that

period, it never would. Today, the consumer either accepts or rejects a new product within 12 months.

The reasons for the consumer's new maturity, and the reasons advertisers spare no expense in trying to reach him, are not unrelated.

Americans are the best educated consumers in the world. At the end of World War II, less than 10 million people in the United States had some college education. By 1980, that figure will have risen to 33 million. Americans are also the wealthiest consumers, with a median family income that is expected to rise to \$15,000 a year within the next decade.

Market specialists predict that shoppers in the United States will become even more discerning in the future, and that the consumer will be increasingly in charge in the marketplace. There will be more emphasis on discount sales—which skyrocketed by 1,100 percent during the 1960's—than on retail sales, which rose by only 62.9 percent during the same period.

Apparently, we have entered the age of the consumer. And, if the American who works hard for his dollar begins to get a better value for his dollar, it will be a very good age indeed.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Suffering in Pakistan Continues

Although the situation in Pakistan has been relegated to the back pages of many of our nation's newspapers, the almost unbelievable suffering of the people there continues—and the suffering will go on until pressures are brought to bear on the Pakistan government.

It is estimated that between 800,000 and 1.2 million persons have died since the fighting broke out earlier this year between East Pakistan rebels and the central Pakistan government. The governments' methods of crushing what started out as a small rebellion have been so severe that almost eight million East Pakistanis have chosen to leave their homeland.

Even today, almost six months since the civil strife began, authorities estimate that about 40,000 East Pakistan refugees cross the border daily to seek asylum in India.

In India, they find safety from the savage atrocities committed by the Pakistan army, but they do not find refuge from their suffering. Lack of food and medical supplies, coupled with severe flooding and cholera epidemics, has made their existence miserable and their chances for survival minimal.

India has spent over \$700 million caring for the refugees; but, even with the establishment of 750 centers, India is able to supply milk to less than one-third of the two million East Pakistan children suffering from malnutrition.

The Pakistan government has successfully kept other aid from coming to the refugees; and it was only after the United States Congress approved a temporary ban on the \$225 million in U.S. aid for Pakistan that the government there permitted a team of United Nations relief workers to visit the strife-torn area.

With the arrival of the UN team, food shipments are beginning to reach East Pakistan, the United States contributing 30,000 tons of high-protein foods valued at \$10 million. Although these shipments will save thousands, perhaps millions, of lives, they are too little and too late when weighed against the tremendous number of human lives already lost.

The government of Pakistan is entirely to blame for those deaths, and a ban of American economic and military aid hardly seems a high enough price to pay for the gross inhumanity displayed by the central government.

All U.S. military aid to Pakistan should be halted indefinitely, and U.S. economic aid should be channelled directly to programs benefiting the refugees. In this way, the central government might be persuaded to be more humane in its policies.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Chile Becomes A Casualty of Socialism

A year has passed since Salvador Allende, an avowed Marxist, was elected President of Chile; and the economic hardships that have befallen the country in the past 12 months should dissuade other South American countries from following a course of socialism.

With socialists and communists setting policy, Chile nationalized the large copper mines, many of which were run by United States companies. The result of this move has been that the 1971 production of copper, Chile's biggest money-earner, will be far below the amount produced last year.

For example, production at the world's largest underground copper mine was projected at 280,000 tons for 1971. But, under government management, this mine is not expected to produce more than 130,000 tons this year.

The failure of socialist Chile, however, goes beyond the copper industry. It stretches to every facet of the country's economy.

One of the first steps taken by the socialist-communist coalition in Chile was to grant substantial industry-wide pay raises. The raises were intended to win the support of the working men and women; and the increases did, in fact, have the natural result of putting more money in consumers' pockets.

However, production of goods has not kept pace with salary increases, and the unfortunate result has been skyrocketing inflation. The workers simply do not have goods

to purchase with the additional money.

International experts lay the blame for the failing economy squarely on the shoulders of the Allende Administration, which replaced longtime department heads with men whose chief qualification seemed to be political loyalty. The Administration, naturally, blames American corporations, many of which were forced out of the Chilean marketplace; but it neglects to point out that most of these U.S. companies, including the largest copper firms, moved a decade ago to sell 51 percent of their holdings to local interests.

When the government this year confiscated the remaining 49 percent, it was quick to replace the well-trained management personnel with men more in tune with socialist thought. The basic needs of workers were given a back seat to the philosophy of Marx—a philosophy that has placed Chile deeply in debt internationally, set the working man back an estimated five years domestically, and spread poverty to all levels of the population.

Socialism is failing in Chile, as it has failed in numerous other countries. It is unfortunate that the people of developing countries have to learn the lesson the hard way.

Robert C. Byrd

OCT 6 1971

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Aftermath of Attica

I do not subscribe to the radical ideology which holds that the Attica uprising is new evidence of the intrinsic evil of the "System," or that "Society" is to blame for having created criminals. The total number of Federal and state prisoners in the country today is only about 190,000—less than 1 person per 1000 population—a fact which belies the preachments of bleeding hearts who seek to inflict society with a *mea culpa* syndrome.

As in the summer riots of recent years, the same tired excuses are being trotted out to explain why the "repressed" prisoners at Attica joined in insurrection and rebellion—all of which encourages further violence in the streets, in the prisons, and in the schools because such excuses provide a cloak of respectability for the acts of hoodlums and criminals.

It should be obvious that prisoners cannot be allowed to revolt, to destroy prison property, to seize hostages and threaten their lives—and then demand and receive amnesty for their unlawful acts. Let it be remembered that three Attica prisoners and one guard had been killed by inmates before the police moved in. To grant amnesty for such acts would be to undermine our whole system of criminal justice and penology.

In my judgment, a mistake was made in attempting to negotiate with the inmates. That is not to say that prison conditions should not be improved. But no "bargaining" brought about by threats of

violence and carried on under duress can ever be valid.

Many authorities contend that a mistake was also made in not storming the prison immediately to put down the rebellion rather than waiting for four days; and it is likely that a further mistake was made in allowing a so-called "observers" committee (with firebrands Seale and Kunstler) to intervene.

For those of us who did not have the burden of decision, of course, it is easy to second guess. But what is most important now is to do whatever can be done to prevent other Atticas from occurring.

Smaller prisons rather than larger ones are needed. The number of prisoners confined in an institution should be kept small and manageable; inmates should be guarded by trained, adequately-paid personnel; and prisoners should not be mistreated.

First offenders should be separated from hardened criminals. Moreover, a national or regional maximum-maximum security facility should be established for radicalized militants and belligerents who are dangerous to prison stability.

The public needs to become aroused about the need for prison reform; but it also needs to become aroused about the fact that all too few persons who commit serious crimes in our country ever see the inside of a prison.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert C. Byrd".

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Hurricanes—The Greatest Natural Disasters

Despite intensive government efforts, hurricanes continue to menace society, causing an annual loss of life and destruction of property unequalled by any other natural disasters.

The National Weather Service notes that significant progress is being made in warning citizens of approaching storms.

In the decade 1900 to 1910—before sophisticated monitoring devices were invented—over 8,000 persons were killed by hurricanes in the United States. Since 1940, hurricane-caused deaths in our country exceeded 500 in only one five-year period—1955 through 1959.

However, while early warnings undoubtedly have saved lives, hurricanes continue to cause deaths—and the amount of property damage wrought by these storms is increasing rapidly on a yearly basis.

Between 1925 and 1929, for example, hurricanes caused less than \$400 million worth of damage. For the five-year period 1960 through 1964, damages were nearly \$1.2 billion, while the figure for 1965-1969 rose to more than \$2.4 billion. One reason for the increase, of course, is that people are building homes closer to the shore, and the population density along our shorelines has increased greatly.

One of the most successful government counter-attacks against hurricanes is "Project Stormfury." When the weathermen spot a spiralling storm with wind speeds of 74 miles per hour or more, they designate it a hurricane and assign it a feminine name.

The feminization of hurricanes during World War II, when forecasters were plotting the movement of storms

across vast theaters of war. Names such as Annie, Belinda, and Cora were much easier to remember than unfamiliar geographical coordinates; and experience has proved that girls' names are shorter, quicker, and less subject to error than cumbersome latitude-longitude designations.

Once the hurricane is identified, "Project Stormfury" pilots perform cloud-seeding maneuvers, drawing the heat from the hurricanes and reducing the winds. In 1969, pilots succeeded in reducing the winds of Hurricane Debbie by 31 percent; another successful cloud-seeding was accomplished in September of this year on Hurricane Ginger.

These experiments should be continued, and intensified wherever possible; and the government should also place a large part of its meteorological emphasis on the heavy rains and floods that follow in the aftermath of a hurricane.

The typical hurricane brings 6 to 12 inches of rain to the area it crosses, but the amount is often much greater. In 1969, Hurricane Camille dumped 27 inches of rain on the Virginia mountains, producing flash floods and causing at least 109 deaths.

Obviously, we must learn to control the flooding that results from hurricanes, just as we must learn to control the hurricanes themselves. For only when we learn to mitigate the harshness of nature can we live in harmony with its beauty.

Robert C. Byrd

OCT 13 1971

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Naval Strength Declines

West Virginians have always shown a great deal of interest in the U.S. Navy, especially in regard to enlistments in the naval service; and many West Virginians, both officers and men, have served with distinction in our naval forces.

The continuing deterioration in the overall strength of our country's Navy, therefore, should be a matter of considerable concern to the people of our state.

With the military in disfavor with so many citizens—especially some of the young—and with many influential persons in our national life advocating further reductions in U.S. defenses, the United States could become a second-rate power at sea, if the Soviet Union's naval buildup continues at its present rate.

The Soviets have not gone in for attack aircraft carriers such as we have, but in terms of other combat surface ships, the Russians will soon equal if not surpass U.S. strength. In a number of ship categories, the Russian Navy, with newer, faster, more sophisticated vessels of heavier firepower, will have the advantage over the U.S.

The most serious threat to U.S. control of the seas in any crisis lies in the Soviet submarine buildup. The Russians now have two-and-a-half times as many undersea craft as we have—a force sufficient to seriously curtail American shipping throughout the world. Many of the Russian

subs are nuclear-powered, capable of firing undersea ballistic missiles at our cities. Our sad experience in World War II—when Nazi U-Boats sank U.S. ships all along our east coast—should not be forgotten.

The U.S. Chief of Naval Operations has told Congress that the Navy has "been falling well behind a responsible replacement rate." *Jane's Fighting Ships*, the world's best authority, says: "The size and relative capabilities of the United States Navy continue to decline at what many authorities consider to be an alarming rate."

No military task, in my opinion, should have higher priority than the rebuilding of U.S. naval power. If we intend to maintain the capability to protect our country against a possible sea-based attack and to send forces and supplies across the oceans in defense of our vital interests, the increasing threat of Soviet naval power simply cannot be ignored.

During the seven years of our involvement in Indochina, the Soviet Union has continued to build up its armed strength in relation to ours. Our security as a result has been weakened. It is time now to reverse the trend.

Robert C. Byrd

OCT 27 1971

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Japan's Drive for Auto Markets

One of the still under-reported phenomena of the contemporary world scene is the amazing climb of Japan to a position as a first-rank commercial and industrial power. From the World War II ashes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Japanese people have risen, phoenix-like, to rebuild their country and to make its trade and its ingenuity forces to be reckoned with throughout the world.

Many events of late have served to keep the Land of the Rising Sun in the news: President Nixon's coming trip to China (which worries Tokyo); the impact of a floating U.S. dollar on the Japanese yen; the imposition of the 10 percent tax aimed at slowing down Japanese imports; and—more recently—Emperor Hirohito's ceremonial visit to the soil of what were once enemy nations.

Less noticed, perhaps, in the crush of the bigger news, is the fact that Japanese automobiles—the Toyotas, Datsuns, Hondas and so on, which have become commonplace on U.S. streets and highways—have now displaced American cars as the leading sellers in at least one major U.S. market, Southern California, and they are catching on fast in many other places.

There is a deep-seated irony in this. Like so much more of re-created, modern-day Japan, its auto industry might bear the legend: "Product of USA."

Until the Korean War, there was virtually no Japanese auto industry. But with U.S. forces in Korea having a pressing need for vehicles,

Japan—two hours away and uninvolved itself — launched an all-out effort with the aid of foreign technology to fill the need.

Unlike the U.S., Japan does not engage in industrial trust-busting, nor do the Japanese oppose government participation in business. On the contrary, management, labor, government, banks, and corporations work together as a close-knit team to build the economy and make Japanese products competitive in world markets.

The results have been spectacular. In the scant 10 years since the Japanese car makers began their invasion of the U.S. market, they have pushed their sales from near zero to an expected 600,000 units this year—worth a cool billion dollars or more. No one knows where the end will be; but, as many observers have been noting, Detroit regards the intrusion as little short of an economic Pearl Harbor.

Like its cameras, radios, TV sets, motorcycles, tools and hundreds of other items, the Japanese cars—basically American in design and operation in contrast to the West German "Beetle"—have a strong appeal in price and performance for Americans.

Even Mr. Nixon's import tax may not be enough to stem the tide.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Mere Children Are Committing Crimes

American parents, if they are not already aware of it, should understand a sad fact: the age for "beginner" criminals is falling steadily. Juvenile delinquency has been around for a long time—"juveniles" being roughly translated as "teen-agers." Now it's the sub-teens who are getting involved.

Figures from the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence as far back as 1969 showed that in the ten years from 1958 through 1968 there was a 300 percent increase in assaults by youths 10 to 14 years old and a 200 percent increase in robberies by this age group.

More recent figures, gathered by *The New York Times* from law enforcement and school officials in 13 U.S. cities, indicate that the trend is growing, and that the age is dropping. Some of the children involved are even under 10 years old.

In many schools and on many city streets, a jungle-like atmosphere has been created in which youngsters take what they want from others.

The results are muggings, bicycle thefts, stealing from lockers, and shakedowns to get other kids' lunch money; and violence accompanying these acts is not uncommon. The number of offenses reported—and their seriousness—is spiraling. Many a junior high youngster can speak from personal experience about the growing crime wave in and around what were once peaceful schools.

The crimes may be "petty" in terms of money stolen or personal belongings taken. But they are anything but petty in their portent for the future of our schools and our society.

In Baltimore last year there were 12,835 arrests of suspects under the age of 18—up from 10,594 a year earlier. In the age group 10-and-under, there were 526 arrests—one for murder, 22 for robbery, 169 for burglary, 6 for auto theft, 12 for arson, 9 for aggravated assault, 104 for larceny, and 4 for narcotics.

Sixth-graders through ninth-graders are most often involved.

The reasons are not hard to find: changing school patterns which mix the black and white races and cause racial animosities; and the general breakdown in home and family discipline.

Juvenile crime rates have accelerated far beyond adult rates. According to the FBI, the growth in crime in the age 10 to 18 group is now four times greater than the population increase in that age bracket.

Of all the problems America faces, the breakdown in civilized practices and restraints among children can potentially be the most serious.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Future of Foreign Aid

When President Truman instituted the Marshall Plan at the end of World War II to help re-build war-torn Europe, that policy was not only humanitarian but necessary for our security. The assistance we gave those countries and our participation in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have been largely instrumental in keeping the peace in Europe for the past twenty-five years.

Since these beginnings, however, the scope of our foreign aid has gone beyond all bounds of reason and fiscal propriety. As a nation, we should not abandon our interest in, or our responsibilities towards, the world community of which we are so important a part. But we must always bear in mind that our primary responsibility is to our own country, our own people and to those generations who will come after us. Generosity and human kindness are part of the American tradition, but prodigal spending for the uplift of others to the detriment of our own people just doesn't make good sense.

There are some very significant figures, for example, that give a clear picture of the immense burdens we have placed on ourselves since 1946 when it all began.

Our total net disbursements to foreign nations—127 of them—in the past quarter-

century are close to \$140 billion. The government had to borrow much of this money—thereby escalating our national debt—and the net interest payments which the American taxpayer must bear on this borrowing have reached the staggering figure of \$74 billion. This is on money we have borrowed to give away!

The grand total cost of foreign aid to the American taxpayer between 1946 and fiscal year 1971, therefore, including interest charges, is the astronomical sum of \$213 billion. As nearly as can be estimated, only 36 million people out of a world population of 3½ billion, have not been recipients of our largesse at one time or another through these years.

Whether we have gained the respect and gratitude of the nations we have helped is questionable, but of much greater importance is the fact that the economic conditions in our country today make it imperative that we take a long, hard look at the whole foreign aid picture and decide quickly and dispassionately if our future is being jeopardized by our generosity.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Small Towns Prove To Be Good Business

The 1970 Census Bureau figures showed that Americans were continuing to move from rural areas to large urban centers.

The census also indicated that, over the last 50 years, the population of rural communities and farms decreased from 49 to 26 percent of the total population. However, it should also be noted that the total number of Americans living on farms and in rural communities actually rose from 51.5 million to 53.8 million over the past half century.

Just as noteworthy is the fact that towns with populations between 2,500 and 10,000 were not classified as "rural" in the Census Bureau survey. There are 4,300 such towns in America, and 72 percent of them had an increase in population during the decade of the 60's, while only 28 percent decreased in size.

One of the reasons for the growth of small town America is that industry has found that moving from large cities to more rural environments is good business—and it is good business for a number of reasons.

Wage rates, taxes, and living costs are generally considerably less in small towns than in large cities; and these economic realities have caused several businesses to either locate in, or transfer to, small towns.

But there are other less tangible reasons, also. According to one company's study, employee loyalty is greater in smaller communities, and the result of that loyalty is higher productivity and fewer work stoppages.

The executive who conducted that particular study summed up his findings by saying that: "People in small towns seem to have a more distinct set of mores than those in large cities." And he added that, since small towns have a homogeneous quality, it is easier for companies to identify and meet their employees' needs.

In a word, it is the "quality" of small town life that has attracted many American companies, just as it is the spiralling crime rate that has discouraged many companies from locating in large cities. During 1970 alone, an estimated 65 companies fled New York City, and one of the reasons given for their departure was the difficulty in getting people to work in downtown locations. Prospective employees were just too frightened by crime to travel to the inner city.

Such employee shortages do not normally exist in small towns, and established companies are finding long-time workers eager to transfer when the firm moves from the large city. As one re-located worker put it, "This is where the living is better. This is what America used to be, and what it should strive to be."

With that kind of attitude on the part of business, and on the part of workers, the future of small towns in the United States seems to be a bright one.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



College Should Be More Than Status Symbol

The Carnegie Commission on Higher Education estimates that the present 8.1 million students in U.S. colleges and universities will double in the next 30 years, rising to 16 or 17 million by the year 2000. By that time, half of all young Americans 18 to 21 may be in college, the Commission says, compared with 35 percent now.

This raises some interesting questions: What are the objectives of higher education in the U.S.? How well is it serving the needs of individuals and of our society? Is college really necessary for everyone?

Americans in the past had so much respect for higher education that even to raise the last question may seem almost sacrilegious to some. It has been an American tradition that parents would go to any lengths of work and sacrifice to send their children to college. In no other society have so many persons been exposed to higher education.

The end result has not been an unmixed blessing. We have more scientists and engineers and teachers than there are jobs. We have too many Ph.Ds and too few auto mechanics and bricklayers. A serious economic imbalance has been created by the difference in what people are trained to do and what needs doing.

Doubling the number of students in college, the Commission indicates, will require at least 300 more institutions of higher learning than now exist in this country. What

should they be like? What should they attempt to do?

Hopefully, a substantial number will be two-year community colleges, the type which the state of Virginia is so wisely establishing throughout its boundaries. These institutions offer liberal arts; but more importantly, I think, they stress practical and professional training which will fit their students for jobs in our increasingly technologically-oriented society.

Certainly our country needs its great universities as centers for the humanities; for the pursuit of scholarly inquiry and research; for training for the law, medicine, and similar professions.

But thousands upon thousands of our young people need and want other opportunities which will better equip them for useful and rewarding roles in our society. College should be more than a status symbol, where young people gain neither real cultural development nor a satisfactory ability to get and hold a worthwhile job.

The objective at all levels of our educational system should be to develop the skills and talents of each individual in accordance with his ability so that he may become a useful citizen who will find satisfaction in his work, and so that our society, at the same time, will benefit therefrom.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Communism Costly in Human Lives

For the past several months, there has been a great deal of optimistic speculation concerning America's improved relations with the communist nations of China and Russia. The President's announced intention to visit Peking; reported progress in the SALT talks; the new Russian consulate in San Francisco; and the new United States consulate in Leningrad—all of these things have contributed to a certain euphoria among many Americans.

However, while Americans applaud what appears to be a thaw in the Cold War, they should keep in mind that communists usually exact a very high price for any deals they enter. And the cost of dealing with communists has been especially high in human lives.

Robert Conquest, one of England's leading experts on the Soviet Union, estimates that at least 21.5 million persons have been either executed, or killed, during gun battles and the like, since the communists came to power in Russia; and he adds that another 14 million lives were lost in the civil war and famine that followed the communist takeover.

Conquest's figures are not simply the estimates of some fanatical anti-Soviet. They result from an exhaustive study, some of which was based on former Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's own account of government crimes committed during the Stalin era. The study also notes the atrocities committed by the Russian

army during World War II, including the massacre of 10,000 Polish POWs in the Katyn Forest.

A similar study was completed this year on the People's Republic of China, and it shows that the communists in Peking have as little regard for human lives as do their comrades in Moscow. The figures compiled by Prof. Richard L. Walker, one of America's best-known China experts, show that as many as 64 million Chinese lost their lives since the first communist-inspired civil war in 1927.

Prof. Walker states that, in 1960 alone, the communist forces of Mao Tse-Tung killed more Chinese than were killed during the entire war with Japan; and the estimates of the number of deaths during the "Cultural Revolution" of 1965 range from 250,000 to 500,000.

These figures are shocking, to be sure. But they can also be used to educate those too young to personally remember the brutalities of communism, and to remind those older persons who have been caught up in the false optimism of recent developments.

The times demand that we open new channels of communication with all nations; but the events of history demand that we tread carefully and keep our eyes open when dealing with the communists.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Productivity and the Work Ethic

Productivity is a word we are hearing a great deal these days. What does it mean, and why the interest in it?

Productivity, in the current context, simply means the goods or services a worker—or a plant or other activity—turns out in a given period. The interest arises because President Nixon has said that U.S. productivity must increase if we are to solve our economic problems.

A few persons may have a tendency to reject the President's admonition as suggesting a sweatshop philosophy. That is to take a very short-sighted view, for America's economic preeminence and its prosperity depend almost entirely upon the productivity of the American worker and the ingenuity of the American entrepreneur.

When wages and salaries rise faster than productivity—or when production facilities become outdated—higher price tags have to be put upon goods and services to meet the cost of production. The fires of inflation are thereby fanned. It is only by lowering the unit cost of production that prices can realistically be brought down—or kept down—and American goods be made competitive in world markets.

That American workers are the highest paid in the world is a tribute to our economic system. Our workers deserve the opportunity to continue to expand their earnings. They will most merit this opportunity as their productivity ex-

pands.

America grew great and strong because its work ethic has promoted a constantly increasing productivity. The high standard of living our country enjoys is the direct result of the spectacular growth in our output of goods and services.

In the post-World War II period, and up to about 1968, the growth in U.S. productivity averaged a little over three percent annually. But in 1969 and 1970 that figure dropped to less than one percent. As a corollary, the rise in the U.S. standard of living also tapered off, so that the average citizen in the last two or three years has been little or no better off than he was a few years earlier.

Man would never have advanced beyond his original nomadic way of life and his battle with the elements if he had not had the ability to work and to expand his productivity. Further increases in our standard of living today will be possible only through further increases in our productivity.

The most vital element in the effort to cool inflation and put our economy in high gear, then, is a new effort all along the line—by management and worker alike—to boost U.S. productivity above its present laggard state.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Seeing-Eye Satellite To Survey Planet

The technological wonders of our age never cease. NASA expects to launch a new satellite next spring capable of sensing and reporting on virtually everything that exists upon our planet.

This remarkable seeing-eye satellite will be known as Erts-A (Earth Resources Technology Satellite). It will be able to tell us more than we have ever known about earth's land and water resources. It is non-military and aimed at developing the peaceful uses of space.

Erts-A will survey our world from 492 miles above the earth; and so sophisticated will it be that it can pinpoint geologic formations where oil and coal may lie buried, or spot healthy and unhealthy crops on a West Virginia hillside.

These marvels will be accomplished because of what is, in essence, a simple scientific principle. All things radiate electromagnetic energy and receive radiation from their surroundings—telltale vibrations which fit into the electromagnetic spectrum and by which all objects may be identified.

These radiations can be sensed at vast distances by infrared and other film, and by radar and laser beams. Catalogued, they can be "read" by highly trained personnel.

On film, one type of plant may appear as a specific shade of red in its healthy state; diseased or undernourished it will show up as a noticeably different shade. Minerals and moisture in the ground will

leave their unmistakable signature, as will pollution in the air and in the water. Erts-A will be able to "see" countless things which man himself cannot see.

This amazing satellite will be able to sense 10,000 square miles—an area almost half the size of West Virginia—in a single instant, providing a radiation record of virtually everything that exists in the entire region at that moment.

The possibilities which will thus be opened appear almost limitless. By this remote sensing, hitherto unknown resources of earth may be discovered; crop failures may be anticipated and averted; and a wiser, more productive use of land and water may be encouraged.

Thirty-two countries have signed up with NASA to participate in the initial surveys. The studies will range from natural resources to the concentration of populations—more than 350 projects in a dozen or more fields.

Nothing like this has ever been done before; indeed, it has not been possible. Every inch of the earth's surface will be scanned every 18 days for a full year after Erts-A's launch.

No one knows how long it will take to evaluate the information; but, for the first time, man will have the opportunity to take an inventory of his world.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Free Speech Does Not Have to Be Dirty

Many Americans must surely be offended by the increasing use of foul language in U.S. newspapers and other publications and on television.

Books, of course, have been filled with all manner of obscenities for years; but news and entertainment, prepared for home consumption and delivered by public media to family audiences, are different matters.

Persons who wish to read and hear vulgarity are free to do so under our system. But those who do not wish to read and hear it should not have it forced upon them.

With vile language appearing increasingly in family-type publications—and coming unbidden and unwanted into the living room via TV—it seems to me that the time has come for citizens who want and expect decency in what they read and watch to make their feelings known.

Free speech, of course, is cherished in our country. But free speech does not have to be dirty speech. The media may have a constitutional "right" to employ profanity and four-letter words if their editors wish. But doing so in my judgement, does nothing to make either newspaper articles or TV programs more meaningful or attractive.

One may expect to encounter crudities on the walls of public rest rooms. It comes as something of a shock, however, to see such things on the

front pages of newspapers and to hear them spoken from the TV screen.

If nothing else, they are in poor taste—a phrase, incidentally, which one hears all too infrequently in these days of lowered social standards. Profanity and smut are not an indication of sophistication, or of the increasing "maturity" of our society. They are, instead, a sign of deterioration and of decadence.

A few persons may find foul words titillating; but I am sure that a majority of our citizens object to the public media carrying such language into their homes.

The newspapers and TV people who resort to smutty and offensive words and phrases ought to be reminded of the widely reported decline in public interest in such things as dirty magazines and movies. Dirt today is not selling as well as it once may have sold. The ultimate reaction of most citizens to it runs from boredom to disgust.

I believe that those who bear the responsibilities for use of the print media and air waves would gain in public confidence if they would reject the temptation to pander to the lowest denominator of popular taste.

Robert C. Byrd

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.N.—Rights and Responsibilities

When the United Nations was founded in San Francisco a quarter-of-a-century ago, it was hailed as the beginning of a new era in international understanding and the instrument through which mankind would discover a formula for permanent peace in the world.

Those high hopes have been less than fulfilled and it behooves us to look with a dispassionate eye on the organization—housed on United States soil and supported to a significant extent by U.S. taxpayers' money—that set out to provide a forum for negotiation as the alternative to conflict.

Article 1 of the U.N. Charter includes the words ". . . to develop friendly relations between nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights. . . ."

The principle of equal rights is most meritorious. But nowhere in the Charter can we find language delineating the principle of equal responsibilities. It seems to be an inescapable fact of modern life that everybody demands rights but almost nobody wants responsibilities. To deserve the one, a man, or a nation, must accept the other; and the fact, for example, that some U.N. member nations are constantly in arrears with their dues and voluntary payments shows their disregard for their responsibilities. But when it

comes time to cast a vote, the delinquents are among the first to raise their hands.

Of the total U.N. budget, the U.S. contributes 31.5%. Next highest—at 14%—is the Soviet Union, while France, in third place, drops all the way down to 6%. In terms of dollars and cents, our overall contribution to the U.N.—general budget plus voluntary funding activities such as UNICEF, FAO, UNESCO etc.—is \$276 million annually. The U.S.S.R., France, United Kingdom, Japan, and Canada contribute a *combined total* of only \$171 million a year. Moreover, the U.S., with just one vote in the General Assembly, is assessed annually at \$56½ million for regular dues, whereas sixty-three nations, each with one vote, are assessed at an aggregate of only \$4½ million among all of them. Furthermore, there are 131 member nations in the U.N. with a combined population of 3½ billion people. Sixty-six of these nations (enough to carry a majority vote at any time) comprise only 4.3% of that total population.

It is not suggested that because the United States pays the lion's share of the expenses, we should expect to dominate the organization, but when we accept our responsibilities, it seems only reasonable that the other member nations should accept theirs.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Inches Toward Metric System

All of the nations of the world except the United States and about a dozen small countries have now officially adopted, or they are converting to—or preparing to convert to—the metric system of measurements.

But even in the U.S., doctors write prescriptions in milligrams and milliliters; Vietnam veterans know about 81 mm mortars; athletes compete in 100-meter races; and shutterbugs practice 35 mm photography.

Will the U.S.—as England, Canada, Australia and other nations of the British Commonwealth most recently have done—go to the metric system as a common language of measurements? Will U.S. practice and products finally be brought into conformity with international standards?

Making such a change is up to Congress. From the earliest days of the Republic, efforts have been made to make the U.S. metric. That none ever succeeded is traceable to U.S. public resistance and to our close ties with “inch-pound” England. But the inevitability of change may now be upon us.

A comprehensive study, authorized by Congress and completed the past summer by the National Bureau of Standards, recommends that the U.S. adopt the International Metric System; that Congress establish a coordinated national program to

bring about the change; that every schoolchild and the public at large be educated to think in metric terms; and that a target date ten years hence be set, by which time the U.S. “will have become predominantly, though not exclusively,” metric.

The U.S. already has a dual system of measurements, although metric measurements are limited largely to science and special fields. Most West Virginia schoolchildren probably know that a meter is slightly longer than a yard—39.37 inches—and that a liter is slightly more than a quart. They probably know, too, that the mathematics of metric measurements is simpler and more logical than that of other measuring systems because of its decimal nature and its multiples of ten.

But translating the approximately 50 miles from Charleston to Huntington into some 80 kilometers—or figuring the liters of gasoline needed for the trip—moves from the realm of theory into the practical.

Switching from our present system could involve an enormous number of changes in everything from road signs to quantities in food packaging. If Congress authorizes the adoption of the metric system, a sensible, comprehensive transitional program, acceptable to the American people, must be devised to bring about the change in an understandable and orderly way.

JAN 12 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Drug Claims To Be Probed

The Food and Drug Administration has begun the first overall review ever attempted of the effectiveness of more than 100,000 non-prescription drug items we see every day on drugstore and supermarket counters. This is good news for consumers.

The aim of this review is to give assurance to the consumer that the pain-killer, the cold remedy, the dandruff remover, or the deodorant is really capable of doing what the label claims. At present, we have only the manufacturer's word or our own trial-and-error method to go by as to whether the items we buy really work for what ails us.

In 1962, the FDA was given legislative authority to rule on the effectiveness of non-prescription drugs. Prior to that date, the agency could only rule on the safety of the product. Many of the items still popular and widely bought have been on the market since before 1962 and their effectiveness has never been tested. Though the exact number of products offered for sale to the public is not known, official estimates put it as high as half-a-million.

About five years ago, a sampling was made of some 400 non-prescription drug items, in an effort to determine their effectiveness. Only 25% of those tested were found capa-

ble of doing what the label said they should. The rest were put in categories ranging from "probably effective" to "ineffective."

The Commissioner of Food and Drugs has announced that panels of non-government scientists will be asked to review the over-the-counter drugs, and the process will take three years to complete. He said the first class to be reviewed will be the antacids, followed by some 25 other categories, including laxatives, cold remedies, toothpastes, anti-perspirants, and sunburn products.

Among the most important categories to be studied will be the pain killers and the over-the-counter "mood drugs"—stimulants, sedatives and sleep aids. The FDA pointed out that despite the enormous number of items offered for sale and their thousands of different names and claims, all are compounded from only 200 basic ingredients.

It is not the intention of the FDA to drive manufacturers out of business, but it is only right that the American consumers get what they pay for in safety and effectiveness. These consumers buy \$2.7 billion worth of over-the-counter drugs every year, and they are surely entitled to maximum protection and value.

JAN 19 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Crime Facts Shoot Down Optimism

Throughout the past year, there was a great deal of speculation that America had finally turned the corner in its battle against crime, and that crime, if not yet on the decline, was at least being held in check.

However, the latest statistics from the FBI, which compare the first nine months of 1971 with the same period in previous years, show that the optimism was ill-founded.

Murders increased by 10 percent in 1971, the largest annual increase since 1968; and the seven percent rise in forcible rapes during 1971 represents the greatest increase in this vicious crime in the past three years. In New York City, for example, there were 1,067 murders last year compared with 815 in 1970, and 1,767 forcible rapes compared with the 1970 figure of 1,622.

These statistics are shocking, indeed, especially when compared with crime figures from other parts of the world. Tokyo, the world's largest city, experienced only 213 murders in 1970—the latest year for which figures are available. And, during that year in all of Great Britain, only 618 murders were recorded.

It is significant that none of the murder victims in Great Britain was a law enforcement officer, whereas 125 policemen were slain in the United States

in 1971—a 25 percent increase over the number of police officers murdered the year before.

One of the most frightening aspects of our spiralling crime rate is that it now encompasses not only the inner city, but also the suburbs, formerly environments where many citizens fled to escape crime.

Crime in the suburbs increased by 11 percent in 1971—almost twice the average increase for the nation as a whole; and this rise is due, at least in part, to the inner city criminals travelling to the suburbs to commit offenses.

Law enforcement authorities have begun launching intensive campaigns in an effort to reduce crime in America, and they are receiving strong support from the public. A recent survey, for instance, shows that 70 percent of the citizens feel that stronger police protection is needed, and are willing to pay the necessary costs.

It is to be hoped that, in 1972, the increased police efforts will bear fruit. It is also to be hoped that forthcoming decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, which has been restructured, will make the job of the policeman easier and the job of the criminal more difficult.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Better Rural, Vocational Education Needed

The President, in his recent State of the Union Message, placed a great emphasis on education; and it is to be hoped that when his proposals come to Congress later this year, they will include provisions to upgrade vocational training and to increase educational opportunities in rural America.

Americans have always valued education, which is now a \$70 billion enterprise that includes a physical plant of 127,000 schools, and in which 62 million persons are engaged full-time as students, teachers, and administrators.

But the time has come for the federal government to pay closer attention to the educational needs of rural America, where more than a third of all our citizens live. Rural America is large enough to be classified as the eighth largest country in the world; but, partly because of the lack of educational opportunities, it could also be classified as the fifth largest underdeveloped country.

Fifty-nine percent of the rural 17-year-olds are high school graduates, while the average for the entire nation is 70 percent; and while 48 percent of the high school graduates in urban areas now enroll in college, only 32 percent of graduates from rural schools enter college.

Authorities claim a renaissance is needed in rural schools, and that education in

these areas should be approached as one package that would include elementary, secondary, and higher education. To accomplish this, increased funding is needed; and the President's message indicates that the necessary funds will be requested.

It likewise appears that new initiatives will be shown in vocational education, and that this vital training will be merged with academic training. In 1969, eight million persons were in vocational education programs; by 1975, enrollment is expected to increase to 14.6 million.

Technological advancements have eliminated thousands of low-skilled jobs, creating in their place new opportunities that require sophisticated skills. This year, the job market will require 600,000 more skilled workers than will be available. New, improved vocational training is the only way to insure against future shortages in our skilled work force.

Americans have learned that the \$600-\$800 spent each year to keep a student in school is a good investment—it costs four times that much to provide relief for an unemployed worker's family. But educational funds must be invested wisely, and the highest dividends today will be paid by upgrading vocational education, and fully developing the entire educational structure in rural America.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Year 2000—Prosperity With Problems

America is approaching the 21st century somewhat cautiously, for the year 2000 promises to bring blessings of a very mixed nature.

For example, scientists predict that cures will be found for a number of now-incurable diseases, and that five-to-nine years will be added to the average life expectancy of Americans. Yet, while these medical breakthroughs will be welcomed, they will also mean an increase in our population to 280-300 million persons by the year 2000.

Feeding, clothing, and housing that many people will pose serious problems; and they are problems that must be solved before this century ends.

Thirty years ago, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one farmer produced enough food to feed 10 persons; today, he produces enough to feed 45 persons. But, even if there is no further decrease in the number of persons employed in agriculture, each farmer in the year 2000 would have to produce enough food for 70 persons to feed a population of 300 million. Experts predict that our overall crop production will have to increase by 50 percent by the turn of the century, and the amount of land used for farming will have to be more than double the 370 million acres now under cultivation if we are to feed our anticipated popula-

tion and meet our export requirements.

Technological advances, which have been great over the past three decades, will have to be even greater in the years ahead; and research will have to be aimed at discovering new foods, especially among the 250,000 seed-bearing plants. At present, only 666 of these plants are used to provide food and fiber.

Synthetics, which hold some hope for meeting our food needs in the year 2000, hold enormous hope for meeting our clothing and housing needs.

Clothes now worn by Americans contain about 46 percent synthetic fibers; but by the year 2000, the synthetic content is expected to be 65 percent. That increase could mean fewer crop acres needed to produce fibers, and more crop acres utilized for growing food.

In housing, man-made materials will be in great demand—both to preserve our timber resources, which will be three times more in demand in the year 2000 than they are today; and to meet the need for new homes, 2.2 million of which will be required annually as early as 1980.

The future of America can be as challenging as was its past, and as prosperous as its present—but only if we are aware of, and determined to solve, the problems that come with a growing population.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Television and Our Children

There was a time when television was considered a great educational tool, an electronic babysitter, or even, in some homes, an integral part of the family. But, according to recent studies, more and more Americans are beginning to look upon television as an instrument possessing as much potential danger as potential good.

More than 96 percent of homes in the United States have TV sets; in homes with children, the sets are in use for about 15-16 hours a day. In fact, the average pre-school youngster spends 23 hours a week—almost one full day—watching television.

Watching television presents no problem in itself—the problem arises in the quality of programs viewed. And those programs too often have proved to be uneducational, unenlightening, and in the words of a University of California study: "A tasteless pacifier, a waste of time."

A National Institute of Mental Health study found that over half the programs for children were cartoons, 71 percent of which were classified as "violent." The remaining programs consisted largely of re-runs, formerly shown to adult, evening audiences.

The effects of television on our children can be seen in the California study, which states that "there is a tendency for brighter students to watch less TV." It also found

that the children watching the most television spend the least amount of time reading.

Fortunately, steps are being taken to make television the servant, not the master, of our children. The National Association of Broadcasters has agreed to cut by 25 percent the commercial time in every hour of children's programs, and is meeting with concerned groups of parents in an effort to upgrade the quality of the shows.

But, perhaps, the best step that could be taken is seen in the California study. Sixty-five percent of the parents said they "never set special hours when the child can watch TV," and 73 percent said they "never restrict the amount of time" the child can spend in front of the set. Yet, 75 percent complained about the content of children's programs and the influence TV has on their children.

A sound step, then, would seem to be for all parents to demand an upgrading of children's programs by the networks, and to guide their children in the use of television. For its part, the Federal Communications Commission, which has watchdog powers over the networks, should establish content guidelines for children's programs. A joint citizen-government effort could be the best way to increase the potential good of television, and to reduce its potential danger.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Anarchy Increasing in U.S.

The National Bomb Data Center, established in July, 1970, to deal with the growing number of bombings in the United States, has just issued its first report—and the findings should shock all Americans into demanding swift justice for those who resort to this kind of deadly violence.

During the 12-month period beginning in July, 1970, there were 1,858 bombing incidents reported in this country. The incidents resulted in 195 casualties—178 injuries and 17 deaths. In the 750 incidents where property damage could be determined, more than \$15.5 million worth of property was destroyed.

The report shows that, where a motive was involved, the bombings largely grew out of racial protest, juvenile vandalism, and political protest. There were 263 incidents of racial bombings, and 205 where the suspects were teenage vandals. Political protesters, many of whom were involved in the so-called "peace" movement, accounted for 118 bombings during the 12-month period.

Although no complete statistics were available prior to this initial study, officials at the NBDC claim that the "political" bombings are increasing at the greatest rate; and this can be easily seen by the fact that 36 military

facilities and 15 other government installations were the targets of bombs. In addition, bombs were planted at 34 banks, which the report says have "come to symbolize the establishment" in the eyes of many radicals.

Yet, even with the growing evidence that bombs have become the principal tool in the arsenal of the radicals, there remains a number of "new left" apologists who claim that the intention of the bombers is more symbolic than destructive. The facts prove otherwise.

Of the 1,858 incidents, only 308 involved non-detonating bombs—duds; and, in just 39 of the incidents, were warnings issued before the blast was set to go off. Obviously, the intent was to destroy—and the regard for human life was minimal at best.

The Organized Crime Control Act of 1968 sought to deal with bombings, extending the authority of the FBI to investigate the incidents and doubling the penalties for the criminal use of explosives. But, while this bill was a needed first step, it should in no way be considered a cure-all. Its provisions should be constantly reviewed as part of the all-out offensive against the bombers, and that offensive should last until we rid our society of this kind of terrorism.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Are We Ignoring the Three R's?

For the past several years, education in the United States has been in a constant state of change; and, while there is no question that some of these changes have been beneficial to our children, there is also evidence that not enough attention is being paid to the basics of education.

For example, a Carnegie Foundation report titled "The National Assessment of Educational Progress" has just been released; and it shows that the writing skills of America's school children are at a dangerously-low level. A second report—this one on reading skills—will be released later this year; and early indications are that the students will fare just as poorly in that area.

Nine-year-olds, according to the report, show almost no command of the basic writing mechanics of grammar, syntax, vocabulary, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation. Although writing skills improve as the students get older, the report still contends that "even the best teenage writers seldom display any facility or special flair for moving beyond basic construction and commonplace language."

The findings were based on uniform writing exercises administered during the 1969-70 school year to 86,000 children aged 9, 13, and 17. The chil-

dren represent 2,500 schools in every section of the country, and authorities claim the sample accurately reflects the nation as a whole.

Of all the students tested, Dr. Henry Slotnick, the author of the report, says that "only four or five had a really good command of the English language." This easily may be the most shocking discovery of the report, and authorities consider it an especially bad omen in light of the upcoming study of reading skills. If the reading skills prove to be as inadequate as the writing skills, the reports will have shown beyond any doubt that a need exists to again stress the fundamentals in our schools—a need that many of us saw long before the study was made public.

The United States took a critical look at its educational system several years ago when Russia launched Sputnik into space. At that time, we recognized a need for more intensive training in the sciences, so that we could catch up to the Soviets in the race to the moon in the 1960's.

We accomplished that goal, and the sciences should continue to receive their deserved emphasis. At the same time, however, the basic tools of communication — reading and writing—cannot be neglected without imperiling the future of the entire nation.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The School Busing Binge

The hottest issue confronting the country today involves public school busing. Nobody objects to busing children from outlying reaches of a community into the nearest neighborhood school. The real objection is to mass busing of students for the sole purpose of creating arbitrary racial balances in the schools.

Indeed, busing is but the tip of the iceberg. The basic issue, although greatly submerged in all of the emotional talk, is whether, under the U.S. Constitution, a child may be assigned to a given public school on the basis of his race or color. The Supreme Court, in 1954, correctly held that it could not. Yet, precisely that is being done today, on the highly questionable theory that the quality education of minds can only be brought about by the forced integration of bodies. There is no proof that quality education results from such forced mixing. The exact opposite may be true, and there is much evidence that racial frictions have been exacerbated thereby.

When HEW bureaucrats and a few Federal judges force the busing of children away from neighborhood schools simply because those children happen to be black or happen to be white—as the case may be—that is discrimination based on color,

pure and simple. It avails nothing to argue that this was done when segregated schools were the law of the land. Two wrongs don't make a right.

Moreover, such mass, cross-city busing doesn't make good sense. What can the country show in return for the millions spent? The answer is, gasoline and repair bills, and worn out, second-hand school buses which will have to be replaced by costly new buses, and more gasoline and repair bills. But if the hard-earned taxpayer's dollars were spent instead on improving neighborhood school facilities and equipment and on better salaries for good teachers, these would add up to lasting benefits and would provide a genuine opportunity for quality education for all children.

There is a rising tide of indignant opposition to mass busing for the sake of racial balance, and that opposition is being manifested both by black parents and white parents.

Education funds should be spent equally on black and white children, per capita, regardless of the location of their schools; the neighborhood school should be upgraded and preserved; and mass busing, purely to promote arbitrary racial balance, should be stopped.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Our Declining Birth Rate

Whatever the situation may be in other countries, the population explosion—if the present trend continues—appears to have fizzled out in the United States. The rate at which American women bear children has sunk to a 31-year low, dropping by more than five percent in 1971 alone.

The National Center for Health Statistics reports that last year 82.3 babies were born per 1,000 U.S. women of child-bearing age. That compares with 87.6 in 1970.

Not since the great depression has the number fallen so low. The number has declined to a point only a little more than necessary for population replacement, or 2.11 births per woman.

The birth rate in our country has been going down steadily for 14 years, dropping by one-third since 1957. In that year 122.9 babies per 1,000 women were born.

Last year's number was the lowest since the 79.9 recorded in 1940. In only four of the last 42 years has the rate of increase or decrease equalled or exceeded six percent. In 1933, for example, when the U.S. was suffering the worst depression and joblessness in its history, the drop was only 6.6 percent.

But no such economic distress exists now, despite the

recent recession. How do the experts explain a birth rate decline for 14 years, during much of which time the nation was enjoying unprecedented affluence?

Authorities say that the pill, and a changing legal climate regarding abortion have contributed significantly to the drop-off. But that does not answer the question of why Americans want fewer children. Why is family size shrinking?

Sociologists and demographers may find various answers to that question. But underlying any theory must be the fact of our changing society. In a rural, farm-oriented society, in the days before social security and retirement plans, large families were economic assets; indeed, they were virtual necessities.

By contrast, in our increasingly urbanized and highly mobile society—with the cost of maintaining homes and rearing and educating children becoming heavier and heavier each year—large families may be considered by many couples to be liabilities.

A fundamental change in U.S. values and goals seems to be occurring. The continuing decline in the U.S. birth rate is one more sign of the changing times in which we live.

MAR 15 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Use of National Parks Soars

Nothing succeeds like success, the old saying goes, and that is a good description of what has been happening in and to America's national parks and recreation areas. They have succeeded so spectacularly in their appeal to Americans that many are in danger of being completely overrun by visitors.

Ours is a society on wheels, with a growing amount of leisure time and income. Each year more and more of our citizens are visiting and enjoying the natural wonders of America's seashores, its lakes and rivers, its mountains, and its historic shrines.

The result has been a growth in the people pressure on our park system such as was never envisioned when these lands were first opened to the public. The figures on their use are astonishing.

As recently as 1950, all of the parks in the national system (excepting the National Capital Parks) drew a total of only slightly over 33 million visitors. By 1970 this number had soared to 160 million; and the fantastic forecast for 1980 is for more than 256 million!

The very popularity of our nation's parks and recreation areas, the experts say, poses a threat to their ecological well-being and to their future. Many suggestions are being

heard as to how best to deal with this threat.

The biggest problem in the overcrowding of existing parks is traffic. The hard decisions which must be made may have to include such things as no more road building; limiting the number of cars and campers; substituting public for private transportation; and banning off-the-road vehicles such as snowmobiles, trail bikes, and dune buggies, which can damage terrain.

The measures should certainly include regional planning of the areas around parks, where camping grounds and other public facilities can be provided outside the parks themselves.

But most importantly more areas must be set aside, such as the Redwoods National Park, and the Cape Lookout and Assateague Island National Seashores. Parks are for people, and the vast growth in the demand for outdoor recreation and the enjoyment of scenic areas must be recognized and provided for.

States as well as the Federal Government should act. West Virginia, for example—with its magnificent scenery and cool summers—should redouble its public and private efforts now to attract its fair share of travelers and cash in on the tourist bonanza!

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Moves Toward Better Health

Americans have always been concerned with their health—and rightly so, according to statistics from the National Institutes of Health.

In a single year, Americans suffer over 396 million illnesses or injuries that result in at least one day of restricted activity; and the average citizen spends nearly six days in bed annually as a result of sickness or injury. More than 50 percent of our population is suffering from at least one chronic ailment—including cancer, heart disease, allergies, and arthritis.

There is no doubt, says NIH, that illnesses pose a more serious threat than injuries. Of the almost 2 million Americans who die each year, less than six percent are killed in accidents; and heart disease, cancer, and stroke alone claim two-thirds of the victims.

These facts illustrate the great need for improved health care in the United States; and, fortunately, the past few years have seen the task of providing that care receive the high priority it deserves.

At the present time, there are 41,000 employees working in Federal health agencies—including 56 Regional Medical Programs that are designed to serve areas previously

neglected in our health efforts. The regional centers are supported by the National Institutes of Health, where intensified research programs are now beginning to pay high dividends.

In 1968, for instance, one of the 2,230 scientists at NIH received a Nobel Prize in medicine—the first Federal employee ever to do so. And other researchers have developed breakthroughs in fighting leukemia, identified cancer-causing viruses, and reversed for the first time a degenerative disease of the retina causing night blindness and a gradual loss of vision.

The research and the regional medical programs hold out the hope that many diseases will not only be cured in the future, but that they will also be prevented—and “prevention” is the key word in any long-range health plan.

For one thing, preventive medicine could cut medical costs, which have risen twice as fast as the cost of living in the past 12 years; and it could reduce stays in hospitals, where costs have skyrocketed five times as fast as the cost of living since 1960.

But most important, preventive medicine—supported by continuing scientific research—could give us the weapon we need to win the health war of the 1970's.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Grades Spur Students' Incentives

An estimated 60 percent of U.S. colleges and universities are now offering some courses on a pass or fail grading basis, largely as a result of student demands for so-called campus "reforms." Some public schools in various places, including West Virginia, have also been experimenting with this system.

There has been too much emphasis on grades, it is argued. Traditional grading systems are not compatible with current educational philosophy, it is said—whatever that may mean. The old fashioned "A" to "F" evaluation is held not fair to slow learners and the disadvantaged.

Poorer students in our changing public school scene might possibly gain confidence by blurring the distinction between their performance and that of high achievers. Grades, it is said, do not tell the whole story of progress or potential.

But they do still tell a story. And they do provide incentive for most students. The leveling process, catering to the lowest common denominator, can only foster mediocrity. To remain vigorous, our society should be as concerned—or even more concerned—with encouraging the highly-motivated and gifted students. Our nation needs their talents and leadership.

The most telling argument

against doing away with grading is that to do so would destroy competition and incentive. In pass-fail, passing is equated, in the opinion of many, with simply doing "D" level work. What incentive, then, is there to do better?

Giving a student a "pass" or "fail" designation has disadvantages in addition to the destruction of initiative and motivation—as some West Virginia schools, which have tried it and gone back to the old system, have discovered.

Disadvantages exist for students themselves in at least three vital areas: in seeking transfers to other schools; in gaining admission to colleges and graduate schools; and in getting jobs. How is a young person's worth or potential to be evaluated without academic grades comparing him with his contemporaries?

In almost every area of life we are constantly being evaluated by our society. Schools which violate this principle, by doing away with grading, do their students no favor.

Pass-fail grading thus far is mostly limited to lower grades and to elective courses in colleges. But pressure for it can grow, and such pressure should be strongly resisted. The lowering of standards has already gone much too far in our schools and in our society as a whole.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Is a National Primary the Answer?

The value of the presidential primaries has become a matter of considerable debate. There are 24 of these contests this year, 10 more than in 1968. There is no denying that there is great public interest in them and in the presidential contenders; but criticism of the present system is widespread and growing.

The true will of the national electorate is not expressed in these elections, since fewer than half of the states hold them. Moreover, in many states which do, an accurate reading on all of the candidates may not occur because all candidates do not enter all of the elections. In West Virginia, for example, only Humphrey and Wallace are on the ballot.

As most of the primaries are now conducted, candidates may pick and choose those in which they believe they will make the best showing. Some states require that all known candidates be listed on the ballot; and in a number of states—unlike West Virginia—primary results are binding on convention delegates.

But even those requirements may not have much bearing on the action of national political conventions. Someone who chose not to go the primary route may be nominated, rendering the preliminaries meaningless.

It can be persuasively ar-

gued that the primaries take too much time, squander too much money, and wear the candidates to a frazzle. They have also proved to be the undoing of candidates who may have deserved a better chance.

Additional states can be expected to turn to the use of primaries, both as a more democratic method than state and local conventions and to be in the political limelight. With widely differing dates, and bewilderingly different ground rules, the present confusion could become chaos.

A nationwide primary to pick the nominees is increasingly being advocated. The most frequently heard proposals are for holding such an election in early August after a relatively short campaign. Nationwide television, it is felt, would offer the candidates ample opportunity to present themselves to the voters.

If no candidate received a clear majority, a runoff would follow a week later. National party conventions could still be held to name vice presidential candidates and write platforms.

There is no easy answer to the problem. A national primary would impinge upon state prerogatives. But most citizens probably agree that something needs to be done to improve the method of picking our presidential nominees.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Pollution and Pests Threaten Farms

Pollution, which has long been considered a threat to the urban areas of the United States, is a danger to the nation's farmlands as well. And unless pollution is curbed and ecologically-safe methods of controlling pests are found, America could face a sharp decline in farm production.

Air pollution alone causes about \$500 million worth of crop damage annually, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And in 1970—the last year for which figures are available—more than 1.1 million acres, representing 3.6 million tons of crops, were burned in an effort to reduce losses from plant diseases and pollution residues.

The air pollution can be explained in terms of our sprawling population, where both housing developments and industrial parks have moved to the suburbs and beyond. Farms are no longer as rural as they once were, and their proximity to industry means that they are closer to the 30 million tons of industrial pollutants emitted each year.

While the closeness of industry has added to pollution

on the farm, so too has the policy of moving away from chemical insecticides added to the problems of the pest control in agricultural areas.

The survival of crops is currently threatened by 50,000 species of fungi, and more than 10,000 kinds of insects. The banning of a number of chemical pest controls has hurt the crop disease prevention efforts, leaving farmers to depend heavily on the introduction of "friendly" insects.

Some 520 species of "friendly" insects have been brought to farmlands in the past 80 years in the hopes that they would combat the already-present crop-destroying pests. However, only about 20 have been found to be significant control agents.

In order to guarantee a pollution-free environment for our food and fiber crops, strict enforcement of our anti-pollution laws is needed. But in order to guarantee a pest-free environment for these crops, the U.S. Department of Agriculture must also intensify its research for safe chemicals to use on farmlands.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Greening of State Is Aim of Research

The waste bark stripped from logs at sawmills and wood-using plants may not seem glamorous or important. But this lowly, widely-occurring material just might have a rosy future, especially in mountainous, coal-producing states like West Virginia.

Researchers at the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Products Marketing Laboratory at Princeton, in Mercer County, believe they may have hit upon a way to kill two pollution birds with one stone.

New anti-pollution laws have made it increasingly hard to dispose of the bark waste. Most states, including West Virginia, have imposed smoke emission standards which sharply limit the burning of wastes, and many localities now limit solid waste dumping.

At the same time, West Virginia faces the problem of what to do about the scarred areas where surface mining operations have been carried on; and it also has had large areas of exposed soil to revegetate where interstate and other road construction has sliced through the mountains.

Bringing these problems together, the Forest Service researchers, in cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Highways, have found that a mulch made of bark residues is highly effective in speeding the revegetation of

large areas where existing ground cover has been cut away.

The research into the twin objectives of bark disposal and revegetation was started three years ago. At various highway construction sites in the state, bark mulch was spread over steep roadbanks after grass seed and fertilizer had been applied. The results, after two growing seasons, are said to hold considerable promise for the future in preventing soil erosion, pollution of streams by siltation, and other watershed damage.

Because of its fibrous nature, the bark residues form a porous mat when applied to bare soils, holding seeds and seedlings in place. It is believed that, even if applied in winter, this mulch can retard or prevent erosion. Encouraged by these results, the Forest Service people are now extending their efforts to strip-mined areas, which are similar in many respects to road cuts and embankments.

Bark mulch has been available for gardening for some time; but imaginative, full-scale investigation of all possibilities for the use of such materials—such as the Forest Lab is doing—is needed to help solve our environmental problems. Discovering new uses for waste products is as essential as finding new ways to prevent pollution at its source.

APR 26 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Senate's "Whipping Post"

"I am glad that Robert C. Byrd has at last gotten what he deserved—the whipping post."

This comes from a letter received in my office shortly after I had won the Senate Majority Whip's race early last year. But it may be indicative, as are many letters from students, of an interest in the history and duties of the office of Whip.

The office of Whip is a British institution; it is found in most commonwealth countries which have based their parliament on that of the United Kingdom. The term "Whip" has two distinct parliamentary meanings in England. It refers both to a party official, as in the United States Senate, and to a written document.

Whips were first used in 1621, when notices, known as "circular letters," were sent to the King's friends in the House of Commons.

Turning to the Whip as a party official, Edmund Burke, the great English statesman, is considered the first to have used the term to denote a party leader when, during a debate, he described how ministries had sent for their friends to the north—and even to Paris—"whipping them in." Burke was referring to the "whipper-in," a huntsman who kept the hounds from straying during

a fox hunt.

Party whips did not exist in the United States Senate in the early days, even though our national legislature followed many legislative practices of the English parliament. The first Senate Democratic Whip, J. Hamilton Lewis of Illinois, was elected in 1913; the first Republican Whip, James Wadsworth, N.Y., in 1915. Since 1913, there have been 14 Democratic Whips and 11 Republican Whips.

Each Whip is elected by the respective party caucus on the opening day of each new Congress. The responsibilities of the Majority Whip are: to assist the Majority Leader in carrying out the policies formulated by the Democratic Policy Committee; to be on the Floor at all times when the Senate is in session; to insist on enforcement of the Senate rules regarding order and decorum; to keep the legislation moving; and to keep party members informed of the legislative program and the scheduling of votes.

Although the post of Whip is not, indeed, a "whipping post," it is an exacting, demanding, often difficult, always challenging position of great responsibility—not only within the party and parliamentary machinery, but also in the legislative process.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



A Fascinating File of W. Va. Facts

Most West Virginians probably know that Spruce Knob, in Pendleton County, is the highest point in the state—4,853 feet in elevation.

But how many know the name of the highest town in the state? Or the lowest point? Or where the geographical center of West Virginia is located? Or the names of the longest and shortest rivers? Or the largest and smallest counties?

West Virginia's fact-packed Blue Book has the answers to these and hundreds of other questions. Now in its 55th year of publication, it is a wondrous book indeed and can be found in public offices, libraries, and schools. Published first in 1916, it has brought together pertinent information about our state every year since save for its not having been printed in the depression year of 1932. Its current 1,132 pages are a gold mine of information.

Davis, in Tucker County—named for the family of Henry Gassaway Davis, a U.S. Senator from West Virginia (1871-1883)—is the highest incorporated town in the state, with an elevation of 3,101 feet. The Potomac River at Harpers Ferry is the lowest point, only 247 feet above sea level.

The geographic center of West Virginia is in the triangle formed by Sutton, Flat

Woods, and Centralia in the Elk River Public Hunting area of Braxton County.

The longest river whose banks are wholly within the state is the Elk, which stretches 172 miles from western Pocahontas County to its junction with the Kanawha at Charleston. The Ohio River is 277 miles long, but its western bank is Ohio's eastern boundary. The Monongahela, with only 37 miles in West Virginia, is the state's shortest river.

The largest county is Randolph, with Greenbrier next. They are the state's only two counties with more than a thousand square miles of area. The northern panhandle counties are smallest—Hancock with 88 square miles, and Brooke with 92.

Do you need to know the names of federal or state officials, or members of the Legislature? They are in the Blue Book, along with the name of every county, magisterial district, and municipal official in the state.

The Constitution of West Virginia is there, as are population figures, election returns, descriptions of state schools and institutions, and even the names of heads of the state's many fraternal and other organizations.

You ask the questions. The answers are probably in the West Virginia Blue Book.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Old World Immigrants Enhance U.S.

The United States is a nation built by immigrants. From the first colonists onward, persons who came here from other lands, and the sons and daughters who followed them, have shaped America's character and destiny.

For many years, the largest number of immigrants to the United States came from Europe. The contribution which they have made to this country has been enormous, as it has been in West Virginia.

But the pattern of immigration into the United States has been changing drastically over the years and, especially, in the past decade.

At the beginning of this century 96% of all U.S. immigrants were European. But by 1970, that figure had declined to less than 30%, and immigration from Asia had grown to 24% of the U.S. total, with the greatest increases being from India and the Philippines.

An even more significant change, perhaps, has been the sharp rise in immigration from the West Indies. In fiscal 1970, overall immigration to the U.S. was 373,000. Of this number more than 61,000 came from such Caribbean islands as Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Trinidad—an increase of 63% in five years. (Cuban refugee "parolees" who have come in even larger numbers are not included in these

figures.)

The Immigration Act of 1965 is largely responsible for the changes which have occurred. That Act placed a numerical restriction of 20,000 each on European and other countries outside the Western Hemisphere, and it significantly upgraded the "employment quality" of these immigrants, who unless they have close relatives in the U.S., possess professional or exceptional skills.

But no such restriction with respect to skills was placed on Western Hemisphere natives. They are classed as "special immigrants," 120,000 of whom may be admitted yearly on a first-come, first-served basis with no country-of-origin quota.

To say the least, not imposing the same restrictions on West Indians that are imposed on Europeans is a questionable policy. To assure the U.S. of getting quality immigrants from the Caribbean islands, as elsewhere, requirements as to employment skills and numerical limits for each country should be established.

The Europeans who have come to this country have helped it to grow and prosper and have enriched its cultural heritage. We should not discriminate against the Old World by holding other areas to lesser standards and admitting persons not equipped to make a positive contribution to U.S. life.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Two Hazards of Childhood

Children, because of the innocence of their age, often walk into situations where both fools and angels would fear to tread. The result is, too often, serious and permanent injury, and sometimes even death.

By far, two of the most dangerous situations occur when children are either playing with fire, or playing with poison.

Last year in the United States, according to testimony given to a Senate Commerce Committee hearing, almost 4,000 children died as a result of fire—either from the flames themselves, asphyxiation, or the toxic gases produced by the fire. There were another 150,000 children burned severely enough to require medical attention. For many of the youngsters, the scars will be permanent.

Accidental poisoning is just as great a hazard to our children, according to health experts. Although there are no figures available on the number of youngsters poisoned each year, it is known that poisons caused seven percent of all the fatal home accidents in 1970. In fact, this is the only area of home accidents that has risen over the past decade.

Reports from one hospital show the magnitude of the problem. In the first two months of this year, 26 pre-school children were admitted to the Kansas University

Medical Center after having drunk poisonous liquids. Nine were critically ill after having swallowed drain cleaner.

There is, of course, nothing that government can do to keep matches out of the hands of children, or to keep infants from crawling under the kitchen sink to where poisonous household cleaners are kept. This responsibility rests in the home.

But government can act to assure that fabrics are produced that contain the least flammable material, and that liquid products contain the least amount of poisonous components possible — and that they come in clearly marked packages. The government has done this through the Flammable Fabrics Act and the Poison Prevention Packaging Act; but the passage of this legislation is not a cure-all.

In a recent experiment, a pair of infants' pajamas produced in 1970 were placed on a mannequin and touched to a flame. Within seconds, the garment was destroyed and the mannequin badly burned.

Obviously, this threat of serious injury to our children is a continuing one, and must be met in both the home and Congress—in the home through the exercise of greater care; and in Congress through the constant review of legislation aimed at minimizing the dangers of flammable and poisonous products.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Problem of the "Saturday Night Special"

The Second Amendment to the Constitution states that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

This guarantee in the Bill of Rights—based, at the time it was adopted, on the necessity of maintaining a "well regulated militia (to insure) the security of a free state"—continues to be an important guarantee today.

A citizen has, and he should have, the constitutional right to defend himself and his property, especially in this crime-ridden era. He also should have the right to have guns for recreation and sport.

Congress, in enacting legislation dealing with gun control, has respected these basic rights. As the nation seeks effective ways to combat political assassination, however, one type of weapon—the short-barrel, short-range, easily concealed handgun—poses a peculiar and special problem.

It was such a weapon that wounded Governor Wallace. Moreover, small, cheap handguns—the so-called "Saturday Night Specials"—are increasingly being used by other criminals to commit murder, forcible rape, and armed robbery.

Many thoughtful citizens agree that we must come to grips with the problem these

guns pose. The question is how to do it without infringing on the right of law-abiding citizens to have guns for hunting, trapshooting, defense, and other lawful use.

Proposals have been made to ban the importation, manufacture, sale, and possession of pistols with barrels less than two inches long. Such weapons are easily hidden, and, clearly, are a menace to public safety in crowds and on city streets.

Statutes already define some weapons as unlawful—such as sawed-off shotguns. Serious consideration should also be given, I believe, to making these cheap "snub-nosed" handguns unlawful as well.

These limited-range guns are useless for any purpose except to maim and kill human beings. Moreover, many Saturday Night Specials are said to be so cheaply made and so dangerous that one does not know when he pulls the trigger whether the gun is going to fire forward or backward.

No person should be deprived of the protection of a standard, or long-barreled, handgun in his home. But deadly mini-pistols such as the one which felled George Wallace—a gun with a one-and-seven-eighths-inch barrel—should be outlawed.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Unsung Young

That young people have something to say is a fact that has long been recognized in the United States. The problem is that too many social theorists, and too great a portion of the national media, have been listening to the wrong groups of young Americans.

To be sure, when 100,000 college-age citizens demonstrate in the streets of Washington, their story should be told on newspaper pages and radio and television. It is an event worth media coverage.

But what about the almost 2.4 million young Americans who belong to 4-H clubs throughout the country? These are young people who demonstrate constructively on a daily basis, taking part in community projects aimed at fighting pollution, protecting the quality of life, and conserving and developing our country's natural resources.

There are 92,500 active 4-H clubs in the United States, including 35 permanent camps in West Virginia. Certainly, the activities of these young people deserve at least as much media recognition as do the radical Students for a Democratic Society. For all its radical rhetoric, the SDS has less than 30 active chapters across the country.

Last year, each of the 92,500 4-H clubs participated in some anti-pollution project

in local communities. In one Michigan county, a 4-H-sponsored Operation Clean-up collected 65 truckloads of trash from 200 miles of roadside.

This effort received little or no national television exposure, or notice in national publications. The national media chose instead to concentrate its coverage on Earth Day, an idealistic-sounding name for an ecology demonstration that produced nothing constructive. In fact, the Earth Day demonstrators left almost 100 truckloads of trash in their wake.

There are other commendable youth groups in America. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, for instance, who for more than a half century have been teaching citizenship and other leadership qualities to millions of young Americans. Yet, even with its 60-year record of achievement, the Boy Scouts receive less attention by far from the national media than do the SDS and other fly-by-night extremist groups.

The burden of telling the true story of the vast majority of America's young people has fallen on the shoulders of local newspapers, television and radio stations. The local media have generally done a good job, and all Americans owe them a debt of gratitude for putting a proper perspective on the news of youth in our country.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Decrease in Defense Spending

The Defense Department, as the country's largest and most visible agency, has come under heavy fire from domestic critics frustrated by inflation, Vietnam, and the instances of military mismanagement of taxpayers' dollars.

Certainly, in instances such as the development of the C-5A transport plane, where millions of dollars have been wasted, the criticism has been justified. But the critics should keep in mind that, like all other segments of our society, the military has been hit hard by inflation; and it is under tremendous pressure to develop sophisticated weapons necessary to defend our country in this nuclear age.

A submarine, for instance, cost \$4.7 million during World War II, and the price rose to \$30 million by 1955. But neither WWII nor the 1955 craft meets present needs. Today, we need nuclear-powered submarines, which cost \$175 million each.

Airplanes, too, have gone sky-high in cost. One Air Force F-15 fighter is now estimated at \$1.5 million, eight times more than a fighter cost in 1955; and manpower costs have jumped from \$22 billion in 1964 to \$43 billion for the current fiscal year—and that is for 300,000 fewer men.

About 57 percent of the

current U.S. defense budget goes directly for personnel. For its part, the Soviet Union uses only 25 percent of its budget for personnel costs. While American military men have received 10 pay raises since 1964, the Soviet soldier has received only two.

Yet, even with the increased costs of weapons, higher pay for military men, and the inflation that has chipped away at the value of the dollar, the United States today actually spends a smaller percentage of its Gross National Product on defense than it did in 1955. Then, almost 11 percent of our GNP went for defense, while the current request for \$83.4 billion represents just 6.5 percent of our GNP.

The Senate Armed Services Committee has already cut the budget request by \$418 million; and it has directed the Pentagon to follow a "fly before you buy" policy, forcing defense contractors to produce an acceptable product before receiving total payment.

This kind of careful scrutiny must continue. Every dollar that is needed for defense must be spent—but it must be spent wisely. Americans deserve both an adequate defense and the maximum return on their hard-earned tax dollars.

JUN 21 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Delivery Problems in Health Care

Medical research has made a number of significant breakthroughs in recent years—with new means to prevent, arrest, or cure diseases being discovered almost on an annual basis. But, while there is no shortage in medicines and treatments available in the United States, there is a severe shortage in the number of doctors and other health professionals to diagnose the illnesses, prescribe the treatments, and perform the surgeries.

Currently, health experts estimate that the United States needs 50,000 more doctors than are presently practicing, and statistics provided by the Association of American Medical Colleges show that the shortage is most acute in certain fields. For instance, the proportion of all residents training for general surgery decreased from 20 percent in 1960 to 17 percent in 1970.

Obstetrics/Gynecology is another specialty in which a proportional decrease has taken place; in 1970, there were 250 fewer physicians training for this field than in 1965.

The period 1965-1970 also saw slight declines in the fields of neurological surgery, pathology, psychiatry, and general practice.

Erasing the doctor shortage is one of the greatest health challenges facing our country, and The Comprehensive

Health Manpower Training Act of 1971 was designed to meet that challenge. AAMC President Dr. John A. D. Cooper says that, if it is properly funded, the act could erase the shortage by 1976.

It could also help erase the shortages that exist in other health professions—most noticeably those fields that deliver medical care to rural areas. The National Health Service Corps, for instance, was established last year with an initial staff of 660 professionals.

Through funds provided by the act, a team of corps personnel is assigned to a community on the basis of need, which is determined by such factors as the ratio of physicians to population, and the number and type of other health personnel and facilities. Ideally, there is a qualified doctor assigned to the team; but, more often than not, one doctor is charged with the responsibility of overseeing two or three teams.

It is imperative that Congress adequately fund the Health Manpower Training Act, and give serious consideration to other health proposals—such as a national health insurance system and a separate U.S. Department of Health. This would seem to be the best way to assure that the medical discoveries in the laboratories will be delivered to the American people.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



200th Birthday Plans Snagged

On July 4, 1976—only four years from now—our country will mark its 200th birthday. The year 1976 will be an historic one for the United States. But planning for this important anniversary has thus far left much to be desired.

Few governments in history have existed as long as ours, and no nation has done more to advance the cause of freedom. Yet, most of the proposals made so far for focusing world attention on the bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution—and on the American success story—have produced little more than bickering and disagreement.

Proposals for a World Fair, for example—either in Boston where the famed Tea Party was staged, or in Philadelphia where the Continental Congress sat and the Liberty Bell was rung—have fallen through.

In Philadelphia, local poverty and racial groups, environmentalists, and residents who didn't want the bother, opposed the idea.

One member of the National Bicentennial Commission, which turned down Philadelphia's fair proposal, opined that minorities and the poor could not afford to attend; and other Commission members maintained that world fairs are out of date.

Proposals for other events

which would celebrate—and hopefully re-ignite in American hearts—the “Spirit of '76” have likewise only inched forward, if at all. Why should this be true?

Many explanations may be offered. But the one factor by which the bicentennial planning appears most seriously to be snagged is the general divisiveness which subverts our national interest on so many other fronts today.

The Commission named three years ago to spearhead the celebration has been plagued from the first by special interest proposals. Environmentalists want the bicentennial to be a super clean-up program; civil rightists want it to be an all-out “social justice” affair, and want the celebration funds channeled into their own pet projects; other groups are just plain apathetic.

The result is that, after three years of inconclusive discussions, little or nothing has been done to galvanize the American public's enthusiasm for, or support of, a national bicentennial celebration. The time grows short.

In this situation, it behooves every state—such as West Virginia, whose historical roots go back to Revolutionary times—to plan its own special events for 1976. This is an opportunity that, if lost, will not come to us again, for the tricentennial is a hundred years away.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Space Benefits Brought to Earth

One of the most exciting moments in history occurred when man first set foot on the moon, and the fact that he was an American made the event even more exciting to those of us in the United States.

Yet, subsequent moon shots have been greeted largely with apathy by many citizens; and there exists a feeling that much of the money spent in outer space could be put to better use solving problems that exist on earth.

I share that feeling, but am also aware that the space program has produced a number of "spinoff" benefits for government, industry, and private citizens.

For instance, in order to construct a capsule that could hold up through the changing temperatures of a flight through space, scientists developed a coating that could withstand temperatures as high as 1,300 degrees or as low as 320 degrees below zero. The satellite coating is now being produced by 24 manufacturers of commercial paints. Other coatings used to fireproof space vehicles are now being used to produce safer fabrics for draperies, upholstery, mattresses, and clothing.

These benefits to consumers, however, are surpassed by the benefits that the space "spinoffs" have provided the medical and technological sciences.

The bodies of astronauts must be monitored constantly, and, to perform such a vigil, scientists developed a tough, instant-drying spray with which tiny sensors are attached to the spacemen. This innovation now holds electrodes to the flesh of heart attack victims, allowing doctors in a hospital miles away to monitor the patient while he is riding in an ambulance. Used in hospitals, the technique enables a single nurse to simultaneously monitor the conditions of 100 patients.

Computer techniques developed to improve photographs of other planets are being used to make X-rays a better tool to diagnose illnesses; and methods used to study astronauts' bones after long periods of weightlessness are being used by hospitals, primarily to study the brittleness of bones in elderly patients.

All these and other "spinoff" benefits have been beneficial to those of us who will never travel in space, and they should be considered when we evaluate the space program — a program that must produce results that will benefit all citizens in order to justify the expenditures of millions of tax dollars.

Meeting the challenges of outer space is a noble goal, but meeting the challenges of earth is the essential goal for our society.

JUL 12 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Stealing as a Way of Life

The so called "New Left," which apparently has learned that street violence and campus destruction produce negative results, has now developed a new strategy in its battle against the "establishment"—a strategy that calls for organized acts of thievery in an effort to knock the legs out from under the American economy.

Revolutionary members of the New Left refer to their acts as "ripping off," and they direct their attacks at the government and at businesses that are considered part of the "establishment." Instructions on how to steal, and from whom to steal, can be found in almost every issue of numerous underground newspapers, as well as in several of the New Left pamphlets and books.

The radicals are learning their lessons well, according to available figures.

The National Retail Merchants Association estimates that \$4 billion worth of goods will be stolen this year; and that estimate seems fairly accurate, since Macy's alone lost \$8 million in merchandise in 1970. Officials at the NRMA concede that not all the stealing is being done by young radicals, but a spokesman adds that the revolutionaries "are doing more than their share" and are largely responsible for the two percent annual increase in thefts since 1965.

Special targets of the young thieves are the telephone companies, food store chains, and large manufacturers of equipment used by our Armed Forces.

One of the most widely-employed tricks is to make calls on telephone credit cards, charging the calls, of course, to other persons' cards. If the radicals can place a long-distance call, and charge it to a large company, they consider it a double victory.

In 1970, according to Bell Telephone, about \$22 million in free phone calls were placed—as compared to \$2.7 million in phone calls "stolen" in 1965.

Defense manufacturers find that their consumer products—such as household sprays and the like—are especially sought after by young radicals prowling through supermarkets.

Whom does all this stealing hurt?

Not the large companies, and not the chain stores, most of whom pass along their theft losses to the consumer. It hurts the American taxpayer, who works hard for his money and who should not be obligated to support these legions of thieves—thieves who rationalize their acts by claiming that the goods and services they steal are only those they had coming to them.

It is time these thieves do, in reality, get what should be coming to them—swift punishment under our legal system. For only when stealing is treated as a crime, rather than as an expression of youthful rebellion, will we put an end to the strategy of "ripping off."

Robert C. Byrd

JUL 19 1972

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Capitalism in Communist China

China's willingness to re-enter the family of nations has brought with it the realization that communism is a poor bargaining tool in the international marketplace. In order to compete for a larger share of world trade—and to meet the growing demands of its citizens for a higher standard of living—The People's Republic of China has adopted some principles of capitalism.

For example, some communes in China have abandoned the Marxist principle that people be paid only according to their needs, and not according to their abilities and productivity. Hsu Ming, the leader of a farm collective of 30,000 persons, told an American reporter that he solved many of the farm's problems simply "by giving people more pay for more work." The commune also initiated a program whereby peasants could buy their own homes.

The practice of incentive pay has spread to other parts of the Chinese society, as well. Universities, closed during the "cultural revolution" of 1966-1968, have reopened with a teacher pay scale that ranges from 69 yuan—or about \$29—a month for a professor in the social sciences to as much as 320 yuan—or about \$130—a month for a professor in the physical sciences.

Supervisors at collective

factories have discovered that a little bit of capitalism can go further than the "thoughts of Chairman Mao" in increasing productivity. In the year after a pay scale was established to reward skills and seniority, a jeep factory at Dongfanghong increased production from 4,000 to 7,000 vehicles.

The goal of the factory is to have its 10,000 employees produce 8,000 vehicles annually. To be sure, this is nowhere near the 55,000 similar autos produced annually by 4,200 workers at America's Jeep Corporation; but, according to many China experts, it indicates that capitalistic ideas are establishing a foothold inside the communist country.

Despite these apparent changes, Chinese leaders maintain that they are remaining faithful to communism, and that the incentive pay—and even the small, free enterprise shops that are beginning to surface—are merely extensions of communism.

In reality, however, all these changes seem to be another indication of the weaknesses that exist in the communist system—a system that may well work in theory, but one that falls short of meeting the changing needs of a society when put into practice.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



What We Should Learn From Agnes

Will our country and our people learn anything from the devastation wrought by the floods of tropical storm Agnes? That question should be asked again and again. All too often, when the skies clear and the sun comes out, we tend to put aside the lessons such disasters should teach us.

The floodwaters unleashed by Agnes—the most destructive storm in our history—ought not to be put out of mind once the cleanup is over. On the contrary, out of the devastation should come positive measures to mitigate — and prevent, if possible — such tragedies in the future.

It is obvious that we have not yet done all that is possible in the vital areas of warning citizens and instructing them in what to do when confronted with crises of this nature.

We are dealing with the human equation here, of course; some persons may never heed warnings or learn to deal adequately with emergencies.

Still, our weather services—equipped now with the most sophisticated devices they have ever possessed—must do all that is technically possible to perfect early warning systems that will effectively reach places and persons threatened with disaster.

And agencies of government in every jurisdiction—especially the flood-prone—

should update and perfect their emergency planning, so that government officials and citizens alike will know precisely what action to take when water is rising, when power and communications may be disrupted, when roads and bridges are out, and water supplies contaminated.

But, important as these measures are, of equal importance or greater should be the matter of recognizing the danger of building or re-building homes in unprotected flood-prone areas where disaster may strike again.

Watershed development through upstream impoundments, to hold the rain where it falls, is extremely important in this connection, as is downstream control through such things as dams, flood walls, and channel improvements. Programs to provide for all should be broadened and expedited so that valleys and flood plains may be made safe areas.

Wise planning and use of land ought especially to discourage the location of new industries and communities in the unprotected path of probable flood waters, as unfortunately has occurred in some areas of our country where boom and growth have been rapid and haphazard.

Hopefully, experience will help to break the old patterns, so that our citizens in the future can be spared the heartbreak caused by natural disasters such as floods.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



The Line of Duty

Last year in the United States, 125 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty—a duty that has become increasingly perilous with the rising crime rate in our country.

This total constitutes a 25 percent increase over the number of policemen killed in 1970, and represents the bulk of the 721 officers killed since 1962.

Although the FBI says "there is no typical case," the statistics show some alarming things. For instance, a composite of the policemen killed in the past 10 years shows that the average victim was just 30 years old, had less than six years experience, and met his death by firearms. Almost 96 percent of the officers were shot to death—over 74 percent with illegal handguns.

The activities of the officers at the time of their death also paint an accurate portrait of our changing times. In the period 1962-1966, only two policemen were killed in civil disorders, and 12 were victims of ambush. Eight officers were killed in civil disorders during the succeeding five-year period, and 49 were murdered in ambushes.

Ambushes are the most brutal situations in which police are killed, and are usually

perpetrated by "new left" radicals. Earlier this year, two New York City officers who had been active in inner city youth work were shot to death as they left a restaurant. The murders were allegedly committed by black radicals who had studied the officers' daily schedule.

These were vicious, senseless murders, committed by men who know that an attack on law enforcement officers is more than an attack on the legal system that holds our society together—it is an attack on society itself.

One of the best ways to combat police killings could be for judges to impose the strongest penalties on persons convicted of non-fatal attacks on policemen, and to impose the death penalty for persons convicted of the fatal attacks. After all, very few first-time criminals assault officers. In fact, 73 percent of the 965 persons arrested during the 10-year period for murdering policemen had prior arrest records.

These officers were brave men, who lost their lives in the performance of duty. It is time for all judges to perform their duties, and to use the full weight of the law to protect law enforcement officers and the rest of society from such attacks in the future.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



An Accolade for the Teacher Who Cares

Every person who has gone to school surely carries in his mind the memory of a teacher who stimulated and inspired him to make better use of his talents.

In this age of ever more emphasis upon the latest fad in educational facilities and techniques, the product turned out by our schools and colleges can still best be measured by the influence exerted by teachers upon their pupils. Few individuals in our society ever have the opportunity that teachers have to influence for good the members of future generations.

This is an awesome responsibility. In a time when all too many parents have abdicated their own responsibilities, teachers who do their jobs well—and there are countless thousands of them—deserve society's accolade. Many could make more money at other occupations. It takes dedication to do what the good teacher does day in and day out.

I shall always be grateful for the wonderful teacher who encouraged my youthful interest in literature. She opened a window on the world for me. I cherish the memory of the beloved music teacher who taught me to play the violin and who led me to know the happiness in song. I shall always be in debt to the high school in-

structor who introduced me to the order and precision of arithmetic, algebra, and geometry.

The job of the teacher is more important in our society today than ever before. He has at his disposal an embarrassment of riches for motivating and bringing out the latent capabilities of young people. The 3R's of the modest, old-time schoolhouse have long since given way to opportunities for individual development such as a Mark Hopkins would never have dreamed of.

There are drama groups and TV and radio studios; language laboratories and photographic dark rooms; school publications and art centers. The opportunities are as varied as the society which has made our educational institutions possible.

With all of these fancy trappings, however, the one essential, without which it can all be meaningless, is the teacher who inspires and strikes the spark in the child. (Of course, the student must also be willing to put forth efforts to learn.)

The good teacher's influence on a child's immortal soul can be almost limitless. The converse, if the teaching is poor, is likely also to be true.

Good or bad, teachers affect eternity.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Cuban Refugees Asset to U.S.

The refugees from Castro's Cuba who have fled to the United States have, in the main, proved to be an economic asset. They have demonstrated what an ethnic minority can accomplish when its members are willing to roll up their sleeves and go to work.

Thus far about 650,000 have come. They are widely dispersed in the U.S., but by far the largest number, 300,000 or more, have settled in Miami, Florida, the port of entry.

The United States has been generous and compassionate in helping these exiles get a new start in this country. Nearly \$730 million has been spent by the Federal Government in the 12 years of the refugee program, the money, for the most part, going for the airlift to bring them here, for school costs, and for welfare payments.

The general consensus is that it has been a good investment. Most of the refugees arrived with little more than the clothes on their backs, their belongings having been confiscated by Castro as they fled. Although they received welfare at first, the majority quickly became self-supporting. Their unemployment and welfare rates are below other groups. Only the old and the ill have remained on relief.

Many of the refugees were

mechanics, teachers, lawyers, and doctors. Some at first found it hard to get any but menial jobs, but they took whatever they could find, working as bus boys, janitors, and waiters. Spanish-speaking, they learned English.

They were industrious and law-abiding. They were happy with the opportunity this country offered them; and it was not long before they were moving up in the economy, getting better jobs on their merits and establishing businesses and professional practices of their own.

Miami was in the doldrums when the first refugees came. Today its Cuban colony pumps \$600 million a year into the economy. They have started some fifty factories, hundreds of small businesses, and one enterprising group is building a 40-story skyscraper, Florida's tallest.

They have drawn much new business to Florida and helped to make Miami a hub for Latin American companies. One refugee, who rose from a job in a factory to the presidency of a bank, says that if the Cubans themselves are not responsible for Miami's resurgence they are due a large share of the credit.

The story of the Cuban exiles is the American Opportunity Story told again--new evidence of what an ethnic minority with a will to work can achieve in America.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Red China—Opium Grower for the World

The United States, in moving toward normalized relations with the People's Republic of China, has failed to confront the Peking leaders with an issue of increasing concern; namely, the Chinese production of narcotics for export to U.S. troops in Southeast Asia.

One of the first things the communists did when they came to power was to prohibit the growing of the opium for Chinese consumption, and they got their point across by publicly executing a number of growers. Yet, the communists realized the potential of narcotics for subverting other countries. The Japanese, when they controlled Mainland China in the World War II era, had encouraged the use of opium by the Chinese.

China's participation in the narcotics business is nothing new. In 1955, America complained to the United Nations about drugs coming from Yunnan Province. The UN, powerless to censure a non-member, did nothing; and Chinese opium production has been increasing ever since.

Today, the People's Republic of China produces 55 to 60 percent of the world's hard drugs, and Britain's Royal Military College of Science estimates that the 2,000 tons of opium smuggled annually from China to the non-Communist world earns about

\$500 million for Peking. Last year, police in Hong Kong seized 12,500 pounds of opium en route from China to the free world, compared to 877 pounds confiscated in 1970.

With 800,000 acres under cultivation to grow opium, there is no doubt that Communist China is the world's largest producer of narcotics. The Soviet Union recognized this fact as long ago as 1964, when Pravda charged that the Mainland was the greatest producer of opium, morphine, and heroin.

And, doubtless, the chief target of the drugs are U.S. servicemen. Egyptian publisher Mohammed Heikel, in 1965, quoted China's Chou En-Lai as saying: "We are planting the best kinds of opium especially for the Americans. Some American soldiers in Vietnam are trying opium, and we are helping them."

Communist China must not be allowed to destroy the lives of U.S. troops. It is now in the U.N., which should put all possible pressure on Peking to destroy the opium fields.

Moreover, the United States should make it very clear that normalized relations with the People's Republic will not be realized until China stops producing narcotics for the purpose of poisoning our youth.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Alcoholism—Life on the Rocks

As long ago as the days of Noah, people have over-indulged in the use of alcoholic beverages. In modern times, the problem seems to have worsened; and medical researchers and law enforcement officials are becoming increasingly concerned about the growth of alcoholism in the United States. The disease now causes an estimated \$15 billion loss to the economy each year, and results in an inestimable amount of human suffering for families and friends of alcoholics.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, there are more than nine million alcoholics in the United States, only about three percent of whom fit the stereotype of the skid-row bum. The rest are in the nation's working and homemaking population; and the effects of the disease on all of society can be seen in recently-compiled statistics.

Each year, an average of 36 million man-days of work are lost because of alcohol abuse and alcoholism; and the chances of the alcoholic either being involved in a traffic accident or running afoul of the law are highly probable.

Alcohol was a major factor in more than 25,000 of 50,000 fatal automobile accidents studied by the NIMH last year; and an estimated 60 percent of the highway deaths for persons between 16 and

24 are considered alcohol-related. Of the 4.9 million arrests made nationwide in 1965—the last year for which complete figures are available—2.2 million were for offenses of drunkenness, such as public intoxication, disorderly conduct, or vagrancy.

Fortunately, some steps are being taken to stem the rising tide of alcoholism in America. Numerous companies have initiated rehabilitation programs for their workers who are addicted to alcohol. And society in general has begun viewing alcoholism as the disease that it is.

Congress, for its part, has passed the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation Act. This bill establishes the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and sets up a National Advisory Council to oversee Federal programs in this field.

It is still too early to judge whether these efforts will be enough to effectively combat the disease—the first grants under the new legislation, for instance, were awarded just last year. Yet, health officials are encouraged by the fact that government, industry, and the general population all appear committed to controlling the spread of alcoholism and eventually reduce the incidence of the disease.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



America's Silent Army

In an effort to maintain peace in the world, the United States operates a network of satellites and reconnaissance planes, the main purpose of which is to gather pictures of military operations inside the countries of our potential enemies.

The Soviet Union and The People's Republic of China are the two primary targets of our picture-taking satellites, while reconnaissance planes conduct the necessary surveillance over Cuba and North Vietnam.

America has always sought to include on-site inspections in arms agreements signed with Russia, but the Soviet leaders have never been willing to agree to such a personal check-up. Thus, Russia was able to agree to one thing, and plan for quite another.

To keep tabs on military activity inside Russia, the United States for a number of years used small, photographically-equipped planes. But after Francis Gary Powers' U-2 was shot down in 1960, aircraft reconnaissance over the Soviet Union was abandoned. As our space program developed, satellites were given the surveillance assignment.

The fear of repeating the U-2 incident by having spy planes shot down inside China is one of the reasons why satellites are used to

monitor the activity there. Another reason is the size of China, which makes it almost impossible to effectively cover the country in small aircraft.

Today's satellites are capable of taking pictures from as high as 300 miles over a country. At 100 miles, they return clear photographs of objects as small as two feet in diameter.

The pictures taken by the reconnaissance flights are just as graphic. In North Vietnam, American planes flying at altitudes of 10 miles have been able to expose camouflaged troops and equipment in enemy bunkers, and, on occasion, have even been able to count the number of rifles lined up at communist encampments.

These satellites and planes, often referred to as America's silent army, have been a tremendous asset to our military and diplomatic personnel. They have armed our military leaders with information on which to base decisions of war, and have equipped our diplomatic personnel with information necessary to move toward a more lasting peace.

In an ideal world, where all countries could be trusted, the flights would be unnecessary. But in the real world in which we live, where communist nations have established a tradition of breaking agreements, the flights have proved indispensable.

SEP 1

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



A General Amnesty Would Be Unpardonable

Since America's large-scale involvement in Vietnam began in 1964, 70,000 men have either illegally evaded the draft or deserted in the face of assignment to Vietnam.

Draft dodgers and deserters have always been considered dishonorable in the United States. And the current efforts to grant a general amnesty to men who left the country or went underground to avoid service would be a personal affront to the more than 2.5 million Americans who have served honorably in Vietnam.

West Virginians, especially, would be appalled at a general amnesty, because men from our State always have selflessly answered the call to duty.

Advocates of amnesty argue that draft evasion and desertion are the only alternatives to military service, and claim that precedents exist for granting amnesty. Neither argument is sound.

A man opposed to war can register as a conscientious objector—over 240,000 men have received C.O. status since 1964, thereby contributing to the nation's efforts in a non-military way—or he can go to jail. Choosing a five-year jail sentence over a two-year tour of duty can hardly be applauded, but it is, never-

theless, a legitimate expression of dissent. Draft evasion and desertion are not.

Of nine amnesties granted since the Civil War, only four were war-related. President Coolidge pardoned 100 men who deserted between the time world War I ended and the time the formal armistice was signed. President Franklin Roosevelt amnestied 1,500 WWI draft evaders—but it was 15 years after the war, and after all had served prison terms. President Truman's two war-related amnesties covered less than 10 percent of the World War II draft dodgers.

A few present-day draft dodgers and deserters may deserve consideration, and will get it as their cases are considered on an individual basis. A general amnesty, however, would merely invite future desertions and draft evasions, thus undermining national security, and would be a disservice to the memories of those who died there. Furthermore, our returning veterans should not have to compete for jobs against those who fled the country to avoid the draft.

We should concentrate our efforts on honoring the men who chose the hard road through Southeast Asia, rather than on excusing those who chose the easy road to Canada or Sweden.

SEP 20

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd



Congress and the Press

Newspapers have always enjoyed greater freedoms in the United States than in any other country, and no government is more closely scrutinized by the press than ours.

For its part, the Senate has been covered by the press from the time it opened its doors to the public in 1795; and, according to the Architect of the Capitol, special facilities for newsmen were available in the Old Senate Chamber as early as 1819. The 25th Congress, in 1838, adopted rules granting floor privileges to "letter writers", as reporters were then called.

The floor privileges were rescinded in 1841—partly because the Senate floor was not spacious enough to accommodate the increasing number of newsmen, and partly because of a fued between veteran correspondent James Gordon Bennett of *The New York Herald* and Senate President Pro Tem Samuel L. Southard. Bennett reportedly criticized Southard's habit of eating lunch on the Senate floor.

But the reporters were not banished from the Senate altogether. Instead, they were relegated to the first few rows of the then very small visitors' gallery. Those first few rows were reserved exclusive-

ly for newsmen in 1856, and, when the present Senate Chamber was opened three years later, a specially-designated press gallery was included.

At the beginning of 1972, there were 2,011 magazine and newspaper correspondents in Washington; and 1,708 of them were accredited in the Congressional press galleries. Another 526 newsmen were accredited in the radio and television galleries.

What this means, of course, is that, while the world's largest concentration of journalists is in Washington, Washington's largest concentration of journalists is in Congress.

The freedom American newsmen enjoy in covering the activities of Congress is a right, guaranteed under our Constitution. It can never be taken from them. But, like all other members of our society, reporters must realize that responsibilities accompany rights.

Journalists must make fairness, accuracy, and strict bipartisanship the hallmarks of their news reports. In a word, they must be credible, or else the freedoms they enjoy will prove worthless.

They owe that—both to their profession and to the public they serve.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



American Poles Watch the Polls

Public opinion polls have become an integral part of the American political system; and, whether they curse them or praise them, virtually all candidates consider the polls to be an essential element of their campaigns.

The first polls in the United States occurred in 1824, when the *Raleigh Star* in North Carolina and the *Harrisburg Pennsylvania* both conducted surveys that showed Andrew Jackson to be the popular choice for President. They were proved wrong, of course, when John Quincy Adams was elected.

Despite this initial error, the public appetite for polls had been whetted, and the surveys have maintained their presence ever since. In 1936, psychologists introduced scientifically-devised questionnaires, thereby greatly increasing the accuracy of the surveys.

Today, pollsters say that a properly-conducted survey can come within three percentage points of being exactly right. If, as a Harris poll recently indicated, 63 percent of the persons polled claim they will vote for President Nixon over Senator McGovern, the law of probability means that between 60 and 66 percent will actually do so.

The public, however, is

cautioned against hasty interpretations of the surveys. Polls show only the situation as it exists at a particular time, and the only means of assuring accurate polling is continual polling.

In 1948, for example, early polls showed Thomas Dewey on his way to a landslide win over Harry Truman. Confident of victory, Dewey slowed down his campaign and did no polling over the last five weeks. Truman stepped up his campaign, and continued his private polls which showed him closing the gap.

The polls this year have shown such huge margins that misinterpretation is practically impossible; but there will be polls in the future where more information will be needed by the voters trying to analyze the surveys.

Little faith should be put in polls that are released by the candidates themselves, or in polls that depend on interviews with less than the 1,500 persons normally questioned in scientific surveys. The exact date of the poll, and the exact wording of the questions asked should also be known before any interpretation is attempted.

This is the age of computerized elections, and polls are a part of the age—whether we like it or not.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Young People and the Election

A big unknown in the forthcoming election is what effect the youth vote will have on the outcome. Both parties are making a pitch to the 18-to-21 year olds who are eligible for the first time this year to cast ballots in a national election.

The McGovernites count heavily on this age group— young people having had so much to do with the McGovern nomination. Supporters of President Nixon, however, are by no means writing off the young voters.

The prize is well worth going after. Estimates place the total number of young people in the 18-to-21 bracket at about 12½ million. There are also about the same number of persons who have reached 21 since the last election, or who have not previously voted—making the total number of new voters eligible for this election approximately 25 million.

That is a very sizeable bloc of votes. But there are knowledgeable observers who believe that the ballots cast by new voters are unlikely to have as profound an effect as some McGovernites and others at first thought they might have.

In many localities there has been something less than an enthusiastic rush to register by new voters. Young people in West Virginia have done

much better than their contemporaries nationally, where early figures showed only about 45% registering. In our state, with about 110,000 eligible, the figure was approaching 60% in early September, and the Secretary of State's office—which, with others in the state, has put on a strong registration drive—was hopeful that the final result by the October 7 deadline might approach 75% or even 80%.

Contrary to the predictions of some ultra liberals, most of the young people appear to be registering the way their parents are registered, with little evidence of far-out liberalism or radicalism. Nationally, although the number of independents is increasing, the trend is Democratic. In West Virginia, new registrations favor the Democrats about nine to five.

The left wing of the Democratic Party, however, can take little comfort from this Democratic preponderance, considering the number of Democrats the polls say will defect this fall. If young people register like their parents they may well vote like their parents.

But whatever the effect of the youth vote on the election, it is a healthy thing to have our country's young men and women actively participating in our electoral process.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Candidates Are Over-Exposed

U.S. presidential campaigns are too long. It is simply not necessary in this jet and TV age to have national political campaigning going on for months before an election is held. Everyone involved, including the individual voter, becomes worn out long before the votes are cast.

Our national elections, counting the time spent on the primaries, now consume virtually a whole year. By November of the year before the election, the papers and the airways are filled with speculation about the jockeying candidates, and the public is already getting a full dose of what it can expect every day in the press and on the tube for the next twelve months.

Much of the time, the effort, and the money is wasted. With modern communication methods, it does not take four months--the time between the Democratic Convention and the election this year--for the voters to make up their minds. If, as it is often said, many citizens do not become interested in an election campaign until its last few weeks, then the reflection is on the system, not the voters.

Long-drawn-out campaigns may have made some sense in the days when candidates could reach the people only

by slow, whistle-stop train trips. Now, with everything a candidate does or says available on instant replay, the voters can become very well acquainted with him in a matter of a few weeks.

About the only good thing that can be said for the present over exposure of the candidates is that their inconsistencies catch up with them, and opportunistic appeals can be spotted for what they really are.

The lengthy campaign, therefore, is no guarantee that the candidates will be benefited, or that the nation will get better leaders. Everything the current campaign is bringing out, for example, could be brought out in half the time.

A revision of the primary system seems to be called for. A national primary or series of primaries could be held in August, and the general election campaign could be held to the two months after Labor Day. As it is, much of the Federal Government gets bogged down in politics for months on end, the time of members of the House and Senate away from their work is costly to all concerned, and public dissatisfaction with the system is increased.

Our electoral process is a horse-and-buggy process that cries out for change.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Campaign Costs Must Be Cut

The costs of running for public office in the United States have reached shocking proportions; and, unless they are curbed, our country may find itself in a situation where only extremely wealthy persons can be elected.

This possibility should be a matter of utmost concern to all Americans.

In the last Presidential election year, 1968, political parties and candidates for Federal offices spent \$89 million on radio and television advertising, including production costs. And it is currently estimated that it takes \$40 million to elect a President, \$200,000, on the average, to elect a United States Senator, and \$100,000 to elect a Representative.

The advent of television, more than anything else, has changed the style of politics in America. It no longer is possible to effectively campaign via speaking only on the stump and the court house steps. The candidate must buy TV time to reach sufficient numbers of voters.

Like everything else in our society, however, the cost of TV time has shot up. Thirty seconds of commercial time on network entertainment shows costs between \$26,000 and \$43,000, while a 60-second spot on a news shows averages \$30,000. These prices are

approximately twice as much as they were 10 years ago; and, if they continue to rise at their present rate, Americans of moderate means could lose all hope of ever attaining a high elective office—no matter what their qualifications may be.

For instance, in 1956, the amount spent on political advertisements on television was \$6.6 million. By 1964, it rose to \$17.5 million, and jumped to \$27.1 million in 1968. Just two years later, in a non-presidential election year, almost \$40 million was poured into political advertising on television.

Already, persons who have a vested interest in political advertising are finding loopholes in an act that Congress passed in 1971—an act that limits campaign spending to 10 cents per voting-age citizen within any given district or state, and restricts the funds that can be spent on radio and television advertising to 60 percent of the total amount.

These loopholes must be plugged, and the limitations on campaign spending must be strictly enforced—for it is the average American who will pay the higher price if the election process in the United States is ever restricted to those with unlimited financial resources.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



A Dream Home in the Hills

A significant spin-off of our country's increasing urbanization and affluence is the rapid growth in the number of families acquiring second or vacation homes. An urge to "get away from it all" is widely noted among persons who reside in metropolitan areas, and more and more people appear to be gaining the means to do so.

It is estimated that at least three million families in the U.S. already own or are buying vacation homes, and this figure may be growing by as many as 250,000 a year. These facts should be well noted by all who have a concern for the growth and development of our State.

In the populous East, mountain and waterfront property lead in favor among those seeking weekend or holiday homesites, or places for possible retirement. West Virginia, to a remarkable degree, combines the best of both. With its beautiful mountains and valleys and its sparkling lakes and rivers, our State is far better endowed than most to appeal to those who seek escape "far from the madding crowd."

West Virginia is ideally located with respect to the population centers of the East, and the interstate and Appalachian regional developmental highways are making

it more accessible each year for city folk who dream of the recreational possibilities, or just the peace and quiet, of a home beside a mountain stream or lake.

Golf, tennis, swimming, fishing, sailing, skiing (summer or winter), horseback riding—or just lying in a hammock under a tree—you name it and West Virginia can provide it. With its cool mountain summers and its invigorating winter climate and sports, West Virginia should be a natural for the person seeking a vacation or retirement home.

Real estate investment, wisely entered into, is the best hedge against inflation yet devised. As is so often said about land, "they're not making any more of it." With West Virginia property still generally lower in price than property in or adjacent to metropolitan areas, real estate investment in the State could pay off handsomely in the future.

A word of caution, of course, should be heeded by the vacation home seeker: Deal only with reputable agents or individuals; be wary of high pressure promotions; don't buy property you haven't seen; get a lawyer to check your contract before you sign.

With that advice, West Virginia beckons all who dream of a dream home in the hills.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



High Ride Ending for Skyjackers?

In the first eight months of 1972, hijackers commandeered 32 American aircraft. Yet, even though this is the highest eight-month total in the past three years, officials feel that they have turned the corner in the fight against skyjacking.

The reason for their optimism is that, although the number of skyjack attempts remains high, the number of successful skyjackings is falling. And the terrorists who commandeered the airplanes, and endangered the lives of the passengers, are beginning to pay stiff penalties.

From 1968 through August of 1972 there were 144 skyjackings, and only 10 of those crimes remain unsolved. Officials say that intensified efforts by the FBI and a burgeoning spirit of cooperation among nations have helped to solve many of the skyjackings.

Hopefully, an enforceable agreement will come out of an international conference on airplane hijackings that convened early in 1972; but, in the meantime, some positive results already have occurred. More countries have announced their intentions to either imprison skyjackers or return them to their country of origin.

Even Algeria, openly friendly to skyjackers in the past,

has returned over \$1.5 million in ransom money extracted by terrorists seeking asylum there. Overall, the FBI has recovered all but \$503,000 of the \$112 million in ransom demanded by skyjackers since 1968.

And the skyjacker who made off with about \$300,000 of the still-missing money has been sentenced to life imprisonment, thus leaving in doubt his chances to ever reap any reward from his crime.

Nine others died while committing the crimes—five gunned down by the FBI, one killed by passengers, and three others of self-inflicted wounds.

Officials feel that the fear of death could be the most powerful deterrent to future skyjackings, and they are hopeful that recent Congressional action—imposing sentences ranging from 20 years to death—will make that fear a very real one for potential terrorists.

The efforts must be redoubled, because skyjacking is not only a crime that endangers the 8 million persons who travel annually on American commercial aircraft. It also endangers the friendly relations among nations. We cannot allow those relations to be jeopardized by a handful of pirates bent on conducting a reign of terror in the sky.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Attracts Foreign Investors

Most Americans are probably aware that U.S. business has invested billions of dollars in plants and operations abroad. But many may not be aware that capital from abroad is flowing into the United States in significantly increasing amounts to set up and operate foreign-owned business and industry in this country.

The trend is generally held to be a healthy one. Indeed, some 35 states — including neighboring Virginia, which is spending \$160,000 a year on the effort and maintaining an office in Brussels—are already seeking to attract this type of investment in reverse. It is believed by many that West Virginia, which needs new employers and payrolls, might well benefit by concerted action in this direction.

South Carolina has shown what can be done. More than twenty businesses owned by companies in seven foreign countries have located in the Spartanburg area alone in recent years. One of them is a \$150 million West German polyester-fiber plant which employs 2,000 persons. In all, some 17 or more West German firms are now doing business in the state.

Nationwide, more than 700 businesses owned by foreign interests are now operating in the U.S. They make such products as Dutch-owned Shell gasoline, Swiss-owned Nestle chocolate, Canadian-

owned Carling beer, and Italian-owned Olivetti business machines. Even a Class "A" U.S. baseball team in California is owned by Japanese interests.

Investment by foreign companies and individuals in the U.S. is now put at about \$48.5 billion, with some \$30 billion of this amount accounted for by foreign holdings in the securities of American corporations and government bonds. Britain, Canada, The Netherlands, and Switzerland are among the leading investors.

Knowledgeable economists expect foreign investment in our country to increase faster than U.S. investments abroad. The U.S. Department of Commerce has set up a program to foster this trend, working in cooperation with the states.

In West Virginia, Japanese industrialists have a solid interest in our metallurgical coal, for which they offer a prime market; and there is some other foreign investment, including an Italian-owned chemical plant in Wayne County. But there has been all too little development of this sort.

Hopefully, that situation may change in the future. Foreign investment in our country, where it occurs, can mean new jobs, more money in circulation, possibly new products, and — very importantly — stronger ties for world peace.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Is Education Really Necessary?

No change which the 20th Century has witnessed in American society has been more complete than that which has taken place in education. In 1900, less than one percent of our young people went to college, and only six percent of them even finished high school.

If a boy had an aptitude for mechanical things, he would become an apprentice machinist; and if he had enough on the ball, he could work his way up to become master of his shop, or even president of the corporation. If a young man had aspirations for a legal career he "read law" in an attorney's office, preparing himself on his own to take and pass the bar examination where it was required.

It was a question of motivation and individual effort, not what school one could afford or what degree one could acquire. Most of the leaders of our country were self-educated to a surprising degree, trained in the special skills they possessed by active practitioners and journeymen in their field.

As we look back upon it, the system was surprisingly effective. It had the simple and supreme virtue of being for real—of being a part of actual life as it was being lived, in contrast to much of recent education which has separated the young person's

preparation for adult life from what life really is.

Many thoughtful people, noting the enormous proliferation of America's contemporary educational apparatus, are asking the question: Is it all necessary?

Of course education is necessary. But are we going about it right? One wonders if all of the myriad programs and facilities which we are providing to "educate" our young people are actually preparing them to lead more useful, productive, and happy lives.

Our society, unfortunately, has come to equate the number of years of schooling with the worth and quality of education, and the two are not the same. The test of a young person's education—his fitness to be a productive member of society—should rest upon what he or she can do, not alone upon what quality points have been earned or what diplomas granted.

The trend toward the more practical in education is good. The establishment in West Virginia, for example, of county vocational centers is constructive and commendable, as is the coordination of school courses with actual experience in business and industry. Education should be made, as meaningful as possible in terms of the contemporary world into which our young people are thrust.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



A Changing America

The appearance of much of America—to say nothing of the life style of millions of its citizens—has undergone dramatic change in the last fifteen or twenty years. The shopping center, the drive-in, the mobile home park, the superhighway, the sprawl of suburbia—these and many more symbols of contemporary life are evidence that the face of America is changing before our eyes.

There are many reasons for the change: the switch from rural to urban orientation; industrialization; increasing affluence; new businesses and types of job opportunities; and—automobiles for almost everyone, young and old. We have become a nation on wheels, and the results are far-reaching and spectacular.

It is no longer necessary for one to live within walking distance of his job; he can live anywhere he pleases within commuting distance. Witness the decline of the mining camp in West Virginia and the rise of new communities far removed from the mines. Look at the mushrooming of "in-between" suburban areas like Putnam County.

The citizen of a generation or so ago who stayed in one place most of his life is a vanishing breed. Today, it is estimated that the average American moves about 14

times during his lifetime. Forty million Americans are thought to change their home addresses as often as once a year; and more than a few move from coast-to-coast. Military transfers, corporations which shift their personnel about, and native American restlessness all have an effect.

Our people undoubtedly have become more cosmopolitan, less provincial, because of their mobility. But the end result is not an unmixed blessing.

Those who move about a great deal tend to lose community identity, interest, and—most importantly—a sense of responsibility where local issues and problems are concerned. They become rootless, unattached.

Our nation began as a union of people strongly interested and loyal to their neighborhoods, their communities, and their states. We lose these local loyalties and interests at peril to our system. Democratic institutions can cease to be democratic if a "let George do it" attitude prevails. The town meeting may be of an earlier era, but the principle is still valid.

The growing mobility of our nation poses a problem that it has not before encountered. If the trend continues, the character of America could change as significantly as has its face.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Passengers Riding Amtrak Train

As unlikely as it may seem today, it once was possible to ride a passenger train in West Virginia from Charleston to Morgantown. In fact, there was complete overnight service between the capital and the university city, complete with sleeping cars and a diner in which the traveler could get a fine dinner and breakfast.

A generation or so ago passenger service connected Huntington and Wheeling, Elkins and Fairmont, Princeton and Beckley—just to name a handful of the scores of West Virginia cities and towns which travelers could reach by rail.

But the sound of the passenger engine whistle in the mountain valleys has long since been stilled; and now only two passenger trains a day—each way—cross West Virginia. One operates on the former C. & O., crossing the state in the south from White Sulphur to Kenova, and the other crosses in the north from Harpers Ferry to Parkersburg, on the former B. & O.—the two railroads now being combined.

Both trains are operated by Amtrak, the federal agency which is seeking to rebuild U.S. railroad passenger service. Recently the C. & O. route, which takes passengers from Norfolk and Washington to Chicago, has been reported to be doing unexpectedly well. But the B. & O. route, which also takes passengers from

Washington to the west, is reportedly carrying little traffic through the Grafton-Clarksburg corridor to the Ohio River. Amtrak is seeking the "whys" in both instances.

With the automobile and the airplane so thoroughly dominating the U.S. travel scene, some might wonder, why bother about passenger trains? Let them go the way of the Conestoga wagon and the stagecoach.

The reason for the bother is simple: rail passenger trains are still the most efficient means of moving large numbers of people, over long distances or short.

The excellent rail passenger systems in Europe, Canada, and Japan, together with the world's growing number of subway systems, emphasize the shortsightedness of our own country in not providing the balanced transportation system that is so essential in a modern industrial nation.

That is not to say that passenger trains should once again run along every West Virginia creek and up every hollow. But there definitely is a place for rail passenger service in our overall transportation picture.

Hopefully, the unexpected patronage of the Amtrak train on the C. & O. route is a straw in the wind. Along with highways and airports, our country needs rail passenger transportation as well.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Escape From Communism

Refugee statistics prove that communist countries are anything but the workers' paradises they purport to be.

The plight of Soviet Jews is well known. Many lose their jobs, are drafted into the military, or even imprisoned when they apply for visas to emigrate from Russia to Israel.

The struggle is just as difficult for freedom-seeking Cubans, East Germans, and Mainland Chinese.

Cubans must wait for weeks or months before getting permission to leave their country. More than 650,000 have endured the wait in order to get out from under the dictatorship of Castro; and thousands more have escaped without waiting for formal visas.

In East Germany, the distaste for communism is growing, rather than lessening as the propaganda would have us believe. During the first three months of 1972, 220 persons escaped to the West—compared with 152 who escaped during the first quarter of 1971.

And they risked their lives to escape. Since the communists built the Berlin Wall in 1961, almost 150 Germans have been killed trying to escape communism—and those are just the reported deaths.

The risks involved in escaping from The People's Repub-

lic of China are even greater. Not only do gunboats with "shoot to kill" orders patrol the waters separating China's Kwangtung Province from Hong Kong, but also the communists punish the relatives of the escapees. The peasant parents of one youth who fled were forced to pay double for their rice ration, and other families have been moved against their will to central provinces because one of their members escaped.

Yet, the desire for freedom remains a powerful motivating factor. In 1971, an estimated 20,000 Chinese escaped to Hong Kong, and the number of refugees in that British Protectorate is now at a 10-year high.

All these peoples—Soviet Jews, Cubans, East Germans, and Mainland Chinese—have put the lie to communist propaganda. There are no lines in Israel of people wanting to emigrate to Russia; no lines in Miami of Cubans wanting to return to Castro's island; no Germans climbing the Berlin Wall in an attempt to get into the East; no Chinese making the treacherous crossing into the Republic of China.

The actions of these brave refugees should serve as a continual reminder to all of us that freedom is a precious possession—one that must be guarded as well as cherished.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



End in Sight for Nurses' Shortage

Statistics reveal that Americans are showing an increasing interest in nursing as a career, and health officials are now optimistic enough to predict that the shortage of nurses that has plagued this country for the past several years may soon be ended.

Currently, there are an estimated 723,000 registered nurses in the United States, while, according to officials at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the country needs a minimum of 880,000. By 1980, there will be a need for approximately 1.1 million registered nurses, and another 650,000 trained practical nurses.

But several occurrences are leading to a definite easing of the nursing shortage.

For one thing, more men are being attracted to the career. Many medical corpsmen are leaving the armed services with a desire to find employment in the health professions. They are already well-trained, and find that their backgrounds almost guarantee employment in the tight job market.

There has also been a special effort made to attract retired firemen and policemen to careers in nursing. These are mature men who have dealt with emergencies throughout most of their lives, and a great majority of them retire at a young enough age

to easily begin a second career. Over 200 such men have already completed nurses' training courses in New York City, and another 230 are enrolled during this academic year.

Women, too, are discovering that training as a nurse can guarantee employment—even if they leave to raise a family, and then wish to return to the profession later in life. Many have found the teacher job-market to be overcrowded, and feel that nursing is a relevant and meaningful career.

For this reason, enrollment at the nation's nursing schools is increasing at a rate of about 17 percent a year, and the National League of Nursing reports that more than 80,000 are now studying in the three types of programs—the bachelor's degree and associate degree programs at colleges, and the diploma programs at hospital schools of nursing.

The statistics are encouraging, indeed. They show that responsible authorities are making the all-out effort that must be made to meet the manpower shortage in nursing.

If the same kind of effort is made in meeting the manpower shortage in other medical professions, the results should prove beneficial to the future health of our people.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



College Degrees Losing Status

There was a time when a college degree was virtually a free ticket to a good-paying job with a bright future. Such is not the case anymore, and the situation has caused great concern among educators and business leaders alike.

Educators note that one out of every four college-age students in the United States is currently enrolled in some higher education program, and they anticipate that 50 percent of the nation's 18-22-year-olds will be enrolled in colleges or universities by 1980. The concern of the academicians centers on the fact that increasing numbers of students are graduating into a society that does not have openings in jobs that match their skills.

For example, the class of '73 is expected to graduate more than 225,000 high school teachers. These graduates will enter a field that experts describe as "top-heavy with thousands of unemployed." And it will also include about 10,500 more lawyers than there are jobs requiring legal training. This kind of "overkill" in education has resulted in an unemployment rate among young college graduates averaging about eight percent for most of 1972, compared with a 5.6 percent overall average.

The concern of business

leaders is just as great. They are doing less and less recruiting on campuses, because they are finding that they must do more and more retraining of the graduates they hire. Some members of the business community are suggesting major changes in the higher education system in America.

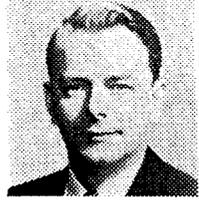
For one thing, they feel that on-the-job training programs of corporations should be affiliated with, and accredited by, local colleges. They further propose that colleges and universities begin assuming some of the responsibility for retraining workers, and start placing greater emphasis on vocational education as opposed to purely academic training.

There is no doubt that America's investment in higher education has paid great dividends over the years. The \$100 billion spent since 1945 represents more money than any nation in history has poured into its colleges, and it has resulted in technological achievements undreamed of in most other societies.

But there must be room in higher education for change and experimentation, since the facts prove that both are needed. Our colleges and universities led the way in the exploration of outer space. Now the time has come for them to take an in-depth look at themselves.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



The Crisis in Our Prisons

There is a great need for prison reform in the United States; and, fortunately, there are indications that the needed reform will become a reality within the next decade.

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons, for instance, has planned a 10-year building program that could solve many of the problems faced by our federal penitentiaries. The program calls for the modernization of several existing facilities, and for the construction of a number of new prisons.

There is no doubt that additional facilities are needed.

The federal prison population currently stands at more than 22,000, and it is growing every year. In 1971, for example, 18 percent more criminals were imprisoned than were released, the major reason being that the average sentence is now 47.6 months, compared with the 33.1 months meted out in 1960.

Overcrowding in our prisons is one of the major reasons why so many riots have erupted in recent years, according to a number of penologists. They point out that the average federal prison currently houses between 1,500 and 2,000 inmates, a population that has proved to be unmanageable inasmuch as the institutions were originally built for much smaller numbers.

A full 85 percent of the

federal criminals are in facilities built over 30 years ago, and 27 percent of that number are in institutions constructed well over a half-century ago. Director Norman A. Carlson of the Bureau of Prisons says that the situation in these prisons is so bad that "efforts at rehabilitation are 90 percent lost the moment an offender sets foot inside."

Under the 10-year plan, the new institutions would hold a maximum of 500 inmates and would be built in urban, rather than rural, areas. Officials feel that smaller populations are more manageable and more conducive to rehabilitation training. They also feel that, since most of the inmates come from urban environments, it would be better to keep them in the same kind of setting—not only for their own rehabilitation programs, but also so that the institutions can serve as reminders to the community that the penalties of crime are often very grim.

Hopefully, this program will prove successful. For too long, criminals have been sent to prison, only to return to the streets to terrorize decent citizens. Now that prison reform, though costly, is getting the high priority it deserves, the law-abiding citizens of America should be able to expect safer streets—which they deserve.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



TV Gives Public A Re-Runaround

Television networks are understandably proud of the impact that TV has on our society. It is gaining as an important source of news for Americans; and it has become the basic source of entertainment for most of our citizens.

But the networks must do more than just sit back and enjoy their lofty position; they must also assume the responsibility that comes with their position of importance.

This is especially true in their role as providers of entertainment. There are alternative sources for citizens looking for news; but, for entertainment, the aged, the ill, and other less mobile members of our society are almost totally dependent upon television. So, too, are those families who can afford only occasional tickets to other forms of entertainment.

Unfortunately, the networks have failed to meet their obligations in this area. Instead of fresh, new shows, they give the public carbon copies of programs that succeeded in previous years—and they give the public fewer episodes each year.

In 1950, each television series produced 39 episodes. By 1972, the average series produced only 22 episodes, meaning more than a half-year of re-runs for the viewing public.

The networks explain that their costs for a 30-minute program rose from \$50,000 in

1960 to \$95,000 in 1972. Yet, as against this, advertising revenue during that same period increased at an even sharper rate.

The networks claim that, since the 21 million persons who view a first-run show represent only 14 percent of the potential audience, the re-run is a public service. Yet, a much smaller number—about 15 million—watch the average re-run, and many of them do so simply because there is nothing else to watch.

Overall, there seems to be no excuse for the networks' failure to produce more fresh programs; and citizens groups have been expressing their outrage at this failure for several years.

There is some reason to believe that their voices have been heard, and that action will be taken.

The President has ordered the Federal Communications Commission to urge the networks voluntarily to cut back the number of prime time re-runs; and, if they balk at his suggestion, he has threatened to "explore regulatory recommendations" to force them to cut back.

Hopefully, the White House intervention will serve to remind the networks of their obligations to the viewing public, and will be sufficient to convince them to assume their full responsibility as an entertainment medium.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Can Legislation End the War Now?

In the aftermath of the December bombing of Hanoi—for which no apparent military necessity existed—Senate sentiment is strong for end-the-war legislation. This concern with the war is shared by all Senators, but a realistic evaluation of the prospects for ending the war by legislation is not currently encouraging.

To begin with, House caucus votes on end-the-war resolutions indicate a majority cannot presently be mustered in support thereof. Moreover, if legislation passed both Houses, it would face a Presidential veto, which, even in the Senate, would probably be sustained. Also, in the unlikely event a Presidential veto were overridden by both Houses, the President has enough funds in the pipeline to sustain military activities for several months.

Additionally, an important fact too often overlooked is that, although Congress can conceivably legislate end-the-war measures, Congress cannot legislate the release of American POW's. Only the North Vietnamese will determine when and under what conditions such release will occur. The North Vietnamese, to date, have never indicated a willingness to release American POW's as an even trade for American withdrawal from Vietnam, but have insisted, instead, upon using them to bargain for other concessions—for example, the

release of several thousand "political prisoners" in the south, some of whom are civilians arrested for committing criminal acts of violence.

In short, because the North Vietnamese no longer possess the wherewithal for a military takeover, in the foreseeable future, of South Vietnam, they, too, want an agreement—an agreement which assures them that their manifestation in the South, the Vietcong, will not be wiped out; which accords status to the Vietcong; which recognizes the legitimacy of political confrontation; and which offers hope for an eventual political takeover of South Vietnam. Thus, the unwillingness of Hanoi to hand over the POW's in return merely for American withdrawal. Hanoi sees American POW's as a pawn in securing such an agreement. Congress cannot legislate such an agreement—only our representatives in Paris can negotiate such an agreement.

Action expressing the sense of the Congress is one thing, and may weaken the hand of our negotiators, to say nothing of raising false hopes; action in successfully achieving an agreement bringing about the release of our POW's is quite something else. Restraint, patience, prayer, and persistence—rather than a political issue—are what are most needed now.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Tourism Wave Beginning to Roll

It is frequently said that West Virginia, for its economic future, must develop its recreational and tourism potential.

What many may not realize is the extent to which this potential is already being developed. Much more needs to be done, of course; but recent years have seen considerable expansion and improvement of the state's vacation facilities. West Virginia has a very great deal to offer the vacationer now.

Most West Virginians can probably name some of the state's major recreational areas. But how many West Virginians realize that our state now boasts the impressive total of 36 state parks and forests? Or that these areas take in a surprising 138,884 acres, ranging from 42 acres at Mont Chateau in Monongalia County to more than 13,000 acres at Coopers Rock in Preston County?

The facilities and activities available to the visitor in these and other West Virginia vacation spots not owned by the state—such as Oglebay Park in Wheeling, The Greenbrier at White Sulphur Springs, or the state's vast national recreation and forest areas—run the gamut from golf on championship courses to skiing in winter.

This latter sport is now available at no less than four

places in the state: Oglebay, Canaan Valley in Tucker County, Alpine Lake at Terra Alta, and Chestnut Ridge at Morgantown.

There is much more for the visitor to see and do in West Virginia than perhaps even its own citizens realize. There are dozens of festivals, fairs, and special events to attend each year; there are scores of historic and other points of interest to be seen; there is the Cass Scenic Railway to be travelled; and some of the most exciting whitewater boating in the East to tempt the expert and thrill the spectator.

There are, in the Northern and Eastern Panhandles, the horses to be played; everywhere there is the state's unsurpassed natural beauty to be enjoyed; and there is camping, hunting, and fishing in the state sufficient to satiate even the most ardent outdoorsman.

New motels and restaurants dot the fine highways which increasingly are opening West Virginia to visitors. And luxurious new lodges such as the one at Pipestem Park in Summers County are attracting groups which may never have considered visiting the state before.

If tourism is West Virginia's wave of the future, it is already beginning to roll in upon our state.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Executive Privilege—Why All The Fuss?

A battle is shaping up on Capitol Hill these days over the hotly debated issue of executive privilege. "Executive privilege" is used to refer to a situation where the Executive Branch refuses to divulge information requested by Congress. The heart of the present controversy lies in the inability, to date, of Congress to fully satisfy itself with respect to developments in Vietnam policy, especially those involving Dr. Henry Kissinger and other White House advisers close to the President.

Presidents have been claiming executive privilege ever since George Washington protested the investigation by Congress of the St. Clair Expedition during his first term as President. Despite the contention of privilege, however, all of the St. Clair documents were turned over to Congress.

There is no mention of such a privilege in the Constitution. Its exercise is asserted to be an inherent power of the President, on the ground that it is necessary to provide the Executive with the autonomy to properly discharge its duties in faithfully executing the laws.

On the other hand, the Constitution vests all legislative power in the Congress, and the power to legislate carries with it, by implication, the

authority to obtain information needed in the rightful exercise of that power and to employ compulsory process for that purpose.

The issue involves competing principles: the alleged power of the President to withhold information, the disclosure of which he feels would impede the performance of his constitutional responsibilities; and the power of the Legislative Branch to obtain the information it needs in order to legislate. But the basic principle involved here is the right of the public to know what the government is doing. When the people, through their elected representatives, do not know what is going on in another part of the government, those who govern are not properly accountable for their actions. Accountability is the very basis of our Democratic system.

While conceivably a privileged communication between the President and an adviser should be accorded some protection, such a privilege should not be extended to the point that it includes an unwillingness to share the government with the Congress. Some way must be found to curtail the assertion of executive privilege, except in situations involving bona fide privileged communications of great sensitivity.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Presidential Impoundment of Funds

An important issue facing the 93rd Congress is that of Presidential impoundments of funds. Impounding funds can be done in several ways, some being legal and proper. The most common is the reserving of funds to prevent future deficiencies in a Federal program. Impoundment may also occur by direction of specific Congressional mandate. However, impoundment unfortunately occurs when the Executive Branch, for reasons of its own, wishes to avoid expending sums directed by Congress to be spent. It is this situation which violates the separation of powers principle.

The Constitution vests all legislative power in the Congress, including power to appropriate money. The President, however, is given no role in legislation except the power to recommend measures he judges "necessary and expedient," and the veto power. The Founding Fathers limited such veto power by making it subject to being overridden by the Congress. Yet, under impoundment, the President is, in effect, able to veto measures absolutely after they have passed the Congress and been signed by him. Moreover, impoundment enables the President to effect an item veto. Such a power is clearly prohibited by the Constitution, which only empowers him to veto entire

ills.

The President has the Constitutional responsibility to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed." Certainly, the founders did not intend that the President have any discretion when they imposed that duty upon him. Rather, it was intended that he execute all laws passed by the Congress. He has no authority to decide which laws are to be executed and to what extent they will be enforced, except through his veto power. Yet, by impounding funds, the President is able to effect policy by determining which of the laws passed by Congress he will enforce and to what extent. He is thus able to modify, reshape, or nullify completely laws passed by the Legislative Branch, thereby making legislation policy through Executive power.

One may argue that the spending of appropriated funds is inherently an executive function, but the execution of any law is an executive function. It is an anomalous proposition to say that the Executive Branch is bound to faithfully execute the laws and, at the same time, is free to decline to execute them.

Congressional committees will conduct extensive hearings on the subject, and court actions are also in progress to determine whether or not Congress will have the final say in this area.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Newsmen—How Much Protection Do They Need?

In recent months, a number of newsmen have been ordered to reveal the sources of their stories, and a few of those who refused have been sent to jail. The jailings, predictably, have sent shock waves through the communications industry, and have produced calls for legislation that would protect journalists from having to reveal their sources.

But the question arises: How much protection do reporters need?

Certainly, a newsman should not have to surrender his notes and reveal his sources to every agency, commission, or other group that is looking into the mere *possibility* of a crime's having been committed. He should not be made to do the investigative work that the government ought to be doing; nor should he be made a party to a "fishing expedition" of the type that marked the McCarthy era.

Yet, just as certainly, a newsman, simply because of his profession, should not be given special treatment. He has the same responsibilities that every citizen has; and, if he has information on a specific crime, or if his sources themselves are involved in violations of the law, then that information should be turned over to the proper au-

thorities. Journalists are more than observers of our society; they are members of our society.

Finding a compromise piece of legislation that takes into account the reporters' duties as citizens, while at the same time recognizes their important roles as disseminators of information, is not going to be an easy task for Congress. But it is a task that can be accomplished.

About 25 "Newsmen Shield" bills have already been introduced in Congress. They range from offering newsmen the same privileges now accorded in doctor-patient and husband-wife relationships to "limited immunity," in which authorities would have to prove that a specific crime was committed before they could force a reporter to cooperate.

Undoubtedly, a measure can emerge from this group of bills that will satisfy all parties and will, at the same time, conform to recent Supreme Court rulings on the subject. Any such measure must be carefully written, however, since there seems no question but that it will go a long way toward determining the future of freedom of the press in the United States.

The press in America must be as free in the future as it has been in the past.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Building a "New Army"

The United States Army is changing rapidly, and is, in fact, presenting itself to potential recruits and the general public alike as the "new army."

Primarily, the "new army" is a smaller, more streamlined force than the country is accustomed to. During 1972, its manpower strength dropped to less than 900,000 men—down from a 1968 peak of 1.57 million men. And another reduction of about 20,000 will be made by June 30, 1973.

These troop reductions seem to be in order. The winding-down of American involvement in Southeast Asia and the greater emphasis on modern weaponry indicate that the United States can maintain a strong defense posture with a smaller army.

But that defense posture could be seriously weakened if the officials responsible for the military reforms tolerate any parallel breakdown in military discipline. The strength of America's military has always been in the discipline of its troops; and there have been too many cases recently where apparent breakdowns of that discipline have occurred.

Army officials claim they are taking steps to assure that the "new army" maintains strict discipline. For instance, a not uncommon prac-

tice of some law enforcement jurisdictions in the past was to drop criminal charges if the accused joined the service. The army has announced that it will no longer serve as a rehabilitation center for social misfits. That worthwhile policy should be extended, and any social misfits already in its ranks should be ousted.

The army is also increasing its college ROTC programs, having added 20 such programs this academic year; and it is limiting its recruiting drives for enlisted men to high school graduates. But today, when high school diplomas are often given for four years of attendance rather than for any specific academic accomplishments, the army must be even more selective.

A military career has a lot to offer, and steps have been taken to make it even more attractive—better pay, increased fringe benefits, and an almost complete overhaul of living accommodations.

It stands to reason that, as the career becomes more attractive and as the size of the army decreases, the military should settle for no less than high-quality recruits. This is the only way to assure that the army remains the bulwark of the nation's defense—to assure that the "new army" is as effective a fighting force as has been the "old army."

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Coal Could End Energy Crisis

The nation—and West Virginia in particular—needs an all-out effort to solve our country's fuel crisis through the use of coal.

The spiraling demand for energy in the United States finds both oil and natural gas in dwindling supply, while our coal reserves could meet the nation's needs for 500 years to come.

This paradoxical situation has come about because of the environmental concern for clean air; because of the difficulties and cost of mining and transporting coal to its markets; and because of a penny-wise, pound-foolish approach to the problem of turning coal into a clean, pipeline type of fuel.

While millions upon millions of tons of coal remain untouched beneath West Virginia's hills and beneath the soil of many other states, the nation's oil and gas supplies are being steadily depleted. Together, the latter two relatively clean fuels make up only 25 percent of our known fossil fuel reserves while 75 percent of the coal—or three times as much—remains unused.

The injurious effect of sulfur pollution from burning coal is a major reason for coal's loss of markets in urban areas. City after city has

so restricted sulfur emissions into the atmosphere that coal has been almost totally forced out of the energy picture in many areas. Yet, methods are known and technology exists for making coal burn cleanly.

Cost is the stumbling block. Substantial outlays would be required for the equipment needed to scrub stack gases clean and to turn laboratory techniques into practical commercial procedures for producing liquid and gaseous fuels from coal.

In the long run, however, the cost of making the nation's most plentiful source of energy usable for the foreseeable future could be well worth it for our industrial society. Such things as national security, the exhaustion of other highly desirable fuel resources, the clean-up of the environment, and the disappointing performance thus far of nuclear plants as electric power producers must certainly be taken into consideration.

The alternative to inaction—or to action that is too little and too late—can only be more mine closings, more stagnation of mining-state economies, and more national dependence upon the uncertainties of imported fuels to produce the energy our dynamic economy and people demand.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Why Didn't They Vote?

Political discussion rarely ceases in our country, election year or not. Thus the figures showing that only 55% of eligible Americans voted last November raise new questions about our elective system. Why was the turnout smaller than four years ago—the smallest, in fact, since 1948? Why did only 48% of the newly-enfranchised 18-to-21-year-old group vote?

The small youth vote is especially interesting, inasmuch as many observers had expected it to be much larger. Throughout the Johnson and first Nixon Administrations the nation kept hearing that its young people were turned off by many national policies, and that if the voting age were lowered to 18 they would decisively express themselves at the polls.

They didn't. Despite being able to take part in their first national election, the rate of voting by young people was the lowest of any age group. Among those 21 through 24, only 51% voted. By contrast, 66% of those over 25 cast ballots. The highest participation was by persons 45 to 65. They went to the polls at a rate of 71%.

What do these facts mean in the overall context of representative government? The best guess is probably that a substantial number of the

45% of eligible citizens who did not vote did not think their participation mattered much to them one way or the other. If that is true, the portent for the future of true representative government may not be good.

It is probably understandable that some individuals, especially new voters, may feel that one vote cannot make much difference. Looking at elections in an increasingly complex society and difficult world, they may feel that their participation can have little effect upon such things as war and peace, wages and prices, or taxes and the government bureaucracy.

Perhaps not. But if ever-larger numbers of citizens adopt such an attitude, the vicious circle will be complete. If they *do not* become involved, they *cannot* exert influence.

There have been many elections in which one vote did count—and there will be many more. In 1968, Richard Nixon was elected with less than one-half of one percent of 70 million popular votes. In 1972 in West Virginia, with 2,367 precincts, one statewide race was won by only 2,014 votes, or less than one vote per precinct.

The proper functioning of representative government depends upon the participation of all citizens, young and old.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Progress Noted in War on Drugs

Not very long ago, experts were saying there was no way to halt the flow of illegal drugs into the United States, and no way to keep those drugs out of America's youth once the narcotics were smuggled into the country.

Now, however, the dire predictions have turned to cautious optimism, and the reason for the change is easily seen. A get-tough policy that the federal government instituted against drug smugglers and pushers at the start of 1972 is beginning to show some measurable progress.

The policy involves a many-pronged attack against illegal drugs by a number of federal agencies, and is being coordinated by the newly-formed Office of Drug Abuse Law Enforcement. Other agencies involved include the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, the Internal Revenue Service's special anti-narcotics unit, and the U.S. Customs Bureau.

All told, these agencies were responsible for 15,640 drug arrests during Fiscal Year 1972, as against the 11,998 arrests made during the previous fiscal year. And what is most significant in these figures is the fact that those arrested were pushers and smugglers, and not mere users of dangerous drugs.

In addition to those arrested, the agencies identified another 3,000 drug pushers. And, although enough evidence could not be gathered to put these pushers in jail, the identification and subsequent surveillance of the pushers have seriously hampered their illegal trafficking of drugs.

The coordinated offensive against drug abuse has also shown positive results in the field of seizure of illegal drugs. Almost three tons of heroin—worth close to \$2 billion—were seized during Fiscal Year 1972, as were 11,000 pounds of other "hard" drugs and nearly 100 tons of marijuana. And cooperation from foreign governments has been increasing; in Thailand alone, drugs valued at \$231 million earmarked for the United States were seized in raids made by U.S. and Thai agents.

All these signs are encouraging. They show that the government is going after the right people—the pushers and smugglers—in its war on drugs. But drug abuse continues to be a critical problem in the United States, and, as long as a single pusher or smuggler remains at large, the problem remains unsolved.

The war on drugs must not only be continued; it must be accelerated.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Aid for Hanoi Stirs No Enthusiasm

Some of the arguments being advanced to support U.S. aid to North Vietnam contend that it can help divert Hanoi from further aggressive adventures in Indochina; that it might induce North Vietnam to become a responsible member of the family of nations; and that it would be in the tradition of the help we gave our former enemies after World War II.

The facts refute these arguments. The situation now is quite different from that which existed in 1945 with respect to Germany and Japan. Both countries had been totally defeated, their military capability destroyed, and had surrendered unconditionally.

North Vietnam has not surrendered—it has not even stopped fighting. Hanoi's troops remain in South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. There has been no clear evidence that Hanoi has given up its aim of dominating its neighbors.

Moreover, at the end of World War II, it was in our national self-interest to counter a Soviet threat to Western Europe and to stave off worldwide economic collapse, which would have occurred had we not provided funds for recovery. With Germany, Italy, and Japan prostrate—and with allies

such as Britain and France bled white—we had little choice, if we wished to see the world's stability and trade restored, except to act in a way which may have appeared magnanimous. But the war criminals who had brought on the holocaust were hanged, and, in Japan, we replaced the conquest-minded government with a peaceful one.

It may be argued that a promise of aid to Hanoi was implicit in the cease-fire deal. If so, it was made without authorization by Congress. It may also be argued that we should replace what our bombs destroyed. It can as persuasively be argued that our bombs were directed at military targets and that North Vietnam has an obligation to restore what it destroyed in the South.

Experience with foreign aid in recent years has been increasingly discouraging. The billions of dollars we have invested have not bought friends. Even in South Vietnam, millions have been diverted and squandered.

With funds for needed U.S. projects being impounded, with inflation not yet conquered, and with continuing U.S. deficits, the American people are not likely to feel much sympathy for aiding Hanoi.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



A New Look at Students

Just a few years ago, in the midst of violent campus demonstrations, some educators were claiming that students had lost faith in the American system.

I never at any time agreed with that blanket evaluation, and felt that the educators mistook a small, vocal minority of radicals as representative of the entire student population.

Now, apparently, the student majority has reasserted itself, causing a re-evaluation of campus attitudes by the nation's academicians. The evidence produced by a number of surveys is heartening to those of us who felt all along that campus unrest involved only a small minority comprised of extremists.

For instance, 82 educators interviewed during the current academic year say that students are increasingly interested in getting an education; and they add that radicalism has been unable to gain any foothold on campus this year.

The largest number of professors listed politics as the fastest-rising field of student interest. Perhaps significantly, religion was listed second, whereas a few years ago the God-is-dead theory was strong.

There is now no doubt that students have rejected the appeals of radicals, and have found the goals of the revolu-

tionaries to be ludicrous in a society as open and accommodating as ours.

There are a number of reasons of course.

The tight-job market has reinforced in the students' minds the importance of studying. They now know that it is the student with the best grades who will get the best job—and the difference between the best position and the second-best is wider than it used to be.

Also, the reforms of the Selective Service System and the decline of American military involvement in Southeast Asia have removed some of the uncertainties that students faced a few years ago. The lottery system now employed in the military draft has enabled students to better plan their futures, and has removed the frustration of not knowing when their lives would be interrupted by two or more years in the army.

The majority of students has always been mature enough to realize that the American system is the best in the world, affluent enough to provide them with unequalled opportunities, and sensitive enough to respond to all the real needs of its citizens.

The fact that this maturity in our students is now being recognized by those who doubted it a few years ago is welcome, indeed.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Elderly Hit Hardest by Rising Costs

All Americans have suffered at the hands of inflation, rising costs, and increased taxes in recent years; but the nation's older citizens have been especially hard hit.

A full 25 percent of the 20 million Americans age 65 or older have annual incomes below the official poverty levels, that is, incomes less than \$2,000 for persons living alone, or less than \$2,600 for couples.

And those figures are used to represent abject poverty. In order to maintain an acceptable standard of living, the U.S. Department of Labor says a retired couple needs \$4,489 annually. Forty percent of our older citizens have incomes below that level.

The economic burden under which older Americans are trying to exist is obvious, and alleviating that burden must be given the highest priority by the Federal government.

The 92nd Congress moved in that direction by raising social security benefits by 32 percent, but more needs to be done.

Better housing for the elderly is sorely needed, since an estimated six million older persons reside in homes or apartments classified as inadequate. Less than 400,000 low-cost housing units for the elderly were built in the decade 1962-1972; yet, 120,-

000 new units are needed annually.

And some form of tax relief for older citizens must be found. In 1971, retired persons with annual incomes less than \$5,000 paid more than \$1.5 billion in property taxes alone. Obviously, any increase in taxes will plummet these citizens further into the depths of economic despair.

Finally, the whole problem of inflation must be solved. Increases in retirement benefits have not kept pace with increases in costs of consumer products—and even a penny increase in the cost of a loaf of bread or a quart of milk often means that older citizens have to skimp a little more to make ends meet.

Poverty among our elderly is extremely cruel, because most of these citizens spent the majority of their lives contributing to the economic growth of our nation. They should not have to spend their retirement years with no rewards for their labors.

And the poverty is unnecessary. Between 1958-1968, the number of elderly on the poverty rolls decreased annually. It has only been since 1968 that an increase in the number of elderly below the poverty level has occurred.

America has the resources to correct this situation. It must also have the will.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Dissent in Russia

As the Soviet Union moves to relax tensions with other nations, it is also moving to tighten its grip on its own citizens—so much so, in fact, that experts claim Russia is now experiencing its most severe crackdown since the death of Joseph Stalin in 1953.

Even the slightest disagreement with official communist party policy can result in long prison terms or indefinite confinements in mental institutions, proving again that in possibly no other country is dissent dealt with more harshly than in Russia.

Russian authorities refuse to divulge the number of political prisoners currently in prisons and asylums, but books and undercover newspapers smuggled out of the Soviet Union indicate that the number approaches a thousand. These prisoners reportedly include writers, scholars, and even some of the country's leading scientists.

There are two reasons given for the current crackdown by Russia's notorious secret police.

First, Soviet leaders fear the proposed expansion of contracts between Russians and citizens of western nations. One authority claims that exchanges with the west, particularly the United States, invariably result in new demands for increased

personal freedoms and for more consumer products by the Russian citizenry. These demands cannot be met without jeopardizing the communist system.

Secondly, the Kremlin desperately wants to quiet the unrest among its minorities. More than 50 separate national groups reside within the USSR, and several have complained that they are being harassed, intimidated, and oppressed by the Communist Party.

Only one such minority—the Jews, backed by world pressure—has been able to make any dent in the communist wall of oppression; but its success has been limited. In 1971, 14,000 Soviet Jews left Russia, and an estimated 40,000 left last year. But virtually all of them suffered economically and psychologically before they could do so.

Strengthened by the courage of the Jews, other Soviet minorities have reasserted themselves. The Lithuanians, for instance, are again protesting their domination by Russia—a reported 500 were arrested after one confrontation with Soviet soldiers.

Our government and our people are encouraged by the current USA-USSR detente, and rightly so. But we must be mindful that Russia continues to be a threat—not only to the free world but also to its own people.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



A Clean Fuel Beneath the Earth

The disturbing fuel shortages that have brought school and factory closings in several U.S. areas this winter have focused new attention on the possibility of tapping the heat which lies beneath the surface of the earth.

Civilization's use of geothermal energy is not just a science-fiction dream. At Larderello, Italy, for example, steam from beneath the earth's crust has turned electric generators since early in this century; and other more recent commercial applications exist in California and elsewhere. One has only to watch the geysers erupt in the national parks of our own West to see a sample of the subterranean energy which lies waiting to be harnessed.

Interest in the ready-made power which exists deep within the earth is growing in Congress, and bills are being drafted to spur geothermal research and development. The Department of Interior is preparing to offer for lease some 59 million acres of federal land in western states for geothermal exploration. At least one million acres of these lands are already known to have, beneath their surfaces, naturally boiling water and steam.

The full geographical extent of such potential pools of power is not yet known. Hot

springs, for example, exist in Appalachia. But no detailed study of this phenomenon has been made, for instance, in the West Virginia area, probably because the possibility of commercial use appears remote; although some interest in such a study has been expressed from time to time.

The possibility of utilizing geothermal energy elsewhere, however, does not appear at all remote. A National Science Foundation report has estimated that as much as a third of U.S. electric power could be generated by heat from the earth's core by as early as 1985.

At least half a dozen big U.S. oil companies are now doing exploratory drilling for geothermal power, and the trend is expected to grow. Like solar energy, geothermal energy is there awaiting development, with no fuel costs attached once the basic work is done.

The development of this new type of energy could provide a clean source of power through hot water and steam—cleaner even than nuclear energy, which leaves a poisonous residue of radioactive wastes.

Of overriding importance, however, is the contribution the earth's natural internal heat might make toward solving our nation's worsening energy crisis.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Redirection of Growth Is Needed

We keep reading and hearing that the United States is becoming more and more an urbanized nation. We are pelted with statistics which seem to indicate full retreat from farms and rural areas. Yet, a Gallup poll has shown that 55% of Americans do not want to live in metropolitan areas; 32% prefer small towns; and an astonishing 23% say they want to live on a farm.

How do these figures square with what seems to be current reality? And, if they are accurate, what should they tell us about planning for the future?

The best guess is that the pollsters' findings are right. The American background and heritage is one of wide open spaces in a vast, don't-fence-me-in-land. If not actually farm bred, the majority of Americans until very recently were small-town oriented. The mushrooming of megalopolis is a recent phenomenon.

People, especially young people, have gone where the jobs were—where they hoped, sometimes mistakenly, that better opportunities lay. The result has been a swift proliferation of inefficient urban sprawl, rather than the growth of cities in the historic concept.

The spectacular upsurge of suburban America is proof enough that vast numbers

of our people value grass and trees and space more than they do the often non-existent "advantages" of the city. Living with smog, traffic, and crime obviously does not constitute a pursuit of happiness for millions of our people.

The growth pattern of our country needs redirection away from the areas of urban congestion. It is ridiculous to say, myopically looking only at the metropolitan growth areas, that the U.S. is running out of land. There are millions of acres of beautiful, undeveloped land in this vast country—just look at West Virginia!

Decentralization and dispersal of business and industry could solve a multitude of vexing problems—both in the areas of over-building and under-development. It really makes little sense to continue squeezing more and more economic activity into localities already overcrowded and unable to provide adequate services.

It makes a great deal of sense, however, for both government and private enterprise to seek geographically balanced economic growth in our country, and to encourage, by all means possible, new development in West Virginia and other states in America's heartland—where a majority of our people apparently would like to be.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



More Emphasis Needed on Rail Transportation

News reports have pointed out once again the serious flaw that exists in our country's transportation planning and priorities. The Environmental Protection Agency, fighting air pollution, has proposed to ration gasoline in the Los Angeles area sharply enough to reduce motor vehicle traffic there by up to 82% in 1977.

Such action could bring that metropolitan area to a virtual standstill, lacking as it does adequate public transportation. Most other U.S. urban regions, although perhaps not as wholly dependent upon motor vehicles, could also be paralyzed by similar environmental problems caused by cars, buses, and trucks.

How short-sighted we have been in our public policies not to have encouraged development of modern high speed local and long distance rail passenger transportation. Not only have we failed to encourage this most efficient of all mass transportation methods—which, if electric, can also be the cleanest—we have actually discouraged it by our national obsession with highway and air transportation.

There is nothing wrong with developing highway and air transportation. Both should be pushed in a dynamic society such as ours. But what is wrong is irrationally and

disproportionately to promote some methods of passenger and freight transportation at the expense of others which our country needs. The United States should have a balanced land, air, and water transportation system to serve all of the nation's needs in peacetime and in war.

We have spent money prodigally on our highway system and lavished public funds upon space exploration. But there has been little or no real effort made as yet—notwithstanding Amtrak—to utilize fully, let alone to expand, the enormous potential of rail transportation in the United States. Only here and there has our rail system even been made capable of handling the speed, or providing for the comfort and safety that are now available in modern passenger facilities.

In the busiest rail passenger year before World War II, an average of only 63 persons per year lost their lives in railway accidents. Compare this safety record with the more than 56,000 road deaths each year or the additional numbers who perish in air crashes.

From every standpoint—safety, cost, and ability to move vast numbers of people in all kinds of weather—the development of rail passenger service is being unwisely neglected in the United States.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Affluent Americans Are Ill Fed

One of the paradoxes of our affluent society is that malnutrition is so commonplace. Despite having the highest per capita income of any people anywhere, well-to-do Americans as well as poor Americans are often undernourished.

The almost constantly rising cost of food is not altogether to blame. On the contrary, dietary ignorance or indifference—widespread among Americans—is often responsible. The Coke-and-cookies syndrome—improper eating—is a real culprit.

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, in a comprehensive survey, found that deficiencies in protein, the most vital of all food elements, were widespread. Some 37% of the population did not get sufficient iron; 16% lacked enough Vitamin A; nearly 12% were deficient in Vitamin C. All of these substances are essential for good health.

It is strange that, in a country whose people are as food-conscious and as weight-conscious as ours, nutritional ignorance or indifference should be so prevalent. It is also strange that, with all our emphasis on public and private health, greater stress has not been placed on the basic necessity of sound nutrition.

There is evidence that this situation may be changing. The widespread publicity given to congressional testimony on the lack of nutritional value in many highly-advertised cereals, and other processed foods such as those made with white flour, is one indication. Another is the increasing number of health foods stocked in grocery stores.

But what is most needed is a comprehensive effort by medical science equal to other health efforts to learn all that can be learned about diet and its effect on the human organism. The findings should then be widely publicized.

Most certainly the great humanitarian efforts now underway to find cures for stroke, heart disease, and cancer should be pushed to success. But whereas only a portion of the population will fall victim to these scourges, the health of every living person is affected by what he eats and by the changing ways in which our foods are grown and processed.

We are quite literally what we eat. For our individual good and the collective good of our nation, science should put its best resources to work on the twin problems of nutritional research and the nutritional education of the American people.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Gasoline Outlook Far from Rosy

The reports of worsening gasoline shortages and increases in the cost of motor fuel concern all Americans who drive automobiles—and that is just about everybody. A combination of factors has brought about this situation.

New car sales are breaking records, which means more vehicles on the road and an increasing demand for gasoline. Additionally, the new anti-pollution emission devices require more fuel. The hard winter in parts of the country kept refineries turning out fuel oil for heating instead of producing gasoline, which, as a result, is now in short supply in many areas. And, finally, and most important, no new U.S. refineries are being built.

A major factor influencing the failure to add to U.S. refining capacity was the long uncertainty about imports of crude oil, before President Nixon ended the quota system. Oil imports in 1973 will approximate one-third of U.S. consumption, and they may be as much as 60% by 1980.

Also having a bearing on the refinery problem is the fact that no U.S. port can accommodate the huge new supertankers, which already are carrying almost a third of the world's oil tonnage. The loading facilities in the Persian Gulf can now accommo-

date tankers of 500,000 dead-weight tons, and unloading facilities for such vessels are being built in Europe and Japan. The largest ship U.S. ports can handle is 80,000 tons, and a number of our ports can not even take ships of that size.

Yet, the oil industry is considering building even larger, million-ton tankers to cut transportation costs. Unloading terminals for such mammoth ships will have to be built in deep water off shore—man-made islands from which the crude oil would be brought ashore by pipelines or barges. Thus far, environmental considerations have blocked plans for such terminals because of the danger of pollution.

Unless larger tankers and terminals are used, many more smaller ships will have to make many more trips, at higher costs, to meet U.S. needs. No additional U.S. refining capacity is likely to be built until the oil industry knows where new and larger terminal facilities will make the foreign crude oil available to them at the lowest possible transportation expense.

The car driver, meanwhile, apparently is going to be the man in the middle. The hour is late for dealing with this phase of the energy crisis.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Russia's Big Stick Getting Bigger

Henry Kissinger has gone to Moscow again. Soviet Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev is coming to Washington in early summer. Arms control talks between the U.S. and the Soviet Union continue. More U.S.-Soviet trade is planned. And Americans in general must surely hope that our two countries can reach agreements which will insure the continuation of peace in the future.

But this hope is not likely to be realized unless our country bases its policies and actions upon hard reality. Wishful thinking stemming only from Russia's moves toward accommodation with the U.S. could be a formula for disaster. Before we drastically cut U.S. defense forces further, as some persons are urging that we do in view of the growing detente, all of the facts should be considered.

The United States has ended the draft, and the U.S. Army has already revealed that it is not getting the volunteers it needs. The Soviet Union, by contrast, continues universal military service, with pre-induction training starting at age 16.

The U.S. pins its hopes on an all-volunteer force of slightly over two million, backed by reserves of just

under one million. The Soviet Union, by comparison, is estimated to have nearly four million combat-ready troops under arms, and to have the capability of putting another three million men in the field in two to three months.

Numbers of soldiers, sailors, and airmen, and amounts of war equipment, of course, do not tell the whole story. The Soviets have more submarines than we do, but ours are probably superior in design and performance. The USSR may have more missiles than we have, but ours are thought to be more sophisticated. The Russians have more men under arms and in training than we do, but the Soviet Union has more land area to be concerned about—especially when the long border with its hated rival China is considered.

The point, however, which must always be borne in mind is this: Moscow may be talking softly now, but it is carrying a very big stick which is getting bigger. No one outside of the Kremlin's walls can possibly know what the USSR proposes to do with that stick.

In this highly uncertain situation, prudence above all else must guide the United States. The Soviets, understanding, as they do, the uses of strength, will surely exploit any weakness which we show.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Our All-Volunteer Armed Forces

For the first time since shortly after World War II, our country is now dependent upon volunteers to maintain its armed forces. No more draftees will be called before the Selective Service induction authority expires June 30.

The Selective Service Act, however, will remain in force. Young men reaching 18 still must register and receive lottery numbers inasmuch as the draft's framework will be continued for reasons of national security.

The question of most concern is: Will there be a sufficient number of qualified volunteers? Thus far, it appears that enough men will enlist, but only time will tell about the quality of those who volunteer.

Selective Service experience has shown that draftees, on the whole, have been the best qualified men the armed forces have obtained.

Fears have been expressed that all-volunteer armed services may result in a dilution of their overall quality. Some people express concern that only the lower strata of our society will volunteer. Others contend that professional, career-type forces pose a threat to democratic institutions, in which civilian authority must be dominant.

Hopefully, none of these un-

wanted results will occur. Initial reports indicate that the volunteer concept may have an even chance to succeed. The volunteers coming in thus far are reported to be in about the same proportion to the racial, economic, and educational mix of the population as they were previously.

Several other factors enhance the all-volunteer concept. For example, the overall size of our armed forces is being cut by more than 100,000, reducing the need for recruits; service pay has been substantially increased; and careers in the armed forces and the benefits they offer have been much improved.

The most hopeful development is that the Army, which has been the most dependent on the draft, is having better success than had been anticipated in attracting volunteers. The Navy and Marines, which have had to draft only occasionally, are reported doing about as well. And the Air Force, which has never had to draft, should have no trouble.

Getting enough volunteers for U.S. Reserve forces, however—many of whose recruits were draft-motivated—and attracting enough doctors, in view of the scarcity of physicians in civilian life, remain two big problems as the all-volunteer experiment begins.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Viewed as Chicken of the Sea

At least three South American countries have been raising large sums of revenue at the expense of the United States—and they are having a disturbing amount of success in doing it.

Under the Santiago Declaration of 1952, Ecuador, Peru and Chile claim that 200 miles of the waters off their coasts should be under their exclusive control for fishing purposes—even though most maritime nations, including the United States, claim only a 12-mile fishing limit. The three countries seize, often at gunpoint, any fishing vessels that venture inside the 200-mile limit and impose exorbitant fines before releasing the ships and their crews.

Ships flying the flag of the United States have been the main victims of the agreement. In 1972, Ecuador captured 25 U.S. tuna boats and collected almost \$2 million in fines. Peru seized that many U.S. tuna boats during the first six weeks of this year alone, and its treasury grew by more than \$800,000.

Chile, which has no real fishing industry, has resorted to expropriating American industries operating there. Since 1970, it has seized control of at least 15 U.S. companies worth more than \$680 million. Its reimbursements to the owners of those com-

panies have amounted to only a fraction of the value of the property seized.

The real losers in all these incidents are the American taxpayers. When a U.S. tuna boat is seized, the owners of the boat pay the fine; but they are quickly reimbursed in the full amount by the State Department under provisions of the 1954 Fishermen's Protective Act. And American taxpayers eventually foot the bill for a U.S. company that is expropriated abroad.

There is no doubt that U.S. officials have been too apathetic, and even too submissive, in trying to rectify the situation. And they have the leverage to do more than they have thus far done.

In fiscal years 1972-1973, the U.S. foreign aid proposal called for about \$27 million each for Ecuador and Chile. The proposal for Peru called for about \$7 million, in addition to large sums earmarked for disaster relief.

No American tax dollars should be dispersed to these countries until assurances are obtained that the unlawful seizing of American tuna boats and American companies will be halted. These countries must be made to realize that the price they will pay for these actions will be higher than the revenues they raise.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Arts and Crafts Program a Rewarding One

West Virginia's arts and crafts program is ten years old this year, and it must be rated an innovative and creative success. The benefits have been twofold: it has made the Mountain State's handicraft products known and sought after far and wide; and it has provided a welcome new source of income for its participants.

The West Virginia Artists and Craftsmen's Guild now boasts more than 500 members—among them weavers, potters, candlemakers, wood workers, leather workers, and many others. They have preserved and revived old skills and developed new ones, producing such items as handmade quilts, leather goods, wood carvings, ceramics, jewelry, and glassware.

The tenth Mountain State Art and Craft Fair, held annually at Cedar Lakes in Jackson County, last year had 200 exhibitors and hundreds of products, drew 62,000 visitors, and netted \$132,000 in handicraft sales.

The second annual Mountain Heritage Festival at Harpers Ferry this year is expected to have over a hundred artists and craftsmen offering their products—and some 56 similar, smaller mountain product fairs are expected to be held throughout the state. Their programs will feature everything from banjo pickin' to outdoor applebutter makin'.

The products being made and sold are by no means limited to the shows within the state. On the contrary, these mountain handicraft items are now being made available in outlets as far away as New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Denver, and Atlanta. Reports from the shops and stores offering the items for sale indicate a growing demand for them.

The arts and crafts program is sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Commerce, which points out the great pride which the state's artists and craftsmen take in producing their individualistic, handmade articles for the commercial marketplace. It is a pride that workers on an assembly line, because of the nature of their work, would be unlikely to feel.

This aspect of the program deserves note when much is being heard about the boredom and dissatisfaction many industrial workers are experiencing in their jobs. The industrial revolution may have made cottage industries obsolete; but in our increasingly depersonalized society, the individual who turns to creative effort on his own can find a constantly renewing source of self-satisfaction.

West Virginia's arts and crafts program provides a unique opportunity for individual initiative in an era in which that quality needs to be revived and stressed.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Will U.S. Become World's Granary?

It has become apparent that the United States must increase its agricultural production if demand is to be met and food prices are to be stabilized or reduced. There is also another good reason for doing so, namely, the increasing demand for food worldwide.

Affluence is growing in the world's industrial nations, and with it the desire for more and better things to eat, especially meat. Demand is outstripping supply. American foodstuffs—particularly wheat, feed grain for cattle, and high protein soybeans—could become as much in demand, despite some present restrictions against them, as American manufactured goods were before Germany and Japan moved ahead in the production of consumer products.

The United States is widely thought to be in the best position of any nation to become the granary to which the world will turn. We have the climate for the needed crops, vast expanses of tillable soil, wide mechanization of farm operations, and present or potential surpluses. With the know-how of our farmers—already the world's most productive—the U.S. should be able to meet almost any foreseeable demand for its farm products.

In the Soviet Union—to which we recently sold more

than \$1 billion worth of grain—one farm worker grows only enough food for seven other persons. In the U.S., one farmer feeds 46 others. With 33% of its total work force employed in agriculture, the USSR has shortages. With only 5% of the American work force on farms, we have surpluses.

Russia, Japan, and the countries of Europe are potentially big customers for U.S. agricultural exports. If these exports continue to rise as they have in the last few years, they could become the means of improving, or even offsetting, the unfavorable U.S. balance in world trade.

In fiscal 1973, U.S. farm exports are estimated at \$11.8 billion—up from \$5.7 billion in 1969. They could go to \$15 billion soon. When the cost of our agricultural imports and foreign-aid food exports are subtracted, a \$3.7 billion cash surplus for fiscal 1973 should be realized in our agricultural trade. By comparison, the overall U.S. balance-of-trade deficit at the end of the calendar year 1972 was \$6.8 billion.

What it comes down to is this: in a country which has become known around the globe for its industrial leadership, the American man of the soil—the U.S. farmer—may be the one to save the day for the U.S. in international trade.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Some Good May Come Out of Watergate

As bad as the Watergate mess is, it is possible that some good may come out of it in the end. Hopefully, U.S. politics will see improvement in at least three areas.

First, the kind of spying and sabotage undertaken is completely alien to American politics. Because the damaging effects of what has been done will be with us for some time to come, it is not likely that any administration, or any party, will attempt or allow such subversion again in the foreseeable future.

Second, Watergate occurred, at least in part, because there was too much tainted money available to political adventurers. Much stricter financial accounting and campaign spending laws are needed, and such laws may now well be enacted.

And, third, the wretched spy-thriller shenanigans were undertaken by bungling amateurs outside the regular party organization. Political pros and the legitimate and responsible party organizations are likely, therefore, to reassert their control over campaigning in the future.

Watergate should not be taken as evidence of the failure of the American system. On the contrary, Watergate has reaffirmed the fact that our system does work.

Because of our system, a federal judge—the son of poor

immigrant parents — could blow the whistle on the government's original inadequate prosecution of the case. He said he simply did not believe that the whole story was being told in his courtroom, and as a result one defendant began to talk.

Because of our system, our free press, as it should have done, kept digging away at the case. The newspapers and the news media in general have performed the service which the framers of the Constitution perceived they should perform in a free society. They have uncovered many of the facts, protected the people's right to know, and led the way for action in the courts.

And finally, because of our system, the Congress of the United States is reasserting its role in its moves to halt the threat of runaway executive power. The full-scale Senate investigation which has been launched should bring to light all of the pertinent facts that can be obtained, augmenting the action of the courts.

The American system, I believe, manifesting itself through the Congress, the courts, and the free press, will prove itself adequate to deal with Watergate. And U.S. politics in the future may be the cleaner for what has happened.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Cure Sought for Boring Jobs

An issue about which we are likely to be hearing more and more in the months ahead is the lack of satisfaction which untold numbers of Americans apparently derive from their work. The "enrichment of jobs" is a topic increasingly being discussed. And it relates not only to blue-collar assembly-line workers, but also to white-collar office types and even management personnel.

Studies have indicated that large numbers of Americans are bored to death with dull, repetitive, unchallenging jobs. Under-utilization of human ability may turn out to have been one of the unexpected, and certainly unwanted, end products of our technological society.

Significantly, a University of Michigan study covering all occupational levels has shown that "interesting work" comes first in job desirability. Good pay, in this survey, was fifth—after such things as sufficient help and authority to get the job done.

To give workers more responsibility and autonomy, some 150 or more American companies are re-designing jobs in a number of test operations in an effort to make them more meaningful and attractive. Their aim is not altruistic. It is, instead, a new pursuit of the traditional profit motive, and it is paying off. Productivity in plants try-

ing new approaches to the problems of factory production is reported to be up from 10 to 40 percent. The morale of workers is likewise up.

In one plant, each employee is given the opportunity to learn all operations, working at them in turn. As he masters each, his pay goes up. In another, the assembly line for small consumer products has been replaced by a system in which each worker puts together a complete item, to which he affixes his name—like an artist.

A new pride in workmanship has been created, which, in turn, means that less foreman-type supervision is necessary, thereby cutting costs. One plant found that it needed fewer employees than had been thought necessary because of the stimulating effect on productivity. It also needed fewer bosses and work rules.

Thus far, only a relatively small number of America's 82 million workers are part of the job enrichment experiments. But if the new methods succeed and spread, the workers' satisfaction—which now seems lacking in all too many U.S. jobs—may be restored. Equally important, a needed step may have been taken toward making American products better and more competitive in the world market.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Power from the Sun?

As the dimensions of the world's energy problems begin to be better understood, interest in utilizing the sun as one source of the power man needs is growing.

The National Science Foundation, from allocating nothing for solar energy research as recently as 1970, is spending \$3.8 million for that purpose this year and will spend \$12 million in 1974. Several universities and private companies are also working on the idea.

Two striking facts underline the importance of this research: First, projections indicate that by 1985 the U.S. will require almost double the amount of energy now being used; and, second, on an average day, the sun bestows more energy on an area the size of West Virginia than is now consumed by the entire nation each day.

Solar energy, already being utilized for a few special purposes, is unlikely in the foreseeable future to replace coal, oil, or gas. But some scientists believe that it can eventually become an economically feasible power source.

A basic problem is how to store this abundant energy. Another is how to collect it efficiently, since, unconcentrated, its power potential is low; that is, sunlight from a wide area must be concentrated by mirrors or magnify-

ing lens devices to produce the degree of heat needed for commercial application.

Dark earth surfaces absorb solar rays as heat; but they cool quickly and lose it. Various materials which might hold the heat are being studied, along with collectors to trap the rays. One proposal is for vast "solar power farms," covering miles of the Arizona desert, to convert the sun's energy into steam.

Commercially practical means are also being sought for converting solar power directly into electricity, as is done through the use of the highly expensive photovoltaic cells in space exploration. NASA has made available a \$197,000 grant for research on a satellite that would produce electricity from the sun and beam it to earth. Developing this orbiting power station would depend upon whether the U.S. builds its space shuttle—which would be needed to assemble the satellite in space because of its proposed size, about 24 miles square.

When the advantages that could come from eventually harnessing the sun's power are considered, at least three significant points emerge: the energy would be available as long as the solar system endures; the price of the raw energy would never go up; and, being part of nature itself, it would not pollute.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



High Court Obscenity Ruling Was Needed

The action taken by the U.S. Supreme Court to curb the tide of pornography that was engulfing our country should be supported by a majority of the American people. The decision reflected widespread public indignation over the rampant permissiveness that allowed the commercial exploitation of sex to proliferate all across our land.

The Justice Department had already been moving against the smut peddlers who cross state lines to merchandise their sleazy wares. Federal grand juries have returned indictments in several places against distributors of obscene films and theater owners who screen them. The trials, which had been held up awaiting the Supreme Court decision, hopefully will proceed quickly.

Just as forthright action by the Federal Communications Commission forced the offensive sex-oriented "topless radio" shows off the air, so should the lower courts act to implement the high court's obscenity ruling. A crack-down should be pushed on hardcore sex films, lurid printed material, dirty "peep shows," "massage parlors," "nude bars," and other such socially-undesirable establishments.

Not only does public morality and the protection of our children from such influences

make the action necessary, the fact that in a number of places the mushrooming smut business has become a lucrative operation for the underworld also makes it imperative. It is estimated that the merchandising of obscenity in this country was grossing between \$500 million and \$2 billion a year before the Supreme Court decision.

Much of the confusion about obscenity—and, in fact, much of the growth of the pornography business—resulted from the difficulty that the Court in previous decisions experienced in attempting to set guidelines as to what is permissible and what is not under the First Amendment. The present Court avoided that pitfall by largely leaving the matter up to the states and localities.

The right of free expression in America, of course, must be upheld. It must be recognized, also, that what may be thought obscene by one person may not be so considered by another. But there is an obvious difference between hard-core pornography, with its basic appeal to prurient interest only, and serious art and literature that seek to portray and explain human nature and behavior. A precise definition of that difference may be difficult, but the recognition of it is easy for most persons.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



The Ethnic Slur Hurts Us All

One of the degrading things which needs to be rooted from our contemporary life is the ethnic slur. One still sees and hears many such affronts, despite the enormous progress that America has made in offering equal opportunity and equal dignity to all.

The unfortunate popularity among some unthinking persons of the derogatory so-called Polish "joke" is a case in point. The only possible thing which can be said in mitigation of the damage such demeaning stories cause to the sensibilities of Polish-American citizens is that many of those who repeat the slurs may do so without actual malicious intent.

The Mafia stigma, which all too many Americans of Italian extraction unjustly have to bear, is another case in point. Godfathers and gangsters there may be, but it does a great disservice to millions of Italian-Americans to think of organized crime in terms of any one nationality.

The stereotype of the lazy, shiftless Mexican or Mexican-American is still another ethnic canard which should have had its day. Typecasting of that sort has about as much validity as the caricature of West Virginians as ignorant, barefoot hillbillies—a characterization which citizens of our state rightfully resent.

The point is that harm, whether intentional or not, is done to people and to the places from which they come by the thoughtless repetition of unfunny untruths. This is especially true for Americans of any recent foreign background.

It has often been said that America is a nation of immigrants, and it is. The antecedents of virtually all Americans lie elsewhere than on these shores. The great strength of America is that in our broad land the diverse heritages of many cultures have met, intertwined, and merged.

The contribution to American society made by peoples from all over the globe is incalculable. Ethnic characteristics and individualities may remain—and perhaps they should. But the once widely-used melting pot metaphor remains accurate to the degree to which our national life is today a fusion and a blend of many peoples and many customs, drawn from many climes.

That being so, the derisive ethnic joke, the ridiculing or degrading of others should have no place in our society. The ethnic slur reflects upon us all. Self-deprecation, the ability to recognize and laugh at one's own native peculiarities and frailties is a habit that we could far more profitably cultivate.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Community Colleges—Another Option

It is good to know that West Virginia is pushing the development of its State-supported two-year community college program. Three such colleges—Parkersburg, West Virginia Northern at Wheeling-Weirton, and Southern West Virginia at Logan-Williamson—already are in operation, and development of components at Marshall, Fairmont, Shepherd, and West Virginia Tech is being planned.

The success of the community college concept elsewhere indicates the need which these institutions are filling. In an increasingly technological society, they prepare young people for careers in a wide variety of fields that can range from paramedics to automobile mechanics. The need for skilled workers and technicians is great and growing.

Underlining the importance of expanding the two-year schools is the estimate that, by 1980, West Virginia's institutions of higher learning will have to serve some 30% more students than at present—up from 62,000 to about 81,000. West Virginia's high schools by then are expected to be graduating about 21% more students than in 1972. Not only are more students graduating from high school;

more also are seeking admission to college.

But despite the expected trend toward more college students, another trend has also been developing, namely, a questioning of the value of college by a growing number of young men and women. Weighing the problem of what they want to do and what they want to get out of life, they wonder if higher education, in its purely academic sense, will really help them to lead more purposeful and satisfying lives.

It is a healthy trend. It is widely felt that our schools have been turning out too many doctors of philosophy and too few technicians.

It is this imbalance in meeting the real employment and economic needs of our society which the growing trend toward the more technically-oriented two-year college hopefully can correct.

It is interesting to note that the expected increase in West Virginia college enrollment exceeds any projected growth for the state. What this means, to a considerable extent, is that, in relation to the state's population, more West Virginia young people than ever before will be seeking training for careers. The community colleges can help to point the way for them.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



America's Wasteful Use of Energy

One point has not been sufficiently made in the wide discussion of America's energy crisis: the fuel shortages we face actually stem from the very abundance of energy we have heretofore enjoyed. The crisis arises from our profligate use of resources.

No people anywhere have been as blessed with inexpensive energy as have the people of the United States. When the nation was young, the waterpower that was available almost everywhere turned the millwheels; and the seemingly endless forests provided fuel for the taking. Cheap wood heated the houses, cooked the food, and powered the first railroad locomotives.

Then came coal to fuel the industrial revolution and the swift growth of factories. It enabled steamships to supplant sail, and it sent the iron horse on a network of rails into every corner of the land.

Coal provided central heat and cheap electricity, and made America an industrial giant; and also from out of America's growth came both oil to power our motor vehicles and aircraft and natural gas for domestic and industrial use. Like wood, the coal, the oil, and the gas were relatively cheap, and they seemed at first to be in inexhaustible supply.

As a result, conservation of energy in our country has been virtually unknown. From electric lighting, which has turned night into day, we have progressed through electric heating and cooling, to electric typewriters, can-openers, and toothbrushes. Almost every gadget to which our society has become addicted can be plugged into the nearest outlet.

We have more longer, heavier, gas-guzzling, six-passenger cars transporting one person than any prudent people should tolerate. We revel in electric golf carts, in riding lawnmowers, and in outboard motor boats that consume gas and oil as if they were going out of style. We live in homes that, if properly insulated, would require far less of our dwindling fuel supplies to heat and to cool. It is estimated that even the pilot lights in our natural gas appliances use up as much as a third of the natural gas the nation is now burning.

The ships in our Navy, the mechanized vehicles in our Army, and the planes in our Air Force accentuate the drain on our irreplaceable sources of energy.

Finding new sources of energy is the method most widely urged for meeting the crisis we face. More prudent use of the energy we have is also urgently needed.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



Our Shameful Highway Toll

In more than a decade of military involvement in Vietnam, the United States suffered 46,000 combat deaths. In 1972 alone, more than 56,000 Americans were slaughtered on the nation's highways. In all the Vietnam fighting, 153,000 Americans were hospitalized for wounds. Last year, by contrast, more than two million Americans suffered disabling injuries in car wrecks.

Why is there no real outcry against this killing and maiming? Why is there no sense of national outrage? Why, more importantly, do we not take effective steps to stop this frightful carnage?

Half of America's fatal automobile accidents, it is estimated, are caused by drunk drivers. And it is also estimated that from 10,000 to 20,000 of the victims die because they do not fasten the seat belts with which all cars sold in the U.S. are now equipped.

The irrational tolerance with which so many Americans appear to view drinking and driving—the national tendency for amused winking at “having a few too many”—lies at the root of our shameful alcohol-related highway deaths and injuries. As a nation we have simply not been willing to come to grips with the menace of the drunk driver. Laws against drunk driving are on the books, but our society has not insisted that they be enforced.

As for seat belts and shoulder harness, the U.S. Department of Transportation has proposed that their use be made mandatory. Despite the fact that such use would prevent injuries and save lives, a loud cry has been raised that any such legal requirement would interfere with individual rights and freedom. Nothing is said about the interference with individual freedom caused by speed limits and stop lights.

The big difficulty with safety belts, of course, is the problem of enforcement. Yet, it should be noted that two years of experience with a mandatory belt statute in Australia has been followed by a 23% reduction in the highway death rate. Motorists are said to have accepted the law with equanimity, and 83% of drivers in metropolitan areas are estimated to be complying with it.

But of greatest importance in this country is an all-out nation-wide campaign to get the drunk drivers off the roads. Some states—and many foreign countries—are already acting to bring this about.

In England, the Scandinavian countries, and a number of others, the laws against drunk driving have been sharply tightened, and the results are evident in fewer highway deaths and injuries. The U.S. should be moving even more strongly in the same direction.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



West Virginia Has Weather for All

It is a well-known fact that West Virginia has one of the most irregular shapes of all the states. What may not be as well known is that it has weather equally as varied. Because of its elevation, which ranges from less than 250 feet above sea level to nearly 5,000 feet, West Virginia has summers and winters to suit all tastes.

Generally, the state's weather is temperate—seldom too hot, seldom too cold. Summertime highs will range from 75 in the eastern mountains to 85 in the lower areas, with a few days approaching 100 degrees in the river valleys. In Bluefield, at around 2,600 feet, lemonade is served free on the streets if the mercury goes above 90, but it seldom does. And there, as elsewhere in the mountains, the humidity is pleasantly low.

Winter minimums average from the upper twenties in the west to the upper teens in the mountains. About every other year the temperature may dip to zero over much of the state, or 10 to 15 below in the higher elevations. The coldest ever recorded was 37 below zero at Lewisburg in 1917, and the highest was 112 at Martinsburg in 1931—both rare extremes.

Annual snowfall averages less than 20 inches along the Ohio River between Hunting-

ton and Parkersburg. But the high Alleghenies east of Elkins may get more than 140 inches of snow a year. Average rainfall is likewise varied, ranging from a low of 35 inches in the Eastern Panhandle to more than 65 in the higher mountains.

The National Weather Service's Charleston office describes West Virginia as often being a sort of "battleground" between warm, moist air coming up from the south and southwest and cold, dry air pushing down from the northwest. These atmospheric clashes produce the rain and snow.

This precipitation, welcome for crops, wildlife, and recreation, can have the adverse effect of producing flash floods. All parts of the state have, upon occasion, experienced rainfall exceeding five inches in 24 hours. The heaviest recorded deluge was 19 inches, which fell on Rockport in Wood County in 1889. Up to 14 inches fell on parts of north-central West Virginia on June 24-25, 1950.

But such extremes are rare, and damaging windstorms even rarer. The Weather Service (with a caution probably born of long forecasting) finds our state's weather "quite favorable for human activity." West Virginians, proud of their state's fine climate, should find that a considerable understatement.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



We've Got Land, Lots of Land

The frustrated automobile driver in rush-hour city traffic probably wouldn't believe it, but the United States, relatively speaking, is a sparsely populated land. It may frequently seem that our burgeoning freeways, shopping centers, and suburbs are about to cover the whole landscape; the fact is that there is more open space in America today than there was a generation ago.

This curious fact has been brought about by the crowding of U.S. population into metropolitan areas. The increasing congestion in the cities is leaving increasing space in the country.

Despite the steadily growing U.S. population, about one out of every three counties in the nation lost population in the sixties because of the urban in-migration, and almost half of all U.S. counties lost population during the fifties for the same reason.

Our densely-populated megalopolises notwithstanding, the U.S. ranks far down the list in terms of national population density. The Republic of Korea holds that distinction with 1,247 persons per square mile, and Japan is close behind with 1,033. By contrast, the U.S. still has so much land that for every square mile there are only 85 Americans.

The density of population in West Virginia is even less—72 persons per square mile. In a few spots in the state's eastern mountains it drops to fewer than ten.

But 25 states, mostly central and western, have less population than West Virginia. Wyoming, the least populated, has only three persons per square mile. New Jersey, the most densely settled, has more than 950 by comparison.

It may come as a surprise to residents of West Virginia's busy cities, but, by another yardstick, our state is classified by the Bureau of the Census as the second most rural state in the nation—after Vermont, where 68% of the people live in non-urban places. By Census definition, places of less than 2,500 are non-urban, and 61% of West Virginia's citizens live in such communities, or in the country.

Our nation's overall population picture, then, indicates that only along its coasts and in a few other places is the U.S. in any danger of running out of space. Inland, there is still a vast amount of good earth. One of the tasks our people face is to preserve, and, where necessary, restore, this great heritage so that it may continue to be economically and recreationally beneficial for all Americans.

Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd



U.S. Oil Imports Require Naval Strength

In the weeks following the U.S.-Soviet summit talks in Washington, it must not be forgotten that the United States and the Soviet Union, if no longer the cold war enemies they once were, remain the world's leading rival powers. The importance of that fact becomes apparent when two points are borne in mind: Russia's continuing naval buildup, which reportedly includes the construction of a naval base in the Persian Gulf; and America's increasing dependency on foreign oil, much of which must come from the Persian Gulf area.

We must be realistic enough to realize that the new spirit of cooperation which the Soviets exhibit has not been brought about by any newfound love of the Communists for the United States. It stems, instead, from their desire to obtain from us the products and know-how they need to further strengthen their own country.

The present leadership of the USSR is pragmatic. We must be equally so. Leonid Brezhnev represents the less aggressive point of view in the Kremlin, which holds that more of what the Soviets want can be obtained with honey than with vinegar. But there is another point of view within the Kremlin's walls that still favors active confrontation. And Soviet leaders

change.

Should new confrontations occur (and who can categorically rule them out?), the United States at a minimum must be able to protect its 12,000-mile fuel lifeline to the Middle East. The vital importance of this lifeline is underscored by the fact that, whereas the U.S. was importing only about 23% of its crude oil in 1970, estimates are that by the early 1980s we will have to import half of what we need.

In a new confrontation—or even in a renewal of hostilities between the Arabs and the Israelis — oil tankers bound for the U.S. could be obvious targets, which the U.S. Navy would have to protect. A vessel or vessels sunk in a Persian Gulf channel could block it and cut off essential fuel for the U.S. The Soviet submarine potential in Cuba could be a threat also to the oil we get from Venezuela.

It is important that the American people understand these facts. It is essential that the U.S. maintain its Navy at sufficient strength to counter any threat to the nation's fuel supplies. America's future security must always take precedence over any conjecture or wishful thinking about what the present or future objectives of the Soviet Union may be.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

'Vandal Bugs' Can Protect Schools

There probably is no one left in the country by this time who does not know that when one talks about a bug he may not necessarily be talking about an insect. "Bugs," as the public has been made so thoroughly aware, are electronic surveillance devices. Although illegal under most circumstances, legitimate use, as well as illicit, may be made of them.

Bugs that can deter, or catch, school building vandals are a good example of legitimate use. For reasons that are not always clear, school buildings, especially during weekends or vacation periods, are favorite targets for the destruction-minded. The damage done to U.S. public school buildings each year is enormous. It ranges from smashed windows and ripped up desks to the burning of buildings.

In many places, rural as well as urban, school officials and the police have been unable to deal adequately with school vandalism. Culprits all too often have been able to do their vicious deeds without fear of getting caught. Fortunately, however, that situation may now be in for a change. A number of school systems are experimenting with bugging systems which change buildings from vulnerable targets for vandals into traps for them.

The intercoms with which most modern school buildings are equipped, it has been found, can be converted into electronic eavesdropping systems for protection when school is out. When the necessary alterations are made, the flip of a switch in the principal's office at the end of the day can turn the intercom system into a sensitive microphone hookup. The reversed system can then "listen" for the slightest sound in hallways, classrooms, auditoriums, gyms, and even on outside playgrounds. Connected into a police station, it can bring squad cars quickly.

The cost of such a system is said to be relatively small—virtually nill, when compared to the hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage done yearly to buildings throughout the country. The value can be twofold: publicizing such an installation could deter would-be vandals, who would fear it; and utilizing it could lead to swift arrests.

School vandalism is a growing nationwide problem. In cities such as Washington, D.C., the cost of repairing damage to buildings has risen beyond all expectations in the last few years. But now, bugging—discredited for most uses in our society—may give school officials and the police the tool they need with which to deal with vandals.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Needs More Medical Schools

A comprehensive study published by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare reveals that nearly one out of every six doctors now practicing medicine in the United States is a graduate of a foreign medical school. If Canadian-trained physicians in the U.S. are included, the ratio tightens still more. In round figures, more than 63,000 graduates of foreign medical schools are now practicing in this country.

The influx of these foreign-trained doctors—many of whom came for advanced study and decided to stay—is primarily a “market response” to the shortage of doctors in the United States, according to the study. Most were trained in Europe, the Philippines, India, Korea, and Latin America. A few are from Africa.

By comparison with the number of foreign-trained doctors, our country's 114 medical schools currently have some 47,000 students enrolled. About 9,000 graduated last year. But in the fall of 1972 an estimated 40,000 young men and women—almost as many as are now enrolled—applied for admission to U.S. medical schools. All but 13,500 were turned away, despite the fact that three-fourths of the applicants were said to be qualified.

Overall, the U.S. now has

about 360,000 physicians, but many localities in many states, including West Virginia, have no doctors at all. The increasing number of foreign doctors has had little effect on that situation. They, like U.S. doctors, have tended to gravitate toward centers of population. It is understandable that doctors, like other skilled professionals, should wish to practice where the best health care facilities are available and personal rewards can be greater. But small communities need doctors, too, and no one seems really certain as how best to correct the imbalance in health care.

One thing, however, seems clear. The United States needs more medical schools than it now has. When more than 26,000 young Americans are unable to gain admission to medical schools in a single year, it is evident that a substantial increase in the nation's medical training facilities is needed. The need is underscored not only by the increasing number of foreign doctors in the U.S. but also by the fact that an estimated 4,000 or more young Americans who want to be doctors have had to enroll in medical schools abroad.

The foreign physicians fill a gap here. But our health care system should not increase its dependence upon doctors who are needed in their own countries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Electronic Food Checkout Coming

The modern supermarket, with its enticing aisles of attractively-packaged foods and customer self-service, apparently is in for another innovation: the automated checkout. It is a change that could be as significant as the chain store's replacement of the corner grocery.

Not so many years ago, grocery store clerks "waited on the trade" from behind long counters, slicing triangular wedges from wheels of cheese, and weighing pounds of sugar and beans as customers ordered them. They sold flour from bins, pickles from barrels, and chickens live from wire crates.

Modern food merchandising changed all that; and now the nimble-fingered employee checking each individual item and ringing it up on a cash register may become as obsolete as the clerk behind the counter.

In an automated system, optical scanners would pick up code symbols printed on food packages as they passed along a checkout counter, transmitting them to a computer, which would activate the cash register. The clerk would bag the purchases as the electronic devices worked, speeding up checkout time significantly.

The food industry, preparing for such automation, has recently adopted what is

called a "universal product code," a series of numbers and symbols to be printed on the label of each food item in the future, identifying the manufacturer, the product, and giving the amount contained in the package, can, or bottle.

Operational savings could come from automation in two ways. The code, used in conjunction with a computer programmed with the store's current prices, would eliminate the necessity for each store to stamp the price on every item. Prices would be posted only on shelves, thus reducing labor costs. The faster checkout would enable the store to serve more customers, or reduce the number of lanes needed, further cutting costs.

Some ten years of study have gone into the development of the automated checkout. A chain store in Cincinnati has been using the system for more than a year now, and it appears likely that most of the big supermarkets will go to it within the next few years.

If the savings the stores realize can be passed on to the consumer, as they should be, perhaps the high price of food can be brought down a bit. That would be even more welcome to the average grocery shopper than the time saved in the checkout lines.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Baby Boom Goes Bust

The sharp decline in the U.S. birth rate has far reaching implications. Scores of our society's activities, ranging from the merchandising of baby foods to the providing of education, can be affected.

The U.S. population increased last year at the slowest rate in 35 years. In 1972, the Census Bureau has reported, the growth rate was only 7.8 persons per 1,000 population—lower than it has been since 1937 when the rate was 6.7 per 1,000. By contrast, the growth rate at its peak in 1956 was 18.1.

Births have dropped off so dramatically that in 1972 they had fallen to 2.03 children per family—the lowest in U.S. history—well below the so-called "replacement rate" of 2.1 children per family. If the rate should remain that low, the nation could eventually reach the point of zero population growth. That is unlikely, however, for several reasons, chief among which is the fact that the large number of women born in the post-World War II baby boom are still of child-bearing age.

Forecasting birth rates and population gain or loss can be a risky business. The Census Bureau now estimates that U.S. population by the year 2000 will be 250 million to 300

million. But in 1967, it was predicting 350 million by the turn of the century.

The most significant thing about population gain or loss, of course, is how it affects social and economic activities. The impact on education is always especially marked. The National Education Association estimates that 111,000 of the 337,000 teachers graduated last year were unable to find work because of the decline in school enrollment. That surplus could be swelled considerably if the birth rate declines further, or stays where it is.

Obviously, fewer maternity wards and less pediatric care will be needed, if the trend continues. The market for baby products and for children's toys could decline; and in a few years the demand for teen-age consumer goods—such as stereo records, transistor radios, guitars, etc.—could drop. In the end, even such things as the size of houses could be affected.

The big plus in the birth rate decline, of course, is that the runaway population growth that was feared a decade ago has not occurred. That fact should provide a welcome respite in which to deal with some of the other problems we face.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Home Sweet Home—a Fading Memory?

A generation or so ago, home, to most Americans, was perhaps the most important thing in their lives. Home was family. Home was where the babies were born and where the old folks lived out their days with their loved ones. The sheltering eaves of home, for most people, embraced the center of their interests.

A significant change has occurred in that concept in recent years. With the shift in the orientation of American life from rural to urban, the characteristics of home, and even its physical attributes, have changed for millions of Americans. Where once the detached, single-family house with its own fenced yard was dominant, today rows of townhouses, garden apartments, and high-rises crowd Americans into ever smaller spaces.

Nursing homes, delivery rooms, laundromats, and drive-ins have taken over many of the responsibilities that used to be associated with home. Family cohesiveness, as a result, has declined markedly. With more and more activities centered outside the home, and with less and less cooperative action required of the members of a family, home all too often has become only a place to hang one's hat, warm up a can opener, bolt a frozen dinner, or watch a TV show.

In these circumstances, many young people and parents see little of each other as they come and go, and their contact with grandparents and other relatives may be almost nil. Add to that the fact that Americans move so frequently—many in urban areas may not even know, or want to know, their neighbors' names—and you have a formula that is producing profound social change in American life.

Most stable societies have been built upon the foundation of the family and the home. When the influence of family and home decline, the result is predictable. Values, standards, and manners deteriorate. Morality is loosened. Anti-social behavior grows. We have seen much of the end-result in the crime statistics, in the figures which tell of the increase in runaway children, in the epidemic proportions of venereal disease, in the soaring divorce rate, in the decline in church attendance and support, and in the growth of mental illness.

The circumstances of life in much of present-day America militate against the family and home. But a restoration of home life and family responsibility in our country are basic necessities if the America we have known and cherished is to be preserved for our posterity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Love Affair With Cars May Cool

The average American probably could not conceive of life without an automobile. Cars have become a necessity for getting to work, buying groceries, or going to the bank, the doctor, or the football game. Weekends or vacations without a car would be almost unthinkable.

But there are signs that America's love affair with cars may be cooling. Rising gasoline prices and shortages, growing traffic jams, spreading parking bans, soaring insurance costs, built-in obsolescence, widespread repair frauds, and the anti-pollution devices which make cars cost more and perform worse—all threaten the great romance.

It is ironic that, at the very time when the nation's costly highway building program is at its height, environmental and energy considerations should combine to discredit the motor vehicle. It is ironic that the progress and the change in our way of life that the automobile has brought should have created a situation in which the automobile itself has become the villain.

Less than 50 years ago—when the automobile era that was to transform the nation's mode of living was young—few if any gave a thought to the environmental damage the automobile could cause or to the rate at which it would gobble irreplaceable fossil fuels. America was rural then, and its citizens and

its cars were just beginning to go steady.

Drivers still got their gas at livery stables or from sidewalk pumps at drug stores. Fascinated kids on small town porches could name the cars that passed from the way they sounded. Everyone knew without looking whether a Ford, Essex, Haynes, Chandler, Franklin, or Locomobile was coming down the street. The rhythm of their cylinders—as many as 16 of them in the big cars—and the music of their horns were tell-tale tags.

Now most cars sound alike, and more than 100 million of them are on the road. They have brought our country together, urbanizing it; but in a very real sense they have also taken it apart again. Huge downtown areas have been razed to make way for parking lots. Cities have lost vast numbers of their people to suburbia, as cars made shopping centers and suburbia possible. And an acrid pall of smog hangs over much of the land.

No one expects Americans to give up their love affair with cars at one fell swoop. But times do change. Pollution must be lessened. Energy must be conserved.

To help achieve this, public transportation must be encouraged, subsidized if necessary, and vastly increased throughout our country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Good Nutrition Low on Totem Pole

The high price of food, the shortages, the fact that millions of our citizens are overweight and millions more may be undernourished, the widespread obsession with food fads—all of these and other contemporary phenomena have served to focus a great amount of attention upon the subject of nutrition in the United States.

On every hand, one sees and hears claims for wonder-working diets. "Natural foods" are in. Vitamin sales soar. Pills to make one lose—or to make one gain—are widely hawked. Americans seem to be food conscious as they may never have been before.

The trend is probably a healthy one, insofar as it serves to turn the spotlight upon the importance of nutrition. The unfortunate fact, however, is that a considerable amount of the advice one may get about nutrition and diet may not be good. Too many fadists, hucksters, and even outright quacks and fakers, have gotten into the picture. They take advantage of a poorly-informed and often gullible public.

Despite their affluence and food-consciousness, many Americans, Congressional testimony

indicates, are still woefully lacking in knowledge of what constitutes good nutrition. It is said that only about half of American housewives know how to prepare a balanced meal. Many of the highly-advertised processed foods they serve have little nutritional value because of the vitamins and minerals lost in manufacture. Too many children are allowed to subsist on Cokes and candy bars. The well-to-do as well as the poor can be ill-nourished.

In the field of medical science, nutrition is low on the totem pole of interest and study. Nutrition has no recognized place among medical specialties. Only 10 or 12 of approximately 120 U.S. medical schools have full departments of nutrition and federal funds for research in this area have been reduced. Doctors understandably are attracted to more glamorous fields.

But the human being is mainly what he eats. Theoretically, if one's body could be perfectly nourished it should be able to avoid many of the myriad ills that flesh is heir to. An increased emphasis by all concerned on the vital importance of good nutrition could pay off handsomely for the health of our nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Is Money Going Out of Style?

A significant change is occurring in the way Americans buy the goods and services they need and want. More than half of our citizens, it is estimated, now use credit cards.

In primitive societies, and even in the early years of our own country, barter was the rule. Farmers swapped tobacco, cotton, and produce for the necessities they did not raise, because money—an acceptable currency—was scarce or not available.

The first coins struck by the U.S. government, half-cent and one-cent copper pieces, were not minted until 1793. The first dollar was not printed until a year later, 18 years after the Declaration of Independence.

But currency was so much more convenient than barter that cash became king and remained so until about the turn of the last century, when checks and charge accounts began to replace it. Now the ubiquitous credit card—"plastic money," some call it—may make the check obsolete.

By 1971, it was estimated that 90% of all money transactions in the U.S. were by check. The trend was so great that, in 1969, the U.S. ceased issuing any currency larger than a \$100 bill.

But the switch from cash to checks was no unmixed blessing for the banks, which must handle

the staggering total of 25 billion checks a year, at great cost. Little wonder then that, to rid themselves of this enormous amount of paper work, banks are experimenting with computerized credit card systems that would eliminate checks for recurring routine transactions.

Companies would deposit wages and salaries directly in banks, and banks would pay customers' credit card bills by a computerized transfer of funds between accounts and banks. Cash and checks would become unnecessary except for unprogrammed transactions.

This is not as far-fetched as it may sound. Already credit cards "pay" for everything from airplane trips and vacations to church pledges and funerals. In California, income and property taxes, auto licenses and car insurance can be paid for by credit card. In other places, plastic money will get you dental, medical, and hospital care.

Interestingly enough, there is a backlash to all of this—an anti-credit card movement sparked by individuals who dislike bookkeeping and businesses that offer discounts for cash. But theirs is a minority status.

Money—meaning wealth—is not about to go out of style; but currency "money" may well be headed in that direction.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Skills, Know-How of Older Workers Needed

There is a growing awareness in our society of the need for continued utilization of the skills and talents of older workers, especially those who have been involuntarily retired.

Ours is such a youth-oriented culture that some persons seem to have assumed that men and women at retirement age, which continues to trend downward, are no longer useful to society. That is far from the truth.

Infatuation with youth is nothing new. Human beings, before and after Ponce de Leon, have sought to worship at the Fountain of Youth. And it is right and proper that we, in our time, should give youth greater recognition and responsibility. But it is wasteful in the extreme for our society to fail to make use of the wealth of ability and experience possessed by its older people.

Alexander the Great may have wept at age 27 because there were no more worlds for him to conquer. But consider the towering figure of a Winston Churchill at the age of 70 fighting a war to save the world.

It is heartening, therefore, to know that in the last few years a number of organizations have been formed, some of them nationwide, aimed at

making the fully mature years of life more meaningful, both for the individual and for society as a whole. Some of these groups, and some localities, have established employment agencies for placing retirees in new fields of useful and gainful work.

This is a trend that should be encouraged. It is true, of course, that many retirees may wish to follow their own pursuits, perhaps just to take it easy. But for others, retirement on an arbitrary date can be a traumatic experience, especially if they are in good health—the case with so many older people today as the life span has increased.

Many individuals may feel unneeded and unwanted in retirement. They may have difficulty making ends meet on their retired income. The most important thing that society can do for them is to offer them the means to continue to be productive, self-supporting citizens.

Employers say that older workers, part-time or full-time, are conscientious, knowledgeable, and, above all, dependable. Our country has need of their experience and know-how. They should be given the fullest opportunity to continue to make a contribution to society.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Smokey's Message Still Worth Heeding

The difficulty that man encounters in dealing with ecological problems is underscored by the plight of Smokey the Bear. For years, Smokey has admonished Americans from posters throughout the country not to start forest fires. Now it turns out that some forest fires are good for the woods. Is Smokey now to be dismissed as a furry prevaricator?

Not really. The kinds of fires Smokey's mentors in the U.S. Forest Service now say are good, and perhaps even necessary, are usually not man-made. They generally occur in the remoter wilderness areas, touched off by lightning. Such natural conflagrations clean out underbrush and deadwood, clear diseased areas, and kill insect pests that destroy trees. Such fires probably would not start or spread, even though lightning struck, unless debris and conditions favoring a fire were present. The new thinking is to let natural fires burn out.

A fire, the experts have found, is necessary before some trees will grow. Only the heat of a fire can cause the seed of the jack pine to pop out of its cone—nature's method of providing new growth after a blaze. Some trees—such as the Douglas fir

and the Sequoias of the West—will not grow under other trees. Fires can open the way for ecological progression, foresters say, from aspen to hemlock to the "climax forest" of fir trees.

Some man-made fires also can be useful. The Forest Service and private owners have long resorted to controlled burning to clean out underbrush that competes with trees for nutrients and water.

Over the years, man has had to unlearn a good many things he thought he knew all about, and this has been especially true in the field of ecology as our knowledge of nature and its cycles has broadened. When human beings start tampering with a natural phenomenon and trying to control or change it, they may suddenly find out that what they thought was gospel is really heresy.

All of this, of course, does not mean that one should rush out and start a forest fire on the theory that it might be good for the trees. Smokey's message may not be totally accurate but it is still basically sound. Picnickers and campers, hunters and fishermen, should still be careful not to start forest fires. Leave that to nature and the experts.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Starting Point for UN Revitalization

The positive role the United Nations has taken in the efforts to bring peace in the Middle East ought to be the starting point for the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, and France—the five permanent members of the Security Council—to seek the UN's revitalization.

Founded with high hopes at the end of World War II to keep the peace, the UN has most often failed to do so until now; indeed, it has seemed each year less able to deal with the world's problems.

The reasons for its impotence have been two-fold: the sovereign states that compose it, unwilling to subordinate their sovereignty, have time and again stymied unified action; and far too many small new states have been admitted to membership, diluting the UN's direction and influence.

Nationalism has waxed rather than waned since World War II. Dozens of poor countries struggling for independence have emerged from colonialism and promptly become UN members. Where there were 51 members to start, now there are 135, many of which—like Lesotho, Rwanda, and Qatar—the average American never heard.

Yet, each has voting rights

in the U.N. Assembly equal to those of a major nation. Dominated by the new "third world," the Assembly has become an unwieldy Tower of Babel, concerned more with parochial matters than with the great issues of war and peace.

Nations comprising 10% of the world's population and contributing less than 5% of the UN budget command a two-thirds majority in the Assembly. The U.S. no longer has enough support to sustain its positions. It votes with the minority or abstains 75% of the time.

But the Security Council acted in the Mideast crisis because the big powers wanted it to act; and if the U.S., Russia, and China—in their quest for detente—want the Security Council to become a real force for peace and stability it can become that.

It is encouraging that in one of his first acts as Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger personally addressed the UN, expressing hope for its renewed usefulness. The emerging nations deserve their chance. But it is in the hands of the nuclear powers that the fate of the world hangs, and only they can make the UN anything more than a debating society.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal and the Energy Crisis

There is sufficient coal in the ground in our country to meet the nation's energy needs for hundreds of years to come. Why, then, do we not simply turn to coal to solve the energy problem?

The answer is that it is not all that simple. The nation's coal mines are already working at or near capacity. Meeting our energy needs with coal can be done, but it will require more mines, more trained men to work in them, more mining machinery, and more railroad cars for transport.

Perhaps most importantly, it will also take a greatly accelerated research and development program—which I have long advocated and worked for—to produce from coal the liquid and gaseous fuels our industrial society requires.

The federal government's misplaced faith in, and vast spending for, atomic energy have much to do with the critical situation in which the nation finds itself.

Experts warned a decade ago that the lack of long-term commitments to coal by industry—lured away from coal by cheap fuel oil from abroad and what was seen

then as the rosy promise of nuclear power — could endanger the country in a crisis such as we now have.

They pointed out that substantial capital outlays are required to open and operate mines and provide the expensive machinery needed for the extraction and preparation of coal. Without assured markets, they said, the capital investment needed could not be attracted. Events have proved them right, as the hope and expectation for a swift and widespread use of nuclear power have waned.

Coal has been hurt by other developments, too. Its use has been banned in many localities because of its sulfur emissions and environmental considerations. Many industrial plants have scrapped their coal-fired equipment. The number of available miners has declined. And needed railroad cars have not been built.

The result is that coal—that much maligned and neglected basic resource—cannot at one stroke provide an immediate way out of the energy crisis. But it can, in the years ahead, meet the nation's energy needs if its full utilization is given top priority.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Worst Drug Problem

Americans, especially parents, have been greatly worried for the last several years—and properly so—about drug abuse among the young. Pot smoking, glue sniffing, LSD, amphetamine and barbiturate pill popping, and heroin addiction have been widely publicized and rightly condemned.

But alcoholism is the No. 1 drug abuse problem in our country. And it is growing, among the young as well as among adults.

There is evidence that youthful drinking is supplanting the use of other drugs—even among teen-agers. The reasons are not hard to find. Alcohol is legal. It is easy to get and growing easier with the lowered drinking age in many localities. It is widely acceptable socially. And adults set the example.

Adults, of course, are the worst offenders, because all too many refuse to admit the problem. Reliable estimates are that more than 90 million Americans drink, nine million are alcoholics, and millions more have a drinking problem. The economic cost—in absenteeism, lowered productivity, medical treatment, arrests, etc.—is thought to be as

much as \$15 billion a year.

Half of all traffic fatalities, half of all homicides, and a quarter of U.S. suicides—80,000 deaths a year—are said to be alcohol-related. Life expectancy for the alcoholic is 10 to 12 years less than for the abstainer or moderate drinker. Equally serious, or more so, alcoholism breaks up innumerable families.

Yet, recent statistics show that the number of high school students who drink has almost doubled since 1969—from 39% then, to an estimated 74% in 1972. Clearly, young Americans have not yet been made sufficiently aware of the heartbreak and tragedy that almost inevitably await the victim of alcohol addiction.

Both industry and government are moving to step up programs aimed at combating alcoholism, and public school systems are joining in the fight. It is none too soon. If alcoholism is the disease that most knowledgeable persons now believe it to be, then its cause and cure must be as vigorously sought as are the cause and cure of heart disease and cancer. Nothing less than the future health of the nation is at stake.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Some Pluses in the Energy Picture

To put the U.S. energy picture into perspective, there are, despite all the negative aspects, some positive factors that should be kept in mind.

U.S. oil companies at last are moving toward the utilization of the shale deposits of the west for the production of oil. They are developing better ways to prevent contamination, so that more off-shore oil may be produced. They are seeking new sources of petroleum in the Western Hemisphere and other non-Arab lands. And the Alaska pipeline will be built.

Improved means are being sought for removing injurious stack emissions so that more coal may be burned in the future. Research and development have been stepped up to produce clean liquid and gaseous fuels from coal. And, already, a U.S. naval vessel has sailed from Philadelphia powered by oil made from coal.

People are improving their homes by installing more storm doors, windows, and insulation to save fuel for heating and air conditioning now and in the future. A side benefit, doctors say, is that cooler rooms in winter should mean

fewer colds and healthier citizens.

The trend toward smaller cars, car pools, and the use of public transportation will save petroleum now and in the future. And the lower speed limits will probably result in a lower death toll on the highways.

In addition to all of these pluses, new research and experimentation are under way in the efforts to harness solar energy and the geothermal energy that comes from the stored heat deep in the earth.

The U.S., hopefully, has relearned an old truth in the last few months: our nation must be self-sufficient in the basic things it needs for its survival, and nothing can be more basic to survival than energy.

If our people can get through this winter without too much inconvenience and hardship; if the efforts that are now under way to find new sources of energy bear fruit; and if the American people learn to conserve energy—then the time of testing, through which we are passing, could turn out to be a blessing in disguise.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Meeting Crisis Is a Job for All

The major ill effects of the energy crunch are, of course, well known: shortages and higher prices of gasoline for our cars; enforced changes in our driving—for necessity as well as for pleasure; chillier homes, factories, and offices; layoffs in airline, auto, and other industries; a depressed stock market; possible recession.

Like ripples in a pond, the full effects spread ever wider, and the full impact of not having enough of the petroleum our world has come to depend on is only beginning to be realized. For Americans, the whole way of life they have taken for granted in recent years can be affected.

The assumption, spoken or not, behind virtually all our economic development since World War II has been that energy would forever be plentiful and cheap. Our nation was on wheels, we were fond of saying.

Hence, urban sprawl, shopping centers away from downtown, weekends at second homes in the mountains or at the shore—and, yes, central schools to which children were bused—became America's life-style characteristics. As the cars and the freeways burgeoned, more and more workers moved farther and farther away from their jobs, and cities declined.

Now, suddenly, a whole new series of new and unexpected questions arise as all of the aspects of our energy situation come into focus. Should workers now move back nearer their jobs? Should we build more freeways? Should we continue to promote tourism? Should valuable electricity continue to be used for professional, night-time athletic contests? And what about gas for pleasure boats, mobile homes and campers, snowmobiles, and even lawnmowers?

Meeting the energy crisis intelligently is a job for all Americans. Federal, state, and city planners; real estate developers; recreation promoters; mass transit advocates—and the architects who, in the past, planned our energy-wasting glass-walled buildings—all are involved, as are all Americans. All must join in seeking the answers and the approaches needed for the future.

Cooperation, together with American inventiveness and ingenuity, I believe, can get us through the crisis and, perhaps, bring even a better future. It is a time for belt-tightening—not panic. Changes in the way we have done things are inevitable. But they do not necessarily have to be changes for the worse.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

War on Heroin Cuts Pain-Killer Supply

One of the laws of nature is that for every action an equal and opposite reaction can be expected. Because this is true, society's efforts to achieve desirable goals sometimes produce undesirable results as well.

We are seeing just such a situation now as one outgrowth of the federal government's entirely laudable efforts to combat the evils of heroin addiction. Because of the success of U.S. moves to curb undesirable foreign opium production, U.S. drug companies, doctors, and hospitals may now face a possible shortage of needed pain-killing codeine and morphine.

We are paying Turkey—previously the leading supplier of the highest quality legal, as well as siphoned-off illegal, opium—\$35 million not to grow poppies. India is now our only legal supplier.

But as the war on heroin gains and its use declines, the legitimate medical need for opium-derived drugs is rising. The demand for codeine, which relieves such ills as the symptoms of flu and bronchial ailments, is growing by 20% a year.

The upshot of this in-

creased demand and decreased production is that U.S. drug companies, which need an 18-month backlog of opiates, saw their stocks dwindle in late 1973 to a four-months' reserve.

The government thus finds itself in the dilemma of how to meet the medical need while keeping the screws on the illicit traffic.

Should it now reverse itself and opt for increased opium production elsewhere than in Turkey—or would our deal with the Turks then go down the drain? Should we plant poppies in our own Southwest where they will grow—or would that undermine our war on drugs?

Some short-term relief may be gained by releasing needed drugs from military stockpiles. But that is only a stop-gap. A long-term possibility is the cultivation of poppy strains from which it is easy to make codeine and hard to make heroin. But the new strains could also produce other narcotic drugs far more addictive than heroin.

As so often happens, the solving of one social problem may leave another problem in its place.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Eggs Become Center of Controversy

Bacon and eggs! Is this favorite breakfast on the way out because of Americans' worry over heart disease? It could be; but whether or not it should be has stirred a controversy between the medical profession and the egg industry, the end of which is not in sight.

Egg yolk, doctors say, is the highest dietary source of cholesterol, the fatty substance that can clog human arteries and is widely thought to be a major factor in heart attacks. The egg industry retorts that there is no conclusive evidence that eating eggs can be dangerous to one's health. The industry has mounted an advertising campaign to that effect.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health, Education, and Welfare, I have taken a lead in increasing funds for heart research. Everything possible must be done to combat the scourge of heart disease.

I do not have the answer to the egg controversy, but it is important that a definitive answer be found.

The concern of the American people about cholesterol,

and the effect that eating eggs may have upon their hearts, is shown by the fact that for the first time since the depths of the depression in 1935, egg consumption per person in 1973 dropped below 300. At the peak, more than 400 eggs per person per year were eaten in this country.

Eggs are among nature's best foods, high in protein, iron, and vitamins. In an effort to keep them in the American diet, food processors are bringing out egg substitutes; and research is being done to reduce the cholesterol in eggs by changing the diet of laying hens.

But what is most needed are stepped up efforts to resolve the basic question of the effect of cholesterol intake upon the normal human being. As we pointed out in an earlier column, much more research is needed into dietary problems in general. Many foods besides eggs are suspect in human ills.

The riddle that must be solved is whether it is the foods themselves that cause the trouble, or whether it is some quirk in the response of the individual to a particular food that is the villain.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Sea—Nature's Last Great Storehouse

What is probably the largest potential source of petroleum, minerals, and food resources left on the globe remains almost totally undeveloped because of the inability of nations to agree on how it should be done. That source is the oceans that cover three-fourths of the earth's surface.

Men land on the moon, orbit the earth in space laboratories, and send spaceships winging toward the outer reaches of the universe. But man has yet to explore the depths of the seas as they should be explored, or even to agree on jurisdictional matters involving the seas.

The ocean beds are believed to be incredibly rich in minerals such as manganese, nickel, and copper; the continental shelves of the world's coastal waters are thought to contain billions of barrels of oil; and the fishing grounds of the oceans offer one of the world's best sources of protein.

Yet, the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, embracing 148 nations, ended its December meeting at the UN without taking any firm action toward defining the

way these resources should be tapped, the world's energy shortages notwithstanding.

The Conference not only did not come to grips with the resources problem; it failed also to face up to the worsening ocean pollution situation. The sea, someone has said, is earth's ultimate sewer. Man may well be killing the oceans by dumping the world's wastes into them.

A stumbling block to international agreement on the use of the ocean's resources is the claim of coastal countries to territorial rights 200 miles offshore—a trend that threatens the freedom of the seas. Another is the opposition of some countries to U.S. drilling and mining at sea. Environmental considerations are also involved. And the big powers themselves by no means agree on how the bounties of the sea should be divided and shared.

These are thorny questions. But, unless answers are forthcoming, the sea's oil and minerals will go unused, marine life overkill will continue, and pollution will slowly choke nature's last great storehouse.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Senate in 1973: A Year of Achievement

The television coverage of the Watergate hearings left many people with the impression (as indicated in my office mail) that all of Congress was tied up with Watergate in 1973. The facts, however, are otherwise.

Only seven Senators out of 100 members of the Senate (no House Members) are on the Watergate Committee. The remaining 93 Senators have been busy in their own committees and subcommittees.

Aside from the Watergate Committee, there are, in the Senate, 17 standing (permanent) committees, 126 subcommittees, and nine special and select committees.

Hence, while the Watergate Committee hearings were being televised for millions of Americans to observe, there was no television coverage of the hearings and activities of the 152 other Senate standing committees, subcommittees, and special and select committees while they were at work.

Contrary to the impression that the Senate was bogged down with Watergate, the Senate in 1973 passed 723 measures, of which 196 became public law; confirmed 66,817 nominations; approved 22 treaties; and conducted 594 record votes.

Among those measures of importance enacted by the Senate (some of which still await House action), are the following:

Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act; War Powers Resolution; Compensation for Victims of Violent Crimes; Social Security Benefits Increase; Emergency Medical

Services; Health Maintenance Organizations.

The Senate also enacted Private Pension Plan Reform; Minimum Wage Increase (which was vetoed); Vocational Rehabilitation; Mass Transit Funding; Northeast Rail Service Improvement; Crime Control Act; Railroad Retirement Amendments; Servicemen's Benefits; Education of the Handicapped.

Also included were Federal Election Campaign Amendments; Federal Election Reform Commission; Toxic Substances Control Act; Emergency Loan Program for Disaster Areas; Flood Insurance; Older Americans Act; Public Works and Economic Development Amendments; Youth Conservation Corps.

Additionally, the Senate legislation included Civil Service Retirement Annuities; Civil Service Survivors Benefits; Federal Employees Health Insurance; National Guard Technicians' Retirement; Diabetes Millitus; School Lunch and Child Nutrition Programs; Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Moreover, the Senate passed bills on Job Training Employment Opportunities; Emergency Employment Act Amendments; Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Amendments; Aircraft Hijacking; Federal-Aid Highway Act; Freight Car Shortage; Ship Construction; and Extension of the Economic Stabilization Act, giving authority to the President to control wages, prices, etc.

The enactment of this mass of legislation is evidence that the Senate has been concerned with many issues other than Watergate.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Population Drop Should Be Temporary

The Census Bureau's estimate that West Virginia's population declined 1,000 between July 1972 and July 1973 was not what West Virginians wanted to hear. But the figure is an estimate only and does not necessarily indicate a trend.

In the two years previous to 1973, West Virginia reversed the population loss it suffered in the fifties and sixties—gaining an estimated 51,000.

The 1970 census gave the state 1,744,237. By July 1971, that had increased to an estimated 1,768,000, and, by July 1972, had grown to an estimated 1,795,000.

West Virginia's population gain and loss has corresponded largely to the vitality of the coal business. From the turn of the century—when the state had only 958,000—the rate of growth was steady until 1950, at which mid-century point it reached its high of 2,005,552.

The greatest growth came between 1910 and 1930, when more than half a million increase was counted, the growth coinciding with the

burgeoning coal industry. The greatest decline was in the fifties when the loss was 145,000, corresponding again with the receding fortunes of coal.

These figures are interesting as West Virginia looks to the future, with the fortunes of coal due for another change as a result of the energy crisis. It is not likely that the state's population will shoot swiftly upward in the next year or so, because increased production of coal is a long-term rather than a short-term matter.

But for the long range, the state's prospects population-wise look good. West Virginia, with its abundant reserves of coal, could become the American "Middle East" as an energy supplier.

Gasoline, gas for heating and cooking, and other oil-based products too numerous to mention can be made from coal. Producing these necessities will require men to mine the coal, other men to move it, and still others to man the plants to convert it to new products and uses.

The estimated drop in West Virginia's population should be only a temporary thing.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

We Do Not Need Any More Crises

Among the many lessons the oil embargo and price escalation should teach us is that the United States could face other serious shortages of basic necessities as a result of our dependence upon foreign sources of supply.

Congressional committees have been told that our country is now importing more than 50% of at least six basic raw materials required by an industrial nation: aluminum, chromium, manganese, nickel, tin, and zinc.

By 1985, unless the situation changes, we are likely also to be dependent upon other countries for more than half of our iron, lead, and tungsten; and, if the trend continues, by the end of the century imports will also have to supply more than half of the copper, potassium, and sulfur we need.

Taken together, these are 12 basic raw materials an industrial society must have.

We are undertaking a long-range attack on the energy problem designed to make the United States self-sufficient. We need also to mount a long-range attack on the problem of obtaining adequate supplies of all essential raw materials. The use of the oil weapon against us could

tempt other countries to try embargoes and price hikes of other vital raw materials.

Three things are needed. We must be certain that strategic economic considerations have equal bearing with political and other factors in determining U.S. foreign policy. We must maintain pragmatically sound relationships with other countries from which we obtain strategic supplies in order to head off the kind of situation that developed in the Middle East.

Second, we should begin now a nationwide program to conserve and reclaim metals and basic materials. We should quit wasting them as we have wasted energy.

And, third, new means should be sought to develop presently untapped U.S. resources. Our country has, for example, undeveloped aluminum, manganese, and low-grade iron ores in the Appalachian area. Development thus far has centered on the question of economic feasibility. We have imported these and other materials because imports were cheaper. The time has come to take another look at that rationale.

The United States cannot afford a crisis in basic raw materials on top of its energy crisis.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ripoffs, Kickbacks, Cheating and Hanky-Panky

Recent news reports have told of students, seeking admission to medical and law schools, who have paid advanced students to take entrance examinations for them. Other reports have told of thesis mills where students can buy papers on almost any college subject, and still others have told of other forms of campus cheating.

To a public surfeited with Watergate, such dishonesty may create no great stir. But it, and other manifestations of contemporary morality, should be enough to give any American pause.

We have much to be proud of in our country, of course. But no citizen can be proud of the cheating being done in professional schools, the rise in white collar crime, entertainment payola, political payoffs, kickbacks, corporate hanky-panky, misuse of union funds, employee ripoffs from employers, or the growing number of shoplifters. Even the once simon-pure Soapbox Derby so many kids loved has been tainted by cheating and dishonesty.

When one puts it all together, one gets a sorry pic-

ture of the current state of U. S. ethics and morality. Watergate seems only the tip of the iceberg. This is not to mitigate or excuse Watergate's sordidness, but rather to point out that what has happened in the nation's political life is symptomatic of a malaise that runs through much of the rest of our social fabric.

The most basic problem in America today is not energy nor the Mideast, nor detente, nor inflation—critical though these problems are. It is, instead, the breakdown of the values and standards upon which our nation was built, and the desperate need that now exists for a restoration of simple honesty and decency and integrity in all aspects of our national life.

That is the great challenge that America faces as it approaches its bicentennial. That is the great challenge that confronts our political parties, our professional and trade associations, our corporations, our public officials, our union leaders, our service clubs, our teachers and preachers—and, yes, America's Mothers and Dads.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Telling the 'Wonderful West Virginia' Story

I am delighted each month when I receive my copy of "Wonderful West Virginia," the excellent and highly interesting magazine published by the State Department of Natural Resources.

There is so much that is appealing about our state, and this very professional publication, hopefully, is reaching an ever-widening number of readers. State magazines, if they are well done, can do much to carry a state's story beyond its borders. "Wonderful West Virginia" seems to me to be a vehicle that can help accomplish that objective.

The first 1974 issue was typical of what the magazine has been doing now for the last several years. The front and back covers depicted beautiful winter scenes in the Mountain State. Other seasons, especially the magic of fall, were pictured on the inside covers and elsewhere in the magazine.

These full color pages, many by photographer Arnout Hyde, Jr., are among the outstanding features of "Wonderful West Virginia." There are sometimes a dozen of them, calling to mind the widely-acclaimed color photos in the "Arizona Highways" magazine.

The articles in the year's

first issue were equally intriguing and worthwhile. There were pieces on foxchasing in West Virginia and "Plants That Eat Animals"; articles on Wheeling's model Oglebay Park and Summers County's unique Riverside Inn; and interesting reprints from publications in other states. A varied and well-balanced fare is being served up by editor Ed Johnson.

An editorial by Ira S. Lattimer, director of the Department of Natural Resources, also forthrightly pointed out that the ugly depredations of vandals in West Virginia's great outdoors and recreation areas is a growing problem that must be dealt with—"either voluntarily or by prosecution." Why some misguided persons would besmirch and deface attractions that thousands of other people enjoy has always been a mystery to me. I agree that they should be dealt with—by whatever means necessary.

West Virginians, as well as persons in other areas who may wish to visit our state, should enjoy this attractive magazine. All who are responsible for its publication can take pride in it. "Wonderful West Virginia," in my judgment, is performing a needed and welcome service for the Mountain State.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Senators Should Not Prejudge Nixon Case

Letters reach my office daily urging me to *support* impeachment of the President; others urge me to *oppose* impeachment. These communications are to be expected in the present climate of public opinion. However, I think it would be inappropriate for me, a United States Senator, either to *support* impeachment OR to *oppose* impeachment of the President.

A handful of Senators have publicly advocated that the President be impeached, but I don't believe I should express a judgment, one way or the other. The decision as to whether or not to impeach is vested *solely* in the House of Representatives—not the Senate. Impeachment is somewhat analogous to an indictment, in that both involve the filing of formal charges preliminary to a trial.

The Senate, on the other hand, has been vested with the sole power to "try all impeachments." As a Senator, I would sit as a juror in the trial of the President, should the House of Representatives vote to impeach him. If such a situation should arise, every Senator would be required to swear, in all things appertaining to the trial of impeachment, to "do impartial justice

according to the Constitution and the laws."

Hence, it is obvious that, as a prospective juror in such a trial, I should do *nothing*, by word or action, to influence the House of Representatives concerning impeachment. Were I to do so, it could be interpreted as a prejudgment on my part of the President's guilt or innocence. I am sure that all West Virginians will agree that a jury should consist of *impartial* jurors—not jurors who have already prejudged the case.

Should the Senate ever be confronted with an impeachment trial of Mr. Nixon, I would do my best to reach an impartial judgment based on the evidence presented, entirely aside from partisan considerations.

I hope that the Senate is never confronted with such an impeachment trial, but the possibility is a real one. I trust that I shall have the understanding of all my constituents when I say I ought not and will not take any action *for* or *against* impeachment. That is strictly the responsibility and prerogative of the House of Representatives, not the Senate, under the Constitution.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

War on Crime Far From Being Won

The war against crime in the United States is far from being won. Statistics show decreases in some localities, but increases elsewhere offset the gains.

Rape is now increasing faster than any other type of serious crime; and the number of burglaries, kidnapings, and wanton murders is climbing in many places. The recent kidnapings and the senseless street slayings in San Francisco underline the trend, causing new worry and fear for millions of Americans.

It is not urban areas alone that are affected. Recent figures show crime to be increasing in the suburbs faster than in the cities. The problem is a pervasive one that should be of concern to all Americans who want to live in a peaceful and safe society.

Crime and violence plague many societies. But most respond with more vigor and less leniency toward the criminal than does our own country today. Despite the anti-crime legislation of recent years enacted by the Congress, and despite the beefing-up of police forces and the upgrading of their personnel, millions of our citizens—from the poorest to the richest—today simply are not safe in their own neighborhoods.

The fact is emphasized by the news reports telling of the formation in many communities of what are in effect para-police units. Tired of being victimized by lawbreakers, citizens — with police blessing — are organizing patrol squads to augment the police. Armed mainly with flashlights and citizen-band radios, residents take turns patrolling their neighborhoods to report suspicious activity to the police.

So long as such groups have official backing, they can be helpful and their number can be expected to grow. But the anger that citizens feel toward unpunished crime must never be allowed to lead to illegal vigilantes or goon squads.

What is most needed to deal with crime is the strengthening of our system of criminal justice. Punishment for crime must again be made swift, certain, and severe enough to discourage other would-be criminals. It is heartening that the U.S. Supreme Court is moving away from the permissiveness of the Warren years, and is once more handing down decisions that support the police instead of hamstringing them.

America's courts, in the final analysis, bear a heavy responsibility for putting the brakes on crime.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Voters Can Be Trusted With the Decision

Watergate has focused new attention upon the length of the presidential term and the number of terms a President may serve. Suggestions have been heard that the four-year term should be lengthened to a single six-year term; and it has also been suggested that a President be limited to one four-year term.

Until the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt, there was no limit upon the number of times a President might serve. The framers of the Constitution recognized that a U.S. President should have at least four years to do his job, and they wisely left it up to the judgment of the people as to whether he should be re-elected.

Critics of Roosevelt, the only President to serve more than two terms, pushed through the 22nd Amendment limiting a President to two terms. They argued that a President's power and his ability to sway public opinion had grown so great that he could be reelected indefinitely.

They failed to recognize that the reverse could be true, and that public opinion could operate against the President. We are seeing that now, and it was evidenced also in the administrations of Lyn-

don Johnson and Harry Truman, both of whom declined to seek another term.

In my judgment, the two four-year terms are preferable to any other arrangement—unless it be a return to the original Constitutional provision. One six-year term, or a single four-year term, might free a President from political considerations involved in his decision-making. But should a President, or any other elected official in a representative government, make dictator-like decisions without regard to the political consequences or the people's wishes—which he might do if limited to one term?

An incumbent President has advantages when he runs for reelection, it is true—but not unless he enjoys public confidence and support. To argue for one term, whatever the length, is to argue against the ability of the people to judge performance in office and against the concept underlying democratic elections.

If voters have the right to return, or not to return, other elected officials such as Senators and Congressmen, should they not also have the right to pass upon a President's fitness for reelection?



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Congress' Rating in the Polls

A number of commentators have been making much of the fact that Congress' rating in a recent poll was lower than that of the President. Why does the public appear to hold Congress in such poor esteem?

One reason has to do with Watergate. President Nixon's foes demand his impeachment. His supporters vigorously oppose it. Congress, in the middle, is charged on the one hand by many with being "out to get" the President, and it is denounced on the other by many more for not "getting" him. Caught on the horns of this dilemma, Congress could hardly expect to win much praise from a polarized public.

Another reason is that this is an election year. Some members of the House and Senate, illogical though it may seem, campaign by running against Congress. They seem to find it to their advantage to run Congress down.

Still another reason is that Congress, when compared with a Chief Executive, is a veritable Tower of Babel. An Administration can speak with the once voice of a President; Congress speaks with 535 disparate voices. A President can preempt prime-time television on three networks

and have access to most front pages in the land to gain the attention of the public. Members of the Senate and House often have difficulty making their voices heard outside their own constituencies.

The substantive record of the 93rd Congress is much better than the image in the polls suggests. As I pointed out in a recent column, the present Congress has many impressive accomplishments to its credit.

They include the comprehensive energy bill (which the President vetoed), and good and needed legislation in the fields of health, education, the economy, election reform, social security, war powers, crime, and national defense—to name only a few.

Many of America's institutions are under fire at this point. Government is not alone in being criticized. The public is asking questions about our country's communications media, its business and industrial corporations, and many other aspects of U.S. life.

All this can be healthful, and the end result can be beneficial. But only if citizens seek to ascertain facts, and to make objective judgments upon them, rather than upon subjective and emotional appraisals.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Governors Have Come from 17 Counties

West Virginia has had 28 governors in its 111 years of statehood. They have been almost evenly divided between the two political parties, 15 having been Democrats and 13 Republicans.

Seventeen of the state's 55 counties have seen their sons become the state's chief executive. But only seven have produced more than one governor. Wood County leads the list with four: Albert B. White (R), 1900; Jacob B. Jackson (D), 1880; William E. Stevenson (R), elected in 1868; and Arthur I. Boreman (R), the state's first governor in 1863.

Kanawha County and Marion County each has had three governors. Those from Marion were M. M. Neely (D), 1940; Ephraim F. Morgan (R), 1920; and Aretas B. Fleming (D), 1888. Those from Kanawha were William G. Conley (R), 1928; William A. MacCorkle (D), 1892; and Emanuel W. Wilson (D), 1884.

Four counties have had two governors, Raleigh, Fayette, Randolph, and Hampshire. Raleigh's were Hulett C. Smith (D), 1964; and Clarence W. Meadows (D), 1944. Fayette's were Okey L. Patteson (D), 1948; and Homer A. Holt (D), 1936. Randolph's were W. W. Barron (D), 1960;

and H. G. Kump (D), 1932. Hampshire's were John J. Cornwell (D), 1916; and John J. Jacob (D), 1872 and 1870 (before the State Constitution providing a four-year term was ratified).

The ten other counties from which governors have come are:

Marshall, Arch A. Moore (R), 1968 and 1972; Tyler, Cecil H. Underwood (R), 1956; Wyoming, William C. Marland (D), 1952; Harrison, Howard M. Gore (R), 1924; McDowell, Henry D. Hatfield (R), 1912; Monongalia, William E. Glasscock (R), 1908; Preston, William M. O. Dawson (R), 1904; Ohio, George W. Atkinson (R), 1896; Greenbrier, Henry M. Mathews (D), 1876; and Upshur, Daniel D. T. Farnsworth (R), who, as President of the State Senate, succeeded Governor Boreman in 1869 when Boreman resigned to enter the United States Senate. Farnsworth, however, served only from February 27 to March 4—at that time inauguration day—when Governor Stevenson, elected in 1868, took office.

Of West Virginia counties over 50,000 population, only Cabell and Mercer have not had governors.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Self-Sufficiency in Food Desirable, Too

Spurred by high food prices and shortages, more West Virginians—and more Americans everywhere—are expected to plant vegetable gardens this spring than at any time since the austere days of World War II.

In Arlington, Va., across the Potomac from Washington, the county government is making available to apartment dwellers, and other residents of that highly-urbanized area, some 70 county-owned plots of land for vegetable gardens this summer. It is a trend that could spread.

Americans this year are finding themselves in a situation they have not experienced before. For the first time, they are competing with much of the rest of the hungry world for the food they must buy. That is one of the reasons for the high prices and scarce supplies.

The huge American surpluses of other years, which helped keep prices down and supplies assured, are suddenly a thing of the past. World affluence and world demand for food have soared. The

U.S. is exporting more food-stuff than ever before—an estimated \$20 billion worth in the fiscal year ending June 30, up from \$8 billion in 1972.

These exports are important to the United States in that they help our country maintain a favorable balance in world trade. They give U.S. farmers additional markets as well. But domestic needs and prices are important, too.

The answer to the food problem can only lie in greatly increased production all along the line, from America's vast farmlands to its home gardens. A patch of ground with peas, beans, corn, tomatoes, lettuce, and cucumbers can help balance the family budget; it can provide healthful exercise; and it can bring the satisfaction of producing for one's own needs. Moreover, it can also provide nutritious and mouth-watering food, as all who love fresh corn-on-the-cob and home-grown tomatoes know.

Self-sufficiency in food can be as important as self-sufficiency in energy or anything else.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Costly But Necessary Undertaking

Some commentators contend that making the United States self-sufficient in energy will be too costly. They say, further, that the goal cannot be reached by 1980.

There is more merit to the second contention than to the first. It is improbable that all that must be done will be done in the next six years, considering the technological, developmental, and financial problems involved.

West Virginians well know, for example, that getting new coal mines into production is a time-consuming and very costly process. There are difficulties that must be overcome, also, before the production of synthetic fuels from coal becomes a commercial reality. And getting oil from the shales of the West means the development of a whole new industry.

But there can be no question, in my judgment, about the necessity for our country to become self-sufficient in energy whatever the difficulties or the cost. The strings attached to the lifting of the oil embargo—and the possibility of its use again—should alert us sufficiently to the risks inherent in dependency upon foreign sources for the fuel our nation must have.

Much more than gas for

vacations and Sunday driving is involved. The security of our country could be at stake. In the event of war, the U.S. would be in deep trouble without sufficient fuel for ships, planes, tanks, and factories. Germany, in World War II, knew this, and a generation ago it synthetically produced the fuel it needed from coal. We should note well the fact that the Soviet Union — despite this era of "detente" — urged Middle Eastern oil producers to continue their boycott.

There are other compelling reasons for energy self-sufficiency—among them the fact that, every year, every industrial nation is using more energy; and the demand will continue to increase. The quantity of oil, even in the Middle East, is finite. It will one day be used up. The need for energy from other sources can only grow more urgent with the passage of time.

The lifting of the oil embargo should be no cause for complacency, or for raising doubts about the wisdom of reaching the goal that has been set. A nation that can spend billions on space exploration can afford to do no less when the energy for its survival and growth is involved.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Political Parties and Independent Voters

A fact of increasing importance in the political life of our nation is that more and more voters are shunning identification with either major political party. A recent poll shows that as many as 34% of the voters now list themselves as independents, while 42% consider themselves Democrats and 24% consider themselves Republicans.

The growth of an independent-minded electorate is desirable insofar as it means a more informed and enlightened public. A representative, democratic system such as ours can function properly only when the people are informed and are free to act independently. Blind party loyalty, of whatever political persuasion, is not conducive to the best government.

But there is another side to the matter. The two-party system, as it has evolved in the United States, is basic to orderly governmental operations in our country. It provides for logical and workable organization of the national and state executive departments and of the national and state legislatures. It fixes party responsibility. It makes possible meaningful, understandable elections.

One need only to look at countries bedeviled by multi-

ple or splinter parties to see how confused and chaotic elections can become, or how difficult it can be to form viable governments. Two parties, offering the electorate a clear-cut choice, can produce the most effective government.

Why, then, the rise of the independents in our country?

The answer is two-fold: cynicism toward government in general, and disenchantment with both major parties. Neither major party, and few recent administrations are totally untarnished in the public mind. This political dissatisfaction is one of the basic reasons why Governor Wallace attracts so much support.

The independents—and the split-ticket voters, who are increasing too—are sending America's party leaders a message. They are saying that great numbers of citizens have lost faith. It is a message that can be ignored only at peril to our system.

The revitalization of our two-party system is urgently needed in all too many localities. Independence of mind is desirable in every voter. But our system will work best only when the overwhelming majority of U.S. citizens believe strongly enough in one or the other of our two historic major political parties to align themselves with it.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Pluses Outweigh the Minuses

Inflation, the talk of recession, the energy problem, Watergate—these and other worrisome developments apparently have led some Americans to the pessimistic conclusion that our country is on the skids. Prophets of gloom here and there cry that America may be done for.

Our problems are serious. But we surely should not let them overwhelm us; we should try, instead, to keep them in perspective. Inflation and energy shortages, are worldwide in nature—worse in several places than they are here.

The United States has come through many serious crises before. It was born in revolution, and its union was cemented in civil war. It has withstood depression, world war, assassinations of presidents, and the trauma of the late sixties when rioters set cities aflame.

When one is tempted to dwell too somberly on our country's present troubles, one should balance them against America's enormous assets. It is neither rationalizing nor chauvinistic to conclude that the pluses outweigh the minuses, and by a wide degree.

Despite the inroads of inflation—and the gas, food, and other shortages—our standard of living and general technological progress continue to outdistance those of any other nation. And for every person involved in Watergate, there are thousands of dedicated public servants who recognize the proper use and limits of authority and power.

This is no time to sell America short, however serious its troubles may be or seem to be. Our nation is resilient and our people resourceful. Our system has responded to crises and adjusted to change again and again within our constitutional framework.

The time is again at hand for change: for restoring confidence in government at all levels; for improving our electoral processes; for tax reform; for increasing our productivity; and for insuring our self-sufficiency in energy and basic raw materials.

Ours is a vital and dynamic country. Its strength derives from many sources, not the least of which is the common sense of its people. I am confident that that common sense will prevail now, and that our nation will come through its trials stronger than before.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reduced Speed Limit Saving Lives

For the first time in many years the nation's highway death toll is declining throughout the country. The 55-mile speed limit, imposed to reduce gasoline consumption, is given the credit. The total miles Americans drive has declined too, and that is a factor; but the drop in fatalities is considerably greater than is the decrease in driving.

The average driver may not realize it, but some 17 million automobile accidents a year have been occurring in the United States. Better known, perhaps, is the fact that these accidents have sent deaths in car crashes soaring above 56,000 a year.

Now, according to the National Safety Council, the monthly death totals are dropping. They were 9% lower in November 1973—the first month for the lower speed limits—than they were in November 1972. They were 19% lower in December than a year earlier. And in both January and February 1974 they were an impressive 25% below last year.

This is good news indeed for all who drive automobiles—including those who chafe at the reduced speed limits.

Safety experts say that one's chances of being killed in an automobile wreck double with each 10-mile-an-hour increase above 50. The risk of being fatally injured is twice as great at 60 as it is at 50, and at 70 it is four times greater.

Reducing speed limits is not the whole answer to solving the highway death problem. But experience with the 55-mile speed limit thus far would seem to point up one aspect of the situation about which disagreement has existed in the past: Speed does kill.

A case can be made for a 70-mile-an-hour limit for competent, sober drivers on limited-access divided four-lane highways, such as the interstates. But, unfortunately, not all drivers are competent and sober.

Until all drivers are licensed, and their licenses are renewed, on the basis of their driving skills and physical condition and their ability to react properly in emergency situations, and until we get the drunk drivers off the roads, then speed can only multiply one's chances of being killed—even when an accident is not one's own fault.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Should Retain Panama Canal

I am opposed to the United States turning over the Panama Canal to the Republic of Panama. There is too much doubt about Panama's ability to operate the canal or to provide for its security. Over the years we have invested nearly \$6 billion in the canal and its defense. A better solution than U.S. withdrawal is needed.

The nub of the problem is the manner and character of the U.S. presence in Panama. The U.S. exercises sovereignty over a 10-mile wide zone from the Atlantic to the Pacific, cutting the country in half. In it the U.S. maintains commercial activity, military forces, and the police and courts—to which Panamanians are subject.

Panamanians resent this intrusion into what they regard as their territory. U.S. control of the Canal Zone is the country's major political issue.

The zone was obtained by the United States through purchase of portions of the land; by purchase of the canal company from France; and by treaty with Panama when it declared its independence from Colombia in 1903, under U.S. aegis. Panama might not have come into being as an independent country had it not

been for U.S. support.

The existing 1903 treaty provides that the U.S. shall exercise authority over the zone in perpetuity, "as if it were the sovereign," although the U.S. in 1905 recognized Panama's "titular sovereignty." The proposed new treaty would eliminate the concept of perpetuity; terminate U.S. jurisdiction over the territory; provide for a period of joint operation of the canal; and give Panama total responsibility for the canal on the fixed termination date of the treaty.

It is the wisdom of this last provision that is most open to question in the world of big-power competition and confrontation. The canal needs modernizing, and a new canal may have to be built. The Isthmus of Panama is of considerable strategic importance; and we should not forget that the Soviet Union did try an adventure in Cuba. Panama, with 59 presidents or governments in 71 years, has no great record of stability.

We should also not forget that the Suez Canal, relinquished by Great Britain, is still littered with sunken ships and today remains closed to the world's commerce.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Exports Increasing

The phrase "international trade" is likely to conjure up thoughts of busy seaports and ocean-going ships—things well removed from West Virginia. But no matter that the Mountain State is a considerable distance from the sea, international trade looms large in its economic picture.

The U.S. Department of Commerce estimates that the total value of West Virginia exports in the last year for which figures are available, 1972, was more than \$820 million. Other estimates place the number of jobs in the state directly related to exports at 30,000 or more. On a per capita basis, West Virginia is among the top five states in the value of the products it exports.

Coal, the high grade metallurgical variety that goes to steel mills in Japan, Europe, and South America tops the list of Mountain State products that go abroad. In 1972, the mine-mouth value of West Virginia's export coal was more than \$500 million. Our state is first among the 50 states in coal exports, accounting for about 75% of all U.S. coal that goes to foreign countries.

But West Virginia also exports substantial quantities of manufactured products—

nearly \$300 million worth in 1972. These exports included metals and metal products; stone, clay, and glass products; and chemicals, plastics, and synthetics.

Chemicals make up the largest group of manufactured products the state sells abroad. West Virginia is fifth among the states in the value of its chemical exports, accounting for about five percent of the U.S. total. The Mountain State's glassware is also sold in foreign countries; and the state exports about \$4 million worth of agricultural products a year, mostly fruit and livestock.

West Virginia has exported its coal for many years. But it has increased the export of its manufactured and other products sharply in just the last decade. More increases can be expected—a good omen as we look to the future.

Far from being a one-industry or one-crop state, West Virginia is steadily diversifying. Although many of its citizens may not have thought of it, West Virginia, according to the State Department of Commerce, is one of the few states that makes a plus contribution to the U.S. balance of trade.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Will the Draft Have to Be Reinstated?

The Army, Navy, and Marine Corps continue to fall short of their recruiting quotas, and some are saying in Washington that it may be necessary to reinstate the draft.

Only the Air Force is now at its full strength of 674,000. In contrast with the other services, the Air Force has found volunteers plentiful enough for it to pick and choose, so that it is now getting some of the best recruits in its history. The easy transfer to civilian life of the skills it provides, and the fascination of the "wild blue yonder" seem sufficient inducements to keep the air arm all-volunteer — at least for now.

But attracting all of the recruits they need is a different story for the other services, especially the Army. Despite its widely-advertised, and criticized, beer-in-the-barracks moves — which, it was said, would make life a bit pleasanter for the volunteer — the Army is still 20,000 below its authorized strength of 802,000. Its greatest problem lies in getting enlistees for its combat components.

All 13 of the Army's divisions, however, are expected to reach combat readiness this summer, whereas only four were at that stage at the beginning of 1973. Also on the plus side is the fact that in recent months the Army

has been reaching about 95% of its recruiting quotas.

The Navy and the Marine Corps are faring better than the Army, although they, too, are below the levels needed. The Navy is some 9,000 under its desired number of 566,000, and the Marines are about 5,000 short of the 194,000 they should have. Both services, however, say they believe their recruiting will pick up this year.

There are arguments, of course, on both sides of the volunteer armed forces issue. But so far, the fears expressed in some quarters that professionalized services might endanger the American concept of civilian control over the military, or that the services might become predominantly black, have not yet been borne out. Many observers now do not believe they will be.

For many young Americans, enlistment in any one of the U.S. armed forces offers what is perhaps the maximum opportunity to serve one's country, and at the same time it offers opportunities for both physical and mental development and career advancement as well.

I hope that the volunteer concept will work, and that it will not be necessary to go back to the draft. But I am keeping my fingers crossed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Opportunities for Worthwhile Careers

The significant changes that are occurring in health care delivery in our country offer increasingly worthwhile career opportunities for young people—especially those currently graduating from high schools. The spread of health maintenance organizations (HMOs), and the likelihood of congressional action on some form of national health insurance broaden the possibilities.

With the shortage of doctors, an increasing number of smaller communities, as many West Virginians know, have no physicians or health care facilities at all. In this situation, registered nurses and persons entering what are now generally referred to as the allied health professions can fill a real and urgent need.

The demand is growing for many types of trained people in the health field—medical technologists, laboratory technicians, physical therapists, dental hygienists, and other similar specialties that have been developed in recent years. Many community colleges, as well as four-year colleges and universities, offer courses leading to various degrees in these fields.

Physicians' assistants and nurse practitioners now routinely make preliminary examinations in an increasing number of health

facilities. With time-consuming tests by aides especially trained for the job, physicians are freed to use their greater skills more effectively for more people.

The need for such medical assistants can be expected to grow, especially if national health insurance becomes a reality. The quality of applicants for training of this nature is increasing, along with the employment opportunities.

In another type of recent development, nurse clinics have been established in areas where there are no doctors. Registered nurses see patients, and, by phone and other means, get recommendations for treatment from specialists at medical centers.

More nurses will be needed for this type of work in the future, as well as for supervisory duties in hospitals and at nurse training facilities. The shortage of registered nurses has eased somewhat; but with the growing number of health facilities and nursing homes, the need for nurses can only increase.

Our country is in a transitional health care period—one that is providing more varied possibilities for careers of meaningful service to humanity than ever before.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

About Detente's 'Give and Take'

Detente with the Russians is better than confrontation, and infinitely better than conflict—cold or hot. But with the Soviet Union obviously still aiming at arms superiority over the U.S., we must proceed realistically and with caution.

Few Americans, I believe, will quarrel with a U.S. policy that seeks establishment of a friendly give-and-take relationship with the Soviet Union. That objective is desirable, both from the standpoint of world peace and our own national interests.

But what is not desirable is an accommodation in which the United States does most of the giving and the Soviet Union does most of the taking.

The U.S. already has been taken on the wheat deal, in which — to the detriment of our own country — a Russian food crisis was averted by their acquisition of our grain at a price hurtful to American consumers.

Many will also argue that the U.S. may have been taken in the SALT I agreement, in which we assented to a degree of Soviet superiority in missiles. It can further be argued that we were overly generous, if not naive, in allowing the Kremlin access to computer technology that can benefit

Soviet military objectives.

Now, ahead of us, is the planned linkup of American and Soviet spacecraft. Preparations for this historic rendezvous in July 1975 are going forward.

What sort of preparations? News reports say that no fewer than 75 Russian engineers, cosmonauts, and technicians were at the U.S. Space Center at Houston, Texas, by mid-April gathering information about the U.S. space program.

By contrast, U.S. space personnel—and then only nine or ten—will not go to Russia until July to receive such information as the Soviets are willing to reveal about their own space efforts.

The Soviet Union has fallen behind the U.S. in space technology. It abandoned the race to the moon. Cooperation by the U.S. and Russia in space sounds fine. But who stands to benefit?

It is obvious that the U.S. has much to offer that the Soviet Union needs and wants. It is equally obvious that the Soviet Union has little to offer that the U.S. needs and wants—except, of course, peace.

The question is, is peace to be gained by our giving the Russians the U.S. technology and know-how they lack?



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Kissinger's Notable Mideast Achievement

It is very much to be hoped that a new era is beginning in the Middle East, thanks mainly to the skill and persistence of the U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger.

The moves toward peace are welcome indeed, and I am especially pleased that the United States has improved its relations with the Arab states while continuing to support Israel. We have finally assumed the role we should play in that troubled area of the world—the role of the objective go-between, the pragmatic peacemaker between Israel and its neighbors.

That the United States has resumed diplomatic relations with Egypt, and hopefully entered upon a period of better relations with the other Arab countries, does not mean abandonment of our ties with Israel. On the contrary, if all goes well, it can mean for Israel the first period of real peace and security the Jewish state has known since its inception in 1948.

Dr. Kissinger — the honest broker both sides learned to respect and trust as one who would understand opposing viewpoints and seek fair and just agreements and accommodations — has performed a service of inestimable global importance. If the agreements stand up, the achievement may

well be the Nixon Administration's most significant in its efforts to bring world peace and stability.

What has been accomplished is all the more remarkable for the fact that if Dr. Kissinger did not gain the active support of the Russians in bringing about the first agreement ever between Israel and Syria, he at least gained their acquiescence in it. Remarkable also is the fact that the agreement was secured despite the continuation of Palestinian terrorism and the Israeli retaliation to it.

The breakthroughs that have been achieved have not settled all of the problems, of course. Thorny issues remain, among them the Palestinian refugee problem. But gratifying progress has been made under Secretary Kissinger's patient and innovative negotiating leadership and President Nixon's determined efforts to advance the cause of world peace.

Building upon what has now been accomplished, the United States should encourage both the Arabs and the Israelis to develop their lands and their potential communications and commerce to the fullest extent in peaceful proximity with each other.

In this way, they can, hopefully, erect an edifice of lasting peace on the foundation that has now been so laboriously laid.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Dimension in Terrorism

A world that has already been numbed by terrorism may one day soon face the unthinkable; do-it-yourself nuclear bombs in the hands of terrorists.

Only a few years ago it was thought that none but the world's major governments, with highly-trained scientists in their service, could produce nuclear weapons. At the beginning of the atomic age, in fact, our own country somewhat haughtily assumed that only the United States could ever make an atomic bomb.

How wrong we and so many others have been. Books in the public library describe how nuclear explosives can be produced; and the needed materials could be stolen from a lengthening list of sources including nuclear power plants, atomic fuel manufacturing plants, trucks and trains that transport such fuel, research centers, and atomic-powered ships.

So widespread has the knowledge of how to construct atomic explosives become — and to such a degree has terrorism escalated — that responsible leaders in and out of government are warning that international gangsters may soon be able to terrorize society with nuclear weapons.

The Atomic Energy Commission, intent on

pushing the peaceful uses of the atom, appears to have done little thus far toward curbing the development of home-made atomic bombs. Once it was found that the Russians had gained their nuclear capability, little or nothing was done to keep the so-called "secrets" of nuclear know-how out of general circulation.

What is needed in this potentially devastating situation is for the strongest possible action by all governments now having a nuclear capability to keep nuclear materials out of the hands of unauthorized persons who might misuse them.

It is especially important that the transportation of atomic fuel be tightly guarded. One current proposal in this country is that no more than one-fourth of the plutonium or uranium needed to make an atomic bomb ever be shipped at one time. The small quantities involved are indicated by the fact that only about 12 pounds of uranium-235 were contained in the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima.

The possibility of nuclear-armed terrorists preying on society is a frightening one indeed. It is a prospect which our government and all others involved must come to grips with at the earliest possible moment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Drugs Can Land Americans in Foreign Jails

Young Americans who are planning to travel abroad, as so many now do, would be well advised to acquaint themselves with the attitude toward drugs in the countries they expect to visit. They may be in for a surprise at the strictness of foreign laws, considering the laxity in many parts of the U.S. It is not true, as many may imagine, that foreign countries are havens for pot smokers or users of other drugs.

Consider these facts: At the end of April, 87 Americans were in jail in Canada on drug charges; 15 were in jail in France; 60 were in jail in Spain; 101 were in jail in Germany; 20 were in jail in Thailand; 39 were in jail in Japan; and 334 were in jail south of the border in Mexico!

The possible sentences they face are severe indeed. The penalties in Mexico are fairly typical—two to nine years and a fine for possession; three to ten years and a fine for trafficking; and six to 15 years for importing or exporting drugs.

But Mexico is lenient compared with, say, Turkey or Iran, where a person guilty of trafficking in drugs can face death by hanging or the firing

squad. The maximum sentence in Canada for pushers is life in prison.

Pre-trial detention in most foreign countries is more severe than most sentences for those convicted in the United States, ranging from a few months to as much as a year in solitary confinement in some countries. Such detention, together with any sentences imposed, can land the American visitor in jails that by U.S. standards are primitive indeed.

There is little or nothing the U.S. government can do for an American arrested on a drug charge abroad. Americans traveling abroad are subject to the laws of the lands in which they travel.

Even the innocent who are caught in suspicious circumstances may find themselves in great difficulty. A case in point was last summer's story of the American girls who hitched a ride and found themselves behind bars in Turkey because the vehicle in which they got their lift carried concealed marijuana, although they were unaware of it.

Americans who do not want their vacations turned into horrible nightmares should take heed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Soviets Gaining Power on the Seas

The Soviet Union apparently has set out to become the world's No. 1 power on the high seas.

To achieve such a position, the Russians must have both a merchant fleet and a navy second to none. They have not yet reached that status, but obviously they are pushing for it, and pushing hard.

Already the Soviet merchant fleet considerably exceeds our own. After Japan, Britain, and Norway, the Soviet fleet is the world's largest.

The U.S. merchant marine is in sad decline. In the period between 1960 and 1973, it dropped from 2,916 ships to 655. At the same time, the Russian merchant fleet was increasing from 873 vessels to 1,480—more than twice as many as the U.S. now has. Equally important is the fact that much of the Soviet merchant fleet is new.

Moreover, the Soviet Union now has the largest fishing fleet in the world; and its oceanographic research and exploration programs are rated by experts as "highly aggressive" and "second to none."

As for a comparison of the American and Russian navies, there is some disagreement about relative strength, arising from a difference in types of ships and the purposes for which they are intended, and the fact that the Soviet fleet, built up during the cold

war, is now reportedly "aging."

No less a person than the outgoing Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, however, has recently been quoted as saying that the Soviet capability "to deny us the sea lanes . . . is (now) greater than our capability to keep the sea lanes open."

The Soviets launched their first large aircraft carrier in 1973 and have laid the keel of another. They have three times as many submarines as we have. Their undersea craft, armed with nuclear missiles, routinely patrol our coasts. Additionally, the Soviets are reportedly stepping up the development and production of landing ships and assault craft and the training of a marine corps.

The United States, in this air and missile age, could make a tragic mistake in downgrading the historic importance of sea power, both commercial and naval. No nation has remained great—or can remain great—without a strong and healthy world trade capability and the power to keep the sea lanes open. Throughout history the aspirations of nations have gone down with their ships.

The Soviet Union's ascendancy on the world's oceans is a new fact of life with which we must reckon—now and in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Upswing in Coal Spurs Timber Use

The growing need for coal, triggered by the shortage of other forms of energy, is having a welcome side effect in West Virginia. It is pushing up demand for the state's timber for use in and around the mines.

A shortage of roof bolts has in part made the use of more mine timbers necessary; but timber is also increasingly being used in conjunction with roof bolting.

There has always been a measure of interdependence between the coal and timber industries in West Virginia. The wood products industries provide materials for safe and efficient mining operations; and the deep mining of coal provides an important market for wood products.

Wood mine props and sawed timbers have been used to support the mine roof since the earliest days of deep mining. And cross-ties for mine haulage systems, together with lumber and construction timbers for tipples and outside buildings, have likewise been part of the mining scene since the beginning.

In the early 1950's, about two board feet of sawed timbers and three linear feet of mine props were required for each ton of coal mined—a ratio that declined with the advent of steel mine roof bolts. Now, other changes in mining methods and safety

requirements, in addition to the energy situation, are bringing an upswing in wood use that timber growers should find encouraging.

Much of this changed situation has resulted from the increased use of wood along with the steel bolts. More wood "headers" are being used. The roof bolts are driven through holes in the headers into the mine roof, so that in effect the headers serve as large "washers" to help the bolts do their job of preventing roof falls.

Both treated and untreated wood are used in mining. Untreated wood is used where only short-term access to an area is required. Treated wood is used at mine entrances, in main haulways, and other areas where long-term use is contemplated.

The overall importance of wood use in coal mining is indicated by the fact that of West Virginia's total estimated 1973 lumber production of 400 million board feet, about 25 percent was sawed mine timbers. In addition, more than 50 million linear feet of round and split mine props were used.

The total value of these products exceeded \$21 million. The current rapid development of new deep mines in the state should result in even greater demand for wood products.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Those Who Fled Don't Deserve Amnesty

The question of amnesty for draft-age young men who fled their country to avoid service in Vietnam continues to disturb many Americans. There seems to be a softening of attitudes among some people toward draft evaders and deserters as Vietnam fades further into the background.

Considerably more is involved, however, than just the self-interest of any individual who might now like to come back, and have everything forgiven and forgotten. The basic issue is that of the citizen's obligation to his country—under any and all circumstances.

Most of those who fled, did so because they said they considered the war evil and their country immoral for waging it. But they are willing enough, now that our part in the war has ended, to come back to the same "immoral" country they left. Many amnesty advocates argue that they should be permitted to do so with no questions asked.

Forgiving the evaders and deserters would deal a sickening blow to the families and friends of those who did make a sacrifice for their country. The "moral" approach of the draft dodgers ignores the fact that others had to be drafted to go into their place, and that many of these surrogates were killed or wounded.

Amnesty, moreover, would set an example that could prove to be disastrous in a future national crisis. If there is to be no penalty for not serving, then thousands more might defect in time of another war.

It is idle to argue that those who evaded their responsibilities, and who now want to evade the penalty, were high-principled persons who obeyed their conscience. Those who truly act upon a principle ought also to be willing to take the consequences of their actions. Those who fled America to avoid the draft ought now to be willing to make their new home their permanent home.

No society can exist if it permits its citizens to obey only those laws they wish to obey. The obligation of citizenship must be as binding in one area of responsibility as in another.

It is possible that there may be some individual cases that should be judged on their merits. But no person who fled the country should be repatriated on any basis that suggests that his action is being vindicated.

Jobs and educational opportunities for those who did serve in Vietnam are now much more important than is amnesty for any individual who ran out on his country when his time came to serve.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Citizens Have a Right to Privacy

Basic among the rights to which an American citizen is entitled is the right to privacy. Justice Louis Brandeis half a century ago wrote, "The right to be let alone is the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized man." Decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court have repeatedly reflected this view.

But today, the right to privacy may be the most endangered of all our rights. Assaults upon privacy range from annoying mail and telephone solicitations to eavesdropping by electronic means. The greatest threat exists in the information about citizens that is being filed in computer banks, both in the public and private sectors.

Files on citizens are now maintained by scores of government agencies — among them, the Justice Department, Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, Defense Department, and the FBI; while in the private sector, credit rating and other business information gathering has grown apace.

In most instances, the information was gathered for legitimate purposes. But citizens generally have no knowledge of the files, and the possibilities for

misuse of the information they contain have grown with the data input.

The technologies now available for storing, retrieval, and exchange of information raise the specter, in the minds of many, of centrally-maintained dossiers on citizens. Of even more immediate concern, leaks or misuse of existing information can do economic and personal damage to citizens and can do violence to privacy.

The stored information can be misleading, inaccurate, or even false. On the basis of "facts" of which he may be totally unaware, a citizen could be denied credit, a job, a federal loan, a government contract, or veterans' benefits.

This surely does not fit the American concept of fair play. Snooping and "big brother is watching" run completely counter to the cherished American principles of freedom and independence and the dignity of the individual.

I am glad to note the widespread concern that is being voiced over invasions of privacy. Government, in my judgment, has an obligation to protect the individual in his right—implicit under our constitutional guarantees — to be let alone.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Too Much Government Paperwork

If there is one thing in this world that is sure—besides death and taxes—it is that the amount of paperwork government demands of citizens has gotten completely out of hand.

One need look no further than the 1040 federal income tax form and its complicated accompanying schedules. But it is only one of the scores of complex reports the federal bureaucracy now requires. And the number grows each year. Small business people in particular are being buried, almost literally, under a mountain of government forms. More and more it appears that more than a little of the information being called for by federal agencies may be unnecessary — except to fuel the bureaucracy itself.

As incredible as it may sound, the Internal Revenue Service has more than 3,000 public use forms, more than 1,000 internal use forms, and utilizes 300 major returns and schedules. Its field offices have additional forms of their own. Business firms can be required to fill out as many as 80 or more IRS forms a year.

Almost every department and agency of the federal government gets into the big paperwork act. The Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of the Census, the Equal

Employment Opportunity Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency—to mention a mere handful of the major paper pushers—have an enormous and growing appetite for detailed, and often duplicating, reports.

It all adds up to billions of pieces of paper and billions of dollars in cost. Big business can add offices and accountants to do the paperwork—and pass on the cost to the consumer. But many small businessmen simply cannot fill out all of the reports, supply all of the information being sought, and continue to operate their businesses. They are being smothered in triplicate.

The Congress, of course, has a major responsibility in this area. Many pieces of legislation—some worthwhile and some not so worthwhile—turn out to have paperwork ramifications that were unsuspected at the start. Congress must come to grips with this problem.

Steps should be taken now to end duplication and to eliminate all unnecessary forms and reports; and, for the future, a policy of reducing paperwork wherever possible should be adopted. Bills have been introduced in Congress to achieve these purposes—objectives that I heartily support.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Conservation of All Resources Needed

Waste not, want not. That old adage ought to be remembered in this summer of 1974.

Modern-day Americans are prone, however, to act on the basis that what is out of sight is out of mind. That seems to be the case with the petroleum shortage. Full tanks are the rule once more; and—the price of gasoline notwithstanding—drivers are hitting the roads in these vacation days for longer and more frequent trips at higher speeds. Conservation measures are an unpleasant memory.

We could easily have to pay for our profligacy again—not only in the case of motor fuel, but also in many other areas of life in which Americans have been accustomed to live it up, use it up, and throw it away.

Not nearly enough emphasis is being placed upon conservation measures — that phrase with the unpleasant connotations. But common sense should surely tell us that in a time of plenty, we ought to be saving wherever possible to head off any new shortages that may lie ahead.

Electric power, like gasoline, is a commodity that could suddenly—but surely not unexpectedly — be

found to be in short supply. More prudent use of air conditioners and other power-hungry appliances could help ward off brown-outs or possible blackouts.

With U.S. and world demand soaring for so many products, shortages could occur in almost anything from food to fuel oil. The only effective way to prevent such shortages—lacking the capacity to quickly increase production — is through conservation efforts. Community groups, civic organizations, the news media, and other agencies could do much to impress upon the American consciousness the continuing, and the broadening, need for conservation of resources.

There should be plenty of incentive—inflation, for instance. Wiser use of resources could help to bring prices down. But the strongest incentive is the obvious one of avoiding the annoyance, the inconvenience, and the hardship that shortages can cause.

Thrifty use of resources—the luxuries of life as well as the necessities—was a basic characteristic, indeed the hallmark, of Americans of earlier generations. We in our time could profit by their example.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The First Battle of the Revolution

West Virginians, proud of our state's history, are quick to point out as the nation's bicentennial draws near, that the first battle of the American Revolution occurred at Point Pleasant. Plans for the celebration of the 200th anniversary of that event are being pushed by Mason Countains.

The battle was fought October 10, 1774 — six months before the "shots heard 'round the world" were fired at Lexington and Concord. Eight hundred rugged colonial militiamen under the command of Colonel Andrew Lewis met and defeated a thousand Shawnee Indians commanded by Chief Cornstalk.

The Shawnees, it is said, had been incited by British agents to harass the settlers; and had they won, an alliance would have been possible with the British that could have badly hurt the colonists.

The United States Senate long ago recognized the strategic importance of the Battle of Point Pleasant. In 1908, it passed a bill to assist in the erection of a monument at the confluence of the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers "to commemorate the Battle of the Revolution" fought at that point.

This tall granite shaft stands today in the Point Pleasant park known as

Tu-Endie-Wei — Indian words for "the point between two waters." The site is one of West Virginia's most historic.

The Battle of Point Pleasant was important for many reasons. It demonstrated to the colonists that they possessed strong military potential. If militia units could beat a stronger Indian force, could they not also beat the British?

Colonel Lewis had organized his forces at Camp Union, now Lewisburg. In 19 days he marched them 160 miles through the trackless wilderness, across mountains and over rivers. They had been cut off by the Indians on the point of land between the two rivers when the battle began; and they had had no rest. But they routed their attackers and forced them back across the Ohio River.

The battle and the subsequent peace treaty with the Indians brought relative peace to the frontier for several years and opened the way for further westward movement by white settlers. But most importantly, it enabled the colonists to turn their attention to fighting the British instead of the Indians.

Our state's historic heritage is understandably a source of pride to its citizens.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The U.S. System Is Firmly Based

There is no cause for joy in the fall of Richard Nixon. But Americans can take solace in the fact that our system of government has once again proved that it works, and that our institutions have once again been vindicated.

It is true that we are not yet fully out of the morass of Watergate. The judicial processes that have been set in motion must run their course.

But for the present it should be reassuring and heartening to all Americans to know that a crisis that would have toppled any other government in the free world has left our federal structure intact—and, in the long run, may even have strengthened it.

Most striking is the fact that a conservative, middle-of-the-road President of the type the American people indicated they wanted in the election of 1972 remains in charge. One man is gone, but the U.S. government has not fallen.

The House of Representatives acted in the responsible manner envisaged by the framers of our Constitution. It authorized the impeachment inquiry by a vote of 410 to 4. Its Judiciary Committee, on television for all the country to see, voted the articles of impeachment overwhelmingly. In the end, the President's strongest

supporters on the Committee, convinced by the evidence, publicly approved the action.

The U.S. Supreme Court acted in an equally responsible way. The four justices appointed by Mr. Nixon voted to make unanimous the historic decision that executive privilege is not absolute and must yield to the judicial process.

The news media in general, despite some excesses, played the role the founding fathers believed a free press should play in a free society. Indeed, had it not been for the press, the crimes of Watergate, with their insidious threat to our constitutional system, might not have been exposed.

I think it can be said that the American people had their faith in their system of government strengthened. They saw governmental institutions emerge unmarred from a most difficult period in our history—and emerge without change in political philosophy at the federal level, and without change in the direction of the federal government at home or abroad.

The enduring stability of the constitutional system our forebears created must surely be the envy of the world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help of Citizens Needed to Curb Crime

With so many other momentous events in the news, the continuing increase in crime in our country has drawn far less attention than it deserves. Major crimes rose another 15 percent in the first three months of 1974, according to the FBI, and since 1967 they have more than doubled.

As shocking as that is, a recent Justice Department study, the first of its type, indicates that at least half of the crimes being committed are not even reported; and more than three-fourths of all murders, aggravated assaults, forcible rapes, robberies, burglaries, larcenies, and auto thefts go unsolved.

All of this is a part of the syndrome of violence that has gripped our country since the 1960's. Those who may think of the United States of America today as the land of peace and tranquility it once was are not dealing in reality.

Burglary has become the most common crime, and it is growing and spreading. The old statement that crime does not pay is not true for the current crop of thieves. Burglary for them, unfortunately, does pay, and pays quite well. Stolen TV sets, jewelry, furs, furniture, and electrical appliances find a ready market, and most are never recovered.

Not only is burglary the most common crime, it is also the most under-investigated, under-solved, and under-punished crime. It may also be the most under-reported. But there is much that the citizen can do to help bring improvement in this situation.

He can and should completely inventory his household and business possessions. Full descriptions and serial numbers can greatly aid the police. Items can be marked with names or code or other identification through the use of engraving pens; and those that cannot be so marked can be photographed, preferably in color.

Citizens should let no theft go unreported, and they should insist to local governing bodies and local courts that diligent efforts be made to find the culprits in burglaries and punish them. Certainly adequate burglar protection should be provided in homes and business places. Preventing crime can be as important as solving it.

It is unlikely that the devastating wave of crime that has engulfed so much of our land can ever be adequately dealt with until and unless an aroused and angry citizenry demands that crime be curbed and actively enters the battle against the criminal.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Flexible Hours Just Not All that New

Is the 9-to-5 work day doomed to join the horse and buggy as a relic of a bygone era in America? It could be, if U.S. workers and companies follow the "flexible" or "variable" working hours trend that has become popular in Europe. A few U.S. businesses are already experimenting with the idea.

A strong assault on what many Americans used to think of as a "normal" business day or week has already been made throughout the country by the "four-forty" plan — the four-day week. Interest in four 10-hour work days was spurred this past winter because of the potential for saving fuel. More than 3,000 U.S. businesses and a number of cities are trying, or have tried, the plan.

Some like it and some don't. Four-forty has been dropped after a trial in a number of places, including Washington, D.C., where the police tried the four-day week for a time.

The "flexible" or "variable" work week is a different concept entirely. Under this plan, employees, within limits, can start work when they wish, quit when they wish, and work as many hours a week as they wish—provided they perform their work satisfactorily. Interestingly enough,

productivity has gone up along with worker morale in plants and businesses trying the plan.

The idea originated in West Germany, where it is expected that 50% of the white collar workers will be on flexible hours by next year. The concept is expanding, and many companies are experimenting with the idea in Scandinavia, the Benelux countries, and France, Spain, Italy, and Britain.

Our country will probably be next. But before everybody gets carried away with this wondrous "new" idea, let us not forget that 9-to-5 means nothing now for millions of Americans—farmers who work from sunup to sundown; coal miners on the "hoot owl" shift; clerks in stores that stay open until midnight; U.S. Senators who burn the midnight oil; or, yes, the housewife, whose work is never done.

Flexible and variable working hours are just not all that new. Ask any doctor, the clergyman, the railroad trainman. *When* the work is done is not nearly so important as *how well* the work is done.

What *is* new in industrial countries today is the great increase in leisure time; and the question that must be asked is, how well is it being used?



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Finding Gold in its Garbage

A funny thing is happening to trash on its way to the dump. Many people are beginning to see it as too valuable to get rid of. So much of what Americans throw away can be reclaimed that there may almost literally be gold in our garbage — and people and communities are beginning to do something about that fact.

The need for cleaning up our environment, and the need to conserve both energy and scarce resources, are combining to bring about widespread new efforts to deal with the increasingly troublesome problem of trash and garbage disposal. Waste is a pollutant; and pollution is wasteful. If we end one, we end the other.

Energy itself can be reclaimed from waste. Organic materials — things like food wastes, dead plants, paper and cardboard—will burn. They can produce steam which can turn electric generators. They can be used to make methyl alcohol for internal combustion engines, or be turned into an oil or gas.

The valuable inorganic materials in our garbage—glass, rubber, plastics, and metals—can be recycled to help alleviate shortages in the basic resources required by an industrial nation.

The big problem, of course, is how to go about the reclaiming job. Some communities are attempting to deal with the problem at its source—the consumer. Householders are being urged to put food wastes in one container; paper items in another; and glass, metals and so on, in still others at central collection points. This is undoubtedly a commendable effort, but probably too involved to produce the desired result.

More likely to be successful are the plans being made by at least one state, Connecticut, and a score or more U.S. cities and other political jurisdictions that are attacking the problem by planning what are called "resource recovery systems."

In essence, such systems will shred the collected garbage into small pieces, and then by various means — air suspension, liquid flotation, magnetic separation and other devices—sort out its components.

Plants that can accomplish such reclamation will be expensive. But with increasing mountains of refuse and fewer acceptable ways to dispose of it, such installations, it is believed, could pay for themselves by the resources they would recover and the environmental damage they would prevent.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Flexibility Needed in Retirement Age

The wisdom of mandatory retirement at a specified age is increasingly being debated. Critics point out—and rightly—that there is considerable variation in the capacity, ability, and motivation of individuals; and that an arbitrary age for quitting work, say 65, cannot possibly apply to everyone.

They further contend that compulsory retirement works to deprive society of the contributions capable persons could continue to make; while, at the same time, some persons may be required to work longer than they should before retiring.

Proponents of a mandatory retirement age argue—and with validity—that such retirement is necessary in order to open the way to advancement for younger persons. Successful executives, for example, might hold on to their positions of power, barring the way for younger men.

But there is no mandatory retirement in many fields. Obviously there is none for the self-employed. There is none for professionals in such fields as medicine and law. And members of Congress, federal judges, and other elective and appointive officials

may serve as long as they are capable of doing so.

It would make little sense to require a physically-able professional man or public official to step down just because he had reached the age of 65. It is equally illogical, in my view, to force any other physically-able citizen to the sidelines at 65 if he wants to keep on working. Life does not end at 65, and neither should meaningful work.

A more flexible approach to this problem is needed. Our society has ended, or is trying to end, many forms of job discrimination. It should also face up more effectively than it has thus far to the problem of age discrimination.

Nothing is more important in the life of an individual than the work he does. Rigid job and pension rules that force retirement at 65—or prevent retirement earlier—ought to give way to programs that, as far as it is possible to do so, are adaptable to the needs of the individual worker.

At a time when our country is concerned about the optimum use of its physical resources, it ought also to be equally concerned about the optimum use of its human resources.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Misgivings Grow About Detente

I believe generally in a non-partisan approach to U.S. foreign affairs; and I support efforts for detente with the Soviet Union.

But I have growing misgivings about our country's course of action in this matter. I am increasingly afraid that we now stand to lose more than we can possibly gain.

In the most recent summit meeting, the Russians failed to make any concessions with respect to nuclear arms limitation. This was despite assurances from previous summits that arms reduction was the goal.

Meanwhile, the Soviet's own military-industrial complex is moving inexorably ahead on missile technology to widen the advantage over us that SALT I gave them. Their naval power, as I have previously noted in this space, may already be greater than ours. And they have tripled their tanks and doubled their artillery in Europe.

In the 1973 summit meeting, Leonid Brezhnev solemnly joined in the agreement that the Soviet Union and the U.S. would inform one another of threats to peace. But he did not do so, violating his agreement, before the Arab-Israeli October war. He knew the war was coming, and he had armed the Egyptians and Syrians for that war.

Through "detente", the Russians hope to get more wheat deals from us. They want U.S. know-how, technology, and machinery to vitalize their backward economy. It is no wonder that the Politburo favors detente.

But where is the advantage for our country in providing the Russians with things they do not have—things that will make them stronger against us? The analogy of the scrap iron we supplied the Japanese to build their war machine before Pearl Harbor should not be forgotten.

I am in favor, of course, of keeping the lines of communication with Moscow open; just as I am in favor of arms limitation and international agreements in which we get something substantive for what we give.

But I do not want my country to be taken, to be had—by the Russians or anybody else. Detente is better than cold war; but not if the Soviet Union is using it to gain the upper hand in future confrontations.

Both the U.S. and the Soviet Union were seeking to avoid nuclear war long before detente was thought of. Could this new era of "good feeling" and relaxation on our part be giving the Kremlin other ideas?



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sometimes We Need to Think Small

We have become so accustomed to thinking of business in terms of bigness—the General Motors syndrome—that we tend to lose sight of the vital importance to the American economy of smaller businesses.

About 97% of all U.S. businesses do less than a million dollars a year in sales. But they account for 40% of the gross national product, and they employ approximately half of the civilian labor force.

Perhaps even more importantly, they keep alive and well the spirit of competitive independence that is so essential to the American free enterprise system. The small business establishment is the backbone of the U.S. economy, the foundation upon which it has been built.

It is currently estimated that there are some ten-and-a-half million small businesses in our country. In addition to those involved in agricultural operations, they are mostly in the service industries, retailing, and smaller manufacturing enterprises.

Their proprietors and employees do what big business does not seem to be able to do, or to do as well. They provide individualized, personal services that people need and want.

That is why filling stations, and beauty shops, and corner grocery stores, and other independent stores—and, yes, small hometown newspapers, exist and prosper. They fill a need.

Their owners take financial risks and may work long, hard hours for relatively modest returns. Many of them fail each year; but many more succeed, to enjoy the fruits of their labor and the satisfaction of being their own bosses, beholden to no one else.

They contribute enormously to their communities and to our country. They pay taxes, support local institutions and activities, and furnish employment to persons who might be hard put to find jobs in big business.

As in any area of human endeavor, of course, there are good and bad, honest and dishonest, efficient and inefficient persons in small businesses. But they all share one thing in common that makes them important to those whom they serve: they are part of the local scene.

Our society, which too often equates bigness with importance, owes much to the small business man and woman. We should never forget that even the biggest of the big once started out as small.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Alleghenies: A Great State Asset

The Allegheny Mountains, running north and south through the entire length of our state's eastern portion, form one of West Virginia's great natural assets.

It is well known, of course, that their coal and the timber they can produce are economically invaluable; that their streams and forests and wildlife are recreational blessings; and that their scenic beauty in each season of the year is a delight, especially in the spring when the redbud and the dogwood bloom.

Less well known, perhaps, may be the fact that in all seasons they provide a treasure house for the naturalist. From Mineral and Preston Counties in the north to Mercer and McDowell in the south, the Alleghenies offer as rich a variety of plant and animal life and geological formations as is to be found anywhere in our country.

The Alleghenies are old mountains, among the oldest on the planet, worn down by wind and rain, by ice and snow for 500 million years. We are told that once they were probably higher than the Rockies or the Alps.

Their upland bogs, such as those in Canaan Valley in Tucker County and Cranberry Glades in Poca-

hontas, have long been noted for their unusual plants and wildlife; and there are many other high swampy "glades" in the Alleghenies, uniquely interesting because of their striking similarity to bogs found in latitudes much farther to the north.

In sharp contrast is the fact that many "shale barrens" also occur in the Alleghenies. These arid areas support plant and animal life similar to that found in the desert regions of the U.S. Southwest. These barrens, east of the highest mountain ridges, exist because clouds lose their moisture in the higher elevations, and their surfaces get hot sunshine and little rain.

The limestone caves of the Alleghenies hold scientific interest, too; as do their fossils—left eons ago by an ancient inland sea; and there is much, much more as one thinks of West Virginia's natural phenomena.

Botanists, biologists, geologists, and many others of scientific bent can find much to excite their interest in West Virginia's mountains with their fascinating flora and fauna. In this ecologically-oriented age, visitors to the Alleghenies will not go away unrewarded.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Home Is Where the Danger Is

A person's home, it has often been said, is his castle. Home, to most of us, is a place of refuge and safety.

But figures compiled by the National Safety Council show that mishaps in the home kill or seriously injure nearly twice as many persons each year as are killed or injured in accidents on the job.

Each year some 14,000 or more Americans lose their lives in accidents at work, and more than two million suffer serious injuries. But 28,000 are killed by accidents in their homes, and four million sustain serious injuries.

A great effort is now being made by federal government agencies to remove unsafe consumer products from the market, and that is as it should be. Dangerous chemicals, faulty electrical equipment, fire-prone furnishings—these should be removed from circulation for the protection of the unwary citizen.

But the citizen most certainly also has a responsibility. As has so often been said, accidents don't just happen — they are caused; and the ingredient common to the vast majority is carelessness. Surrounded in our homes as we are by electrical, mechanical, and other devices almost without number,

we simply lose sight of the fact that so many things in our surroundings can be lethal.

The glass storm door, the aluminum ladder touching an electric wire, or even the soap in the bathtub or the toy on the floor, can unexpectedly spell tragedy.

More than 10,000 Americans die each year as the result of falls inside or outside their homes, and untold thousands more are hurt. Dark stairs, slippery rugs, icy entrances, and driveways get much of the blame.

Fires in the home take 6,000 lives a year, and burns incapacitate a quarter of a million more. Half a million American homes are destroyed or damaged by fire each year — 1,500 a day. And 2,000 deaths a year and a hundred thousand crippling injuries are caused by clothing catching fire.

Two thousand more die from poisoning in the home.

After heart disease, cancer, and stroke, accidents are the leading cause of death for Americans in all age groups and the major cause of death for all Americans under the age of 35.

The statistics may not make pleasant reading, but they carry a warning that all of us should heed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Great Renewable Resource

In this day of concrete, metal, and glass construction and the widening use of petroleum-based plastics, it may seem somewhat surprising that the demand for wood is soaring. But that is what is happening in the United States, making the production of timber increasingly important.

Our country, with only about 6 percent of the world's population, is now consuming about 30 percent of the world's timber production. Housing, the manufacture of wood products, and wood pulp—from which paper, cellophane, rayon, plastics, and explosives are made—are the three main categories of use, each of which takes about a third of the wood the U.S. consumes each year.

In each of these categories, the prospects are that the demand for wood will grow from 50 percent to 100 percent in the next two to three decades.

The United States, fortunately, is blessed with vast forest lands. Even today, a third of the U.S. is still forested. And, most fortunate of all, timber—unlike coal, or oil, or ores—is a renewable resource.

To meet the demand for wood and the vast array of end products for which it is basic, American ingenu-

ity is on the move.

U.S. timber producers are pushing such new ideas as the genetic improvement of trees to produce faster growth and better quality—in much the same way that corn and other agricultural products have been improved through controlled breeding.

They are experimenting with other new concepts in forestry—such as soil fertilization, control of insect enemies and disease, and the cultivation of trees in row-like patterns to give each tree a better chance to grow and thrive.

It is said that eventually it may be possible to bring a Douglas fir, the most commercially valuable tree, to maturity in 40 years instead of the 90 years it now takes in the forests of the western United States.

In this connection, it is interesting to note that the center of U.S. timber production is beginning to shift from the West to the Southeast, where the warmth and moisture can bring pines to maturity in 30 years and produce pulpwood in ten or twelve.

With new cutting, milling, and manufacturing methods being perfected, our country, at long last, may be moving toward a time when it will make the best possible use of one of its most valuable resources.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Is a New Gold Rush in the Making?

Since the dawn of civilization, men have coveted gold. They have worked for it, searched for it, fought for it. Now, for the first time in more than 40 years, Americans should soon be able to own gold once more.

Throughout history, man's use of gold has been limited only by his ability to obtain it. The Book of Exodus tells how Aaron fashioned a golden calf for the Children of Israel to worship. The New Testament tells of the Wise Men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the Christ child.

In more modern times—until they were banned in the thirties—U.S. five-, ten-, and twenty-dollar gold pieces were favorite Christmas and graduation gifts; and the word gold was frequently on the tongues of citizens. William Jennings Bryan talked of mankind being crucified upon a cross of gold, while the average citizen was anxious not to kill the goose that laid the golden egg.

How will the American people react to an opportunity to own the precious metal again? Will they invest savings in it, hoping for a hedge against inflation? Or has the once great lust for gold that led so

many to California and Alaska cooled during the long period in which its possession has been illegal?

The price of gold—\$129 an ounce at its recent lowest—could keep it from being a popular investment. Of course, one could have made a great deal of money had he been able to buy gold at the official \$35-an-ounce before the spectacular rise of the last few years. But had he bought at the top price of \$179 an ounce earlier this year he would now be a loser.

Gold pays no interest or dividends, as many other investments do. Even so, few people would shrink from having a few bars stashed away for a rainy day. In all of the years man has mined and used gold, only about 100,000 tons of it have been taken from the earth. Its scarcity is one of the reasons for its value.

In the depression of the 1930's, the U.S. went off the gold standard and hiked the official price from \$20 an ounce to \$35 to expand the paper money supply. We seem to be coming a full circle now with possession of gold set to become legal again by December 31. What the future American appetite for gold will be remains to be seen.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

You Name It; West Virginia's Got It

West Virginians must surely be fascinated by the rich variety of names of communities and geographical locations in our state.

Consider Munday in Wirt County and Thursday in Ritchie. Or Cyclone in Wyoming, Tornado in Kanawha, and Hurricane in Putnam. In Wirt it's just Windy.

There is a Cornstalk in Greenbrier, a Cucumber in McDowell, an Apple Grove in Mason. Hardy has a Baker, and Mingo has Pie—but Wayne has only a Crum. Hardy also has a Fisher, and Greenbrier has Trout.

There is a Left Hand in Roane, a Widemouth in Mercer, and Raleigh has a Skelton. McDowell has Six, but Wetzell has a Hundred.

Preston has Independence; Putnam, Liberty; and Mingo, Justice. There is a Duck in Clay, a Pigeon in Roane, a Bob White in Boone, and Raleigh has a Blue Jay.

Thoughts of far away places are stirred by London in Kanawha, Berlin in Lewis, Vienna in Wood, Sophia (my hometown) in Raleigh, Cairo in Ritchie, and Shanghai in Berkeley—but Hardy has a Lost City.

Braxton has a Flower, Boone a Bloomingrose, and Cabell has Clover. Lincoln has both Sod and Mud.

Alice is in Gilmer, Ethel in Logan, Shirley in Tyler, Chloe in Calhoun, and Idamay in Marion—while Frank is in Pocahontas, Henry in Grant, Leroy in Jackson, Alexander in Upshur, and Jack in Webster. Bud is in Wyoming and Junior in Barbour. Big Isaac is in Doddridge. Old Arthur is in Grant.

There is a Beaver in Raleigh, a Buffalo in Putnam, a Wildcat in Lewis, a Panther in McDowell, a Wolfe in Mercer—and Wyoming has a Wolf Pen.

Braxton has Heaters; but Raleigh has a Cool Ridge, and Pocahontas has Frost. Greenbrier has Sunlight, and Raleigh a Sundial; but Ohio and Boone have Twilight.

Greenbrier has an Auto and Ritchie a Pullman. Wirt has Burning Springs and Ritchie a Burnt House. Randolph and Upshur each has a Burnt Bridge, and Morgan has a Burnt Factory.

There is Comfort in Boone and Harmony in Roane; but McDowell has War.

Looking at a list of West Virginia place names can be entertaining and instructive. Mercer County, one learns, has a Flat Top. And it is nice to know that in Raleigh, one can find Prosperity. But in Morgan, it's Omps!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Worst of Times; the Best of Times

The extraordinary events and developments through which Americans have lived in the last generation are enough to boggle the mind. I doubt that any similar span of time in previous history has been as crowded with such significant occurrences.

In the last two years, America's most traumatic political scandal has shaken the nation. A U.S. President has resigned for the first time in our history. A Vice President has resigned. Two Vice Presidents have been appointed, rather than elected, to the office — two more firsts. And, for the first time also, a man not elected by the people has become President.

In the decade before that, a U.S. President and his brother were assassinated; and a candidate for President was crippled for life by a gunman. The Vietnam War, in which more than 55,000 Americans died, tore at the nation's conscience. A leader of the civil rights movement was slain; and demonstrators and rioters put the torch to scores of U.S. cities and college campuses. Even the U.S. Capitol was bombed.

It was a time of soaring crime, drug abuse, and collapse of manners and morals. It was a time of forced school integration, white

flight to the suburbs, and inner city decay. It has been followed by double-digit inflation, sky-high interest rates, economic recession, devaluation of the dollar, and materials and energy shortages.

And, yet, with all of this, the U.S. has made such spectacular progress in science and technology that Americans have pushed back the frontiers of knowledge on every front and even walked on the moon.

We have unlocked the secrets of the atom. We are probing the outer reaches of the universe with radio astronomy. We have learned to transplant human organs and cracked the genetic code. We have expanded and sophisticated the uses of radar and developed the laser beam.

We have pioneered in rocketry, communications satellites, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We have perfected color television and built jet aircraft that can travel faster than the speed of sound.

If this is an age of political turmoil, violence, and moral deterioration, it is also an age of unparalleled technological progress. America's challenge, of course—civilization's challenge—is to bring our social and spiritual advances into line with our scientific and material gains.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Voters Have a Responsibility, Too

A smaller percentage of Americans voted in the 1974 election than in any off-year election since 1946, when 37.6% went to the polls. In 1942, when millions of Americans were away from home in World War II, 32.7% voted.

Estimates place the number voting this year at about 38%. That means fewer than 54 million of the approximately 140 million Americans of voting age cast their ballots.

That is a precipitate drop indeed from the last mid-term election in 1970, when approximately 45% voted. The troubling question is why did considerably less than half of the country's voters go to the polls?

Many commentators are trying to find the answers to that question. The reasons they advance are many and varied. Most center on the contention that voters are disillusioned with government in general, and that Watergate in particular turned them off.

There are other factors that turn voters off as well. Campaigns are too long. There are too many speeches and too many commercials. The real issues are too seldom joined. And political think-pieces are boringly over-reported in the media.

People simply get fed up with it all. Moreover, many find the bureaucracy indifferent to their needs. Big government tends to become unresponsive; and the feeling grows that one vote doesn't really count.

It should be obvious to all, however, that failing to vote is the poorest possible way to express dissatisfaction or disapproval. When citizens don't vote, they subject themselves to minority rule. In the '74 election some candidates gained office by as few as a fifth of the votes that should have been cast.

It is disturbing that so many young voters again failed to exercise the franchise they so vociferously demanded. It is even more disturbing that voters reportedly stayed away in a deliberate effort to send a message of rejection to those who serve in government.

The message they really sent is that by their failure to participate, the system, upon which all their freedoms depend, is weakened.

It is widely noted that better performance is being demanded of officeholders. The "apathetic landslide" of '74 indicates also, if government is to be improved, that better performance on the part of the electorate is needed as well.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Food Problems Complex and Global

The recent World Food Conference in Rome hopefully has done more than focus attention on hunger, as important as that objective was. It should also have made clear the complex nature of the problems involved. It would now be helpful if the myth that the United States should feed the world—or that it can do so—should be laid to rest as well.

America has always been generous. It has fed the starving. It has succored the victims of disaster. It has given its sons in war to liberate countries overrun by enemies. And it should continue its tradition of concern for others.

But the world food shortages now being encountered are complicated by many factors beyond our control, or our ability to alter or improve the situation. Humanitarianism needs to be tempered with realism.

The scope of the shortages is indicated by the fact that of some 97 developing nations 60 or more do not have the food they need—and in most of them their people are producing far more children than food to feed them.

Adding to the basic problem of over-population are the effects of world-wide inflation; the ravages of drought; shortages of fertilizer; primitive farming practices in emerging na-

tions; and the burden the OPEC cartel has placed on poor countries—along with industrial nations—by quadrupling the price of oil.

To be considered also are the rising expectations, increasing affluence, and the growing demand for better food in advanced countries. The problems are inter-related and global.

Some people have suggested that Americans ought to eat less. At least their health might benefit. But there is no assurance that it would help, say, Bangladesh. American farmers might simply grow less, if demand were to decline. The same goes for such ideas as banning fertilizer for other than crop growing. The free marketplace must be allowed to operate, if production is to be increased.

Greatly expanded production—especially in the countries where the need is greatest—is the only sure long-range answer. Production can be increased a great deal more where yields are low than where they are already high, as they are in the U.S.

Our country should be generous. But the greatest contribution the United States can make is in technical assistance—the imparting of agricultural know-how—to help needy countries to help themselves.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Budget Has Had Spectacular Increase

We have been hearing a good deal about holding the federal budget to \$300 billion to cut government spending in the fight on inflation. That figure, of course, is so astronomical as to make it impossible, really, to comprehend the amount of money involved.

The federal budget has reached that peak only recently. For fiscal 1974, which ended June 30, federal outlays were \$268 billion. In fiscal 1975, which began July 1, total outlays will approximate \$305 billion—exceeding \$300 billion for the first time.

But as recently as fiscal 1970, the federal budget was below the \$200 billion level; and it topped \$100 billion for the first time only in 1962.

Broad and costly social legislation, the Vietnam war, and inflation have pushed the budget—which reflects the ups and downs of U.S. history—to its present size.

The first U.S. budget in 1789-91 was puny indeed by comparison—amounting to a little over \$4 million. That grew to more than \$45 million before 1850, and in the top year of Civil War expenditures, 1865, soared to the then unbelievable total of \$1.3 billion.

From that pinnacle, fed-

eral outlays subsided to a low of \$236 million in the late 1870's, and they had climbed to only \$520 million by 1900.

The second billion-dollar-budget did not come until FY 1917 and World War I. Federal spending rose then to \$18 billion by the end of the war, but dropped back to less than \$3 billion in the late twenties.

The budget increased in the depression of the thirties to a little over \$8 billion, as federal programs were enacted to provide jobs and stimulate the economy; and it skyrocketed to just under \$100 billion in 1945 during World War II. It dropped to \$32 billion in 1948, but climbed again with the Korean war to more than \$74 billion in 1953.

Wars have been the most costly undertakings in our country's history. But in FY 1973, for the first time, the cost of the social programs administered by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare exceeded the expenditures of the Defense Department \$82 billion to \$75 billion.

The recent swift growth of the federal budget has been an important factor in stimulating inflation, and as such deserves the concern of all citizens.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

25th Amendment May Need Alteration

The necessarily lengthy hearings on the nomination of Nelson Rockefeller to be Vice President raise the question of whether the 25th Amendment provides the proper way, under our system, to fill a vice presidential vacancy. Should the Congress, instead of the people, pass on a possible successor to the nation's highest office and the world's most important job?

The 25th Amendment provides that the President appoint a Vice President in the event of a vacancy, and that both houses of Congress approve his choice. As a result, our country, for the first time in its history, now has both a President and a nominee for Vice President not chosen by the people.

The Amendment was proposed by Congress in 1965 and ratified in 1967 in the aftermath of the assassination of President Kennedy. Its commendable aim was to insure the country against being without a Vice President who could succeed to the presidency in an emergency. No one, of course, could foresee such a situation as that which developed with the resignations of both a Vice President and a President.

At the heart of the matter is the fact that ours is not a parliamentary system, in which the legislative branch chooses the head of the government—a system wisely rejected by the framers of the Constitution. But despite that fact, for the second time in less than a year, the Congress has had to undertake the discharge of a responsibility that rightly belongs to the people.

Would it not be better, many persons are asking, to hold a special election to fill a vice presidential vacancy? Should not the people, rather than the Congress, decide the matter?

The Vice President should, of course, be of the same party as the President—the party chosen by the people at the previous election. The party's national committee, or a convention, or other means, it is suggested by some, could be used to select candidates upon whom the voters could ballot.

Serious national discussion of this matter is needed, I believe. One of the great strengths of our system is that it is not rigid, but can be altered to meet changing needs as they arise.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Energy Conservation Is a Necessity

The most recent estimates I have seen indicate that 40% or more of the energy consumed in the United States is wasted. Considering the soaring cost of energy to the consumer, and the alarming transfer of U.S. wealth to the OPEC cartel, energy conservation becomes an absolute necessity for all of us.

Despite warnings of a severe winter ahead, the weather has been relatively mild again this year thus far, undoubtedly lulling many Americans into complacency. Too, we read in the papers that gasoline stocks are at an all-time high and that, as of early December, a shortage such as was experienced last winter is not expected.

All of which is somewhat beside the point when we consider two things: (1) the fact that because of the recent quadrupling of the price of oil, the United States is now transferring to the oil cartel close to \$30 billion a year—a trade imbalance that cannot be allowed to continue without disastrous results; and (2) the euphoric hope that the United States could become self-sufficient in energy by the 1980's is not based on reality.

Only by considering those two inescapable facts can the need for cutting down on our energy use be properly understood. The sobering truth, however, is that projections are for an

increased use of energy rather than a decrease.

More than a hundred bills and resolutions have been introduced in Congress dealing with such things as fuel oil and gasoline rationing, mass transit, recycling, and other aspects of the energy situation. Some form of mandatory control over the use of energy is more than a mere possibility.

What will finally determine the matter is whether private citizens, together with business and industry, reduce consumption. About 35% of the energy presently being used in the U.S. is consumed in homes and businesses, 25% in transportation and 40% in industry. In all three areas, substantial savings are possible without significantly lowering standards of living or levels of production.

Energy conservation is a long-term undertaking, but many savings can be realized immediately—especially in the areas of individual transportation and the use of fuel and electricity in homes and commercial establishments. It is estimated that 14% of the energy consumed in homes is unnecessary and that 30% of industrial energy is wasted. How much is needlessly burned on streets and roads no one really knows.

If voluntary reductions are not made, mandatory regulation is inevitable.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Oceans May Also Generate Power

West Virginians hope that coal will play an increasing role in meeting the nation's energy needs—as it most surely should do. But I believe they would also agree, as I do, that every possible source of energy that holds any promise of making us less dependent upon imported oil ought to be explored.

Many scientists believe that the vast ocean waters that cover three-fourths of our planet have considerable possibility for producing energy. Two ideas are being studied: harnessing the enormous, even terrifying, power of the waves; and the potential for generating electricity that exists in the difference in temperatures between warm surface water and colder deep water.

In the Gulf Stream off the east coast of Florida, for example—which is near populated, power-consuming areas—wide “thermal gradients” (temperature differences) exist between the solar-heated surface and the polar-chilled depths. In many parts of the world such differences may reach as much as 40 degrees.

The “solar sea power” concept goes back to the 19th Century. Electric power was actually produced in a plant off Cuba by a French engineer in the 1930's; but the system, though sound in theory,

was not then economically practical.

Now an American system has been devised that utilizes hydrocarbon vapor instead of steam to turn electric generators. A liquid like propane, that boils at a temperature below the freezing point of water, is turned into a high pressure vapor in “boilers” heated by the stored heat in the seawater. The gasified propane spins the turbines, and then is condensed back to its liquid state by cold water from the depths.

The process, which would be carried on by plants built on platforms in the ocean, is basically a heat exchange system. But unlike the energy obtained from fossil fuels—which also came originally from the sun—it should be largely pollution free. Moreover, energy reclaimed in this manner should be available as long as the sun heats the ocean waters.

There are great technical problems in any undertaking of this nature. But in the critical situation in which we now find ourselves, no potential source of energy should be rejected because at first glance it may seem like something out of science fiction.

Our advancing technology should encourage the United States to be boldly imaginative and innovative in seeking new and different means of solving our energy problems.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Do Airships Have a Future in the Jet Age?

Is the airship about to make a comeback? Increasingly, talk is heard that it just might. The high cost of aviation fuel and jet aircraft, the spread of noise and atmospheric pollution, and the enormous investment in money and space required to build airports—all have spurred interest in the idea.

Those of us old enough to remember the "blimps" probably think of them in terms of the tragedies more than a generation ago that destroyed the U.S. dirigible Akron II and the German zeppelin Hindenburg in the early 1930's.

The Akron crashed in a storm off the Jersey coast; and the Hindenburg, lifted by flammable hydrogen, burned as it was being moored at Lakehurst, N.J. The disasters, with the loss of more than a hundred lives of passengers and crew, helped seal the doom of lighter-than-air transportation. About all that remains today to remind us of the airship age is the Goodyear blimp.

But safe inert helium can be used for lifting; and the possibility of the application of space-age technology to improve construction and motive power has prompted both governmental and commercial studies of a possible revived use of lighter-than-air craft.

The mania for speed—for getting there fast—had much to do with the acceptance and growth of air travel. Everything from business to pleasure has been expedited by swift airplanes.

But congested airports farther and farther from cities can make time saving on some flights more imagined than real. And Amtrak is evidence that many travelers like the convenience of downtown stations, together with the comfort that trains can potentially provide—to say nothing of the scenery.

Airships could do much the same. They need no 10,000-foot runways—only a mooring mast and an elevator. They could be made operational virtually anywhere there are people or freight to be moved.

With their great carrying capacity, they could transport passengers in spacious comfort by day or night, together with bulky cargo. They probably could be built virtually free of noise and pollution. And, traveling at a respectable hundred miles or more an hour, they could stay close enough to the ground for those aboard to enjoy the sights below.

The possibilities of the rebirth of the airship, I think, make the studies challengingly worthwhile.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

International Action on Terrorism Needed

The United Nations continues to shy away from doing anything positive to curb the spread of international terrorism. Proposals for action against the terrorists are to be postponed for another year, making the inability of the UN to deal effectively with any real problem even more evident than it was before.

The General Assembly, instead of coming out strongly on the side of law and order among nations, has actually moved in the opposite direction. It has provided the Palestine Liberation Organization and its guerrilla leader, Yasir Arafat, with a forum commanding world attention, thereby tacitly endorsing terror tactics.

The United States, West Germany, Israel, and some Latin American states deplored the new delay in coming to grips with the growth of international violence. But the voices and the protests of these nations are scarcely heard nowadays in the cacophony that passes for debate at the UN.

The disheartening fact is that some members of the UN apparently see terrorism as a useful and acceptable tool in international dealings. The fact that terrorism destroys fundamen-

tal freedoms and takes innocent lives—that terrorism is the antithesis of civilized action—does not seem to enter their thinking.

Bombings, assassinations, kidnappings, seizure of hostages for ransom, aircraft hijackings, attacks on air travelers—all these should be beyond the pale of toleration in a civilized world, but, unhappily, all have become commonplace contemporary events.

Since 1968, 50 American citizens—among them 11 government officials—have been killed by terrorists in foreign countries. Aircraft hijackings have largely been brought under control in the U.S.; but in December 1973, 32 persons were slain in a Palestinian attack on a U.S. airliner at the airport in Rome. And the year before, 140 airline passengers and crew members died in terrorist attacks.

No nation is invulnerable to the depredations of the terrorists. They pose a clear and present danger to international relations, communications, transportation, and trade—a danger that is increasing. Clearly, international cooperative action is called for.

It is deeply disturbing that the United Nations chooses to stand idly by.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cartel's Oil Price Disrupting World Economy

I have referred in this space previously to the massive transfer of wealth from the industrial nations to the oil cartel states that the cartel's four-fold hike in the price of oil is bringing about. It is a subject that calls for further comment.

No one should object to these countries receiving a fair return for their oil. Underdeveloped as most of them are, it is understandable that they should seek development and a higher living standard for their people.

But the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has set the price so high that these states are making far more profit on their oil than they can wisely spend or invest. If they continue to siphon off the world's wealth at the present rate, conceivably they could, in a few years, buy control of most of the world's business.

The cartel states in 1974 added an estimated \$65 billion to their assets. In comparison the three countries with the largest monetary reserves—West Germany, the United States, and Japan in that order—had total reserves at the end of September of only \$61.4 billion.

So rapidly are OPEC's earnings piling up that the World Bank estimates that, by 1985, if the present price

and rate of consumption should continue, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Union of Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Libya will have total reserves of \$996 billion—over three times more than the current U.S. national budget.

Obviously, the price rigging that is producing such a dislocation of the world's trade balance can have a devastating effect on the economy of the United States and other industrial nations. Worse inflation, collapse of the world's monetary system, and worldwide depression can result.

The OPEC states themselves cannot in the long run benefit from such eventualities. It is their oil, of course; it is irreplaceable; and for a time they can get what the traffic will bear.

But how much better for all concerned it would be if they would bring their earnings down to a point that would allow their export revenues to pay for machinery and technology they need to import, plus a sensible amount of foreign investing.

Failing that, the only recourse for the consuming nations, especially the United States, is to substantially reduce petroleum imports and to intensify efforts to develop alternate sources of supply.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Spray Cans Are New Environmental Worry

If there is one lesson our technological society should have learned by now it is that "progress" has a price that is often costly in unexpected ways.

Take that familiar symbol of technological ingenuity—the handy, ubiquitous aerosol spray. Who would have imagined that it could be considered a possible threat to life on earth?

Yet, that is what some scientists are saying. The spray cans' propellant, Freon gas, released in the air, eventually rises into the outer atmosphere. There, they say, chemical changes occur in the gas that can destroy the ozone that shields us from the ultraviolet rays of the sun.

The Freon, which is also the cooling agent in refrigerators, is stable in the lower atmosphere and harmless to humans. But, when it escapes into the stratosphere, the sun's ultraviolet light causes it to release chlorine. This in turn can break down the ozone, an unstable form of oxygen, in the atmosphere's thin outer layer.

The ozone, the pungent smell of which is often in the air after electrical storms, absorbs the ultraviolet radiation that can cause skin cancer and damage vegetation. A thinning of the ozone layer,

theoretically, could cause a catastrophe on earth.

The manufacturers of the sprays contend that this is all theoretical and unproven. They oppose banning the aerosol cans, as is being proposed in Congress.

Some three billion aerosols are sold in the United States each year, and nearly a million tons of Freon is being sprayed into the air annually. Laboratory tests substantiate the eventual effect that Freon can have on the protective ozone.

Some 200,000 workers are employed in the manufacture of the widely-used sprays, and the U.S. economy benefits by as much as \$8 billion a year from their production. As is usually the case in environmental matters, an economic question is also involved.

Scientists say that recent tests have indicated that the amount of ozone in the upper air has diminished in the last three years. If Freon is actually the culprit, that fact should be determined soon, and beyond any reasonable doubt.

What is urgently needed is an immediate and thorough study to find out what is theory and what is fact. This matter is far too important to be left "up in the air."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pop-Tops and Twist-Offs Stir Controversy

If there is one thing that is certain it is that our society will never lack for public controversy. The argument over proposals to ban nonreturnable beverage containers is a good case in point.

Three states thus far—Oregon, Vermont, and South Dakota—have enacted laws to prohibit or discourage the use of non-reusable bottles and cans; and Congress is considering a ban on them because of the trash disposal problem they have created.

There is no doubt that the nonreturnable containers have added immeasurably to the ugly litter that is piling up in public places in our country. U.S. roadsides, beaches, and parks bear mute testimony to Americans' predilection for throwing cans and bottles away at the spot where their contents are consumed.

But it should not be forgotten, I think, that in the days before the pop-top can and the twist-off cap, many Americans also tossed their returnable bottles away. And bottles and cans today are far from being all that our affluent society discards in recreation areas and along the roads.

Nevertheless, it is estimated that beverage containers account for more than 60 percent of our total litter. Well over two billion used beverage contain-

ers now add to our trash each year, and the number is expected to double by 1980.

The Oregon law, enacted two years ago as the first such law, appears to have been effective in reducing litter—and the high cost to taxpayers of cleaning it up — and to have caused neither a drop in beverage sales nor an increase in prices. It requires a five-cent deposit on all beverage containers, and bans nonreturnables.

Proponents of widening such action argue that a potential saving of \$70 million a year in solid waste disposal costs could be effected by a nationwide ban. They contend also that energy savings, equivalent to 279,000 barrels of oil a day, could be realized.

Opponents say that to ban only nonreturnable beverage containers is discriminatory; that it will cause the loss of jobs in can and bottle manufacturing; and that other methods of dealing with the litter problem are available such as mandatory deposits on all containers or the use of biodegradable materials.

They also raise the point as to whether this is a federal problem when so many other big problems exist. Cleaning up the litter is important. The best means of doing so remains the question.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

UN Assembly Acts Irresponsibly

In the wake of the recent session of the United Nations' General Assembly, responsible voices are questioning the value and wisdom of continued U.S. participation in that body. Its increasingly irresponsible actions raise grave doubts as to its future worth—or for that matter its current worth—in world affairs.

Fifty-one nations, seeking world peace and stability, formed the UN in 1945. Now it has 138 members—ballooned to that number by small “emerging” states, many of which are unstable at best. But each has a vote and a voice in the Assembly equal to that of the United States.

Hatred of the U.S. and its policies and interests is common among them. Many spout the communist line. Most pay only a fraction of a percent of the UN's budget, while this country pays more than 30% of the overall cost. By contrast, the Soviet Union, second in UN support, pays about 13%.

I have consistently voted against appropriations for the excessive amount the U.S. pays to support the UN, feeling that all members should pay their fair, proportionate share.

One of the most flagrant of the General Assembly's irresponsible recent actions was its unprecedented sus-

pension of South Africa, strengthening the extremists in that country.

And certainly other irresponsible actions were its extraordinary welcome for the Palestine Liberation Organization and Yasir Arafat, together with its refusal to take any action against international terrorism, as I noted in a previous column.

The Assembly further compromised its usefulness by denying Israel the right of effective reply on the Palestine question, by adopting the resolution that in effect approved terrorist activity, and by taking a position that acquiesces in the terrorists' ultimate objective of the destruction of the Israeli state.

The UN has repeatedly been faulted for failing to act to keep the peace—and it deserves such faulting. But these latest actions take the General Assembly into a different realm, one of provocative actions that sow the seeds, not of peace, but of hostility and conflict.

The coalitions that can now dominate the General Assembly make it a disruptive and divisive instrument in world affairs. The United States will be well advised to weigh its future in the UN in the light of sharply changing times.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Need for Gas Rationing Lessens

Figures released by the U.S. Treasury Department on January 30 have put the problem of the pileup of petrodollars abroad in a new light. The impact on the U.S. and other industrialized nations, the Treasury now says, should be less than the World Bank estimated last year.

That does not mean that the energy problem is about to go away, or that the necessity for conservation is any less urgent. But the new statistics should at least obviate the need for gasoline rationing—except on a standby basis, for use as a last resort in the event of another embargo or other national emergency.

The World Bank had forecast last July that, as a result of the quadrupling of the price of oil, the OPEC cartel would pile up monetary reserves of as much as \$653 billion by 1980 and \$1.2 trillion by 1985. The Treasury has now revised this estimate downward to between \$200 billion and \$250 billion by 1980; and, in the light of the new statistic, Treasury Secretary Simon said, "the international financial aspects of the oil situation are manageable."

Two main things are responsible for the changed picture—the industrial nations are selling the oil producers far more goods and services in exchange for their oil than had earlier been anticipated; and the higher petroleum price is beginning to bring about a reduction in consumption worldwide.

I do not believe, therefore, that we presently need the drastic extremes of either a World War II type of rationing with its inevitable inequities and expensive federal bureaucracy, or the President's import tariff on oil with its undersirable ripple effect that will up the price of everything connected with petroleum.

The oil import tariff will inflate the cost of home heating oil and electricity, airline fares, bus fares, freight rates, fertilizer and farm products, synthetic textiles and all petrochemical products—your tooth brush, eyeglass frames, plastic food and garbage bags, laundry detergents, vinyl wall covering and floor tile, carpets, paints, and innumerable other products.

What is needed instead of either the tariff or rationing is a multi-dimensional approach that will stress conservation — for example, better fuel efficiency in homes and factories; more economical and efficient automobiles; accelerated commercial development of clean synthetic oil and gas from coal; and a speedup in research and development in new alternative sources of energy such as solar and geothermal.

Energy—especially gasoline—is probably going to cost us more in the future than in the past. But in the long run, I am confident that American resourcefulness and ingenuity can lick the problems we face.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

'Indexing' As a Means of Fighting Inflation

"Indexing" is a word we may be hearing more about. To oversimplify, it means putting everybody and everything on a cost-of-living escalator.

Brazil, where inflation never dropped under 12% a year after 1952—and actually hit an annual rate of 140% for a time in 1964—has used indexing to help cool inflation, and its experience has stimulated interest here.

Many other countries have also used this device in one way or another, and it already is in effect in some degree in the U.S. There are arguments on both sides as to whether we should consider more extensive application of the principle.

Basically, indexing allows adjustment upward in wages, pensions, and interest rates, and contracts in general to keep pace with prices. A growing number of U.S. wage agreements have cost-of-living escalators tied to the consumer price index, and social security and government pensions now go up as the CPI rises.

But many pension systems and wage and salary contracts do not have escalators; and inflation adversely affects other things such as insurance, interest on savings, fixed value contracts, and the availability

of mortgage money, to mention a few.

The arguments for indexing are fairly obvious. It provides a means of maintaining a consistent relationship between wages and prices. It puts an end to distortions caused by contracts and agreements stated in fixed dollar or percentage terms. It preserves equity. And it could be used to protect the taxpayer from being pushed into higher tax brackets when pay goes up to meet inflation.

The arguments against indexing are that it weakens the will to fight inflation. It removes the incentive to cut production costs and keep prices down. It encourages price increases and discourages economizing and saving. If adopted as official government policy, it could, in effect, put a stamp of approval upon a never-ending U.S. inflation.

Bills providing for various extensions of indexing have been introduced in Congress, and the discussion is likely to continue.

In my opinion, indexing has legitimate, but limited, use in our economy. The U.S. free enterprise system is too complex and too innovative to be restricted to any formula or equation, however laudable its intent might be.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Balanced View of Problems Needed

America's Bicentennial is almost at hand. With all the contemporary problems we face, reflecting upon our country's remarkable achievements in its first 199 years can be rewarding.

We tend to take for granted the most remarkable thing about our country—the individual freedom its 213 million citizens enjoy. Despite all the present troubles that may annoy us, few people on this planet have anything like the freedom in every aspect of life that sets our society apart from others.

This in itself should be a continuing source of pride to every American. In an era in which repressive governments rule so many millions, Americans can be especially proud that their country over the years has done so much to aid the cause of freedom around the world.

The litany of America's progress is long indeed, stretching back to the stout-hearted pioneers who crossed a continent by wagon, tamed a wilderness, and built a nation richer in opportunity than the world had ever seen before.

There is no wonder that it produced so many firsts: the telegraph, the telephone, the ocean cable, the airplane, the tractor, the

electric light, the steamboat. The list could go on and on.

In every area of constructive human endeavor, Americans have excelled—in science, education, medicine, agriculture, communications, public health. Not only did America harness the power of the atom and put men on the moon, but it also ended the scourges of polio and yellow fever, and its scientists are ever pushing ahead toward cures for other maladies that plague mankind.

In this century the average span of life has been increased from 47 years to 70. The work week has been reduced to an average of 38 hours. Wages and salaries have reached new highs. And the American standard of living, the best in the world, has gone up steadily, inflation notwithstanding.

All is not a bed of roses in our country, of course; and few would try to make it appear so. But neither should we indulge our well-known penchant for masochism by constantly emphasizing the bad over the good.

We need a balanced view, the long view that puts current problems in perspective, enabling us to deal with them in the light of our national accomplishments.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginian Was Virginia Governor

One of the facts about our state's history that has always interested me is that a West Virginian was "Governor of Virginia" during and after the Civil War.

He was Francis H. Pierpont of Fairmont, who, although he never held a West Virginia office, is called by many the "Father" of our state.

When Virginia seceded from the Union, leaders of the northwestern Virginia counties, who opposed secession, met in Clarksburg and Wheeling to determine what they should do.

At the Second Wheeling Convention, in June 1861, they formed a "Reorganized Government of Virginia," supported by the Union's armed forces, and elected Pierpont as Governor.

Other state officials, a legislature composed of members previously elected to the General Assembly in Richmond, and men to serve in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives were named. This administration governed the northwest portion of Virginia until West Virginia, with Arthur I. Boreman as its first Governor, became a separate state on June 20, 1863.

It was this "restored government" of Virginia that made the new state possible. Its legislature "approved" West Virginia's

formation, thus technically satisfying the U.S. constitutional requirement that new states can be created only with the consent of existing states whose territory may be involved.

Following the admission of West Virginia, the Pierpont administration moved from Wheeling to Alexandria, Va., where it governed the Virginia areas under federal control until the defeat of the Confederacy in 1865. Pierpont then was named provisional Governor of Virginia by President Lincoln, in which capacity he served in Richmond until April 1868.

Historians generally give Pierpont high marks for the job he did under difficult circumstances. His reorganized government collected taxes, carried on public services, and had a surplus in the treasury at the war's end.

He was a loyal unionist with an abolitionist bent; but, says Virginia historian Virginius Dabney, after the war he "made an earnest effort to alleviate the sufferings of the people" of defeated Virginia.

The people of West Virginia long ago did Francis Pierpont the honor of placing his statue in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall in Washington. It is a fitting tribute to the "Father" of the Mountain State.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Family Decline Spells Social Trouble

With all of the other problems that beset our society, one that is receiving all too little attention, in my judgment, is that of the deterioration of family life in our country.

"Liberation" is the great catchword of the times. The main aim in life for many, it seems, is to be relieved of as much responsibility as possible—especially the responsibilities associated with home and family.

The urbanized circumstances in which so many people live today contribute to family decline. The great mobility of our society—its rootlessness—is a factor. The increasing lack of necessity for the hard work once required to keep a home going—bringing in the fuel, preparing the food, etc.—is another.

But more significant than all that, perhaps, is the startling change in attitude toward marriage that has occurred in recent years. In one locality after another, if the news reports are to be believed, the institution of marriage is on the decline as the sexual revolution spreads.

Popular publications revel in stories about swinging singles who openly live together; who may or may not produce children; and who afterward, as likely as

not, may go their separate ways. Where society once condemned such lifestyles, now it only shrugs.

We have yet to see the end result of this kind of "liberation." The experience of mankind in societies throughout the ages does not suggest that it will produce an improvement upon all that has gone before.

On the contrary, an even greater social instability than plagues us now is likely to follow. The family is basic in any organized, civilized social order. Both Oriental and Occidental peoples have found this to be true. The stronger the family, the more stable the society.

In many ways, the new liberation is simply a new selfishness, a new self-centeredness. Individuals may gratify passing whims without family ties or family responsibilities. But society as a whole, and children who may be involved, will be the less secure and the losers because of it.

Our country needs, perhaps more than anything else, a new emphasis upon the importance—the essentiality, in fact—of the family. Our cherished social progress is not likely to continue, much less endure, without a renewal of the responsibilities that should go with home and marriage.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Illegal Alien Workers Pose Problem

In the midst of increasing unemployment in our country, it is estimated that a million or more illegal aliens are at work in the U.S.

Admittedly many of the jobs they hold may be considered menial by many American workers — jobs that may have gone begging in a more normal labor market. Some persons on the unemployed rolls or on welfare might think of such jobs as demeaning.

Nonetheless, they are jobs that should be open to our own unemployed citizens and legal aliens.

Many of the foreign nationals illegally in this country came here on valid student or tourist visas. In their behalf, it should be said that in many instances they like America better than their homelands, and that they work hard and stay out of trouble.

Most just do not leave when their visas expire, despite declarations when they applied for them that they would do so. They overstay and simply fade into the enormity of the U.S. scene. Finding them and deporting them becomes a task of challenging proportions.

Others here illegally are agricultural workers, especially in the Southwest. They cross the long border from Mexico to work in the groves and fields and

processing plants. Some are smuggled across the border by operators who charge them high fees and then abandon them.

In some instances, employers connive with the aliens they employ—in violation of federal laws. The aliens will work for low wages and in sub-standard conditions, and they are in no position to complain.

Attacking the problem is not easy, as various remedies proposed in the Congress indicate. It is difficult to keep them out. Who knows the real intent of a student or tourist applying for entry? And how can we effectively seal off thousands of miles of shoreline and border? Deportation can be a lengthy process. And how much will it cost to hire enough immigration officials to track them all down?

The most feasible proposals appear to be those that deal with a requirement for proof of U.S. citizenship or the right to be in the U.S., before employment, and that place strict penalties upon employers who violate the law. A tamper-proof, plastic identity card—including magnetic imprints that make it almost impossible to counterfeit—could be issued to some 5 million legal aliens.

U.S. jobs in times like these should be made available only to U.S. citizens and legal aliens.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Exotic Cattle—and Home on the Range

Should the U.S. fatten its beef cattle on grain that can feed humans? High food prices and world hunger are increasingly prompting that question.

In the U.S. West a generation or so ago, beef herds grew to maturity on grass. Then the feedlot—which is supposed to produce juicier, more flavorful meat—came into the picture.

On the lots, steers are stuffed with grain before slaughter—more than 40 million tons of it in the U.S. last year alone, plus five million tons more of high-protein feed like soybeans.

This produces the "Prime" and "Choice" grades of beef with their fatty "marbling" that Americans favor in their steaks and roasts.

It also produces an enormous amount of waste in the fat the butcher removes and that which remains for the chef, the cook, and the diner to trim away. The marbled fat, of course, is a major source of the cholesterol doctors warn against.

Money is wasted as well. It is estimated that beef might be as much as 50 cents a pound less if it were grass-fed instead of grain-fed. The U.S. feed grain bill in 1973 was \$5 billion—paid for by housewives at the meat counter.

Furthermore, turning grain into meat is inefficient from a nutritional point of view. It takes six to eight pounds of grain

to add one pound to an animal's weight. The grain, of course, if it were not fed to cattle, could feed humans directly. In many areas of the world, it is grain, not meat, that is the primary source of protein.

Two interesting things are happening as a result of all this. Cattle growers are experimenting with new, so-called "exotic" breeds; and grassland cattle may make a come-back to challenge feedlots made unprofitable by grain and operating costs.

The exotics—in contrast with such familiar strains as Hereford and Angus from Britain—are mostly continental European with names like Simmental, Chianina, or Charolais. They grow faster, and bigger-muscled, and produce leaner meat than the cattle we Americans have generally been accustomed to.

Whether the U.S. consumer will be willing to go back to range-fed cattle for his beef, or opt for the newer breeds, remains to be seen. There is controversy, as there usually is in such matters, between the growers as to the relative merits of the meat they can produce; and disagreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture over grading.

But in the long run, the consumer should benefit as the various pressures at work interact to produce the product or products most acceptable in the marketplace.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia and the Mason-Dixon Line

Most West Virginians undoubtedly know that the Mason-Dixon Line was the symbolic boundary between North and South in the Civil War. But do they also realize that this celebrated line, marking Pennsylvania's southern border with West Virginia, also gave the Mountain State its Northern Panhandle?

A glance at the map of our state surely must have led many individuals to ask why the long finger of land between the Ohio River and Pennsylvania's western boundary is part of West Virginia. Why didn't Pennsylvania's southern border extend to the Ohio?

The answers go back to the border disputes between the colonists before the American Revolution. First, Pennsylvania and Maryland disputed their border; then, when Virginia pioneers crossed the mountains into their northwestern lands, they and the Pennsylvanians fell into violent disagreement over their line of demarcation.

To settle the first controversy, two English astronomers, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, in 1763 were commissioned to determine the proper boundary. They ran a line north and south to divide the "three lower counties of Pennsylvania"—now the state of Delaware—from Maryland; and in four years they had completed their east-west line to the point where Maryland,

Pennsylvania, and West Virginia now come together. Beyond that point they were stopped by Indians.

The Virginia-Pennsylvania dispute grew worse, with Virginians occupying much of the land around the "forks of the Ohio," now the site of Pittsburgh. But nothing further was done to settle the dispute until 1779, when the two colonies finally agreed to extend Mason and Dixon's line five degrees of longitude westward from its beginning. At the western termination of the line, they agreed, another line would be drawn north to Lake Erie to form Pennsylvania's western boundary.

Thus, with the Mason-Dixon Line's five degrees of longitude ending some ten or twelve miles from the Ohio River, the Panhandle—now Marshall, Ohio, Brooke, and Hancock Counties—came into being.

The use of the Mason-Dixon Line to mark the division between the free and slave states before the Civil War derives from the Missouri Compromise and the admission of Missouri as a slave state in 1821. The line was construed then to follow the Ohio River southwestward to Missouri, from whence it extended west along the 36-30 parallel.

Mason and Dixon probably never dreamed how their names would endure.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Orderly Growth Essential to Prosperity

Problems associated with preservation and restoration of the environment have raised the old question of the desirability of strong economic growth versus little growth or no growth.

The adverse effects of the current recession, I believe, should provide the answer to that question beyond any reasonable doubt. Growth—not wild, uncontrolled boom-and-bust activity—but sound, continued growth is essential to provide both jobs and the necessary government revenues to carry on worthwhile public services.

Looking at contaminated lakes and streams and polluted air, many have argued persuasively that destruction of the environment is too high a price to pay for industrial progress and economic growth. Until the unemployment curve started upward, there were few to question the wisdom of such arguments.

But now, with a falling gross national product, not only are the ranks of the jobless increasing; the public and private resources needed for environmental cleanup are also shrinking.

A hundred and fifty years ago, Malthus, the British political economist, feared that population growth would outrun the capacity to produce enough food from the available land. Recurring famines in Africa and India have revived such fears only recently; and spreading pollution in urban areas has

underscored the understandable concern for both the quality and preservation of life in an increasingly crowded world.

But there are innumerable examples to prove that, with improved fertilizers and farming practices, people can be fed. And there are equally numerous examples to show that pollution can be overcome—as it should be overcome. What is required in both instances is a dynamic economy, with increasing agricultural productivity—and the funds to do the job.

A year or so ago, our GNP—the total value of all goods and services—passed the trillion-dollar mark, and progress was being made on all fronts. The world had seen nothing like it before. But last year, we had a 2.2% drop in the real GNP—and there was stagnation on all fronts.

The no-growth arguments, in my judgment, have lost any appeal they might once have had. Neither jobs for Americans, nor environmental improvement—nor the maintenance of the standard of living that has made life so much better for so many millions—can be sustained without economic vigor.

A bucolic America of cottage industries and old mill wheels may have a nostalgic hold on the imagination. But present-day reality also demands continued, orderly industrial, agricultural, and economic growth.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Place Names Tell Story of Earlier Days

Not long ago I wrote about some of the colorful place names in our state. It would take many columns to exhaust the subject. It can tell us much about the history and character of our forebears.

The early settlers for the most part were religious folk. Names of many places in West Virginia come from the Bible or have some relationship with religion. Names like Eden, Canaan Valley, Herods Creek, Pharaoh Run, Job Knob, Moses Creek, and Pisgah are cases in point. And there are others like Paradise, Purgatory Knob, Shades of Death Creek, and Hell for Certain Branch.

Indian names abound, taken from the tribes that inhabited or frequented the area: Mingo, Seneca, Mohogan, Mohawk, Guyandot, Shawnee. And before them there were the mound-builders, which gave us the name Moundsville.

There are clues to the rich ethnic stock that settled on the western slopes of the Alleghenies. There is Little Italy, Ireland, Germany Valley, Polandale, Welsh Glade, and Helvetia—the Swiss name for their native land.

And that some of these sturdy folk might have liked a nip now and then is indicated by Still Run, Mash Fork, Grogg Run, Rum Creek.

The pioneer women had their influence, too, as illustrated by such names as Kitchen Creek, Cupboard Run, Kettle Run, Pot Branch, Skillet Run, and Tub Run.

And, even then, West Virginia's settlers took note of the environment. There are dozens of names like Elk River, Pigeonroost, Ramp Run, Panther Fork, Wild Cat Knob, Copperhead Branch, and Mount Storm. There are names that reveal the frontiersmen's feelings, too: Hardscrabble, Big Ugly Creek, Hateful Run, Stinking Creek, and Desolate Branch.

But the hardy souls of the early days were not without their book-learning, too, as witness Socrates Mountain, Polemic Run, Styx River, Caesar Mountain, and Eureka Island.

There was also the poetry of the Indian inhabitants in such names as Kanawha, derived from the Canoy tribe; Monongahela, the "river of falling banks;" Pocatalioc, the "river of fat doe;" and Ohio, the "river of many whitecaps."

There are many, many more fascinating place names in our state—Sam Black Church, Sassafrass, Horsepen, Ambrosia, Czar, Confidence — and virtually all of them have a story to tell of events in years gone by.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Congress Strengthens a Basic Principle

Strengthening changes in the Freedom of Information Act became effective February 19—straws in the new wind of openness in government that is blowing across Capitol Hill, and that, hopefully, will make all of the federal government more responsive to the people and more candid.

The coverups about which the country heard so much last year gave secrecy in government a bad name, indeed. But Congress was moving toward more openness before that. It passed the original Freedom of Information law nine years ago; and there are other evidences to indicate that it does, in fact, believe in the people's right to know.

Many Committees of Congress, for example, are now meeting in public to transact business that formerly was handled behind closed doors. And, as readers of this column may know, for some time I have been advocating the televising of sessions of the Senate. I believe that will ultimately be done.

The trend toward openness is a healthy one. I emphasize that there are, of course, national security and other issues that must not be publicized. But insofar as it is practical to do so, the public's business should be conducted in the public view.

The Freedom of Informa-

tion Act lays down the principle that government files—except in nine specific categories such as defense, trade secrets, investigations, internal policy memos, etc. — shall be available to press and public. It was enacted by Congress in 1966 despite opposition from the federal bureaucracy.

Congress made the changes to overcome continuing bureaucratic resistance to the law.

Departments and agencies will now be given ten working days for meeting public requests for documents; excessive copying fees will be banned; and winners of court cases to force release of files will have their legal fees paid for by the government.

President Ford, a more open and candid man than some persons in both parties who have occupied the Oval Office, vetoed the bill because of Executive Branch opposition to it. But the Congress overrode him.

Like other human institutions, Congress is far from perfect. It is accused of many things. But its instincts favor the public good, and it accomplishes much more for the public good than some of its critics are willing to admit.

In strengthening the Freedom of Information Act, Congress has strengthened a basic American concept.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Arms Sales of Growing Concern

I am concerned by the growing volume of U.S. arms sales to other nations, especially the buildup in the Persian Gulf area.

One can understand the desire of any country to protect itself against attack or invasion and internal disorders. But the arming now under way goes far beyond that sort of necessity. The most sophisticated weapons, from tanks and rockets to naval vessels and aircraft, are being acquired by every nation that can afford them, and by many that can't.

It is argued that if we don't supply other nations with arms, the Soviet Union, or France, or someone else will do so. That ignores the initiative that is being employed by American manufacturers and salesmen.

The sales, of course, are licensed by government. Official policy—especially as it relates to foreign relations, political and economic—is deeply involved.

Last year, the U.S. sold \$8.3 billion worth of war equipment to 136 different nations. Since 1950, arms transfers from the U.S. abroad have totalled \$86 billion, making our country by far the leading arms

merchant. Russia is second with \$5.5 billion in sales last year and \$39 billion since 1950. The international arms traffic has jumped more than 550% in the last ten years.

Formerly the bulk of U.S. munitions went to NATO allies and others involved in the effort to contain communist aggression. But in the last few years, Middle Eastern countries have become big customers.

The U.S. is supplying both Iran and rival Saudi Arabia, as well as Kuwait, Oman, and other Middle Eastern clients—in addition to our long-time support of Israel.

The Soviets are supplying Iraq and Syria, as they have supplied Egypt and others. The ominous possibility of superpower confrontation cannot be dismissed; nor can the possibility of adventures by Third World nations now being armed by America and Russia be ignored.

Where will it all end? Has our government even weighed the potentialities ten years hence? Is munitions plant employment, or improving our balance of trade, worth the risk of wars and more wars?

The answers to such questions must surely be in the negative.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Lock Up the Criminals

I have always felt that the best way to halt crime in the United States is to lock up the criminals. But that view has been unpopular with those who believe the crime problem is too complex to be solved simply by putting criminals in jail.

In the wake of 1974's startling crime figures, the logic of removing the criminals from the rest of society seems inescapable—and the call for mandatory prison sentences is equally loud in the academic and law enforcement communities.

Harvard government professor James Q. Wilson claims we have paid too much attention to "the causes of crime," and worrying whether a mandatory prison sentence "would act as a deterrent." It is obvious, he says, that putting criminals in jail would "serve to incapacitate them and thus prevent them from committing additional crimes."

And a study by the City College of New York and released by New York police officials proves that point. The study notes the unnerving practice of not sending convicted criminals to prison, and says that, if everyone convicted of a serious crime were put be-

hind bars for a minimum of three years, the crime rate in New York state would be one-third less than it is today.

The same decline could hold true for the rest of the country, as well. Last year's 17 percent increase in serious crime was the largest annual rise since the FBI began keeping statistics 45 years ago. Violent crimes rose 11 percent; there was a 17 percent jump in crimes against property; robberies increased 14 percent; forcible rape and aggravated assault nine percent; and murder five percent.

Let's face facts! For the past decade, there has been a crime wave in America. And all the sociological experimentation, and all the expensive efforts at rehabilitation have failed to win a single battle in the war on crime.

To win battles, and to eventually win the war, we need to get the criminals off the streets and into the prisons. It is past time that we recognized a simple fact: some people belong in jail. And the sooner they are put there, the sooner the law-abiding members of society will be able to live their lives without the fear that is so prevalent in America today.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

OPEC Cartel Is Under a Strain

A funny thing has happened to the oil shortage; it has turned into a glut. That doesn't mean our petroleum problems are over. What it does mean is that the oil-consuming countries have a chance to crack the cartel and bring the price down.

A decline in consumption, especially in Europe and Japan, and the recession—which ironically OPEC's extortionate price-rigging helped to bring about—are causing a worldwide surplus of petroleum products. Industrial production is down everywhere—around 12% in the U.S.—and oil use is down with it.

Sufficient reason for seeking to break the cartel exists in the fact that there is little or no relationship between the price of producing a barrel of oil and the price OPEC has been demanding for it. In a good part of the Middle East it costs about 10 cents a barrel to get crude out of the ground—for which U.S. consumers have had to pay \$11.65 or more a barrel.

Secretary Kissinger has proposed putting an artificial \$7-a-barrel floor under the price of imported oil. That is probably unsound economics, even if the laudable objective is to protect U.S. efforts to develop alternative fuels. If market forces are allowed to

operate, prices are almost sure to be forced down.

The oil exporting countries would like to produce about 20% more oil than they have a market for at present prices. Production has therefore been reduced by varying amounts in cartel states—about a third in Kuwait and Abu Dhabi, for example, and as much as half in Libya.

The cartel is under a strain for this and other reasons. Its members are making under-the-table deals with purchasers in hopes of keeping production up. Discounts are being offered; accounts are being carried without interest; shipping charges are being absorbed—all gimmicks which, in effect, cut the price of crude. Tensions between leaders within the cartel also have been growing, and the future course of Saudi Arabia's new leaders with respect to the price of oil is uncertain.

It has always been the price—not the availability of supplies—that has been at the heart of the petroleum problem. In January 1974, at the height of the embargo, shipments of oil from the Middle East were five percent greater than they were in January of this year.

The cartel is vulnerable. Every effort should be made to break its stranglehold.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Military Eyeing Cheaper Weapons

The U.S. Defense Department, reflecting the concern of the Congress and the people over the spiralling costs of military equipment, is taking a new look at less expensive weapons.

Inflation has played a major role in the efforts to reduce the costs of our military arsenal. A World War II fighter such as the P-47 carried a price tag of \$89,000, while today's comparable plane, the F-15, costs \$15 million. And of the \$104 billion Defense Budget requested for fiscal year 1976, 55 percent would go for pay and allowances of personnel—compared with 43.3 percent in 1964.

Yet, another pertinent fact is that cheaper weapons proved effective during the Arab-Israel fighting in the Middle East. About 1,000 American-built tanks costing \$400,000 apiece were knocked out by the Soviet-made RPG-7 shoulder-fired rockets that cost about \$75 each; and a \$400,000 Russian "cruise missile" sank an Israeli destroyer with a replacement cost of almost \$1 billion.

In all, the cost to the United States to resupply Israel was \$2.2 billion, or more than \$700 million for

every week of the fighting.

There is no doubt that American military equipment is the best in the world, and that sophisticated weapons are needed. Indeed, it was our significant edge in nuclear armaments that convinced the Russians to back down during the Cuban missile crisis. But too heavy a reliance on complex weaponry can prove unnecessarily costly—not only in terms of dollars, but also in terms of military effectiveness.

The \$15 million F-15, and the \$20 million F-14 are prime examples. They are the most sophisticated fighter planes in the world, and, in a one-on-one battle with their Soviet counterpart, the MIG-21, they could win almost every time. However, if built in the United States, the MIG-21 would cost \$2 million, which means seven MIG-21s could be put in the air for every American F-15, and 10 of the Soviet planes could be sent out to do battle with a single American F-14.

Obviously, there is strength in numbers, and the Defense Department is realizing that less expensive weapons could provide the numbers without lessening America's strength.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Let Communists Underwrite Indochina

The new communist governments in Cambodia and South Vietnam have publicly thanked the Soviet Union and The People's Republic of China for their military aid during the war in Indochina. Yet, at the same time, officials in Phnom Penh and Saigon have said they will accept economic aid from any and all countries wishing to give it.

The United States should not offer any economic aid to South Vietnam and Cambodia, and I would oppose any legislation that would send more American taxpayers' dollars to those countries.

The fall of Cambodia and South Vietnam was the direct result of two things—internal weaknesses within their governments, and the massive military aid supplied by Russia and China. The United States, meanwhile, sacrificed 56,000 lives, over 300,000 casualties, and more than \$150 billion—not to conquer or colonize, but to give the Cambodians and South Vietnamese an opportunity for self-determination in their fight against commu-

nist aggression.

For the United States to move now to prop up the communist governments in Indochina would be sheer folly, in my opinion.

Russia and China enthusiastically supported the war effort of the communists in Indochina, and joined in the rejoicing when Phnom Penh and Saigon eventually fell. As far as I am concerned, now that the communists have taken over Cambodia and South Vietnam, they should also take over the economic problems of the two countries.

If other countries—especially countries which stood silently by while the United States bore a disproportionate share of the burden of war—want to help rebuild Indochina, let them. Uncle Sam has been a softie too long, and it's about time the American taxpayer got a break.

The United States should turn its attention and more of its resources to tackling domestic, economic and social problems, and to building up our defense in a way that will truly enhance our own national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Education or War in the Schools?

Many of our nation's public schools have turned into virtual battlefields; and unless dramatic action is taken to reverse the current trend of lawlessness, it will be impossible for serious students to receive any kind of education.

From 1970 through 1973—the last year for which complete data are available—homicides in public schools increased by almost 19 percent. Rapes and attempted rapes increased by over 40 percent; robberies rose by 36.7 percent; assaults on students by 85.3 percent; assaults on teachers by 77.4 percent; and burglaries of school buildings by 11.8 percent.

Each year, according to the National Education Association, 75,000 teachers are injured seriously enough to require medical attention; and 155,000 have their personal property stolen or maliciously damaged.

Obviously, the personal dangers involved in teaching today have persuaded many young college graduates not to enter the profession, and have forced many experienced teachers to leave it. The inevitable result has been a deterioration of quality education.

And the quality of education has been further jeopardized by the cost of

vandalism in our public schools. In 1972, \$500 million worth of school property was destroyed—an amount equal to the total expenditures for textbooks during that year. The taxpayers of Los Angeles alone now pay \$8.5 million annually for security measures designed to stop vandalism.

Lack of school discipline is an obvious cause for much of the violence in our schools. And the lack of discipline has been encouraged by too little official support for teachers and too much official emphasis on keeping students in school who simply do not belong there. It is no coincidence that, while lawlessness by students increased greatly from 1970-1973, the expulsion rate nationwide decreased by six percent.

We do not need more funds and programs aimed at rehabilitating juvenile delinquents at the expense of serious-minded students. What we need is to give teachers the support they deserve, and serious students the kind of atmosphere in which they can learn.

The students intent on breaking rules should be expelled. And those who break the law should be arrested and punished. It may be old-fashioned, but it's as simple as that.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's New Image

Not too many years ago, national publications and the television networks devoted a great deal of coverage to West Virginia—and their stories were far from complimentary. They told of an impoverished state, with a declining population, and little hope for the future.

Many West Virginians, myself included, spoke out against those stories. I considered most of the accounts to be biased, superficial reporting, which failed to recognize our state's natural resources, natural beauty, and the strong character of our people.

Now, however, the national media are rediscovering West Virginia; and their 1975 stories differ greatly from those of the 1960's.

The state's coal reserves are being hailed as the single best hope for solving the energy crisis, and Americans increasingly are finding West Virginia to be an ideal vacation spot.

Unemployment in the coal fields caused West Virginia to lose population in the 1960's, with many residents travelling to Detroit for jobs on automobile assembly lines. But with auto factories closing, West Virginians are com-

ing home to new jobs in a resurgent coal industry.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says not only is West Virginia's unemployment rate of 8 percent lower than the national rate of 9.1 percent, but also that unemployment in some of the coal-producing counties is as low as 5 percent. The Bureau further notes that the state's population rose an estimated 2.5 percent between 1970 and 1974—from 1,744,000 to 1,791,000.

And tourists are flocking to our state. In April of this year, there were 42,415 requests for travel information about West Virginia—compared with 10,585 requests in April, 1974. The dollar volume of tourism in the state jumped from \$540 million in 1972 to \$568 million in 1973.

What all this means is that West Virginia is in a growth period, and is being recognized nationally as a state on the move.

A little over a decade ago, *The Saturday Evening Post* described West Virginia as "a dying state." It is noteworthy that the original magazine that predicted the state's death is not around to see this period of growth. *The Saturday Evening Post* folded in 1969.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

"Baited" Bucks Bust Burglars

Banks have been using the most sophisticated equipment to halt robberies, including hidden and conspicuous cameras, silent and noisy alarms, and plain-clothes security officers who pose as customers. Now it turns out that the most effective crime-stopping devices might be the money bags and stolen bills themselves.

In Philadelphia, for example, a woman recently held up a bank and made off with \$3,200. When she reached what she felt was a safe distance from the bank, she stopped to count the money. But as soon as she opened the bag, a bomb of tear gas and red dye exploded in her face.

The tear gas-dye bomb, incapable of doing permanent damage, had been concealed in a stack of bills placed in the bag by the bank teller. It was activated as the robber passed through a magnetic field at the door of the bank.

"Devices such as these have proved themselves to be very effective in catching criminals, and their deterrent-value will increase as potential criminals learn of their effectiveness," notes a police official, who also points out "the dye leaves a stain that lasts for several days and makes the robber easily recognizable

to police."

Many manufacturers of security equipment such as alarm systems are moving into the production of alternative deterrents. And one that is currently in limited use is referred to as "smelly money." It involves having a small cash reserve of "scent" money at each of its windows, and making sure the robber's loot includes "smelly" as well as clean cash.

The scent, which rubs off on the robber and his clothes, "is hardly discernible to humans," according to a security systems expert. "But it is easily picked up by trained police dogs."

By scenting the money, security officials are not under pressure to stop the bandit before he or she leaves the bank, thereby lessening the danger to those innocent persons who might be inside at the time of the holdup. Also, if hostages are taken, police can follow at a distance safe enough to keep the criminal from getting jittery.

The tear gas-dye bombs and the "smelly money" are just two examples of what appears destined to become an all-out chemical war on bank robbers in our society. Hopefully, society will win the war.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Needs a Grain Policy

Although three years have passed since America signed the disastrous wheat agreements with Russia, the United States is still without a national grain policy. And lacking an effective policy could spell more trouble for the American taxpayer in the years ahead.

The wheat deal was announced on July 8, 1972, and allowed Russia to buy, largely through American loans, \$750 million worth of American wheat—20 percent of the total 1972 crop—over a five-year period. To the surprise of the U.S., the Soviets chose to exercise almost their entire option in the first year, with the result being a near doubling of the cost of a loaf of bread for American consumers.

More disturbing than the wheat deal itself, however, is the fact that little has been done to avoid a repeat performance.

The U.S. is still without a central gathering place for information on the world grains situation; and responsibilities for exporting American grains are still shared—and uncoordinated—by the State Department and the Department of Agriculture.

A central location where information can be gathered

and analyzed would result in farmers being better informed than they were in 1972. Although suppliers of grains knew of the massive failure of Russia's wheat crop, farmers were kept in the dark. And since they had no national forecast on which to base their planting, they were unable to adjust the size of their crops to meet both the Russians' demands and our own domestic needs.

Consolidation of responsibilities could prevent a recurrence of 1974, when Russia requested additional wheat from America. Despite Congress' action to avoid another deal like the one in 1972, and despite the President's rejection of the subsequent request, the Department of Agriculture still had the power to sell the Soviets an additional 1.2 billion tons of wheat. And consolidation of responsibilities could halt the current practice of drawing up trade regulations which, one expert says, "protect the interests of the traders at the expense of farmers, taxpayers, and consumers."

Obviously, a national grains policy is needed—and needed now—in order to keep the Soviets from taking the bread off American tables.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

First Settlers Found Tame Country

America, as we all know, is a nation that was carved out of the wilderness by the blood, sweat, and toil of its early settlers. But the earliest settlers—for example, the pilgrims who arrived in 1620 at Plymouth Rock—did not do as much of the carving as did later ones.

In fact, the America the pilgrims found was, in many ways, much more tame than the England they left. Devon, in the west of England, had not been colonized; nor had Lancashire, Cumberland, or Yorkshire in the north. And marshlands, forests, and heavily-wooded areas were abundant throughout England—and all of them were inhabited by wolves and wild boar.

The environmental obstacles the pilgrims faced in America were often less severe than those they would have faced had they chosen to "colonize" many of the unexplored parts of their native country.

In what is now New England, the indigenous Indian tribes had a semi-annual practice of burning out the underbrush and younger trees in the forests. The result was to make the New World forests less hazardous than many in the Old World, with grace-

ful columns of trees whose branches were 20 to 30 feet above the ground. One pilgrim compared the forests of America to "our parkes in England."

That is not to say, however, that the first settlers endured no hardships. The trip to America alone took a heavy toll, and the pilgrims were faced with establishing a civilization in the New World—an exacting task to which they and their posterity proved equal.

The settlers who came later expanded the boundaries of America, conquering human and environmental hostilities all the way to the Pacific Ocean. But they owed a debt to the early pilgrims, who came first to the New World and who showed by example that it offered the chance for freedom and liberty and opportunity that peoples throughout Europe were searching for.

As historian Michael Kammen has noted, the pilgrims and the settlers who followed "had the most extraordinary sense of optimism about the future of America." It would serve the future of our country well if all Americans could regain that sense of optimism as the United States approaches its 200th birthday.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Undersea World of Everyman

Man is exploring the sea with more intensity than ever before in history, and the result of all the underwater experiments could portend some dramatic changes in our way of life in the future.

The seas contain tremendous natural resources. That fact has been known for a long time. Yet, it has only been in recent years that countries and private companies have gone after those resources with the kind of enthusiasm necessary to make their operations a success. Japan's undersea mines now produce about 10 million tons of coal a year, while Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand mine tin beneath the seas. And the United States—because of our energy problems, and despite the heated environmental debates—is giving a new importance to offshore oil-drilling.

All the operations which take from the seas—whether in the mining of natural resources, or in the increasing use of the seas as a food supplier—must be conducted with care. And there is evidence that, in most cases, man is exploring the seas with a knowledge of their importance to the whole scheme

of life.

Far from simply taking natural resources and food from the seas, a great many experiments are designed to see if man can make the oceans a more important and integral part of his everyday existence. He is, for one thing, learning to predict—and could eventually control—weather patterns through his knowledge of the seas; and to disrupt the balance of nature in the ocean could destroy that valuable weather research.

Man is even learning to live with and work with the creatures of the seas. Scientists have developed an artificial gill—a synthetic membrane that lets air in but keeps water out—that they say could lead to apartment houses and sea-related factories being built beneath the oceans. And Russian scientists have trained fish to clean algae from filters in pumping stations, while dolphins have been trained by Americans to carry tools to aquanauts.

As man becomes more intimately acquainted with the seas, his horizons will be expanded—and human potential is then bound to take a giant step toward fulfillment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Look At Education Needed

America's strong emphasis on higher education has its good points and its bad points.

In the 1960s, a new junior or community college was built in this country every 10 days; and, as a result, a full 25 percent of the American work force will have college degrees by 1980. Another 20 to 25 percent will have one or two years of college. Thus, our workforce, which long has been the best-educated in the world, will, by the next decade, be the best-educated in our nation's history.

But there will be some drawbacks to that situation, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Although 25 percent of the workers will have degrees, only 20 percent of the jobs will require a college education in 1980—at which time we will begin having a surplus of 140,000 college graduates annually.

The situation could be one of massive underemployment, which, psychologically, can be as damaging as unemployment. Indeed, 35 percent of the current work force feel they are overqualified for their jobs.

Obviously, corrective action is needed; and one step that should be taken is to change our attitudes

about education.

For one thing, Americans must stop unquestioningly equating a college degree with intelligence. There are, right now in America, three times as many laborers with IQs of 130 as there are Ph.D.s with equal or superior IQs. And there is a much greater demand for skilled workers than there is for B.A. generalists.

A greater emphasis is needed on vocational education which would prepare students for satisfying careers in existing jobs; and students pursuing a bachelor's degree program in a liberal arts field must realize that attaining their B.A.s will not automatically assure them of securing the top jobs in our society. Skills, not merely academic letters, are going to determine their future in many instances.

An educated society is a worthwhile goal—one that America, by and large, has already achieved. But Americans must recognize that there are two kinds of education: one which prepares students to earn a living and make a contribution to society; and one which enriches the students' personal and cultural lives. Often, it's difficult to wrap both kinds of education in a single program.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia and the Federal Dollar

Does West Virginia get too much federal money?

Some national correspondents would have us believe that it does. They perpetuate the myth that the economy of our state depends heavily on federal facilities and federal programs.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

In fiscal year 1974—the last year for which comparative figures are available—West Virginia ranked 41st among the states in the amount of federal funds it received. To be sure, that ranking represents a dramatic increase from the 48th position West Virginia occupied in 1970; but it still serves to refute the charges that our state is getting more than its share of federal dollars.

With 0.85 percent of the country's population, West Virginia, in fiscal year 1974, received 0.72 percent of the federal outlays—\$1,098 on a per capita basis, compared with a national per capita average of \$1,321.

I serve on the Senate Appropriations Committee and am Chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations. Through those assignments, I have been able to secure a number of projects for our state—each one of which was fully justified before any funds were allocated.

Those projects—such as, for example, the National Mine Health and Safety Academy, the Forest Products Marketing Laboratory, and watershed and airport development programs—are a source of great pride for me, as I am sure they are for all West Virginians. And I intend to continue my efforts to secure new federal facilities and programs for our state—when they can be justified—and to keep the existing projects fully funded.

The critics of the federal outlays to West Virginia should look at the facts—and look at recent history. For too many years, West Virginia and the other states of Appalachia were overlooked by the federal government. The potential of the area was largely disregarded by those planning federal programs. We were at the bottom of the totem-pole.

Now, West Virginia is being recognized as an ideal site for some federal projects, and department and agency workers located elsewhere—especially in large cities—are eager to transfer to our state. I am confident that the Appalachian region and the nation as a whole—and not just our state—will benefit from increasing the number of federal facilities in West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Mobile America

There was a time when Americans stayed pretty close to home. In fact, estimates show that, in the first decade of this century, the average American travelled just 1,640 miles a year—and 1,300 of those miles were going to and coming from work.

But times have changed—and changed dramatically.

Today, the United States is the most mobile society in the world. Not only do Americans, on the average, drive about 10,000 miles annually; they also take vacation or business trips, or change their residences at an astounding rate.

In 1967-1968—the most recent years for which documented facts are available — 108 million Americans took 360 million trips of at least 100 miles and involving an overnight stay. Those domestic trips accounted for 312 billion miles of travel, while additional miles were covered by the estimated 4 million Americans who go abroad each year.

Also during the years 1967-1968, 36 million citizens moved their place of residence, which social commentator Alvin Toffler notes "is more than the total population of Ghana, Guatemala, Iraq, Israel, Mongolia, Honduras, Nica-

ragua, and Tunisia combined." And every year since 1948, approximately one out of every five Americans moved. In Washington, D.C., alone, over half the 885,000 listings which appeared in the 1969 telephone directory were different from the year before.

To accommodate our mobile society, the United States has built an average of 75,000 miles of road annually for the past 20 years. Road mileage, in other words, increased 100 percent while the country's population was increasing by about 38 percent.

The way society has changed over the past several years is, in large part, the result of the increasing mobility of Americans. Travelling has moved much of the country's recreational activities out of the home, and changing residences has caused breakdowns in the traditionally strong family ties in America.

Undoubtedly, citizens have become more sophisticated as a result of their increased mobility—and, to some extent, freer. But society has paid a price in the weakened family and community ties. Only time will tell how high has been the price.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ozone Debate Continues

One of the most significant scientific debates occurring in this country concerns ozone. And it is a debate filled with ironies.

Ozone is that part of the stratospheric gas layer which protects all life on earth from the sun's deadly ultraviolet rays; and as long as it remains 10-20 miles above the earth, ozone is beneficial. But ozone is highly unstable. Once it drifts downward from the stratosphere, it becomes the most toxic pollutant known, more deadly than carbon monoxide, cyanide, or strychnine.

The problem for scientists, then, is how to keep ozone where we need it—how to harness its positive aspects without unleashing its negative ones.

Fear of destroying the ozone layer was the main reason America abandoned plans to mass produce supersonic transport planes. Some scientists argued that 500 SST's operating for one year could knock away half the layer—a development that would not only expose earth to more ultraviolet rays, but would also send more ozone down into the earth's atmosphere.

Ironically, ozone was widely used as a bleach

and deodorizer during the first half of this century. Then, in the 1940's, it was found to have a deteriorating effect on rubber products. Further research showed it to be harmful to crops and plant life, and to the lungs of asthma victims.

Thus, pressure mounted to leave ozone undisturbed in the stratosphere, and unused on earth. That pressure reached its peak with the decision against the SST.

The most recent research, however, has shown that ozone, if strictly controlled, could serve as an alternative to chlorine for purifying water. Controlled ozone kills only bacteria and viruses, while chlorine's ill effects on fish and other stream life are just becoming known. Ozone also oxidizes, rather than simply covers, offensively odorous molecules, and, therefore, could be used to treat waste and sewage.

American scientists are effectively identifying the good and bad sides of ozone. Their research must be followed by wise decisions that will leave the stratospheric layer of ozone intact, while harnessing the ozone on earth for man's benefit.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Investment Needed Here At Home

One of the contributing factors to our high unemployment rate is the fact that, over the past several years, too many American companies have opted to invest overseas, rather than expand their operations here at home.

Take the period between 1960 and 1970, for example. During that decade, \$31 billion of American capital went directly into manufacturing and other industries abroad—which was the same as sending three to four million jobs overseas, and leaving three to four million of our own citizens jobless in the United States.

The situation is alarming, despite the optimistic predictions by some labor statisticians that it will correct itself over the next few years. Wage demands by foreign workers will continue to increase, the optimists predict, and the salary gap between foreign and American workers will narrow, if not entirely disappear.

True, as the salary levels in foreign countries increase, it will become less profitable for American companies to locate abroad. But, in the meantime, heavy American investments in overseas' manufacturing operations has already taken its toll on domestic production.

For instance, United States manufacturing industries currently operate the oldest metalworking

machinery in the industrialized world, with 67 percent of our metalworking machine tools being 10 years old or older. This is an extremely important statistic, because metalworking machinery is a central element of production.

And in non-military industries in the United States, the ratio of professional technicians—engineers, scientists, and the like—to production workers has fallen sharply. The ratio is currently one technician for every 100 production workers, and, ideally, the ratio should be the same as exists in military industries—seven to 100. Technicians are the ones who develop means to lower production costs, thereby increasing productivity and jobs. Their absence reflects the declining investment of American companies in domestic operations.

If more incentives have to be offered to keep United States industries at home, they should be offered. And if tariffs have to be raised to prevent cheap foreign products from threatening American men and women, they should be raised.

The first economic responsibility of the United States government is to the U.S. economy—and we cannot protect our economy and our own workforce if American companies continue to find advantages overseas which do not exist at home.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Economic Planning

The high unemployment, recession, and inflation that are currently putting strains on America have pointed up the need for better long-range economic planning at the national level.

The lack of such planning is a weakness that should be corrected, and a panel of distinguished economists has suggested establishing an Office of National Economic Planning as a first step toward avoiding future problems.

A good case can be made for creating the planning office. Indeed, Congress has already established a Budget Committee, which, hopefully, will give the legislative branch greater control over federal expenditures; and the executive branch has its own Office of Management and Budget. But both the congressional committee and the Administration's OMB deal with the economy, for the most part, on a year-to-year basis.

What the panel of economists has in mind is an Office that would look several years down the road, define long-range national goals, and suggest programs to the Administration and Congress to meet these goals. Among other things, the Office would accumulate and analyze economic information from all sources, realizing that such problems as energy, transportation, and housing in-

teract, and ought not be considered only as separate entities. The Office would examine major economic trends, monitor the nation's supply of essential resources, and formulate alternative long-term economic proposals to cover a multitude of potential occurrences.

Ideally, the Office of National Economic Planning would not only enable America to avert economic disaster, but would also allow the nation to plan its economy in a way consistent with its values and goals. As the panel points out, "just as it would have been impossible for a man to go to the moon without our space program being fully planned, so, too, is it impossible for us to achieve our economic objectives by accident."

American businesses plan far ahead to assure their economic success. And Americans as individuals have long-range economic plans—such as a regular savings program to assure a college education for our children. Certainly, the economy of the nation as a whole is important enough to warrant better long-range planning than is now conducted.

At the very least, the establishment of an Office of National Economic Planning is an idea that should be given the most serious consideration at the highest levels of government.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Society With a Choice

Critics of modern technology, with its heavy emphasis on the assembly line and other techniques for mass production, claim it produces a sameness in society. Everything looks identical, they say, and the individual no longer has any choice.

To some extent, the critics are right. Mass communications and modern highways have made our nation smaller, culturally. Northerners are familiar with grits, and southerners enjoy Yankee pot roast. Regional differences have all but disappeared and our tastes, from coast to coast, are pretty much alike.

On the other hand, however, Americans are being given an unprecedented number of choices because of, and not in spite of, modern technology.

For example, in 1950, American grocery stores carried 65 different brands of soaps. By 1963, the number had risen to 200. During that same 13-year period, the number of frozen foods jumped from 121 to 350; and the number of flour and baking mixes went from 84 to 200. There was even an increase from 58 to 81 in the various brands of pet foods available.

It was the advancement of food technology—proc-

essing, packaging, and marketing—that made it possible to put more kinds of products on the grocery shelves. Each time a new form of automation was introduced in the food industry, it opened up new possibilities for additional products.

The assembly line in the automobile industry had a similar effect. With modern production equipment, the industry has been better able to adapt to the changing desires of the consumer—something it, like the food industry, could not do in the days before automation.

According to Marshall McLuhan, automated electronic production makes "it just as cheap to turn out a million differing objects as a million exact duplicates." Indeed, one computer expert took all possible combinations of styles, options, and colors available on an American-made family car and found there were 25,000 different versions of the same automobile.

A lot of us, myself included, remember with fondness—and with justification—the craftsmanship of years gone by. But we should not let nostalgia lead us to a blanket indictment of the advances made possible through American ingenuity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Misgivings on Detente

In theory, detente is a policy well worth the support of the American people. It is aimed at easing tensions between the United States and Russia, and increasing the chances for a lasting world peace.

But in practice, detente has led many Americans—myself included—to have serious misgivings about the policy.

Russia has thus far gotten the best from detente. In 1972, and again this year, millions of tons of American grain have been sold to the Soviet Union, saving the Russian economy from falling victim to the inadequacies inherent in the communist system. Also, the United States participated in the Helsinki Conference, which recognized the borders of eastern European countries and Soviet domination over that part of the world. True, the document signed at Helsinki is not legally binding; but our participation in the ceremony was a detriment to the hopes and aspirations of the Czechs, Poles, Hungarians, and other peoples of eastern Europe—all of whom know full well the repression which comes with Soviet control.

In return, the United States has received only

promises from Russia—and with the Soviets' history of breaking promises, that return hardly seems to be worth the investment made by the United States.

Even as Russia promises to promote world peace, it is continuing to funnel huge amounts of money—at least \$50 million, according to Secretary of State Kissinger—into the hands of Portuguese communists. The Soviet funds are being used to enable the small minority of communists there to subvert the will of the anti-communist majority. And even as Russia promises to grant greater freedoms to the people of eastern Europe, it openly supports Prime Minister Indira Ghandi's efforts to destroy freedom in India.

I do not advocate a return to the Cold War, and I welcome any easing of tensions between Russia and the United States. But I am aware of the Soviets' flawed track record in international cooperation.

We should get more than promises out of detente. We should expect performance from the Russians—performance to match the many contributions being made by the United States to make detente work and to increase the chances of world peace.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Facts on Americans

The average age of Americans is increasing, and the country as a whole is becoming more conservative, according to demographers who have just completed a study of our population.

In 1965, about half of all Americans were under 25, and the average age was in the 18-24 range; but, by 1985, for the first time in our nation's history, less than 40 percent of our population will be younger than 25. The average age a decade from now will be between 25 and 39.

The baby boom of the 1950's and early 1960's has ended, and, currently, the birth rate in the United States is about one percent annually. Looking at a 20-year period that began in 1965 and will end in 1985, the demographers call the rise in the over-25 age group "truly breathtaking." An estimated 24 million Americans will have been added to that age group by the end of 1985, which will be an increase of 70 percent in the number of citizens between the ages of 25 and 39.

And the study says "our country is a great deal more conservative than the popularizers of new living styles might suggest." For example, the demographers predict "a continuation of traditional household for-

mation at near-record levels" through the remainder of this decade and into the mid-1980's. By 1985, there will be almost twice as many traditional households in America than there were in 1955—which means that communes and other alternative living styles have been getting more publicity than they deserve.

The increasing number of families in the next decade, however, will have fewer children than those of today. And there will be a larger number of women combining both a home-making career and a career outside the household. In fact, four out of every 10 persons in the nation's workforce in 1985 will be women—that's a doubling over the percentage of the workforce made up of women in 1955.

According to the demographers, the facts that more women will be working and having fewer children will result in greater affluence for the average American family—and they predict that affluence will be reached at an earlier age than is now the norm.

The study concludes that Americans have every reason "to take pride in their accomplishments of the past 20 years, and to be optimistic about the foreseeable future."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Well-Read America

Americans, according to recent statistics, are reading more than ever before; and that fact has to be viewed as good news by educators who have expressed concern over the potential negative effects that television would have on the reading habits of the country.

Expenditures for books—which have been rising steadily for the past decade—now total almost \$3 billion annually, with the nation's largest book club selling 10 million volumes a year to its 1,150,000 subscribers. And a Gallup Poll claims that nearly 20 percent of the American people spend their evenings reading—a higher percentage than was recorded on any poll in recent years.

Reading is, of course, a worthwhile recreational activity; but the significance of having a well-read society goes much deeper than that. Throughout history, the march of knowledge has kept in step with the pace set by the printed word.

For instance, with the invention of movable type by Gutenberg in the 15th Century, the world was able to produce 1,000 books a year. By 1950, 120,000 titles a year were being published; and today, over 1,000 new volumes daily are being produced.

It is no coincidence that scientific advancements have paralleled the technological progress in printing.

In chemistry, for example, the 11th chemical element, arsenic, was discovered in the 13th Century; but the world had to wait over 200 years before the 12th element, antimony, was discovered. However, scientists, since 1900, have been isolating the remaining chemical elements at the rate of about one in every three years.

On a worldwide basis, scientific and technical literature now totals over 60 million published pages a year, and accounts for nearly 28 percent of the material read by Americans.

It is entirely proper for educators to warn against any decline in the reading habits of Americans—especially of young Americans in whose hands the future rests. Right now—with 1,000 active publishers and a highly financed educational system—the United States is the best-read society in the world; and largely as a result of that, it is also the most technologically-advanced society in the world. To keep our place as a leader in the world, we must assure that each generation has the ability to read—and to master what it has read.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Started Penniless

Much has been made of the fact that America is a nation that was carved out of the wilderness; conversely, too little has been said about how our nation began in the depths of financial ruin.

The Revolutionary War, which gave birth to the United States, left the new nation and its citizens virtually penniless.

True, using the fixed standard of the value of gold, the war cost the colonies only \$104 million. But that was a huge sum in the 18th Century, and was not easily raised. Aid from France and Spain amounted to just 10 percent of the total; and special war taxes levied on the colonies accounted for only five percent.

Most of the funds were raised through contributions from landowners and merchants who favored independence — men who staked their lives and fortunes on the rightness of their cause. Yet, even though they were on the side which prevailed, contributors to the revolution, like practically all Americans, had to start anew when the United States gained freedom.

There were two main reasons for America's impoverished beginnings.

First, the Continental Congress issued too much paper money during the war, and the results were

disastrous. In 1780, \$250 million was printed, which devalued American money to one-fortieth of its original worth. And when independence was achieved, there was \$483 million of continental money in circulation — it was literally not worth the paper it was printed on.

Secondly, after the war, England continued the restrictive trade practices which helped fuel the revolution in the first place. In 1699, Parliament prohibited the colonies from exporting wool and yarn, processed iron, and paper to anywhere in the world. The post-war Parliament forbade the British Empire from importing anything from America, banned the exportation of textile machines to the new nation, and prohibited the emigration of skilled workers to the United States.

So broke was America that, in 1786, Massachusetts' jails contained three times as many debtors as they did prisoners for all other crimes combined!

But our Nation climbed from bankruptcy to a status where its citizens now enjoy the highest standard of living in the history of the world. Americans should remember that the fiscal recovery of the country was as impressive as the physical taming of the wilderness.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Has Always Meant Opportunity

Immigrants still flock to America's shores in search of opportunities that do not exist in their native lands. In that respect, our country has changed very little from its earliest beginnings, because the New World's first settlers were motivated by the enormous opportunities to improve their lives.

In the 1600's, salaries for laborers in America ranged from 30 to 100 percent above the equivalent of \$10-\$15 a year that laborers earned in England. No wonder, then, that so many Englishmen mortgaged their futures, and became indentured for as many as seven years to raise the \$50 needed for transportation to America.

It is estimated that, at the time of the American Revolution, indentured immigrants accounted for 75 percent of the populations of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland. But even from their rather restricted status, they could see the promise of their new country.

And they seized the opportunities as soon as they could.

Land was readily available, and 95 percent of all Americans were engaged in agriculture from 1600-1800. Many of the first farmers, however, recognized the clothing and fabric shortage which existed, and

turned their farms into sheep ranches.

With the increase in sheep raising came the opportunity to process the wool, and, as early as 1640, Massachusetts was paying bonuses for spinning yarn and weaving linen. Thus, some of the farmers-turned - sheep - ranchers moved into manufacturing.

The same kind of growth was evident in the fishing trade. Originally, fish were caught by individual settlers for food, and any surplus was sold to the farmers for fertilizer. But the ingenious Americans soon discovered the economic potential of the 200 kinds of fish in the waters off New England. By 1675, more than 600 vessels and 4,000 men were engaged in cod fishing alone; and by 1800, the New England fishing industry earned over a million dollars annually from its exports.

Throughout our history, the story of America has been the story of opportunities seized. It has been the story of men and women who saw America as the promised land, a nation of destiny.

America still contains countless opportunities, and it is the duty of all of us to keep America a nation of destiny by emulating the strengths of our early settlers—because the character of the first Americans was their greatest legacy to us.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Super-Industrial Society

The developed world has moved into what experts refer to as "the age of super-industrialism" — that is, an age in which society no longer depends primarily on agriculture or industry, but rather places its emphasis on so-called white collar, service jobs.

Agriculture was the original basis of civilization, and has occupied the vast majority of the world's workers for thousands of years. But in the United States, where farms produce enough food to feed more than 200 million Americans and another 160 million persons around the world, less than 6 percent of the population is now employed in agriculture. A dozen other major countries of the developed world currently employ less than 15 percent of their populations in agriculture.

The industrial revolution, of course, moved workers off the farms and placed them in factories and mines and other industries. Yet, in recent years, the industrial revolution seems to have come to a halt.

Ever since 1956, over half the population of the United States has been employed in so-called white collar occupations, and the percentage has been growing almost annually. America was the first nation to move to a service-oriented

economy; but England, Sweden, Belgium, Canada, and the Netherlands now have populations where white collar employment outnumbers blue collar workers.

The situation has left many social planners asking this question: "Now that we have entered the age of super-industrialism, where do we go from here?" The answer might be "Backward, rather than forward."

Our energy problems have shown the need for America to increase its production of coal and other fossil fuels; the economic condition of the country has proven the need to increase industrial production as a means of fighting unemployment; and the world food situation has placed new importance on the farms of the United States.

White collar, service industries will remain important, of course, because the United States and the rest of the developed world will not retreat from the modern age. But there is a likelihood that society will again place a heavy emphasis on agriculture and industrial production, and that history will show that the developed world had just a flirtation with the age of super-industrialism, rather than a lasting romance.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Economic Emergence

Troubled, as we currently are, with a myriad of economic problems, it is difficult for us to fathom the phenomenal economic growth that enabled America to become one of the world's great economic powers in the mid-1800's.

But it would be well for us to recall the reasons for that unparalleled growth, especially as we near our nation's bicentennial.

True, the mid-1800's saw 50 million additional acres of land brought under cultivation, and statehood granted to all the area east of the Mississippi, as well as to eight states in other parts of the country. But more important than those physical facts was the attitude of the people that began to surface in the middle of the nineteenth century.

As one social historian put it, "the people came to realize that they could reach the top with broad vision, and a driving desire to be first and best."

That realization produced men like Scottish immigrant, Andrew Carnegie; blacksmith's son, Cyrus McCormick; farmer's son, Cornelius Vanderbilt; and countless others.

Thus, the mid-1800's saw the United States, which had a national debt of \$128 million in 1815, completely

erase its debt in 1835. The period also saw the value of individual property in the country rise from \$6 billion in 1850 to \$16 billion in 1860.

The desire to be first and best inspired the invention of machinery, which, in turn, enabled America's dairy industry to become the world's largest by 1860, and increased the nation's wheat output from 44 million bushels in 1840 to 200 million bushels in 1860.

In a seven-year period—from 1853 to 1860—foreign investments in United States companies rose from \$222 million to \$400 million; and, more importantly, American businessmen began, for the first time, to reinvest their profits at home. America's largest shipping company had none of its profits invested domestically in 1828; yet, by 1840, it had poured \$1 million into United States businesses. One of the country's largest iron works companies grew from a worth of \$24,000 in 1821 to \$500,000 in 1845 without a single dollar of foreign money.

The faith in America displayed by citizens of the nineteenth century should be an inspiration to all of us today. If we keep true to the spirit of America, the future can be as bright for us as it was for them.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Education Pays

The United States was the first country to make a college education available to the general population, rather than limiting access to college to only the wealthy. And the facts show that, for most of those who seize the opportunity to advance their education, there are tangible rewards.

Foremost among the tangible rewards, of course, is money. Estimates are that a college graduate will earn \$585,000 in his or her lifetime, compared with \$350,000 for a high school graduate—and \$294,000 for a high school dropout. And the main reason there are more financial rewards for college graduates is the changing nature of the American job market.

The labor force increased from 64.5 million jobs in 1960 to 77.3 million in 1970; but there was a decline in the number of unskilled jobs. The number of semi-skilled jobs remained about the same. It was the professional and technical positions which showed the largest increase. Less than 5 million Americans were engaged in technical or professional occupations in 1950, and less than 7 million in 1960; by 1970, however, the number had risen to over 11 million professional or technical workers in the United States.

No wonder, then, that over 9 million persons are now enrolled in college,

compared with the 3.5 million enrolled in 1960. They recognize that the future belongs to those who prepare best for it; and education is one of the best preparations.

In America, the opportunity to attend college or technical schools today is available to almost everyone. Universities offer evening and weekend programs; two-year community colleges offer courses that prepare for better jobs; and there are programs which combine work and study. And of equal, if not greater, importance is the trend of trade and technical schools to become degree-granting institutions—a trend which will enable their graduates to compete on an equal basis with graduates of traditional colleges.

Today, about 60 percent of American college students are from families where the fathers and mothers never attended college. And about 21 percent of young people from homes with annual incomes between \$3,000 and \$5,000 are in college—a larger rate than for France, Germany, England, and Italy combined.

A recent survey asked Americans what they would do differently if they had their lives to live over again, and the largest response—43 percent—was "Get more education."

Well, in the United States, the opportunity is there for the taking.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Women and the Job Market

Women are becoming an increasingly important part of the American workforce — for a number of reasons.

First, of course, is the fact that the government has moved forthrightly against sex discrimination, and has been especially active in guaranteeing equal pay for equal work between men and women. The government's actions have encouraged more women to seek more and better jobs.

And to secure those jobs, women have come to realize the importance of getting as much education as possible. Eighty percent of the nation's women now graduate from high school—compared with 81 percent of young men who are graduating; and 28 percent of the women are going on to college—compared with 32 percent for men.

But just as important as government actions and increased education is the fact that many of the myths about women workers have been exploded by recent studies.

For instance, it was long believed that absenteeism among women was far greater than among men, and that women switched jobs at a much faster pace than men. However, a national health survey shows that the female absentee rate is 5.6 days per year; the rate for men is 5.4. And a 1970 U.S. Department of Labor study revealed that the "monthly

quit rate" for women was 2.6 percent, and 2.2 percent for men. The reports note further that, while women do leave work for childbirth, their absence, more often than not is temporary.

Fifty percent of all women with children between 6 and 17 are currently employed, and 38 percent of all women with children between 3 and 5 are now working. In fact, of the almost 32 million women in the American workforce, 4 out of 10 are mothers.

That women are now being given greater opportunities in the job market is both just and proper—and, in many instances, overdue. But while focusing attention on women working outside the homes, we should not forget the very real contributions being made by housewives.

It is impossible to put a price tag on the work they do, although one estimate says the gross national product would be increased by at least \$105 billion annually if housewives were paid for their work.

Just as women desiring outside employment were getting too few opportunities for too long, women working in their own homes have been getting too little credit. That is a situation that should be rectified. After all, the housewife has the most important job of all—rearing the children. "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Is the American Worker Satisfied?

Most Americans have heard the expression "Blue Collar Blues," which social theorists coined to describe the dissatisfaction of Americans with their jobs.

But how widespread is worker dissatisfaction?

In the five-year period between 1967 and 1972, an estimated 3,900 books, reports, and articles were published on the subject—and the vast majority of the publications concluded that job alienation was very real, indeed, and that it existed throughout the American labor force. So powerful was the impact of the various studies that the existence of the "Blue Collar Blues" became accepted without question. Manpower training programs were redesigned, with more consideration given to the worker as an individual, and unions and management undertook projects aimed at increasing the intrinsic benefits of work.

All those were positive steps, and, undoubtedly, workers have benefited from them. But a new, definitive study by the U.S. Department of Labor shows that the American worker is as satisfied with his job today as he ever was, and, in fact, the study questions whether job alienation ever existed in the United States to the extent the social theorists said it did.

Looking at the decade 1963-1973, the Department found "no evidence of a

dramatic decline in job satisfaction." The study was based on eight Gallup Polls taken during the 10-year period, each of which measured the percentage of American workers "satisfied" with their jobs.

In 1963, 89 percent of the workers said they were "satisfied," while in 1973—the last year for which data is available—88 percent described themselves as "satisfied." In fact, the lowest rate of job satisfaction was 86 percent, recorded in 1971. The highest rate was in 1966—92 percent.

That means that, between 1963 and 1973, there was never any more than 14 percent of working Americans who felt "alienated" in their jobs.

Although studies on the "Blue Collar Blues" may have blown the problem out of all proportion, they were not without value. Young people, the studies found, were too often pushed into college by social pressures—and then wound up in a job which did not require a college education. They are the ones who make up the bulk of "dissatisfied" workers.

Therefore, the problem could grow unless more emphasis is placed on career and vocational education in the future for those students for whom college is not a viable or desirable choice. It is a step I have been advocating for years, and one which most of the research says is strongly needed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Russia's Army of Civilians

Despite paying lip service to detente, the Soviet Union continues to be the most highly militarized nation in the world—and indications are that military training for Russian civilians is increasing.

About 30 million civilians belonged to paramilitary organizations in the Soviet Union during the height of the Cold War. Today—in the midst of the era of detente—an estimated 150 million civilians are members of such organizations.

For all Soviet citizens, military indoctrination starts early.

The bulk of reading material taught to the first three grades centers on the armed forces, with the heroes of the children's stories either being military officers or young people who aspire to military careers. Then, in the fourth grade, training begins in earnest.

Soviet students — boys and girls alike — are required to take two hours of military training a week from the fourth grade through their sophomore years in high school. While girls continue in the two-hours-per-week program during the upper years in high school, training for boys is intensified.

Each male student must take 138 hours of military instruction in his junior and senior years before graduating. The program is broken down into 67 hours of basic infantry training, 40 hours of studying mechanized warfare, 21 hours

of practicing civil defense, and 10 other hours of instruction.

Since one out of every six Russian boys never starts high school, and since one out of every three who start never finishes, there is a military program for dropouts. Their 138 hours of training is conducted at "study centers" in factories, offices, or farm villages.

The high school graduates and dropouts then join the paramilitary organizations, the largest of which is the 40-million member "All-Union Voluntary Society for Support to the Army, Navy, and Air Force." Their training, then, becomes a regular part of their adult lives.

For the students who go on to college, there is ROTC—which the Soviet Union unashamedly copied from the United States' Reserve Officers Training Corps program. In fact, it is one of the ironies of the era of detente that Russia is increasing its ROTC programs at the same time America is de-emphasizing its training of reserve officers.

The lesson to be learned from studying Russia's militarization of its civilian population is one that history should have taught us already—that is, in dealing with the Soviets, the United States must move cautiously, because the difference between what Russia says and what it does is often very great.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Electronic Warfare

Laser beams, sound-rays, and self-propelled rockets used to belong solely to science fiction. Today, they are integral parts of this nation's defense system.

In fact, electronic weapons research currently constitutes the area of greatest competition between the United States and the Soviet Union, with each country spending an estimated \$2 billion annually. The bulk of the money is spent on research and development, but a considerable amount is used to gather intelligence on the other country's projects.

The Pueblo was captured while trying to get a closer look at Russian-built detection systems in North Korea; the U.S.S. Liberty was attacked while on a similar mission in the Middle East; and the U.S. plane ELINT — which stands for Electronic Intelligence — was shot down while monitoring Soviet radar systems in North Korea. Russia, with its obsession for secrecy, refuses to admit to any losses in its intelligence-gathering missions — but its interest in American systems is obvious.

Russian ships, for instance, constantly follow U.S. fleets at sea; and Soviet planes, returning to Russia from Cuba, regularly fly down the U.S. Atlantic Coast to trigger American radar reactions to their presence.

There are good reasons for the emphasis being

placed on electronic weapons research. For one thing, computerized missiles and bombs can give a few planes the effectiveness that could only be gotten from several squadrons a few years ago; and, for another, the manpower requirements are reduced under an electronics warfare system.

But even more important is the fact that possession of a sophisticated electronic weapons system could decrease the possibility of a nuclear war.

America's research emphasis has been on defensive equipment — radar systems, and computerized anti-missile missiles. And the presence of such equipment, besides giving Americans adequate warning in the event of an attack, could convince a potential enemy that launching a strike against the United States would be unsuccessful at best.

On the offensive side electronically-propelled weapons have an almost flawless degree of accuracy — which, according to one expert, means that "a conventional bomb or missile can do the job that, in the past, could only be done with the bigger bang of a nuclear weapon."

Extensive research on electronic weaponry will continue—both in America and in Russia. And, as in all areas in which America is competing with the Soviet Union, we can ill afford to come out second best.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Garbage Being Used As Energy Source

American technology, with a long history of producing some of the most important innovations in the world, is now launching a single attack that could help solve two seemingly separate problems—the energy shortage, and the disposal of pollution-causing garbage.

At least 30 projects aimed at recycling garbage into energy are now in operation, and another 100 are either in the planning or in the construction stage. That represents considerable progress, because as recently as 1972 no facilities existed to turn garbage into usable energy.

Most of the current projects are in large metropolitan areas, since cities have the greatest problems disposing of garbage. And already, an estimated 14 million tons of waste annually—about 10 percent of the yearly accumulation of garbage in the nation's large municipalities—are being recycled into energy.

In some of the facilities, steam is produced by burning the garbage in an airtight container; in others, the waste matter is turned into a substitute for natural gas; and in still others, experiments are being conducted to convert garbage into a liquid fuel that would be used to generate electricity.

The results, thus far, have been inconclusive, but

the early findings have been encouraging, and the projections for the future are very optimistic. A recently-completed recycling facility in Baltimore, for instance, is designed to handle nearly 1,000 tons of garbage daily. From that waste will come 200,000 pounds of steam hourly—enough to heat or air condition half the high rise buildings in the city's downtown area; and, when completely operational early in 1976, a Massachusetts plant is expected to save 73,000 gallons of fuel oil daily.

There is a certain irony in the fact that American technology has combined a solution for the pollution problem with a solution for the energy problem. Not too many years ago, a great deal was written about the conflicts between the scientists in the environmental fields and their colleagues specializing in energy matters.

Today, however, the scientists are working together, and they are calling the recycling projects major developments. Not only do the projects hold out hope for lasting solutions to pollution and energy problems, but also, and perhaps even more importantly, they clearly show that American technology continues to be resourceful enough to meet the crises facing the nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Weather Forecast Is Far From Sunny

The world is getting colder, according to many scientists who attended a recent international meeting. And the cooling trend that began in the 1940's could have serious implications for the world.

To be sure, the annual temperature decline of less than one degree does not signal the coming of a new ice age—but its effects can be seen on the ability of the world to produce sufficient food. In England, for instance, the growing season has been shortened by about two weeks since 1945; and at least one scientist present at The International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Study meeting blames the cooling trend for the floods, droughts, and freezes that hurt American farmers in 1972 and 1974.

Thus, climatological changes—even those that change the temperature by less than one degree a year—are extremely important; and atmospheric conditions must be taken into consideration when formulating national and international policies.

The United States, with its superior agricultural industry, faces fewer problems than does most of the rest of the world. Even looking far into the future, researchers see no threat of America being unable to feed its own people.

But we live in an international age. Many countries are dependent on American

grain for their very existence, just as we depend on other nations for fuel and other natural resources. Since scientists predict "colder average temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere for the next 20 or 30 years at least;" since underdeveloped countries, where starvation and malnutrition are already rampant, show no signs of being able to cope with their own agricultural problems; and since the present world grain reserves are at only a 30-day level—for all those reasons, the importance of the United States as a food producer is bound to grow.

In other words, if the growing season in the United States were to be affected only slightly by a climatological change, the impact on the rest of the world could be dramatic. One atmospheric scientist even went so far as to warn that major crop failures could result "in mass deaths by starvation and perhaps in anarchy and violence that could exact a still more terrible toll."

A suggestion that should be taken to assure that America can meet both its domestic and international obligations is the one offered by physicist Stephen Schneider, deputy director of the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research—namely, begin immediately to increase our food reserves sufficiently enough to offset unfavorable climate trends.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Travelling in Colonial America

Looking at the super highways that crisscross the United States today, one might find it difficult to imagine the perilous nature of travelling in colonial America.

One young colonial woman wrote of her trip from Pennsylvania to North Carolina: "It wasn't a tiring journey—only a month." And another American warned a friend to "take every precaution before you begin the hazardous" four-day, 150-mile trek between New Haven, Connecticut, and Boston.

Before the early 1700's, the only countryside roads that could be travelled were Indian paths—too narrow for any form of transportation except a horse; and, as one historian has noted, it was not uncommon for two travellers to share one horse. When that kind of partnership developed, one traveller would begin the journey on horseback, the other on foot. The rider, after going a predetermined distance, would dismount, tether the horse to a tree, and continue on foot. By the time the traveller who began on foot reached the horse, the animal would be rested and ready to give the second traveller a ride.

This "leap-frogging" was the accepted mode of travel for individuals. For the shipment of goods, packhorse companies were hired. And the importance of those companies can be seen in the fact that they

successfully lobbied the colonial government to keep wagon-wide roads from being built.

The packhorse firms said building roads to accommodate carts and wagons would be "a waste of public funds." And, indeed, no funds for such roads were appropriated until about 1740. By then, everyone recognized the value of "modern" travel.

Stage wagons—so named because they stopped at various stages along the way — became popular among the increasingly mobile Americans. Horse-drawn flat carts, with four times the load capacity that previously was piled on the back of a horse, became the most efficient way of transporting goods.

America began spreading out. Where the traveller going from New Haven to Boston once had to "take every precaution," he could stop, by the mid-1700's, at any one of a number of inns that had sprung up about 20 miles apart along the journey.

The whole story of travelling in colonial America says something very positive about the character of our forebears. Before the wilderness could be conquered, the will to conquer it had to be present in the Americans of that time.

As we approach our nation's bi-centennial, we should strive to rekindle that strength of character in ourselves.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Had Famine Before Feast

Although the United States is now the greatest agricultural power in the history of the world, the early years of farming in America were filled with failures and disappointments.

The earliest settlers experienced a succession of crop failures, and were unable to cultivate English grains in the American soil. In fact, the situation was so tragic that, in the winter of 1609-1610, two-thirds of all the settlers in Jamestown, Virginia, starved to death.

It was not until farmers began experimenting with Indian corn, and with the methods the Indians used to cultivate their crops, that survival in the New World was assured. The experiments continued, and, through an often painful trial and error method, the agricultural base of America began taking shape. Crops such as corn and beans flourished, and, eventually, even the English grains took root.

Along with the technical experiments, the settlers also tried a number of social experiments—and the results helped form the basis of America's respect for individual effort, and its commitment to the free enterprise system.

Throughout Virginia, and in Plymouth, Massachusetts, farm communes were organized. The settlers had

to work together, placing everything they produced in a common warehouse. Each farmer received a subsistence from the warehouse, and the profits went to the business companies which had financed the colonies.

The commune system was a dismal failure in America. It penalized the hard worker, and benefited the shirkers. Thus, Virginia abandoned it in 1611, replacing it with the "head-right" system which gave each new settler 50 acres of unclaimed land. Massachusetts gave up on the commune idea in 1623, and substituted a "township" system. Groups, primarily religious congregations, were given land to develop as they saw fit.

It is no coincidence that there was a marked increase in agricultural production once the settlers moved away from communal farming — just as it is no coincidence that the early settlers survived the initial crop failures.

The first settlers were resilient men and women. They had come to the New World seeking freedom, and a way of life in which they would control their destinies—and they were determined to succeed.

The strength of character that they possessed was much in evidence in the Americans of more than a century later—in 1776.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Russia and the American Computers

The Soviet Union, which has used American grain to compensate for the failings of its agricultural system, has also begun to lean heavily on American computer expertise to overcome the shortcomings of Russian technology.

To be sure, the Soviets can produce computers; but they lack the technology to both manufacture them in any great quantity, or with sufficient quality to meet the problems of today.

Russia, therefore, has spent the past few years acquiring computers, scientific instruments, and advanced equipment from Western manufacturers. Soviet trade in such machinery and instruments reached \$2.7 billion in 1974—a 60 percent increase over the 1972 purchases—and \$500 million worth was from the United States.

The Soviet Union is also obtaining computer technology through data exchanges, contacts with computer firms and scientists, and from joint research projects. Typically, Russia has gained more than it has given through the exchanges and joint projects.

There is a very real danger in the United States' being too cooperative in sharing our computer know-how with the Soviets. Whatever military superiority America currently possesses over Russia is a direct result of our advanced computer science—

American submarines run quieter, and American missiles are more accurate than their Russian counterparts.

The United States military advantage could disappear quickly if, in the name of detente, we supply the Soviet Union with the technology needed to become our equal in the field of computer science—especially since experts have testified that while the Soviets have not achieved great success in adapting their purchased computer technology to civilian purposes, they have obtained some very good results in military applications.

I believe that a moratorium should be called on the sale and exchange of sensitive computer expertise to Russia. Both the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Department of Commerce should use the moratorium to evaluate both the benefits and dangers of selling and exchanging computers and other scientific equipment to a country intent on using American technology to beef-up its own war machine.

If the transfer of computer technology, either through commercial agreements or cooperative research, brings our greatest competitor to our level of development, then we could be impairing not only our own commercial interests but also our own national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Suffering From Lack of Research

In the years immediately following World War II, government and industry combined to make the United States the undisputed leader in the area of basic scientific research. And being the leader meant that the export market was dominated by American technology and, more importantly, the products which resulted from that technology.

The situation has changed today, however; and unless renewed emphasis is placed on basic scientific research, the United States may find itself an also-ran in the international marketplace.

Between 1964 and 1974, according to the National Science Foundation, federal expenditures for basic research within the government rose from \$2.6 billion to \$4.6 billion—but that 77 percent jump, when translated into constant dollars, becomes an increase of less than 10 percent. Private sector funds for basic research went from \$549 million in 1964 to \$770 million in 1974—a 40 percent increase which becomes a 14 percent decrease when put in terms of constant dollars.

Most of the basic scientific research is done on a combined government-industry basis, which makes

the 36 percent shrinkage in constant dollar output for those joint ventures even more alarming.

There are a number of reasons for the decline in basic research conducted in the United States. The most obvious are the de-emphasis of the space program, and the opposition to defense spending. Research done in these areas often resulted in spin-off benefits in the form of consumer products, medical supplies, and job-producing computer advances.

But equally important is the multi-national composition of many of our leading corporations. The federal government, which once poured millions of research dollars into American-owned companies, is reluctant to invest tax revenue for research which a multi-national corporation might feel obligated to share with other countries.

Obviously, there is a two-fold need. Government must increase the basic scientific research being done by its own agencies; and, as scientist J. E. Goldman of the Xerox Corporation has warned his private sector colleagues, companies "will have to spend more to make up for the decrease in federal support if they want to stay in business."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Defense: More Dollars Buy Less

The U.S. Defense budget for the current fiscal year is about \$90 billion; and, since that is more than twice the \$43 billion spent for defense in 1960, a number of critics have been pushing for massive cuts.

But the dollar figure is far from the be-all and end-all to the story of military spending. In fact, an examination of what kind of defense America is actually getting for the \$90 billion shows that any additional, large-scale reductions could pose a threat to our national security.

For instance, 59 percent of the 1960 defense budget went for military equipment, while only 41 percent went for personnel. Because of increases in pay and retirement benefits, 55 percent of the current defense budget is used for personnel costs, while just 45 percent goes for military hardware. And there are about 500,000 fewer servicemen today than the 2.5 million Americans who were in uniform in 1960.

The Pentagon estimates that our armed forces are about 14,000 men below strength, and adds that budget cutbacks have resulted in shortening the traditional training period for new recruits. Even seasoned servicemen—such as pilots who need periodic re-training—are feeling the crunch.

Still, personnel reductions do not pose as serious a long-range threat to our national security as do cutbacks in the research,

development, and production of military equipment. New men and women can be recruited and trained in a relatively short period. But shortcomings in military hardware cannot be so easily overcome.

The ship strength of the U.S. Navy will decrease from 502 to 491 by July of 1976, and the U.S. Air Force and naval air units will also be operating with 100 fewer planes by the middle of this year. Additional slow-downs and outright curtailments are planned for a number of research programs which the Pentagon considers essential.

The fact is that the \$90 billion in the current defense budget buys 10 percent less in goods and services than the \$43 billion in 1960; and at least one analysis claims that defense spending now has "the least impact on the American economy in a quarter century"—accounting for just six percent of total government outlays, compared with nine percent in 1960.

I have never believed that the defense budget was sacrosanct, and I have supported reductions when I felt they could be made without jeopardizing our national security. But it is important for all of us to keep military spending in proper perspective. In our justified desire to reduce government spending, we must make certain that our defense posture is not irreparably weakened.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Choosing a National Symbol

Choosing the eagle as our national symbol was not an easy task for the early Americans. In fact, the selection process itself took six years, with everything from a rattlesnake to a turkey being considered before the American Bald Eagle was finally chosen.

Almost immediately after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a three-man committee of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin was assigned the responsibility of finding a symbol for the new nation. Adams and Jefferson favored religious mosaics that proved impossible to reproduce as a seal; and Franklin, after his two colleagues vetoed his nomination of the rattlesnake, suggested the turkey. After all, Franklin argued, the turkey was uniquely American and had been part of the country's traditions since the first pilgrims arrived in the New World.

Adams and Jefferson outvoted Franklin, but did agree that a bird should be the central part of the Great Seal. Thus, the Bald Eagle, which Franklin complained was "a bird of bad moral character," was chosen. Congress agreed with the committee's selection, and another committee was formed to complete the overall design. The second, and subsequently a third, committee failed to come up with an acceptable proposal. Finally, William Barton, a heraldry expert, and Charles Thomson, First

Secretary of the Continental Congress, designed a Seal that met with the approval of Congress.

Using the eagle as the central figure, Barton and Thomson added a shield on the bird's heart. In the eagle's separate talons, the designers put an olive branch and 13 arrows. The number 13—symbolizing, of course, the original colonies—is a recurring theme throughout the Great Seal. Besides the 13 arrows in the left talon, there are 13 stripes on the shield, and 13 stars above the eagle's head. Even the phrase the designers incorporated in the Great Seal—"E Pluribus Unum," which means "Out of Many, One"—contains 13 letters. Another 13-letter Latin phrase—"Annuit Coeptis," or "He has favored our undertakings"—is part of the design, and the pyramid in the Great Seal is a 13-tier structure.

Initially, the designers hoped that the eagle's head would be turned left to the arrows in time of war, and right to the olive branch in time of peace. The constant changing of the symbol proved impractical, and the eagle constantly gazes upon the olive branch.

Wherever it appears—on government documents, coins, or \$1 bills—the Great Seal of the United States remains a cherished symbol of our history, and of the unity needed to assure a bright future for America.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stand and Face the Flag

As every schoolchild knows, Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner" in 1814, during one of the most dramatic moments in our nation's history. But a lesser known fact concerns the practice of standing while the National Anthem is being played—a practice which did not begin until 1893.

Historians credit Rossell G. O'Brien with originating the tradition of rising and facing the flag during the playing of the National Anthem. He was an Irish immigrant, who served in the Union army in the Civil War, and who rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the National Guard when he moved West after the War Between the States.

O'Brien believed that Americans had begun taking their flag for granted, and was intent on developing a way to pay special honor and tribute to that great symbol of liberty. As a member of the Commandery of the Loyal Legion, an organization of National Guardsmen in Tacoma, Washington, he offered a resolution calling for all Legionnaires to "immediately rise and face the flag whenever the music of 'The Star-Spangled Banner' shall be played, and to remain standing until the

music of its inspiring strains shall have ceased."

The resolution passed unanimously, and newspapers in the State of Washington hailed the practice, one of them referring to it as "doing an honor in public, though not in an ostentatious manner, to the flag of our country, the glorious stars and stripes." For his part, O'Brien began personally contacting Legion posts throughout the United States in an effort to have his resolution adopted nationwide.

Eventually, Congress recognized the custom, although, ironically, O'Brien received no credit as its originator. In fact, it was not until 1966, after historians had researched documents in Tacoma, that a plaque paying tribute to the immigrant patriot was placed on the Legion's old headquarters.

One gets the feeling that O'Brien, who died in 1914, was never concerned with the lack of credit accorded him—but would be deeply upset that the custom of standing during the National Anthem has become almost a reflex action for too many Americans, rather than a thoughtful act of paying tribute to the flag and all it represents.

During the Bicentennial, we should all make a special effort to remember why we are standing.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia a Leader in Natural Gas

The natural gas industry in West Virginia is one with which most citizens are unfamiliar; yet it combines with the coal and oil industries to make West Virginia one of the leading energy states in the nation.

For instance, our state currently has more than 21,000 natural gas-producing wells—only Texas has more. And West Virginia ranks fifth among all the states in the ultimate capacity of existing underground storage reservoirs, with a 452.5 billion cubic feet potential.

Overall, the natural gas industry in West Virginia brings the state more than \$115 million annually in revenue, which is a sizable sum considering how comparatively young the industry is. True, there is evidence that the Chinese were utilizing natural gas as early as 940 B.C.; but it was not until 1807 that manufactured natural gas was introduced for lighting in London. Nine years later, beginning in Baltimore, natural gas-powered lamps were introduced in the United States.

The 1855 invention of the Bunsen Burner enabled natural gas to be used efficiently for all fuel purposes, and the industry began to boom. West Virginia was part of that boom. In 1879, a 15-mile pipeline was built, extending from a volcano field to

a Parkersburg refinery, and the first natural gas company in the state was formed in 1898—less than a decade after the discovery of the Mannington-Dolls Run Pool reserves.

West Virginia, besides possessing the natural gas reserves, had another advantage that helped it become an industry leader almost from the beginning. The first hard rock drilling tools were designed and put to use in the Kanawha Valley as early as 1859, and those West Virginia drillers disseminated their knowledge of tools. Thus, West Virginia had the skilled craftsmen so necessary to the advancement of the industry.

And the industry did advance in our state. West Virginia—specifically, Hastings, W.Va., in Wetzel County—was the home of the first commercial oil absorption plant in the United States, which was built in 1913 to extract gasoline from natural gas; and it was the home of a 1940 experimental natural gas liquefaction plant which laid the groundwork for today's intercontinental transactions.

The natural gas industry in West Virginia, like our state's oil and coal industries, continues to be a pacesetter—and continues to play a vital role in keeping West Virginia in its position as the nation's powerhouse.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Farming and the American Indian

The Hollywood stereotype of the American Indian is one of a hunter and warrior—and, like most stereotypes, it is highly inaccurate. A more authentic historical picture would show the Indian not chasing buffalo or wagon trains, but, rather, industriously working on a farm.

In fact, so important were the Indians' contributions to American agriculture that, as recently as 1915, an estimated 57 percent of the farm value of U.S. crop production resulted from plants domesticated by the various tribes which inhabited America long before the first white settlers arrived. All the current commercial corn types, for instance, had been developed by the Indians before Columbus discovered the New World.

The Pilgrims, after watching their own farming methods fail repeatedly, finally realized the Indians were skilled agrarians, and not the ignorant savages the settlers originally thought them to be. A Wampanoag Indian named Squanto showed the Pilgrims how to grow corn in 1621, and taught them the value of row-cropping—planting individual seeds in hills, and allowing for the land in between to be tilled. The European method unsuccessfully employed by the settlers did not permit intertillage.

At least one historian claims the Indians' devel-

opment of corn was "the most extraordinary achievement in plant breeding in all of man's existence," and estimates that, if the Pilgrims had not adopted the Indians' crops and farming methods, "it would have taken our pioneer ancestors a century longer to settle the American wilderness."

Overall, the Indians cultivated about 150 species in what is now North America, 18 species in the current Southwestern United States, and another 12 in the Eastern part of the country. The average Indian family was farming six acres of land when the Pilgrims arrived, and the crop yields often reached 100 bushels per acre.

That the Indians were successful farmers can be seen in the fact that, at the time of Columbus' arrival, agriculture accounted for 75 percent of the Indians' food supply—and only 25 percent came from a combination of hunting and fishing. And the storage of surplus production—both for use as barter for the fur trade, and as insurance against a bad crop year—was a common practice among many tribes.

The Pilgrims were mindful that the Indians' knowledge of agriculture enabled the settlers to survive in the New World, and we should not forget the Indians' contributions to the good life we lead today.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Dangers of Police Work

Law enforcement has never been a safe occupation; but, according to recently released statistics from the FBI, there are more dangers involved in police work now than ever before.

In 1974—the last year for which complete figures are available—132 local, county, state, and federal law enforcement officers were killed in the United States. That was the second highest annual total for the decade 1965-1974, during which 947 officers were slain.

The FBI, in an effort to curb the trend of ever-increasing police killings, did an exhaustive examination of the decade. One finding was that “more officers were killed in attempting arrests than in any other police activity,” and the FBI followed that discovery with a warning to officers that “no arrest should be considered routine.”

In addition to examining how and why police officers were slain during the 10-year period, the FBI also took a long, hard look at the persons responsible for the killings. A total of 1,330 persons were identified and charged in the killings, which cleared 95 percent of the cases; and,

from studying those persons, a very interesting picture of the police-killer developed.

For instance, of the 1,330 persons, a full 77 percent had been arrested previously on criminal charges—and 57 percent of the total had prior convictions on criminal charges. Forty-one percent of the 1,330 persons had been arrested for crimes of violence; 21 percent for weapons violations; 15 percent on narcotics charges; and, most surprising of all, 10 percent for prior assaults on law enforcement officers.

Police officers, then, are being attacked and killed by repeat offenders, the same kinds of habitual criminals who pose a threat to the general population. And the remedy to curtail the number of police killings, to help restore respect for law enforcement officers, is identical to the solution to the overall crime problem—namely, make sure that criminals, once convicted, are sent to jail, and not permitted to remain on the streets to repeat their heinous crimes.

To do any less is to guarantee a continual spiralling of the crime rate, and to insure additional police officers being killed in the line of duty.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Russia's African Failures

The Soviet Union's involvement in the civil war in Angola has not only pointed out the weaknesses in the policy of detente, but also has highlighted the shortsightedness of Russia's foreign policy.

Through the tragic Vietnam experience, the United States learned the futility of trying to buy, either through massive military aid or direct military intervention, influence in the underdeveloped world. Yet, Russia persists in its attempts at interference, military and politically, in Angola's internal affairs.

Ironically, the Soviets' previous adventures in Africa—adventures which consistently resulted in failures—should have been lessons enough to convince Russia to stay out of Angola.

For instance, in the Congo—now called Zaire—the Soviets sent military supplies to rebel forces in 1960, only to have the rebels defeated despite the heavy Russian investment. The Soviets also underwrote the government of Ghana for several years, but were thrown out when a coup overturned the government in 1966. Another Russian setback was suffered last year in Mozambique, when, after the Soviet-backed group took power, the Russians were denied the military bases and political influence they had demanded.

The U.S.S.R. experienced similar rebuffs in Mali, Nigeria, Uganda, and the Sudan without ever gaining a single ally in Africa. Thus, even if the Soviet-supported faction in Angola—through the massive infusion of Russian military equipment and Cuban "volunteers"—should win control of that small nation, it is likely that Russia itself will have won nothing in the long run.

That is not to say that the United States should let the Soviet involvement in Angola go unnoticed. Through diplomatic channels, world pressure should be brought to bear in an attempt to get all foreign powers out of that civil war. And America, which is now engaged in a policy of detente with Russia, should let the Soviet leaders know in no uncertain terms that their actions in Angola are jeopardizing the future of detente.

If detente is, in fact, a policy of cooperation between the two super powers, then the Soviets should heed our warning and stop fueling the fires of civil war raging in Angola. But if Russia continues to supply one of the warring factions there, the chances are that it will eventually learn that African nationalism, and not Soviet communism, will be the dominant force when the conflict has ended.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Decline of the Megalopolis?

America's largest population center has always been the 450-mile strip of land running from Manchester, New Hampshire, to Washington, D.C. In fact, it was this area which gave birth to the term "megalopolis," used to describe a series of urban communities so heavily populated that they actually sprawl into each other.

But now, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, population in the megalopolis is shrinking, with people seeking an escape from high crime rates, deteriorating school systems, and a generally harried way of life.

To be sure, the population in the area remains huge—almost 40 million persons, according to the 1974 Census Bureau figures. But the growth rate between 1970 and 1974 was only 0.3 percent, compared with a 5 percent increase for the nation as a whole—and compared with a phenomenal 12.9 percent population rise in the megalopolis during the 1960's.

The five major cities in the area—Baltimore, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington—all experienced population decreases over the 1970-1974 period; and, if the birth rate had not surpassed the death rate by 812,000, the entire 35,736-square mile region would have shown a decline. One telling statistic shows that people leaving the area between 1970 and 1974 exceeded the

number of persons moving in by 687,000.

There are two theories as to why America's largest megalopolis is declining in size. One holds that the area simply reached its saturation point several years ago, and the number of persons moving out represent a recognition of this fact. The second theory is more complex, but no less logical than the first. It suggests that Americans are looking for more quality in their lives, quality which cannot be found where the population density averages 1,109 per square mile.

The rest of the nation, after all, has a population density of under 50 persons per square mile, yet still contains sufficient economic and cultural opportunities for a highly pleasant way of life.

All indications are that the trend away from the currently-heavy population areas will continue. It is no coincidence, for example, that the median age for the nation is below that for the megalopolis—younger people are simply not attracted to the skyscrapers and night lights as they once were.

They want more out of life, and the result could prove interesting. States like West Virginia—states which offer a way of life which parallels our national values—should continue to grow. And the megalopolis could shrink to a level where living there would once again be enjoyable.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Violent Crime Wave Continues

All the public opinion surveys show that crime continues to be a major concern of American citizens—and for good reason, because crime, especially acts of violence, continues to increase at alarming rates.

For example, a recently-released report reveals that, from 1969 to 1974, the overall crime rate jumped by 38 percent. And the 969,820 murders, rapes, aggravated assaults, and robberies that occurred in 1974 represented a staggering 47 percent increase over the number of violent crimes recorded in 1969.

There were an estimated 20,600 murders in the United States in 1974—up 40 percent since 1969. There were an estimated 55,210 forcible rapes in 1974—a 49 percent increase since 1969.

The 1974 figures for aggravated assaults and robberies were 452,720 and 441,290, respectively; and those figures mean that, between 1969 and 1974, the increase in aggravated assaults was 47 percent, and the rise in robbery offenses was 48 percent.

Americans have expressed shock and outrage at our spiralling crime rate for the past several years; but there is evidence that our emotional response to acts of violence may now be followed with a positive response. At a January

meeting of a panel of distinguished judges, for instance, a resolution was approved calling for an end to suspended sentences and parole.

Criminals, the panel said, should serve their entire sentence in jail. And Americans should recognize the hard fact that rehabilitation, however lofty a goal, has simply not worked—and criminals should be sent to jail not to be reformed, but rather to be gotten off the streets.

The panel's ire was caused by the number of criminals who have been allowed to walk the streets, and repeat their offenses time and time again. It is estimated that, when viewed by the type of crime for which they were arrested between 1969 and 1974, repeaters for murder were 68 percent; rape, 65 percent; aggravated assault, 65 percent; and robbery, 79 percent.

The fact that panels of professionals from the judiciary branch of government are making specific recommendations to deal firmly with criminals is bound to be encouraging to the American people—and to those of us in the legislative branch who have long advocated minimum mandatory sentences, without suspension of parole, as one positive step toward getting the criminals off the streets.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Terrorist Bombings

Terrorist activities, once confined to unstable countries overseas, are now a very real and frightening part of everyday life in the United States. And unless quick and positive action to halt terrorism is taken, America may become as ripped apart with civil strife as some of those troubled nations we see on our television screens so frequently.

Last year, 2,053 actual and attempted bombings were recorded in the United States. That is only nine more than occurred in 1974, but the 1975 terrorist bombings took 69 lives and injured 326 other persons—compared with 1974 casualty figures of 24 deaths and 207 injuries. Property damage that resulted from last year's bombings totaled \$26.9 million—an almost 250 percent increase over the damage figure recorded in 1974.

The statistics for 1974 and 1975 are shocking, indeed; but equally alarming is the prediction by several experts that 1976 will be even worse. Terrorist groups, according to the experts, are planning to step up their murderous activities in an effort to disrupt the nation's bicentennial celebrations.

Two things seem necessary if the trend toward ever-increasing terrorist bombings is to be reversed. First and foremost, stiff punishments must be

meted out. A bombing which results in the loss of life—such as the unconscionable explosion at New York's LaGuardia Airport at the end of last year, in which 11 persons died and 51 others were injured—should be punishable by the death penalty. Life imprisonment—with no chance for parole—should be given to persons convicted of bombings in which no deaths are caused. And a mandatory sentence—one year in jail with no chance for parole or suspension—should be handed down to persons convicted of bomb threats.

Secondly, there should be a general recognition of the heinous nature of terrorist bombings. Those responsible would have us believe the bombings are political acts, and the media, in some instances, have been too quick to publicize the "cause" behind the explosions. In the United States, where legitimate channels exist for all persons to freely express their political beliefs and seek redress for grievances, bombings can never be justified.

Terrorist activities are, simply, criminal activities. And those who resort to terrorist tactics are criminals. They should be treated as such, if America is ever going to be made safe for the innocent men, women, and children to whom the country belongs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Mixed Bag For Construction Industry

Economists in the construction industry have finished their studies of 1975 and their evaluations of the first two months of 1976—and their predictions for the rest of this year contain both good and bad news.

Overall, the construction industry is expected to grow by about 12 percent, with the dollar volume of all work estimated to exceed the \$100 billion mark. Yet, when the anticipated 7-percent inflation factor is taken into consideration, the actual growth rate is reduced to just 5 percent.

The largest increase in the construction industry this year will be in housing—the bellweather of the building trades—where the growth is expected to be 30 percent over 1975. More than 1 million new houses will be built by the end of this year, and construction of new apartments is expected to reach 500,000. That is a significant increase over the combined houses-apartments total of 1,150,000 built in 1975, although it falls far short of the needed 2 million new units this year.

Public utilities are also scheduled for an outstanding year, according to the economists who predict a 10 percent real growth rate in that area of construction. Total expenditures for public utilities construction should exceed

more than \$2.7 billion in 1976.

But the increases in public utilities and housing construction will be diminished by the predicted lack of growth in institutional building, highway construction, and public works development.

Institutional construction—hospitals, schools, etc.—is estimated to remain at the \$16 billion annual level it has maintained for the past several years. Public works projects, which grew by 6 percent in 1975, will increase by only 1 percent this year, according to experts. And economists say there will be no gain in highway construction “without shots in the arm from government.”

A healthy construction industry is of vital importance to the overall health of our economy. Increases in home construction, for instance, bring concomitant benefits to related industries—carpeting, furniture, draperies, and so forth.

And all of it translates into jobs, which is what America needs more than anything else today.

Wherever the “shot in the arm” needs to be given in the construction industry, and can be given without threatening to skyrocket inflation out of control, it should be given. America can only work if Americans themselves are working.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

First Step Toward the Moon

Since this is America's bicentennial year, it is both natural and proper that we recall many of our nation's great achievements. And one that should not go unnoticed is our leadership in space technology — especially since, besides being the United States' 200th anniversary, 1976 is also the 50th anniversary of man's first step toward the moon.

It was March of 1926 when Robert Hutchings Goddard, a physics professor with an unshakeable faith in the potential of space exploration, met with his wife and two friends in a deserted field near Auburn, Massachusetts. With a blowtorch, he ignited the first rocket using a liquid propellant.

The space age had been ushered in, although, admittedly, few people realized it at the time. After all, the 10-pound rocket only rose 41 feet and crashed just 184 feet away from Goddard's makeshift launch pad—and the entire flight lasted less than 3 seconds. So unimpressed was the non-scientific world that *The New York Times* commented that Goddard "lacked the knowledge ladled out daily in our high schools."

But scientists knew the significance of that first flight and of the American professor's knowledge of rocketry. When Wernher von Braun and the other German scientists who

came to the United States after World War II were asked to explain Germany's advanced rocket program, they suggested the questions be directed to Goddard — because the "advanced" German V-2 rocket of 1944 was based on a model designed by Goddard in 1939.

Goddard died in 1945, virtually unheralded in his own lifetime. And it has only been in recent years that the scientist has been receiving the credit due him.

In 1970, a number of his previously-unpublished papers were released by the Smithsonian Institute. They show his plans for manned and unmanned space exploration, including sending a rocket to land on the moon. The plans were very detailed and amazingly accurate — and they were written in 1917. In all, Goddard had 214 patents issued in his name, ranging from the bazooka to vital components of America's Atlas, Thor, Jupiter, and Vanguard rockets.

The greatness of the United States has always rested with its people, and with their willingness to use hard work to make their dreams come true—to accomplish what other nations and other peoples did not try. Robert Goddard was typical of so many Americans. He reached for the moon—and because of his reach, we made it.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Crisis in Raw Materials

Experts are warning that, unless positive steps are taken soon, the United States could face severe shortages in raw materials — shortages that could jeopardize our position as an economic world leader.

Almost all Americans know of our nation's dependence on imported oil — the 1973 embargo was a grim reminder of that unhappy fact. But less well-known is the extent to which we depend on imports to meet our needs for other raw materials.

More than 50 percent of the aluminum ore, tin, iron ore, asbestos, and chromium used in the United States comes from abroad. Overall, there are 23 raw materials imported in large quantities, and without which our nation would be seriously weakened.

To a large extent, the raw materials America needs are found in Third World countries. And, encouraged by the relative success of the 1973 oil embargo, those Third World countries have been trying to organize for the purpose of driving the price of the materials sky high. Nationalization has been one tool employed. In 1974 and 1975, a dozen underdeveloped countries took action to bring copper, tin, and bauxite more firmly under governmental control. Venezuela, alone, nationalized mines that produce 15 million tons of iron ore annually.

Predictably, the cost of

raw materials to the importing nations has risen sharply — up 159 percent between 1971 and 1974. And expected future rises make it even more crucial for the United States to act quickly.

At least four things should be done: strike a better balance between our environmental desires and economic needs; stockpile the scarce raw materials while we have a chance to do so; practice strict conservation of scarce raw materials; and develop alternate materials.

The U.S. Government controls about one-third of the nation's land, much of it rich in raw materials. Yet, mining is prohibited on 67 percent of the land — compared with a mining ban on 17 percent in 1968. Unless we get more from our own land, we are going to become even more dangerously dependent on foreign sources.

Stockpiling now, while we can still get the needed materials, could avert future price increases from going out of control. It could also enable the U.S. to implement a conservation program, and give us the time needed to develop substitute materials through research.

American ingenuity has always been one of our most prized character traits. We had better revive it if we are to survive the raw materials crunch predicted for the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Heroin Use Increases

Three years ago, leading authorities predicted that the use of heroin in the United States would decline steadily for the next several years. Now, however, the same authorities say their predictions were wrong, and that the use of the illegal, highly dangerous drug is increasing at an alarming rate.

The peak period for heroin use in our country was 1971, when there were an estimated 500,000 to 600,000 daily users. A crash program was undertaken at that time to establish treatment centers, and to develop drugs that would ease addicts away from their dependency on heroin. By mid-1973, experts were declaring the crash program a success, pointing to the fact that the number of daily users had dropped to an estimated 250,000.

But new statistics, released in March of this year, claim that the number of daily users of heroin has risen to somewhere between 300,000 and 400,000, and experts say the increase could continue for some time to come. The main reason for the pessimistic predictions currently being voiced is the fact that, where heroin use was once confined to two or three large cities, its use has now spread to many smaller cities and towns

throughout the country. That grim fact is based on a careful analysis of overdose deaths in 24 cities, and 15,000 reports from hospital emergency rooms.

To halt the rise in heroin use and addiction, it is vital to realize what caused the decline in 1972-1973. And although the treatment centers were helpful, they were not responsible for the short-lived victory over increased heroin usage.

What was responsible was a two-part attack by the government. The first part was diplomatic. Turkey was persuaded to ban the growing of opium poppies, and other foreign governments were persuaded to crack down on drug smuggling from their countries to the United States.

The second part of the attack was tough law enforcement at the federal, state, and local levels. The famed "French Connection" arrests that curtailed the transporting of drugs from Marseilles occurred during this period.

What is needed now is a renewal of that successful 1972-1973 effort, because the new figures on heroin use show the dangers of dropping our guard against drug smugglers and pushers.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The CIA and the KGB

While the United States Central Intelligence Agency has been undergoing close scrutiny in recent months, the Soviet Union's spy network — the KGB — goes about its business unquestioned. And, in fact, evidence suggests that the past few years have seen a sharp rise in Soviet espionage activities.

In 1964, there were 1,485 Soviet officials stationed in Western Europe; by 1974, that figure had risen to 2,146. The non-partisan Institute for the Study of Conflict claims the more than 50 percent rise in Soviet representation abroad proves that "Soviet intelligence activities are on the increase," since "in NATO countries, of every four Soviet officials accredited as diplomats, three are spies of one kind or another."

The United States, of course, is a major concern of the Soviet Union, and therefore a prime target for KGB activities. Currently, there are about 190 registered diplomats from Russia stationed in America — compared with approximately 100 Americans posted in Russia. One estimate states that "half or more of the Soviet representatives in the United States work for the KGB." And, according to a captured KGB recruiting manual, "In the U.S. we use various international orga-

nizations. The most important is the United Nations and its branch institutions."

Doubtless, there is no public outcry in the Soviet Union to curtail KGB activities, or to expose the atrocities for which the KGB has been responsible. And the reason Soviet citizenry dares not question the KGB is that the spy apparatus is probably the most powerful institution within the Soviet government. The KGB answers to no one, and everyone in the Soviet Union answers to the KGB.

The first agency of government created after the Communists took control of Russia was Cheka, the intelligence branch which grew into the KGB. Its tentacles reach everywhere, accounting for political arrests too numerous to estimate, and monitoring the everyday lives of everyday citizens.

We should remember the KGB as we go about questioning our own CIA. Abuses by our intelligence agencies should be halted, indeed; and we should be grateful that, in the United States, the intelligence agencies are accountable for their actions. But we cannot allow the intelligence gathering agencies in the United States to be dismantled—not if we want the United States to remain free.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Battling the Burglars

The alarming increase of burglaries has caused the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and the National Sheriff's Association to launch a program designed to educate potential victims.

The most important part of the crime prevention program is citizen participation. In areas where burglaries have been especially rampant, police have trained private citizens and organized civilian patrols. They are not vigilante groups, police emphasize. Rather, the citizens patrol their neighborhoods unarmed, and report any suspicious happenings to the police.

"We have had burglars tell us they will not go into an area where they know there is a citizen patrol," claims the director of the National Sheriff's Association Neighborhood Watch program.

There are, of course, some persons who feel private citizens should not be organized into such patrols. Those critics say that such patrols are an invasion of privacy, and could lead to citizens taking the law into their own hands.

Yet, the fact remains that the police and sheriffs began organizing the citizen patrols precisely to prevent such potential

abuses. In many cities, groups were organized spontaneously after a rash of burglaries — and the groups were always untrained, and their members often armed. The sponsorship of the police and sheriffs has led to greater discipline among the groups, and has lessened the chances of any sort of mob violence.

And there seems to be no doubt that the police need all the help they can get in combatting burglaries.

In the last five years, burglaries nationwide have increased by 53 percent, to the point where a burglary occurs at the rate of every 10 seconds today. The annual cost to victims is \$1.2 billion, with residential losses alone amounting to \$758 million a year.

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and the National Sheriff's Association have reason to be pleased with the success of their program thus far—but officials in those organizations are the first to admit the limited nature of that success.

In the final analysis, officials say, the best way to check the rising rate of burglaries is for neighbors to once again begin caring about neighbors. We are indeed our "brothers' keeper."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Solar Satellites

Energy scientists, environmentalists, and legislators in Washington are talking excitedly about solar satellites — a potentially new energy source for the 21st century.

Imagine, for a moment, large sail-shaped metallic satellites flying in space 25,000 miles from earth, collecting the rays of the sun and transmitting this energy back to the earth where it would be collected by giant dish-like antennas. From these antenna stations, the energy would be sent to nearby power stations which would convert it into electricity.

Although the idea sounds incredible, it has been getting a lot of serious attention in Washington and in many research laboratories around the country. One reason scientists are so interested is because the solar satellites are an advancement over the earth-based solar heating plants already in operation. The solar satellites could collect and transmit the energy from the sun around the clock and would not be limited to the daytime or clear weather—the prime drawback with the existing solar plants.

Scientists working on the solar satellite idea say that by the year 2025, 100

of these satellites could be positioned around the earth, arrayed like small stars but serving as sources of energy, like miniature suns. Although much of the talk about this revolutionary source of energy is optimistic, the scientists say that they want to get all of the environmental and safety bugs worked out first. They don't want their project to become controversial, like the Concorde or Alaska Pipeline.

In the meantime, the high cost of solar satellites will rule out any substantial funding until the problems have been solved and the system can be shown to be safe, reliable, and affordable. The current estimates, however, are staggering. Scientists say that it would take \$20 billion dollars just to develop more efficient solar cells, and another \$24 billion for the heavy rockets which would take the materials to deep space where they would be assembled. In addition, it would cost around \$7.6 billion to put up each of the satellites.

But one thing is certain—we are going to be hearing a lot more about solar satellites in the years to come. Our energy needs are growing each year and we can't afford to be caught short.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Seeds for the Future

In a series of buildings in Colorado, the government has stored thousands of cans in dark, cold, temperature-controlled rooms. In the cans—some 90,000 at last count—the U.S. Department of Agriculture has stored plant and grain seeds from all over the world as insurance against a future disaster.

The USDA has been storing the seeds for their National Seed Storage Laboratory in Fort Collins, Colorado, since 1958 and they have gone to the remote corners of the world to collect rare, old, and unusual types. But the seeds are not being collected simply because they exist—for in the event of a disaster this seed bank could be holding the reserves for the world's future food supply.

The demands of the world's increasing population have led scientists to produce higher-yielding 'miracle' seeds. But oftentimes the disease-resistant qualities of the original stocks are not passed on to the newer seeds. Future crops are then susceptible to common plant diseases which could wipe out an entire strain. This is what happened in 1970 when the U.S. corn crop was hit with a corn blight. But

because of the seed bank, a newer strain of corn—resistant to the blight—was developed.

With these 'miracle' seeds, agriculture in recent years has become dependent upon fewer and fewer crops to feed more and more people. Because of this trend, there is a danger that the older, hardier seeds could be lost. Many of these older seeds are descendants of centuries-old crops highly resistant to disease.

The USDA has sent expeditions around the world to collect these hardier, ancient seeds. Once they have built up the stocks, scientists experiment with them to reproduce their highly desirable qualities. Over the years, the Colorado seed bank has become the largest of its type in the world and is the only source for several hundred varieties.

For years, American farmers have been asked to grow more food for more people — in China, Russia, Latin America, and Africa. The peoples of the world realize that American hard work and farsightedness — as with the Colorado seed bank — are sometimes the difference between hunger and a full stomach.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Newspaper Ads and History

Newspapers, as everyone knows, played an important part in our nation's founding. But what some people may not realize is that the advertisements in colonial journals were as historically significant as the news columns.

On May 8, 1704, the *Boston News Letter* carried the first ad, which sought to sell or lease a Long Island estate. And when America's first daily newspaper, the *Pennsylvania Packet & Advertiser*, began operations on September 24, 1784, 10 of its 16 columns were devoted to ads.

Benjamin Franklin, of course, was very ad-conscious, and his *Pennsylvania Gazette* regularly carried offers for medicine, sugar, tea, cotton, wool, hardware, false teeth, and dance lessons. Most of the ads were written by Franklin himself, who introduced bigger headlines in his advertising columns long before he used the innovation for news stories.

Even George Washington wrote and responded to ads. In an effort to sell some property, Washington placed an ad in the *Maryland Advocate & Commercial Advertiser*, in which he wrote of "the luxuriance of the soil, convenience to river transportation, and the inevitable rise in value if a new government is established." And he frequently bought cloth for

himself and his wife through ads which appeared in New York newspapers.

But ads were not only important to commerce in the colonies; they were also important to the cause of independence.

Much of the recruiting of soldiers for the Revolutionary War was done through newspaper ads, many of which carried George Washington's name prominently. One typical ad invited "all brave, healthy, able-bodied young men" to join "George Washington for the defence of the liberties and independence." And an ad aimed at raising a navy of privateers called for "all those jolly fellows who love their country to repair immediately to Governor Hancock's wharf."

The recruitment ads told of "liberal and generous encouragement" to enlist, namely "a bounty of twelve dollars and an annual and fully sufficient supply of handsome clothing, together with sixty dollars a year in gold." There was also mention of the opportunity "to spend a few happy years seeing this beautiful continent."

Colonial newspapers, like modern ones, survived because of the advertisements they carried. And together with the editorial columns of our early papers, they helped the nation itself to survive.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America in the Future

During this bicentennial year, we are being reminded constantly of America's past—a worthwhile endeavor, since ours is indeed a glorious history. Yet, as we celebrate our 200th anniversary as a nation, we should spend as much effort looking at where we are going as we spend looking at where we have been.

Experts predict that, from a material standpoint, the future looks bright for the United States. By the year 2000, for example, our gross national product will have more than doubled to at least \$3 trillion, and, with a projected population of 250 million persons, the average family income is expected to be about \$23,000 annually.

The trend toward smaller families is expected to continue, which will help to balance the increased costs of education for the American family. And, because of the smaller number of children per family, women will be holding more than 40 percent of the jobs by the turn of the century. Employment opportunities for both men and women should accelerate, specifically in the serv-

ice sector of our economy, and one of the main reasons for increased employment will be the fact that more persons will be working fewer hours per week.

Currently, the average work week is 37 hours. It could be as low as 32 hours by the year 2000. Thus, leisure time will play a greater role in the lives of most Americans.

Also, the rivers and lakes of America are improving, according to many environmentalists, who point to the return of some fish in the Hudson River which had not been seen for several years. It seems obvious, one authority says, "that we now have the technological expertise needed to meet most, if not all, of our environmental problems."

Thus, the future of America can be bright. But to insure that it is, we must remember what our founding fathers knew very well—a nation's spiritual wealth is as important as its material wealth. The spiritual legacy we inherited from earlier Americans must be rekindled in our lifetimes, and transmitted to those generations who will come after us.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Two Hundred Years of Free Enterprise

In all the celebrations, festivities, and parades planned for the nation's Bicentennial, we should not overlook another event which also took place in 1776 and played a very important role in the future welfare of our country. In March, 1776, just four months before the nation's founders signed the Declaration of Independence, the Scottish philosopher Adam Smith published his famous book, *The Wealth of Nations*, which outlined the theory of free enterprise from which capitalism evolved.

In many ways, *The Wealth of Nations* and our Declaration of Independence are companions. Both were revolutionary documents published in 1776 and both were written against the tyranny of the state. *The Wealth of Nations* was written to protest the British mercantile system which entrapped the workers with low wages, poor conditions, and limited opportunities.

Smith promoted the virtues of a free enterprise system in which the marketplace—rather than the government—would be the determining factor. He said that more could be accomplished with private enterprise, and men and women would be free to determine their own destiny.

Observing the British, Smith wrote about the dangers of a planned economy where the government sets the conditions of labor, wages, and prices. Under such a system—as we readily see by observing the communist nations—the workers, society and the nation all suffer. Capitalism, on the other hand, allows the individual and society to benefit by their own devices while the nation's economy prospers.

But Smith did not totally rule out the role of government. He said that the government was better able to handle broad responsibilities—like national defense, justice, and public works. He saw best that a fine line had to be drawn between the government and private enterprise.

Many of Adam Smith's thoughts are just as alive today as they were 200 years ago. It is encouraging to know that, just as America has been able to live under the guiding principles of the Declaration of Independence, the nation has prospered, thanks to the wisdom of this Scottish philosopher.

And, at a time when capitalism is under attack abroad and its merits questioned at home, we should not forget that independence and free enterprise go hand in hand—just as they did in 1776.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Looking Back at 1876

In May, 1876, the Centennial Exposition opened in Philadelphia to celebrate America's first century as a Republic. During that summer, millions of Americans and foreigners from all around the world travelled to Philadelphia for the gigantic birthday party planned to be the grandest exposition the world had ever seen.

Even after only 100 years of independence, America was already recognized as a leader among nations. We were a young and diverse people, and were respected for our energy, foresight, and initiative.

In 1876, America was hard at work, rebuilding the economy and healing the old wounds left over from the Civil War and the Reconstruction era. The hardy and the adventurous in the land were going West to carve out a nation from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Rather than looking back, people were optimistic and were talking anxiously about the future. A new machine age—which promised to ease everyone's burden and provide more goods and services—was just around the corner.

Everyone who went to Philadelphia in the summer of 1876 wanted to see some of these new machines and gadgets. One of the biggest

hits was a steam locomotive representing the railroads which had helped to open the West.

Two unrelated events which also occurred in 1876 represented the watershed the country had reached after 100 years. Custer and his troops were massacred at the Little Bighorn in Montana, and Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. America's westward expansion was about over and a new age of inventions and industry was beginning.

Looking back, it is refreshing to see how much our ancestors had accomplished in their first century. And being a proud and dedicated people, they wanted the whole world to come to Philadelphia to celebrate their Centennial with them.

And today, with America celebrating her Bicentennial, we have just as much to be proud of. After two world wars we helped out our allies and former enemies alike and rebuilt Europe and Japan. We have landed men on the moon and are leading the world in the all-important technological revolution.

When our grandchildren and their children look back at us during their Tricentennial in 2076, I am sure they will be just as proud of us as we are of our ancestors.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Women and the U.S. Revolution

America's fight for independence produced countless tales of extraordinarily brave men, but, as a whole, women have never received proper recognition for the important role they played in the founding of our nation.

Only a handful of women emerged from the Revolutionary War with their names forever guaranteed a place in history. Betsy Ross, the famous seamstress, and Mary Hays, who carried pitchers of water to the fighting men and earned the nickname Molly Pitcher, are two of the best-remembered women.

But there were many, many others. Deborah Champion and Molly Corbin are just two examples of women whose heroism could match that displayed by the men of the period. Miss Champion was called "the female Paul Revere," because she used her equestrian skills to carry dispatches through enemy lines in the cause of freedom. And Mrs. Corbin, who took her husband's place behind a cannon after he was fatally injured, fought so bravely that, when she died several years later, she became the only woman ever buried in the West Point Cemetery.

It was not uncommon, during the Revolutionary War, for women to follow their husbands off to war.

Nor was it uncommon for those women to join in the fighting when the need arose.

The women who stayed home also showed tremendous courage. With their husbands off at war, they became solely responsible for running the farms and businesses — and their efforts contributed greatly to the cause of independence. Mary Katharine Godard of Baltimore took over her husband's newspaper, and became a crusading editor; Mary Draper found herself in charge of the family bakery, and used her skills to establish an unofficial quartermasters' service for the Continental Army; and Catherine Schuyler, left alone to run the farm, made a most courageous decision, setting fire to the family home and all the crops rather than have them captured by British General Burgoyne's army; and the wives of Groton, Conn., organized themselves into a self-defense unit, and, armed with whatever weapons they could find or make, kept the British from crossing the bridge into their town.

The Bicentennial is a special time in our nation's history; and, in recalling our past, we should remember that, without the contributions of pioneer women, America might not have won independence.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Was Founded on Sacrifice

When the 56 men signed the Declaration of Independence, they said "we mutually pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor" to the cause of freedom for the United States. That pledge was more than mere rhetoric, and, as we celebrate our nation's Bicentennial, we would all do well to recall the tremendous sacrifices made by our forefathers in founding America.

Every signer of the Declaration of Independence was considered a traitor, and every one was hunted during the Revolutionary War. Most of the signers were offered immunity, freedom, rewards, property, or, in some cases, their lives if they would break their pledged word and take protection from the British. Not a single signer broke his pledge, despite the fact that practically all suffered severely.

Nine of the signers died of wounds or hardships during the War; five were captured and imprisoned, in some cases with brutal treatment; twelve had their homes burned to the ground; seventeen lost everything they owned; and the wives and children of some of the signers were killed, jailed, persecuted, or left penniless. Still, the signers valued their honor so highly that their pledge

remained unbroken.

Had those men flinched, or betrayed their word, the history of this country would have been very different. The fact that they refused to budge in their commitment to independence set a glowing example for the rest of the early Americans.

Throughout the colonies, men and women made tremendous sacrifices on behalf of the Revolution, sublimating their own wants and desires to the needs of the new country. Buoyed by the words of the Declaration of Independence—and by the courage of the men who signed it—the early Americans began building the greatest civilization in history.

It should always be remembered that America is not the result of historical chance. The wealth and freedom of this nation came at a price—the price of struggle, of determination, of ingenuity, of life and death. If one generation were to break faith with the American dream—if one generation were unwilling to pay the price of personal independence and responsibility—the heritage of the American dream for future generations would be forever tarnished and diminished.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Victory Gardens in the 70's

In this age of modern technology, fancy gadgets, and instantaneous communications, it is nice to know that people are returning to one of man's earliest pursuits—working the soil. Home gardening in the United States has become popular once again.

Home gardening has actually become a regular part of life for many families. Spring planting and summer and fall harvesting are such a way of life for so many that it is easy to forget how many people have never experienced the real joy of planting a seed and watching it grow. But now, in large cities and small towns all across America, people are enthusiastically taking up gardening. In cities, vacant lots are being re-claimed, and even rooftops and balconies on high-rise apartments are being used for gardening. In small towns, church and civic groups are sponsoring neighborhood plots for those who do not have a backyard.

But this is nothing new. Those who remember World War II recall the famous "Victory Gardens," when nearly everyone planted gardens to save precious resources for the war effort. At its peak,

there were nearly 20 million "Victory Gardens" producing 40 percent of all the vegetables grown in the country. These "Victory Gardens" ranged from small 8' x 10' backyard plots to farms of several hundred acres managed by war-time factories for their employee cafeterias. It seemed as if every vacant piece of land in the country had a "Victory Garden."

And now, more than 30 years later, families and individuals are taking up gardening on a scale reminiscent of the past. A nationwide survey conducted this year revealed that the number of vegetable gardens in the U.S. could increase by as many as 3 million over the approximately 27 million households with a garden last year. Seed companies are saying that the 1975 boom in planting will easily be eclipsed this year.

It is reassuring that people of all ages and occupations are turning to the soil much like their ancestors did when they were carving out a nation. That pioneering spirit and the desire to work the land are still strong in Americans—and that is a healthy sign.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The U.S. Merchant Marines

After reaching a low point in the 1960's, the United States Merchant Marine Fleet now appears ready to regain its dominance on the high seas. And that is good news for all Americans, since the merchant fleet is an important part of the overall defense structure of our nation.

The United States, in the period immediately following World War II, had an impressive merchant marine fleet which handled better than 50 percent of our foreign trade tonnage. Yet, as the years passed, other maritime nations modernized their fleets, while America did nothing to keep pace.

Thus, American-flag ships, which carried 58 percent of U.S. import/export cargoes in 1947, hauled only 42 percent in 1950. It continued to be downhill from that point on—to 23 percent in 1955, 11 percent in 1960, and to less than 5 percent in 1969.

The main reason for the decline in American participation in maritime commerce was the change in the type of cargo being carried. While the amounts of general cargo being shipped showed little change, shipments of oil experienced a 170 percent increase between 1956 and the early 1970's. And the

U.S. fleet simply did not have the tankers necessary to participate in the transporting of oil.

All that is changing now, due in large measure to the Merchant Marine Act which Congress passed in 1970. The legislation—the first dealing with the merchant fleet since 1936—provided incentives for the manufacture of tankers and bulk carriers, and generated \$3 billion worth of new contracts. It also recognized that improvements in the merchant fleet had spin-off benefits for America's defense, since manufacturers of the merchant ships also conduct construction for the Navy.

In the past three years, American shipyards have delivered 76 new vessels and have completed construction on 17 others. The result has been a 3.5 million-ton jump in the amount of cargo carried by U.S.-flag ships over that period.

The United States cannot let itself become dependent on the merchant fleets of other nations. That precarious position was almost reached in 1969, and, now that the U.S. Merchant Marine Fleet is again moving toward a position of dominance on the high seas, we should make sure that its journey is not impeded.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Eloquence of a Silent Bell

Probably the most beloved bell in the world is the Liberty Bell. No great American symbol commands more respect; the Bell has earned a place of honor with the Declaration of Independence, The Bill of Rights, and the Constitution.

Ironically, the Liberty Bell was made in England, cast in London in 1752. After its arrival in Philadelphia, it cracked on its first test and had to be recast. The second model passed the test—after the addition of a small quantity of American copper to the mixture.

Finally, hung in the Statehouse in Philadelphia in June, 1753, the Bell has a weight of 2,080 pounds, a circumference around the lip of twelve feet, and a height of three feet. The clapper is three feet, two inches long.

Prior to the Revolution, the Bell was rung to celebrate public occasions or to assemble the people of Philadelphia. Contrary to popular belief, the Liberty Bell did not ring on July 4, 1776. Though the Declaration of Independence was finally accepted on that day, it was not publicly proclaimed until July 8, at which time the Bell

rang continuously day and night while the people celebrated the birth of the new nation.

When the British were about to capture Philadelphia in 1777, Congress ordered the Bell carried to safety in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where it remained buried under a church for a year. Returned to Philadelphia, it clanged to the joy over the surrender of Cornwallis in 1781. Thereafter, the Bell was rung only on the most important occasions, such as the death of George Washington, the election of Thomas Jefferson, and the deaths of Hamilton and Lafayette.

On July 8, 1835, the Bell cracked as it rang in memoriam at the death of John Marshall.

Since then, the Bell has become an incarnation of our political freedom. It has travelled more than 20,000 miles on exhibition. This year, thousands will view it in the new Liberty Bell Pavilion in Philadelphia.

Voiceless for well over a century, the Liberty Bell now speaks in eloquent silence, reminding all Americans of the price of the liberties we often take for granted.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

On America's Doorstep

Over 100 million Americans—nearly half of our population—can trace their ancestry back to immigrants who first set foot in America on Ellis Island. Located one mile off the southern tip of Manhattan, the small 27.5 acre island was the reception center for the great waves of immigrants who arrived in this country from Europe in the late 1890's and early 1900's.

In recognition of its place in American history, Ellis Island was recently re-opened to visitors and tourists by the National Park Service. Few places in the country represent a common reference point for so many Americans as does Ellis Island.

From 1892-1954, Ellis Island served as the processing center for 12 million immigrants who arrived on our shores to escape hunger, and political and religious persecution. They came because America promised a new start—a better life, a higher paying job, and rich land to farm. America was the land of opportunity and freedom—precious commodities that were lacking in their homelands.

Immigration to America was an exhausting ordeal, and Ellis Island became known as the "Isle of Tears." After spending two weeks on a cramped and

cold boat, immigrants landed at Ellis to face a battery of inspectors, doctors, and social workers who questioned and examined them through interpreters. Most who arrived could not speak a word of English and had no one to contact when they landed in New York. For them, America was a strange and forbidding place to begin a new life.

But what lay ahead was a vast improvement over what they had left behind, and they were eager to accept the challenge of America, even though they were penniless, alone, and struggling against great odds.

Many who came achieved success even within their own lifetime—Irving Berlin, Felix Frankfurter, Knute Rockne, and Edward G. Robinson, to name just a few. It is a tribute to the millions of immigrants who worked hard, that many of their children became leaders in business, education, and government.

As the pace of immigration slowed and the airplane became a common means of transportation, Ellis Island outgrew its function. But history will record, and Americans will long remember, that, for millions, Ellis Island was the doorstep to America—and the chance for a new life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Is World Food Leader

On farms, ranches, and orchards all across America, farmers, ranchers, and growers are hard at work producing what appears to be another bumper crop for American agriculture. This is a certainly a good sign, because, when American agriculture is healthy, everyone benefits.

For those who do not have the opportunity to see at first hand the vastness and complexity of our agriculture, it is easy to overlook the tremendous contributions it makes to our nation. The riches produced annually on our farms are spread across the entire spectrum of American economic life, and they reach overseas into many foreign markets. When we have bountiful harvests, Americans eat well, our economy receives a massive shot in the arm, and foreign governments are eager to buy up the surplus.

One cannot help but be impressed by the statistics on American agriculture. We lead the world in the production of meat, milk, eggs, turkeys, chickens, vegetables, feed grains, citrus fruits, and many other foods. We produce more food and fiber than does any other nation, and the most powerful nations are dependent upon our agriculture because of its un-

excelled quality, productivity, and efficiency.

Agriculture is America's greatest growth industry and our largest employer, with 4.4 million workers on the farm. From the farm to the dinner table, the nation's agriculture and related industries require an additional 10 million workers to store, transport, process, and merchandise the food and fiber produced from fewer than 3 million farms.

American agriculture has been a remarkable success story. Since 1970, our export sales have tripled from \$6.7 billion to nearly \$22 billion forecasted for 1976. And in only one decade, production on our farms has increased a full one quarter, to over 534 million metric tons of crops, meats, and consumable by-products. This staggering figure represents 2½ metric tons for every man, woman, and child in America.

Historians write that Napoleon said an army travelled on its stomach. It wouldn't be much of an exaggeration to say that a nation's economic and social welfare depend largely on its ability to feed itself. With the abundant harvests we have come to expect from our farms every year, the fate of the country seems to be in good hands.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cornerstone of Our Constitution

Resting in a place of honor in the Rotunda of the Capitol is one of the four surviving original copies of Magna Carta. On loan to us by the British government in honor of our Bicentennial, Magna Carta was recently unveiled at an elegant dedication ceremony attended by British and American officials.

In the history of human rights, Magna Carta played a distinct and singular role. From its basic principles can be traced many later documents in Western civilization which conferred on man the rights and freedoms we have long cherished.

Magna Carta, or "Great Charter," was a petition that King John of England was forced to agree to at Runnymede, England, in 1215. It limited the power of the King and bestowed specific rights and freedoms on the feudal barons who had rebelled against the crown.

The theory incorporated into Magna Carta—and its symbolic value—was its most important contribution. This theory was that an established code of laws respecting the rights of the people could not be overruled or nullified by any ruler—even a King.

Some of the basic rights that can be traced back to Magna Carta are the right to due process, rights of

inheritance, the right to own and transfer property, and even-handed justice without regard to wealth or station title.

Down through the ages, Magna Carta came to be interpreted as a document of fundamental liberties for all. It took a hold on the popular imagination which has never been lost.

When the first English colonists settled in North America, they brought with them an acute awareness of the rights and liberties guaranteed by Magna Carta. These fundamental liberties were expressly written into early Colonial charters and represented the rights that the colonists fought for and won in their War for Independence from the British crown 200 years ago. Later, they were incorporated into the Constitution and laws of respective states.

Historians and legal scholars, in tracing the origins of our Constitution and Bill of Rights, begin their studies with Magna Carta. Honored as a cornerstone for all human rights, it is appropriate that during our Bicentennial celebrations, Magna Carta has been brought to America in proud recognition of the common heritage of liberty that binds our nation and the mother country of England together.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Food is a very sensitive subject for the people living in the communist countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Communist governments control the production, distribution, and price of food, as they do with all goods. With the government having this awesome control, the people realize there is little they can do about the quality and quantity of consumer goods. This feeling of impotence is most acutely felt with the limited food supply, and the people are nervous about anything that affects food.

The explosiveness of this situation was revealed once again when food riots swept Poland this summer. The Polish Communist government had announced steep price rises as high as 100% on meat, sugar, milk, and other staple foods. The announcement shocked the Polish people, and they immediately took to the streets.

Demonstrations broke out in the Polish capital of Warsaw and throughout the rest of the country. A Communist Party headquarters was burned down, and miles of railroad track were torn up. Two fatalities were reported, and thousands were injured in the riots.

Clearly the people had spoken—they did not like

the communist government tampering with food prices. In 1956, and again in 1970, the Polish government had announced similar price increases, and the people rebelled. Both times, new governments had to take over and promise no price increases.

Food is very expensive in communist countries and is generally of marginal quality when compared to Western European and American standards. Seasonal food shortages limit many people to a diet of potatoes, bread, and cabbage in the winter. The average Soviet citizen eats only 40% as much meat as an American citizen, and fruits and vegetables are expensive and scarce. Last year, the Soviet government had to import 16 million tons of grain to cover up for its disastrous harvest.

If anything, the failures in the communist agricultural system expose the hollowness of the Marxist ideology which promises equal social and economic benefits to all, while the governments cannot even produce enough food to feed their own people.

More directly, the recent Polish food riots reveal the thin line that the communist governments are walking between a pacified populace and open rebellion.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Religious America

It was not too many years ago that some social commentators were trumpeting the theme "God is dead," and predicting that the United States would become a nation of agnostics, or even atheists. But few themes have turned out to have less substance, and few predictions have turned out to be more wrong.

A recent Gallup Poll found that God is not dead in America, and, in fact, our country is presently undergoing "a spiritual renewal." Churchgoing, which suffered a decline in the turbulent 1960's, is now on the rise; and 94 percent of all Americans profess belief in God and list themselves as having a specific religion — 61 percent are Protestant, 27 percent Roman Catholic, 2 percent Jewish, and 4 percent other religions.

Of all the industrial nations, according to the poll, the United States ranks at the top in the importance religion plays in the daily lives of its citizens. Japan ranks at the bottom—just below the Scandinavian countries.

Why the "spiritual renewal" in America? The poll does not give precise

reasons, but it does suggest a rather logical explanation.

The United States has just emerged from a very difficult period, when every day seemed to bring with it a new crisis or a worsening of an existing problem—Vietnam, Watergate, and a general lack of trust among various segments of our society. It was a period during which many Americans lost faith in the destiny of our nation and our people.

Simply put, we came close to hitting rock bottom spiritually.

Americans to look inward for strength, and to reflect upon the spiritual values of our forefathers—spiritual values that were the cornerstone of America's greatness. Reflection meant resurrection, and Americans are apparently ready to regain the boundless faith of our ancestors in the destiny of the United States. They seem, as the poll states, "to be in the first stages of a spiritual renewal," since "the findings seem to offer a positive outlook for religion in America."

That portends well not only for religion, but also for the future of America.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hotline for Science

Off the coast of Japan, an undersea volcano erupts and spews molten lava to the surface and an island is born. In Colorado, a meteorite shower rains down in a remote mountainous area. And, in the Philippines, a small tribe of natives, dating back to the Stone Age, is discovered.

Oftentimes, we read or hear about such events, only to have them quickly forgotten in the rush of everyday life. But to scientists, these natural events are important, since they offer the opportunity to share in the observation of a rare event or discovery.

And thanks to a small scientific reporting team located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, these brief but important natural events now can be more readily studied. The Center for Short-Lived Phenomena, a division of the Smithsonian Institute, has grown since its founding in 1969 to become a highly-regarded operation. Even the normally skeptical Soviet Academy of Science acknowledges the Center as "the greatest scientific service."

With a staff of only five scientists, using the global communications network available to it at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Massachusetts, the Center receives and evaluates reports of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, oilspills, meteorites, insect infestations, and animal migrations. In a matter of minutes, the Center reports these events to thousands of scientists located in 148 countries who often travel to the site to conduct studies.

"It is the short-lived events in nature that tell you most about natural systems," says the director of the Center. "We are right on the frontier of man's knowledge of this planet and we have to keep our finger on its pulse."

The Center plans on developing more sophisticated techniques so that it can store more information and allow non-scientific groups to participate. And by expanding its operation, the Center will be better able to alert authorities to the cataclysmic events which are a threat to human life or to the earth's delicate ecological balance.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Common Sense in Government

We hear a lot of talk these days about the evils of big government and how it is creeping more and more into our daily lives. In fact, from the minute we get up in the morning until we go to bed at night, there seems to be some branch of government that touches our every action.

Government is all around and it reaches into homes, schools, and working places all across America. Most government actions and regulations are meant to serve the best interests of all citizens, but there are times when they go too far.

This was most shockingly revealed when an unnamed official in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare ruled that father-son, mother-daughter school banquets violated federal statutes on sex discrimination. Few would argue that the ruling was a blatant intrusion on the part of the government into the inviolable rights of the American family.

We all realize that government plays an important and vital role in the conduct of our nation's business, both at home and abroad. The federal government must raise and support armies, print

money, negotiate with foreign governments, protect the nation's resources, monitor commerce, and support research in health and science.

But in the case of the HEW ruling, the government overstepped the bounds of responsible government and interfered in a non-governmental matter. By saying that the peaceful assembly of citizens at father-son or mother-daughter functions would be in violation of a federal regulation, the government official mistakenly and stupidly tampered with one of the most hallowed institutions in American life—the family.

Fortunately, the President recognized the foolhardiness of that ruling and had it rescinded immediately. Like so many others, he recognized the difference between the intent of a federal regulation and good old-fashioned common sense.

And in the future, the government will better serve the people if it represents these common sense values of Americans rather than the narrow, nonsensical, short-sighted interests of a faceless bureaucracy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Trouble Ahead in Moscow Olympics

If recent events are any indication, the 1980 Moscow Olympics may become the most troubled and political Olympics ever held.

Ever since the modern-day Olympics were begun in 1896, people have become accustomed to some type of political intrigue during each of the games. But all of this will pale if the Soviet Union hosts the 1980 Olympics and turns them into a political contest between the East and the West.

A recent story in an American newspaper reporting on negotiations between Soviet officials and American television network executives referred to some suspicious hints at Soviet censorship. The Americans said that the Soviets are talking about some "other considerations" — exclusive of money — which will be weighed before the final contract is awarded.

It doesn't take much of an imagination to see that the Soviets will be trying to impose a form of censorship on any news organization that wants to cover the Olympics. It is conceivable that they would hold up issuing press credentials until just prior to the games to "evaluate" a news service or newspaper's past reporting from

Moscow. In effect, they would be seeking a four-year moratorium on information that would expose their tyrannical system.

But none of this is new. The Soviets have always manipulated news and information to cover up the repression that is constant throughout the country, and to give the appearance that their "socialist" system is the wave of the future. Their propaganda is seen as nothing more than subtle lies and hypocrisy manufactured by political leaders who are insecure and must use subterfuge, repression, and violence to retain their power.

There have already been reports in the Soviet press which indicate they are planning on using the Moscow Olympics for blatant political purposes. We must guard against the eventuality that the U.S. and other democratic nations are not presented with any 11th hour ultimatum in 1980 that would be embarrassing.

If the Soviets want to use the 1980 Olympics for their own narrow propaganda purposes, then the appropriate authorities in the United States must take whatever steps are necessary to assure that we do not become a party to their efforts.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Public's Responsibility

The success of the American system of government depends, to a large extent, on citizen participation in, and knowledge of, governmental processes. Thus, a recent survey should be cause for concern.

According to the survey's projection, fewer Americans may vote this November than voted during the last national elections in 1972, when the turnout was a disappointing 54.9 percent. And even more disturbing than that projection were some of the cold, hard facts discovered by the survey.

Only a little over half the voting public—55 percent—knows that each state is represented by two U.S. Senators, and two-thirds of Americans over the voting age are unable to name both their Senators or their Representative in Congress. Just 35 percent of those eligible to vote know what the Electoral College is; only 21 percent know what the Bill of Rights is; and a sparse 19 percent understand that the three branches of government are Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

The researchers who conducted the survey noted that "low levels of political knowledge and participa-

tion have serious effects on our democratic system," and they hope that, by calling the discouraging facts to the public's attention, they might inspire citizens to become more aware of the workings of their government. Yet, the researchers admit that the results of their survey will likely reach only those Americans who actually do take an active interest in their government — only those Americans who actually do go to the polls.

Americans are a proud people—and rightly so. The liberties and freedoms we enjoy resulted from hard-fought victories and a tremendous faith in the destiny of our nation. Peoples from all over the world flocked to America's shores to find opportunities that did not exist in their homelands; and, even today, the United States remains the beacon of hope for millions of people living under dictatorships.

But what we have in America will not be preserved without continued diligence on the part of the citizens—citizens who care enough about their government to fully participate in its operations; citizens who realize that freedom is a lot easier to lose than to gain.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Educational Standards Decline

Educators, parents, business, and community leaders are growing increasingly worried about the decline in educational standards in America. Several studies and reports looking into the problem have come to the same conclusion—the decline is real, and it affects education at all levels.

A few years ago, there were reports that scores from standardized tests were showing a steady decline. By itself, the decline was not overly disturbing, since it could have reflected a temporary trend or expectable fluctuation. What is alarming is that the decline was not arrested, and currently shows no sign of reversing itself. Documentary evidence reveals that it cuts across all social, economic, and geographical boundaries. According to one report, "It is a nationwide event."

All of the test scores and studies are uniform when they point out that the decline began in the mid-1960's, when experimentation in education was permitted and traditional disciplines were relaxed. Bowing to pressure from students and some experimentalists, required courses—mainly math, English, history, and foreign languages—were de-emphasized in favor of more electives and "non-academic" programs. In a

short time, the students began losing their ability to handle sophisticated and regimented concepts and ideas which demand critical thought. The time-tested disciplines of the past were replaced by the unproven theories for the future.

It was not long before colleges and universities were saying that incoming students were not fully prepared in essential areas. Many had not developed the ability to think and write correctly. Even top universities had to send students to remedial classes before they could enter their regular courses.

As one newspaper wrote, "American education appears clearly to be on a dangerous course that could have serious repercussions." This is a warning that should be heeded by all who have a sincere concern for the future of American education and the welfare of the nation.

America's future leaders—today's students—will have to cope with problems that require self-discipline, creativity, and rugged determination—skills which are learned, for the most part, in the classrooms. Whether striving to be mechanics, teachers, businessmen, or doctors, they must have an academic preparation that is second to none.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Disease Fighters at Work

A cholera outbreak in Nicaragua, an anthrax epidemic in Haiti, cases of histoplasmosis in Ohio—all are recent examples of dangerous diseases which have been diagnosed and treated by teams of American health specialists whose job it is to prevent a local threat from turning into a worldwide epidemic. Assigned to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, the epidemiologists, or disease control specialists, travel all over the world and have been credited with saving thousands of lives by their swift action.

The Center traces its roots back to the old World War II "Malaria Control in War Areas Program," that was started in Atlanta in 1942. Over the years, the name changed several times, and various health preventive programs were consolidated, until the present-day Center was established in 1970.

The Center has grown into a complex of laboratories and technical facilities that include sophisticated communications links to world-wide agencies such as the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization. Recognized around

the world as having the finest in resources, training, and experience, the Center maintains ready teams of epidemiologists on 24-hour alert to fly any place in the world to investigate and isolate dangerous diseases. Oftentimes they are the first medical people at the site of an epidemic outbreak. They are quick to respond because, in this age of jet travel, any disease or epidemic in any part of the world — no matter how remote — is only hours away from America's shores.

Even though it is active abroad, the Center's main work is done at home. With field stations in West Virginia and many other states, it coordinates with state and regional health departments on local problems, and oversees several domestic programs, such as occupational health and safety, urban rat control, and black lung.

The Center for Disease Control has been in the news recently as a result of the "legionnaires disease" and the national program to inoculate against a possible swine flu epidemic which poses a danger to Americans.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

American Inventors

The inventor has always been considered a special kind of person—creative, imaginative, and a person whose products have a profound effect on the way we live. And the United States, because of the freedom it offers its citizens, has provided the kind of atmosphere in which inventors flourish.

In few other countries would bicycle manufacturers have had the chance to test their theories of flight—but Orville and Wilbur Wright had that opportunity in America. So, too, did portrait painters Samuel F.B. Morse and Robert Fulton have the freedom to invent the telegraph and the steamboat, respectively.

The telephone, as everyone knows, was invented by Alexander Graham Bell, and Eli Whitney invented the cotton-gin. Both those men were teachers by profession, but the United States offered them the flexibility needed to experiment with ideas outside the classroom. The same was true for Charles Goodyear, a medical doctor whose invention of vulcanized rubber led to the modern tire, and for street-car conductor George Pullman, who developed the railroad sleeping car that bears his name.

Even our founding fathers

dabbled successfully at inventions. Among George Washington's accomplishments were a drill for sowing seeds and a 16-sided barn with a theretofore unheard of threshing floor. The talented Thomas Jefferson invented a machine for measuring strength, a weather vane, a folding ladder, and swivel chairs. And Abraham Lincoln developed a system of inflatable tubes for boats.

Practically all inventions of lasting value resulted from months and even years of hard work, and many obstacles had to be overcome before the task was accomplished. One of those obstacles was enduring the ridicule of people who could see no wisdom in moving through unexplored areas.

For instance, the magazine *Scientific American* once ran an article highly critical of Thomas Edison's plan to combine two of his inventions—the kintoscope and the phonograph—into a new form of communication. The article was titled "Curious Inventions," and the idea which it ridiculed turned out to be the talking motion picture.

Resourcefulness and perseverance were two qualities of our ancestors that are particularly worthy of revival during this Bicentennial Year.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Legend of the Cowboy

The American cowboy is perhaps the most romanticized and misunderstood figure in history. True, most of the men who rode the range between 1865 and 1886 were tall, silent types. But they were far from the glamorous, quick-drawing heroes that Hollywood has portrayed them to be.

One western historian says "their job was more boring than romantic, more tiring than heroic." Facts support that assessment.

Most cowboys were between 18 and 25, with a grade school education at best. They drifted west after the Civil War, which uprooted countless Americans, and they took the first job they could find—herding cattle.

Cowboys earned \$25-\$40 monthly, plus room and board that consisted of a cot in a shack and a steady diet of beans and bacon. In return, they worked 18 hours a day, seven days a week, in an occupation where the difference between life and death was often determined by their ability to maneuver their horses. In fact, being dragged by horses was listed as the leading cause

of death among cowboys.

Concern for their own safety kept many cowboys from ever carrying a gun while on horseback. A fully-loaded pistol weighed over three pounds, and impeded their mobility, while a rifle often rubbed the horse's skin bare or tangled the cowboys' reins and lariats.

Cowboys began disappearing in the mid-1800s, the victims of an expanded railroad system, a succession of winter blizzards, a glutted cattle market, and the introduction of barbed wire. They may have gone completely unnoticed in history were it not for another development of the mid-1800s—the establishment of the Buffalo Bill "Wild West" show, which gave birth to the legend of the cowboys just as the cowboys themselves were fading from the scene.

Movies and television have kept the cowboys very much alive for all of us. And even though much of the image is a myth, we can still learn something from the facts about the cowboys — their courage, their love of freedom, and the satisfaction they took from a hard day's work.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Treasure Chest Under the Ice

It looks as if Antarctica, that vast continent under the southern polar ice cap, soon is to become a region of intense international competition. As a treasure chest of natural resources, it is truly one of the earth's last and richest frontiers.

A continent as large as the U.S. and Mexico combined, Antarctica was not even discovered until 1820. Earlier in this century, expeditions of scientists began conducting experiments on Antarctica, but it was not until 1960 that the first international treaty affecting it was signed. The 1960 protective treaty outlawed territorial claims; declared Antarctica a nuclear-free, demilitarized zone; but permitted extensive meteorological, geological, and oceanographic study by all nations.

The recent surge of interest in the home of the penguins came about as a result of this scientific work. Scientists also found that Antarctica and the oceans surrounding it are a rich storehouse of valuable resources.

The living resources attracting attention are the fish, lobsters, crabs, and krill which swim in the cold-water southern oceans. Krill — a finger-sized,

shrimp-like crustacean — are so plentiful that experts are saying that they are the most valuable food resource for the future. It appears to be only a matter of time before krill can be economically harvested, processed, and transported around the world.

Antarctica is also full of non-living resources. The U.S. Geological Survey recently discovered natural gas — a general indicator that oil also may be nearby. Not long ago, the prospect of drilling for gas or oil in sub-zero weather would have been unthinkable. But after the development of the Alaskan North Slope, American technology in frigid weather drilling has become the most advanced in the world. Not to be forgotten are the massive deposits of gold, silver, coal, platinum, nickel, and other precious metals that have already been discovered.

But before any mining, drilling, or fishing can be done, international ground rules must be established. Much is at stake in the quest for riches under the ice, and provisions must be set down so that the rush southward does not lead to snarls in international and scientific diplomacy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Danger of a Water Shortage

The United States must take steps to assure that, in its efforts to solve the energy problems facing our country, it does not create a water shortage. Already, some experts are predicting that such a shortage of usable water could occur within the next 15 years.

Long-range water planning, with emphasis on conservation and proper distribution, is needed, according to several authorities. They point out that the rush to guarantee an adequate supply of energy has resulted in increased experiments in nuclear power, the plants of which use enormous amounts of water.

For instance, a nuclear-fueled electric generating plant proposed for a medium-sized city in Kansas will consume an estimated 26.4 million gallons of water daily. No wonder, then, that The Water Resources Congress says that, by 1985, the United States will need to develop an additional 7 million acre-feet of consumable water just to meet the nation's energy requirements.

The areas of the country for which the experts predict the greatest potential danger are the Southwest, where there have been

water problems, and the Northeast, where the largest number of consumers live.

To avoid a water crisis, authorities suggest two specific actions.

First, they suggest expanded use of inland and coastal waterways for cargo transportation—an action that would lead to a more valuable use of the waterways, while at the same time not detracting from the rightful emphasis that is placed on the traditional means of transportation.

Second, the experts recommend that more attention be paid to the development of hydropower, a product of solar energy. Water evaporated from the land and seas by the sun returns to earth as rain or snow, and eventually flows back to the seas. Hydroelectric projects attempt to harness that flowing water and produce electricity from it. The Federal Power Commission says that the nation has the potential to produce an additional 90 million kilowatts of conventional hydroelectrical power.

Every schoolchild knows the essential nature of water, and all Americans should be concerned about its conservation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Profit Is Not a Dirty Word

The word "profit" in many circles these days conjures up snarls and expressions of distrust. It almost seems as if profit, the key indicator of success in business, has become a dirty word in the American language. This is unfortunate, since it reveals a lack of understanding of the basic tenets of economics. Many Americans apparently want to enjoy the fruits of the free enterprise system without understanding how it works.

Profits are important to business for many reasons: they indicate how effective and successful a business is operating; they can be given back to investors as dividends; they can be plowed back into improving or expanding present operations; and, most important, they are the best means of providing additional jobs.

How poorly Americans understand the profit concept was indicated by a recent poll which asked how large corporation profits were. Many Americans answered 30%, 40%, and even higher. In reality, however, the figure is much lower. A survey of the nation's 500 largest industrial corporations in 1975 revealed an average profit margin of only 3.9%, the lowest in many years.

What many people in America may not realize is

that nearly everyone's future security and welfare are dependent upon the success of the nation's corporations, companies and businesses — large and small. Retirement plans, health and life insurance, and other benefits can only be offered if businesses are making profits.

Business profits are also vital to all branches of government. In 1975, corporations paid more than \$40 billion in federal income taxes and an estimated \$6.6 billion to state and local governments. If business profits decline, so do taxes and the services that they provide for all citizens.

One of America's most noted economists, a Nobel laureate, summed up the durability and effectiveness of the profit motive in business when he wrote, "Many try, few succeed." To those who succeed, go the rewards for their hard work and the responsibility to improve their product or service for everyone's benefit.

All of us in America, no matter how far removed from the corporate or business life, have a stake in the preservation of a strong, dynamic, and healthy free-enterprise system. Profits are the lifeblood of that system. And without them, progress becomes only another word in the dictionary.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

World's Future Looks Bright

Not long ago, it was fashionable for institutes and "experts" looking into the future to paint a bleak picture. They said that the world was going to be swallowed up by the problems of diminishing resources, overpopulation, and hunger. Economic growth, capitalism, and progress were criticized and "limited growth" was hailed as the wave of the future.

But according to a detailed study conducted by a group of scientists, these past theories of gloom and despair were simply that—theories without justification. According to new scientific projections, the future for the U.S. and the world will be one of hope, progress, and an improved quality of life.

The keys to the future, according to these scientists, will come from breakthroughs in modern science and technology. Advanced techniques in mining, farming, energy, and transportation will lead to increased production and improved efficiency.

Everyone agrees that population, food, and energy are potential problem areas in the future. But with long-range planning and research, each may be managed before a crisis develops.

Population rates around the world have been showing declines in recent years. Vast agricultural projects are already underway to reclaim land from the deserts, harvest food from the sea, improve present cultivation techniques, and produce higher-yielding crops. The goal is to put to use the nearly three-quarters of the earth's surface not presently being cultivated.

Fossil fuels and nuclear energy will continue to share the energy burden throughout the century, until advancements in solar, geothermal, and heat transfer projects are available to meet increased demands.

By the year 2000, projections show that the U.S. will have a GNP of over \$4 trillion. Rich and poor nations alike will enjoy steady growth as a result of new industrial techniques.

All of this does not mean that the future will be completely peaceful and harmonious. But it does show that the needs of the future can be adequately met through ingenuity, enterprise, and hard work. Nations and societies will be called upon to adapt to changing conditions and demands—something the world has been doing since creation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Where the Jobs Will Be

For young Americans about to make a choice on a career, the next few years will be very important ones. Whether enrolling in school or learning a trade, they will be charting a course they will follow for many years. With such important decisions to be made, it is helpful to know what the future will hold in various career fields.

The Department of Labor's *Occupational Outlook Handbook in Brief (1976-1977 Edition)*, available at most schools and libraries, analyzes the job market through 1985. With an eye to those who will be entering the work force in the next decade, the Handbook surveys 275 occupational fields.

Through the mid-1980's, the Handbook says we can expect a continuation of the rapid growth of white-collar and service jobs, a slower than average growth of blue-collar occupations, and a further decline in the number of farm workers. The demand for college graduates will continue to decline, but persons with vocational training will find increased opportunities.

Some of the most promising career fields for the next decade will be in accounting, engineering, food and hotel/motel manage-

ment, banking, mechanics, airlines, and science. One general area with a particularly bright future is the health and medical care field. With the number of hospitals and health care facilities increasing every year, the demand for more nurses, doctors, medical clerks, therapists, and lab technicians will grow steadily.

Of the vocational and technical areas which will expand, the computer, communications, and construction industries will offer excellent opportunities for those soon to enter the labor market.

The Handbook cautions those thinking of entering liberal arts fields such as law, history, and political science. Over the next decade, these fields will be flooded with many well-qualified people.

Most counselors recommend examining a career field for its pitfalls and benefits before making any long-range plans. Since career decisions can involve considerable expenditures of time and money, a little planning can pay off handsomely in the long run. The rewards of a successful career choice usually go to those who scrutinize the field wisely and with a little bit of foresight.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Weaknesses Plague Soviet Economy

One barometer for judging the strength of a country is to examine its economic system. When it comes to the Soviet Union, it is crucial for our national officials to have a thorough understanding of how effectively their economy is developing. A new Congressional study recently completed has reaffirmed the view that the Soviet economy, although large and productive, has some very serious weaknesses which cannot long be overlooked.

Periodically, Congress' Joint Economic Committee compiles a detailed study of the Soviet centralized economy to keep an eye on developments in science, industry, technology, and foreign trade. This most recent study says that although the Soviets have made some steady gains, growth has not been coordinated or necessarily beneficial. More cars and trucks are being manufactured, but roads are in miserable condition. Service stations and spare parts are virtually nonexistent. More meat is being produced, but poor transportation and inadequate storage have led to costly waste and spoilage. More housing is being built, but it is of inferior quality and deteriorates rapidly.

The past few years have not been notably good ones

for the Soviet leaders. They have had two disastrous harvests; inflation has cost them dearly; they have a serious international balance of payments problem; and their overall growth rate has been meager.

The Soviet Union is fortunate to have an abundance of natural resources, such as oil, natural gas, and minerals. However, it would require enormous investments to exploit these resources, and all branches of the Soviet economy are already stretched to the limit. Added to their problems is a serious manpower shortage which demographers say will only get worse.

Overall, the Soviet economy is limping along, but is making few advancements in the critical, high-technology areas vital to steady and long-term growth. Typically, the Soviet leadership is hesitant to undertake reforms or de-emphasize its heavy military burden.

The Joint Economic study is a valuable guide to understanding the severe economic problems confronting the Soviet leaders who have inflicted grievous burdens upon their people for years. As the study proves, no totalitarian system—no matter how powerful or large—can alter the basic economic facts of life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping the Past Alive

Sparked by a renewed interest in America's past, there has been a spirited nationwide effort to preserve the nation's historic landmarks. In recent years, many old homes, post offices, libraries, and municipal buildings previously threatened with destruction have been saved.

America's rich cultural heritage is preserved in more than the historical documents stored in our archives and libraries. Just as relevant to the nation's past are the countless homes, factories, and markets where earlier generations lived and worked. Over the years, many of these old buildings were torn down in the rush to modernize. However, by doing so, unique artifacts of Americana were lost forever. But no more. Thanks to an enthusiastic outpouring from local, state, and national officials, many of these historic sites have been preserved.

Much credit for this nationwide movement stems from the creation in 1966 of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Chartered by an Act of Congress, the Trust is a private, non-profit corporation designed to work for public and private preservation. The Trust maintains a National Register of Historic Places and currently lists more than 12,000 national historical landmarks.

Some of the sites that have been preserved are the Quincy Market and Old City Hall in Boston, the Decatur House and Woodrow Wilson's home in Washington, and the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco where the second Presidential debate was held.

But the Trust is interested in more than saving old buildings. It also has been instrumental in preserving ghost towns in the West, lighthouses on both coasts, and numerous railroad stations, canals, and warehouses which played important roles in the daily lives of earlier Americans.

Trust officials say that the most encouraging feature of the entire preservation movement is that it springs from the grass roots. Local community leaders who are working to maintain the historical integrity of their communities are eager to preserve local landmarks for future generations.

Historical roots are important to a neighborhood and to a nation. Although our daily lives are geared to working for the future, we must not overlook the past. Our national architectural landmarks are an intrinsic part of America and are as irreplaceable as the documents which declared our independence and established our constitutional liberties.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Riches From the Oceans

After thirty years of post-World War II industrialization, critical natural resources—oil, natural gas, and minerals—are becoming scarce. High-grade minerals are rapidly being depleted, and the known reserves are low-grade or located in far-away regions of the world. Meanwhile, the search is on around the world to locate the remaining reserves necessary for the future.

More than 70 percent of the earth's surface is covered by the ocean floor. Until recently, exploitation of the undersea resources was dismissed as too risky and expensive. But with the need for higher-grade resources has come the incentive to experiment with undersea mining technology.

The U.S. has an early lead in this area, having started off-shore drilling near the Louisiana coast in 1947. The gradual slope of the Gulf Coast seabed allowed technologists to develop systematically their underwater rigs. With the technology developed by American engineers, off-shore drilling in 1975 increased to nearly 20 percent of the daily world petroleum production.

But industry is not stopping with oil and natural gas drilling. Large concentrations of precious manganese, nickel, copper, and cobalt have already been located on the ocean floor

and preliminary recovery operations have been successful. Rich deposits of manganese have been found in the North Pacific in a narrow band south of Hawaii where the ocean floor is about 5000 meters deep.

The U.S. is heavily dependent on the metals contained in the manganese deposits. We do not domestically mine either manganese or cobalt, and our nickel production supplies less than 10 percent of our national needs.

The U.S. Bureau of Mines, the Geological Survey, and the National Science Foundation have been experimenting with undersea recovery operations and are planning on expanding their programs in the future. International competition will be keen as more nations become involved in marine mining.

Because marine equipment is very expensive, many Western nations have already formed teams or consortia to conduct undersea experiments. These international consortia may establish precedents for the future so that many nations can benefit.

We are fortunate that American scientists and engineers have anticipated the need for undersea mining. They have proved that we must always be seeking new frontiers to meet our critical national needs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

American Nobel Prize Winners

The Nobel prize is recognized as one of the most prestigious international awards in the fields of arts and sciences. Begun in 1901 in accordance with the will of the Swedish chemist, Alfred Nobel, the annual prizes are awarded to those individuals considered the world's leading authorities in their professions.

Nobel prizes are awarded in six categories: physics, medicine, chemistry, literature, economics, and peace. Although the awards have not always been given in all categories or in each year, Americans have been frequent recipients of the highly regarded prize. The post-World War II years have been notably good ones for Americans.

Twenty six of the physics laureates in the past twenty years have gone to Americans, and the U.S. has twice captured the three science awards in one year. In medicine, Americans have won or shared the prize for twenty eight years. Although the economics category was not added until 1969, five Americans have won or shared the prize in the eight years the award has been given.

To this distinguished record was added a new and more impressive honor in

1976 when the Swedish academies announced that all six awards for the year would go to Americans. This unique achievement has never occurred before in the 75-year history of the Nobel prize.

The seven Americans who won or shared the 1976 Nobel prizes live and work in many regions of the U.S. The economics and literature awards went to two residents of Chicago, the chemistry prize to a scientist in Massachusetts, the physics awards to two professors working in California and Massachusetts, and the medicine awards to doctors in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The American sweep of the Nobel prizes in 1976 can be interpreted in several ways. America has long been known as the land of opportunity. The Nobel prizes prove that America is the land where it is possible to excel in any chosen profession.

The American tradition of the pursuit of excellence is well-known. The Nobel prizes for 1976 are meaningful, but they are only a symbol of America's resourcefulness and creativity. The nation's talents are many, but need not receive awards to be appreciated.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Agriculture

One of America's greatest success stories is her bountiful agriculture, and the manifold benefits it brings to everyone. Responsibility for this success goes to many people—those who work the land, sell the machinery, transport the produce, and market it in the stores. American agriculture is truly a national effort, with each state contributing in its own way.

West Virginia's role in agriculture is a diverse and generous one. There are 26,500 farms throughout the state on which are grown or raised a wide variety of crops, animals, and poultry. In 1975, total marketing from farming was \$100 million from livestock and poultry and \$43 million from crops. The leading commodities produced in the state were dairy products, \$29 million; cattle, \$22 million; apples, \$21 million; broilers, \$12 million; and eggs, \$12 million.

West Virginia dairymen received \$27 million for wholesale milk in 1975—up \$1 million from the previous year; and poultry raisers sold \$15 million in broilers, compared with \$13 million in 1974.

Corn is the principal feed grain grown in West Virginia, and farmers were expected to harvest 5.1 million bushels of corn in 1976, with an average yield

of 80 bushels an acre.

The federal government continues to play an active role in West Virginia via several channels. The Farmers Home Administration made loans and grants of \$93 million in 1975 for rural development, and the Rural Electrification Program made loans to serve 4,055 rural customers. Other federal programs in West Virginia are the Agricultural Conservation, Commodity Disaster, School Lunch, and the Watershed Protection and Flood Protection programs.

Agriculture is an enterprise which rewards individual initiative, hard work, and perseverance and can flourish only in a capitalistic system. American agriculture is the greatest single contributor of new wealth in the country and with related industries, employs one out of every four people in America. Without question, our agriculture is the world's most efficient and productive and is the envy of the rest of the world.

The rewards that agriculture has brought to America are many. Part of the success can be attributed to the smooth working of its many parts. West Virginians continue to play an active role in that success story, and it is one in which they deservedly can take special pride.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Streamlining the Bureaucracies

One general law of physics states that once an object is at rest or set in motion, it will stay at rest or in motion until an outside force acts upon it. This physical property is called "inertia," and it seems to apply as well to certain government programs as it does in the physics laboratory.

Once a government program is instituted, "bureaucratic inertia" will tend to keep it going. This may be all right for those programs that satisfy continuing needs, but what about those that have outlived their usefulness? What is needed is an effective way to identify those programs and eliminate them. In that way, government could be streamlined.

But part of the problem is finding an efficient means of reviewing all government programs. One method receiving serious attention is the "zero-base budgeting" system.

As it applies to the federal government, zero-base budgeting—or "sunset provision" as it is also called—would require most government programs to be reviewed systematically by the Congress. On a rotating five-year schedule, Congress would select one broad government responsibility per year, such as education, transportation,

or welfare, and conduct an item-by-item review of all government programs in that area. Once identified, the superfluous programs could be eliminated from the federal budget.

The goal of a zero-base budgeting system would be to exercise greater control over the thousands of individual programs which make up the budget. It is but one of the management techniques being studied to determine their effectiveness and feasibility at the federal level.

Government and business both have grown rapidly in recent years. The American economy has more than doubled in the last ten years—from a GNP, in 1965, of \$680 billion to more than \$1.7 trillion in 1976. In that same period, the number of local, state, and federal civilian employees has increased from 10.6 million to 15.2 million, with nearly all of this increase at the state and local levels.

The demands of the future will require government and business officials to exercise skillful management practices. Whether the goal is proficient government or successful private enterprise, efficiency and economy are ingredients that cannot be ignored in today's world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Americans Go to the Polls

Political analysts are busily studying the figures for the November 1976 election, taking the many pieces and putting them together to understand better the results. Such work is important, and the statistics will be studied and interpreted by political scientists, government officials, and voters for years.

Some of the statistics were encouraging, others not nearly so. More Americans, 79,631,852, voted in this Presidential election than had ever voted before. However, this was only 54.3% of the voting age population, and represented a further decline in eligible voters participating that began in 1960 when 63.8% of the eligible voters voted. The 54.3% turnout in November also was the lowest percentage in a Presidential election year since 1948.

At the Presidential level, Governor Carter won the electoral college vote with 297 votes, only 27 above the 270 necessary to win. This was the lowest electoral margin since 1916 when Woodrow Wilson won by only 23 electoral votes.

The margin of victory was so close that a switch of 8,000 votes in two states would have given the vic-

tory to President Ford. On the other hand, if Governor Carter had gained 70,000 votes in eight states that he lost, his electoral margin would have been 67 votes.

In West Virginia, 741,416 went to the polls out of 1,278,000 eligible to vote. This represented a turnout of 58.0% of the voting age population, nearly 4% above the national average.

Voters across the nation also elected 17 new Senators, 63 new Congressmen, and 12 new Governors.

America's declining percentage of voters voting compares unfavorably with the turnout in national elections in other democratic countries. In 1976, 93.2% of the electorate voted in Italy; in Sweden, 90.1%; and in West Germany, 91.1%. In national elections in 1974, 73% voted in Great Britain and 83.4% went to the polls in France.

There are few freedoms in this country that should be treated more reverently than the freedom to vote. It is a privilege that is denied to millions around the world, and, once lost, is almost never regained. But when discharged with deliberation and wisdom, it has the potential to change the course of history.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making the Metric Changeover

It may not be too long before people start talking about how many kilometers their new car gets to the liter, or how many grams of meat they bought at the supermarket. America, after holding out for nearly 200 years, is converting—ever slowly and cautiously—to the worldwide metric system.

The metric system uses a base of 10 and is patterned after the French units of weights and measures adopted in the 18th century. The basic units are grams, meters, and liters. Each measurement, progressively smaller or larger, bears the prefix deci-, centi-, milli-; or deka-, hecto-, kilo-, respectively. Although it may seem complicated, the metric system is used extensively throughout the world, and in some of the scientific, business, and education communities in this country.

The system we use in America dates back to the early days of the Republic and was based upon the then prevailing British system. However, even at that time the French metric system was being used, and George Washington addressed the conversion issue in his first message to the Congress in 1790. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson also advocated

conversion but were likewise unsuccessful. The U.S., in 1875, went so far as to sign the Treaty of the Meter, but the country never quite got around to converting.

On December 23, 1975, the President signed into law the Metric Conversion Act which established as a national policy the conversion to metrics on a voluntary basis. This legislation was supported by a wide variety of businessmen, educators, and scientists who endorsed the uniform metric system.

The metric changeover has already begun. Some of the country's largest retailers are marking their merchandise in both systems, and individual states have erected metric road signs. Several states have metric conversion bills before their legislatures as the gradual move to conversion continues.

Along with jet travel and instantaneous communications, metric conversion is an example of how much closer distant parts of the globe are becoming. The national plan to go metric on a voluntary basis is a wise and prudent method. That way, each section of the country and every sector in American life will adopt it when it is ready—and not before.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting America's Leaders

Around the clock and around the world, a well-equipped and highly trained force of American security officers is working to protect the President and other government officials whose lives might be in danger because of their position. As members of the U.S. Secret Service, they act as bodyguards at a time when the world is becoming accustomed to blatant acts of political terrorism and blackmail.

Organized in 1901 to protect Theodore Roosevelt after the assassination of President McKinley, the Secret Service has grown in number and duties over the years. Originally authorized to guard only the President, the Service now offers similar protection to his family, the Vice-President, the President-elect, Presidential candidates, certain Cabinet members, and visiting foreign dignitaries.

As a branch of the Treasury Department, the Secret Service employs people of diverse technical and professional backgrounds and uses the most advanced communications and electronic equipment. Nevertheless, iron clad protection is not humanly possible; but the Service works to identify the individuals and those hazardous situations which could pose a threat.

To accomplish this, the Service examines every detail of the President's or

other official's schedule. Service agents walk through each area he will be in and look for potentially dangerous circumstances. The Service also screens a reported 200,000 items of information and interviews 4,000 suspects each year to identify those people who might attempt a hostile act.

But guarding political and foreign officials is not the Service's sole responsibility; for example, its agents protected the priceless Mona Lisa when it came to this country as a gift from the government of France.

Due to the nature of its work, much of what the Secret Service does is never reported. Its meticulous searching, interviewing, and investigating pay off only when nothing happens. The Service prefers it this way so that its methods and techniques are not compromised.

Atrocious acts of terrorism have reached dangerous levels in recent years. Political officials, Olympic athletes, members of prominent families, and businessmen have been kidnapped and even murdered. Not to take action against this threat would be negligent and irresponsible. Unless the government offers protection, it is leaving to the deranged fanatic the opportunity of using terror and blackmail to disrupt the flow of history.

JAN 12 1977



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Russia's Severe Housing Problem

There is probably no aspect of life in the Soviet Union which portrays better the confusion, inefficiency, and waste in that country than the chronic housing shortage. Scholars, journalists, and travelers have described it often, and few dispute the view that Soviet housing is the poorest of any industrialized nation.

Poor housing has been as much a part of life in Russia as rigid totalitarian rule. In earlier times, those living in the countryside existed in small huts, many of which are still in use. In the cities, the little housing available was overcrowded, unsanitary, and poorly heated. There were only modest improvements in these conditions until the mid-1950's when the Soviet government initiated mammoth housing projects to meet the needs of the new class of urbanized industrial workers. But even after more than 20 years of high-priority attention, housing is still limited and substandard.

For the overwhelming majority of Soviet citizens, housing consists of one or two small rooms with kitchen and bathroom facilities shared with neighbors. Most families live in communal or high-rise apartments whose services are notori-

ously inefficient. One recent newspaper story said that 60 percent of all apartments in Moscow do not have hot water.

Housing in major cities is so limited that even after marriage, divorce, or births change the family configuration, the family members must remain together in their old apartment, no matter how crowded or inconvenient it is.

Soviet newspapers frequently print articles and letters critical of the housing situation. Soviet citizens air their complaints readily, but their appeals appear to be futile expressions of frustration and despair. High level sources have voiced their concern, but the old problems remain — poor construction techniques, shoddy materials, and inadequate maintenance and inspection.

The housing problem is but one of many examples of how callously the Soviet government treats its own citizens. Whether in matters of privacy, freedom, or simple comfort, the Soviet rulers have inflicted enormous burdens and sacrifices upon their citizenry which appear to have little chance of being relieved. It is a high price for people to have to pay, and one that surely would not be borne if the choice were voluntary.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Weapon for the Future

Since 1972, our weapons designers have been testing a new missile which has the potential to be our most promising weapon for the future. Small, cheap, and deadly, the cruise missile has been impressive in flight tests, and many say it has the ability to move us further ahead of the Soviet Union in strategic weapons capability.

Cruise missiles are small, unmanned, torpedo-shaped aircraft which can be programmed to fly a predetermined flight plan. The Germans flew a primitive version as V-1 "buzz bombs" against Britain in World War II, and American military engineers have been experimenting with them ever since. Earlier models were too heavy, slow, and unreliable. However, recent advances in miniature circuitry and guidance systems have proved to be the technological breakthroughs scientists have been waiting for.

Versatility is the main factor which makes the cruise missile such a promising weapon for the future. It can deliver conventional or nuclear weapons and be carried on board aircraft, ships, submarines, or on trucks and trains.

One of the most sophisticated features of the missile is its guidance system. Called TERCOM, it allows a computer to guide the

missile away from enemy defenses and escape radar detection. This guidance system has been so accurate that test missiles have hit their targets within 30 feet of the center.

Cruise missiles are also relatively inexpensive. Costing less than \$500,000, thousands of them could be produced at a fraction of the cost of existing high performance bombers or missiles. Approximately 180 cruise missiles could be produced for the cost of a single B-1 bomber.

The Air Force and Navy are testing separate versions of the cruise missile, both of which measure less than 20 feet in length. If future testing is successful, they could be adding it to their weapons arsenals by the early 1980's.

The sophisticated nature of the cruise missile is a testimony to American electronics and weapons specialists who are working to keep us ahead in strategic planning. The peace of the world depends upon American preparedness and ability to respond to any military situation. To maintain that capability, we must continue to devote our finest resources and talents in the wisest and most productive manner—just as we have done in developing the cruise missile.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Students Lack Government Knowledge

Teenagers can be virtual jukeboxes when it comes to recalling the words of the latest hit tunes, or the steps to new dances.

It's certainly not unusual for a 17-year-old to rattle off Pete Rose's batting average with swift, computer-like accuracy.

But what about his knowledge of American government? A survey conducted by the National Assessment of Educational Progress is alarming.

Though they are within a year of being eligible to vote, 47 percent of the country's 17-year-olds apparently do not know a basic fact of the American political process—that each state has two United States Senators.

The survey, part of the Federal Government's largest continuing educational research project, attempted to learn the political knowledge of 13- and 17-year-old students. The National Assessment of Educational Progress polled 2,500 students, and the results of the sampling were projected for the entire population

at the two ages.

If the sampling is on target, it shows basic misunderstandings about the American system in which these young people are about to participate.

For example, half the 13-year-olds think it is against the law to start a new political party. One of eight 17-year-olds believes the President is not required to obey the law.

Furthermore, 20 percent of the 17-year-olds believe the United States is the only country with political parties. Also among the 17-year-olds, 29 percent did not know that state governments usually do not make laws about military service.

The tragedy, I believe, is that this lack of knowledge about government is not merely a malady of our youth.

Given the same questions, Dr. Evon M. Kirkpatrick, executive director of the American Political Science Association, says he believes adults would also be given a poor report card.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Renewed Unity

One of the most difficult things for people in other nations to understand about Americans is our political system. They see and hear our campaigns on television and radio. They are often puzzled about the noisy confrontation and angry words heard during our election years.

In today's world, when so many other nations are dependent on our economic and political stability, this American "sideshow" is of more than passing interest. What is said and done in the United States concerns people everywhere. In the past few years the tensions and problems of our own nation quickly became a part of international tensions.

That is why the amities demonstrated by both Mr. Carter and Mr. Ford during our recent change in administration were so important and valuable. When the new President walked from Blair House to the White House on the morning of January 20, President and Mrs. Ford greeted him and his family at the front door with warmth and courtesy.

At the inaugural ceremony a few hours later, Jimmy Carter spoke his first words as President by thanking Gerald Ford for his service to all Amer-

icans during a time of national crisis. President Ford was obviously moved by the thoughtfulness of the new man at the head of our government. As he rose to shake President Carter's hand, the whole world could see the dignity and decency of these two American leaders. I am sure that the symbolism of that kindness was not lost on either our friends or our enemies abroad. It was clear to the world that Americans—regardless of political party affiliation—stood together with renewed strength and pride.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said that the difference between barbarism and civilization was only a matter of degrees. I think we can be proud of the "degree" of civilization which we saw displayed in our nation's capital on January 20. Here, at least, orderly change can take place through the democratic process with good will and a generous spirit. The leaders of two great political parties have been the first to demonstrate the renewed spirit of America which we are all able to share. More than anything else, that spirit will help us all to contribute to the stable growth of a peaceful world in the years immediately ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Growing Unrest in Eastern Europe

From the Baltic Sea in the north to the Czechoslovakian border in the south, the East German communist government is erecting another "Iron Curtain" to keep its citizens from defecting to the West. This nearly impenetrable wall of mine fields, concrete walls, electronic sensors, and armed-guard towers is a further extension of the ugly and despised Berlin Wall built in 1961.

The construction of this great barrier reflects the growing insecurity of the East German and Soviet leaders who are fearful of the unrest in Eastern Europe. Many observers report that this unrest and discontent have reached crisis proportions and could erupt at any time.

Dissent and rebellion are nothing new in the Soviet satellites. Bloody uprisings occurred in East Germany in 1953 and Hungary in 1956.

Last year, food riots swept Poland and nearly toppled the government. Public opposition has not subsided, and the political climate remains tense.

In East Germany itself, the government was shocked recently when thousands of supposedly loyal and docile citizens boldly

applied for emigration to the West under the terms of the Helsinki agreement. The government refused the requests and had to obtain extra Soviet secret police to quell disturbances.

Much of the current discontent in some parts of Eastern Europe stems from the bleak economic situation found there. The Soviets have drained the economies of satellite countries to bolster their own economy. Added to this is the new burden of a debt of more than \$40 billion that the governments have built up to purchase goods from the West. For the average Eastern European, this has meant higher prices and continued shortages with no relief in sight.

The forecast for Eastern Europe does not appear bright. The Soviets apparently are willing to maintain nearly one million troops in uniform in that area just to keep order. However, the problem is not one that troops can solve. The problem stems from a political and economic system and ideology that fail to take into account the popular will and genuine human aspirations. The result is another sign of the bankruptcy of communism.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Look at the American Family

Twenty-five years ago, only one mother in four was working outside the home. Today, more than half of all mothers of school-age children are working.

Divorces have almost tripled in that same period. The number of illegitimate births has increased from four percent to ten percent—and most of that increase is due to babies born to teenagers. Tragically, it is not uncommon today for a mother to desert her home—or for both parents to refuse custody of the children in a divorce case. Child abuse is an increasingly serious national problem.

Crime committed by juveniles is growing at a higher rate than crime by any other segment of our population. Arrests of juveniles for murder, rape, and robbery are up more than 200 percent in the last fifteen years.

There has been a serious decline in the academic ability of our youngsters. Average scores for college entrance examinations in the last fifteen years have gone down 44 points in verbal skills and 30 points in mathematical skills.

All of these disturbing

trends are now being tied to the disintegration of the family, especially in our cities and suburban areas. In looking for causes, social analysts point to changing attitudes toward children, to the increased pressures on the time of adult family members, and to the decrease in time spent by parents with their children. These researchers suggest that we have encouraged an over-emphasis on the individual, with a parallel lack of commitment to the family—especially to children. “Too much TV, too few family picnics”—that is the kind of comment which these researchers are making.

Fortunately, there are still many small cities and rural areas where the family is important and vital. Parents there are involved in the moral and academic development of children. The existence of these old-fashioned families is a healthy antidote to the discouraging statistics of recent years. As we look for ways to turn those statistics around, I am happy to note that sociologists are once again recognizing the power of the family in developing the character and strength of the next generation of American citizens.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Our Runaway Energy Appetite

More than 1.5 million men and women are out of work as a result of the shortage of natural gas and the severity of our winter. Nearly 100 people are dead. Most of us have undergone at least some discomfort in the last few weeks, in our efforts to keep working, to keep going to school, or just to keep warm.

As a result of this difficult struggle, we are all searching for better ways to conserve our resources—especially our limited energy resources. Once again, we must face up to the reality of our enormous energy appetite. We must strive to be conservationists, and re-learn some of the commonsense ways in which our parents and grandparents saved both money and energy.

How does the average family spend its energy dollars? Most of our energy spending is in our automobiles—twenty-eight percent. If every family in the nation took one less trip in the car every week, the nation would save almost 3 billion gallons of gasoline and more than \$1 billion a year! Smaller cars, carpooling to work, walking when possible—all of those simple conservation ideas have been talked about, but we Americans have not been very successful in changing our habits.

In our houses we spend another twenty-eight percent of our energy money just for heating our rooms, with appliances and water heating taking another nine percent. Energy experts at the Federal Energy Administration, at HUD and at ERDA, have pinpointed some simple and basic things which we can do to save both dollars and energy at home. A lot of those ideas are old-fashioned ideas which our forefathers used to great advantage, but which we have neglected in recent years. Attic and floor insulation; basement insulation; weather-stripping doors and caulking windows and joints; wrapping ducts and pipes with fiberglass blankets; checking on the efficiency of furnaces, thermostats, and fireplace dampers; closing off unused rooms—all of those very simple steps can be a better investment than the stock market in dollar returns. In addition, they will help measurably in meeting the energy shortfall we face in the years ahead.

As worried as we are over the current hard winter, I think the long-term effect of our difficulties this year may be very valuable. We are being forced to go on an energy diet—and that may make us a much leaner and healthier nation in the long run!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Weather Warnings Affect Our Food Policy

For years we heard about a 'future' energy shortage. Most people only paid attention to those predictions when gasoline prices shot up, or when an electricity shortage caused a power failure in one of our cities. Recently, we again paid attention as the natural gas shortage made headlines in our Northeastern states.

The new Administration is moving quickly to formulate a realistic national energy policy, at last. We must examine our alternatives and make tough decisions about energy consumption. That is the responsible approach for America to take, and action is needed on this serious problem.

There is another possible future problem about which we have begun to receive warnings. That problem concerns food production, food shortage, and food demands and needs in an overpopulated world.

Two years ago, the CIA released a report concerning the serious implications of current trends in population growth, food production around the world, and changes in world weather. CIA analysis revealed that many climatologists are predicting a cooling trend which could drastically affect the production of food, and which could bring tragic threats of famine to many less developed countries. Unfortunately, not many Americans heard about that CIA report. We should think about what

its message could mean to us.

Even if weather remains about the same in the next fifty years, the United States will become more and more influential and important as a food exporter. We are the leading grain exporter today, and our ability to increase production is unique even among developed nations. Our agricultural lands are vast, and they lie within a weather zone which could still produce, even if world temperature changed a few degrees. However, Canada, the Soviet Union, China, and other major food producers would be severely affected and would probably not be able to feed their own populations. Smaller countries, where population growth is not yet controlled, could face tragedy.

We would be forced to make life-and-death decisions about where to send or sell our surplus commodities. Even with large increases in our output, we could not satisfy all demands.

This means that our national food policy must include all the available information about food-population balance and possible weather changes. We must think seriously about what this threat could mean to the world balance of power and to our own security. Our experience with energy needs has taught us how important even a temporary shortage can be. A world food shortage could be catastrophic.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Starring Role for the Lowly Potato

In the sixteenth century, Spanish explorers in South America discovered a new kind of food—a vegetable which grew profusely underground, which could be stored for long periods of time, and which tasted just fine—either boiled or baked.

Fortunately for the world, those early adventurers found room to pack a few potatoes along with the gold and Inca treasures they took home. The rulers were delighted to get the gold—and farmers were glad to get the potatoes!

That introduction of a new, fast-growing food staple to the diet of Europeans made a real difference. For the first time, a farmer with a very small piece of land could grow enough food for a large family. Historians still argue over whether or not the plain old potato sparked the industrial revolution as a result of the population growth!

We all know that the potato changed the history of Ireland. We don't often remember that it was important to the history of the United States, as well. For the colonists and pioneers, this good staple became as American as apple pie!

The real power of the

potato lies in its high protein content per acre of food produced. In a protein scale used by most world food planners, eggs receive a perfect score of 100, most meat scores in the 80's, and the potato rates at 71—higher than wheat or rice or beans. An acre of potatoes will fill seven people's protein needs for a year—an acre of wheat only feeds three!

In recent years, the potato has had to fight snob-bishness. "Just plain potatoes" have been replaced by exotic pastas and oriental rices. Now, however, our old friend, the potato, is coming into the limelight again. *The New York Times* has reported that explorers in Peru are searching for ancient Inca treasure—a blight-free potato which will grow even in hot climates. One researcher believes he has found that treasure, and is testing it at the International Potato Center.

If he is right, the lowly potato will once again make history around the globe. In West Virginia, farmers who have worked hard to develop stronger and better potato strains may suddenly find that coal is not the only treasure in our West Virginia soil!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

What Is the Value of Work?

Chief Justice Earl Warren is reported to have said that he always read the sports page of the newspaper first. On the sports page, he claimed, he could read about man's victories. On the front page, he had to read about our defeats!

I think most of us can understand what he meant by that remark. Our newspapers have been more than usually full of bad news in recent months—bad news about the weather, about jobs, about inflation, about our economic future. We are all a little tired of that kind of news.

That is why I was interested to see some good news recently being reported from two groups which do not always agree. Both the *AFL-CIO News* and the *Voice of Business*, a publication of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, have reported on the recent study by an international bank comparing the real purchasing power of people in nations around the world.

In spite of what one may have read on the front pages recently, it turns out that we Americans still have the highest standard of living in the world—and the best buying power of people anywhere.

There are various ways to measure wealth. If we simply divide the gross national product by the number of people in a

country, we discover what the per-person income is. That is not a very realistic way to measure one's real income, however. It does not tell anything about what can be bought with income.

A better way is to consider the cost of a typical package of goods and services which a family would need—and the number of hours one must work to buy that package.

When those figures are compared, the United States is "clearly in the lead of the purchasing power comparison" according to the study reported in both business and labor newspapers. Four American cities led all other cities in the world in the value of goods which could be purchased per hour of work performed.

Of course, American prices are not the lowest in the world—but American salaries and wages are near the top. We are able to provide more for less work, as a result. In addition, we probably have a greater selection of goods available from which to choose than do people in most other nations.

This is a good thing to remember the next time the front page is discouraging. Most Americans work hard—but here in America that is worth more to the worker than in most other places in the world!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The End of Recess

The Oxford English Dictionary lists eleven definitions for the noun *recess*; it can mean "the act of departing," "the act of retiring," "the act of leaving a job," "a delay," "a secret hiding place," "the act of going backward," "a dislike or distrust," "a remote part of something," "an indentation," or "an agreement or convention."

None of those definitions fits the period when Congress is not in session—although historically we have always called that period a Congressional Recess. It was once a good word to describe what happened when Congress adjourned. The job of a Senator or a Congressman was only a part-time avocation in the old days, and, when Congress was not meeting, the representative rushed home to run his farm or business.

Now, of course, that is impossible. A Senator is required to do many hours of work off the floor, even when the Senate is not meeting. He must find time to absorb reports, statistics, legislative ideas, research papers, or analyses of current problems. He must find time to do Committee work, hold hearings, or meet with his colleagues on legislative questions. He always has office work to catch up on, and he must find time to respond

to the thousands of letters and requests from constituents at home.

If possible, a Senator likes to use these so-called "recess" periods to meet with Federal agency people or to go home to talk directly with citizens in his state concerning federal programs or problems which can be addressed through federal assistance. For instance, during the last such period I met with Administration officials concerning the problems of West Virginia fruit growers. I also used the period to meet with the nominee for Assistant Secretary of Labor concerning the backlog of pending black lung cases in our state.

Clearly, when Congress is not actively working on the floor on legislation, Senators are not taking 'a recess.' Those days are often twelve- and fourteen-hour work days. For that reason, the Senate decided this year to give those periods a more realistic name: "Non-Legislative Days." It is our hope that this will make it easier for the public to understand the job of a Senator. Simple language can do a lot to help us to communicate with one another more successfully.

The old-fashioned "Congressional Recess" has thus become a part of history.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Space Spin-Off and Moon Magic

Even though radio carried the NASA story to the remotest corners of the earth, people in less developed countries looked at the moon—and found the story of a man's trip there impossible to believe. "Too much magic!" one man said.

Even for those of us who believe it happened, there are questions. Why did we do it? Was it worth the billions of dollars invested?

Most Americans could not answer those questions. They have heard about teflon—and use it every day. They are quite used to seeing the cloud cover over their own section of the earth each evening on the weatherman's portion of the news. But they wonder "Is that enough?"

The truth is that our lives have been changed forever by the spin-offs from our space adventure. NASA research has made drastic changes in our educational systems, our technology in industry, our medical capability, our understanding of our total environment—and it has already created amazing new materials and miraculous miniaturizations which we use daily.

Tires developed to run a "moon-cart" at 200 degrees below zero will incorporate the cords made super strong for a Viking lander—and your next set of

radial tires will give you 10,000 extra miles of wear.

Computer-assisted control centers in utility companies, military installations, hospitals, harbors, industrial plants—all of these are copied from the famous control-center at NASA, and they increase our ability to work efficiently.

Integrated circuitry developed for NASA can now be found in cars, in TVs, in telephones, in wrist-watches, in hand-held computers, in household appliances—creating a revolution in consumer goods. Freeze-dried foods and temperature-controlled clothing for firemen are other examples of that revolution.

Heat-condensing pipes will protect the delicate Alaskan tundra on the new oil pipeline. New systems for traffic control and sewage treatment will save billions for consumers. New medical equipment is already saving lives.

It takes 12 to 15 years for technology to become fully useful in society—and we have covered only half those years since the Apollo flight. The moon trip was more than an adventure—it was an investment in our own progress and in our future. It is already snowballing as space spin-offs appear daily in our own nation and the world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Mysterious Dulcimer

Hidden away in mountain homes throughout Appalachia, there are handcrafted musical instruments which are rich in tone and sweetness—and rich in their contribution to our American cultural mozaic. One of the most interesting of these is the West Virginia dulcimer—an instrument created and used by the people of our state for hundreds of years. It has a simplicity which makes it comfortably American and a sound and shape familiar to those of us in this part of the country. But it has a mysterious and puzzling past.

Incorporating the Greek word *melos*, meaning 'song,' the Romans used the phrase *dulce melos* to mean 'sweet song.' Traveling through the European languages to England and then to America, those words probably were the origin of our word for the instrument we play today. In England, in the year 1475, we find a description of a musical group which entertained the King with "fydle, recorde, and dowcemere." Later, Samuel Pepys, in his famous Diary, mentioned the sweetness of the "dulcimere" in the year 1662. In France, there was a similar instrument called the "doulcemer;" and, in old Italian, the word was "dolcimelo."

Yet, the instrument these words described is

not the one we recognize today as the Appalachian dulcimer. That European instrument was shaped like a trapezoid, was about 40 inches long, and 15 inches wide. It was played with wooden hammers hitting the strings, and is thought to have been the forerunner of the piano-forte. Our mountain dulcimer, of course, is rectangular, about 33 inches long, and 6 inches wide—and it is strummed or plucked or beaten with "hammers."

In colonial America, the English and the Scots brought folk instruments to the new world—probably including some of the hammered dulcimers. Later, German and Dutch immigrants brought the zither, an instrument which is very much like today's Appalachian dulcimer.

Perhaps these instruments and names became mixed. Perhaps, as artists created their own music and musical instruments, the shape of the original dulcimer changed in mountain communities. History's detectives seem to imply that our plucked dulcimer—which is sometimes called a 'dulcimore'—is a truly American creation, designed and used to accompany the lovely old ballads and songs of the mountain people. Our Appalachian dulcimer is a mixture of old and new—as we West Virginians are ourselves!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Haywire Values?

Sometimes our values seem to be out-of-focus. I was reminded of that fact by a West Virginia lady who wrote to me about the recent pay raise for top-level federal employees—including Senators. She said she thought something was "haywire" when ball-players made more money than her elected representatives in Washington.

We all know about movie stars who receive several million dollars for a few weeks' work. Many sports professionals report annual earnings in excess of \$1 million. Is their value to the public greater than that of Members of Congress? Or are our value systems out of kilter?

This year, a pay raise went into effect for Executive and Judicial officials, and for Members of Congress. Contrary to much that has been written, a vote in relation to the pay raise did occur in the Senate. The raise had been recommended by the non-partisan citizens' Commission appointed to review federal pay systems, and approved by President Ford and President Carter. The increases proposed directly affected 2,496 top-level federal employees—including federal judges, cabinet officers, and 100 Senators and 435 Congressmen, all of whom had been held at the same pay scales since 1969, except for one cost-of-living increase of 5% in 1975. Indirectly, 20,365 other employees were affected because their cost-of-living raises had been denied for

7 years, waiting for the salaries of their superiors to be raised.

During that same 7-year period, salaries for blue collar workers rose 70%; business executives, 59%; white collar workers, 55%; state and county government officials, 40%; and the cost-of-living had gone up 61%. The proposed raise—when combined with the 1975 5% increase—brought Congressional salaries up only 34% above the 1969 level.

The Congress of the United States may be likened to the Board of Directors of a \$2 trillion corporation—dwarfing any U.S. corporation by comparison. Yet, 800 top corporate executives receive annual salaries in excess of \$75,000—and of those, 100 are paid more than \$400,000 annually.

Good public servants should always bring dedication to their work. However, in today's highly technical world, the United States cannot afford anything less than the best trained minds and the most competent administrators in these jobs. A reasonable raise for these policy-level people was necessary and in the best interests of the nation.

Our political system does not intend that federal employees compete with ball players and television entertainers. However, we should insist on fair and equitable salaries for those who accept the responsibility at the top levels of our government.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Moving the Sun Indoors

For thousands of years man warmed himself in the sun—and suffered cold whenever the sun was not shining. That often meant that tribes—like migratory birds—moved south in the winter, hunting for warmer climates.

Perhaps because of that ancient memory, many people have assumed that solar energy, as it was developed to supplement our rapidly decreasing fuel supplies, would be most useful in the "sunny" states.

That idea has now been turned upside down by economic and energy experts at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratories and the University of New Mexico. In a study done for the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress, these researchers have demonstrated that solar energy for home heating will be economically practical in the cold north long before it becomes practical in the south.

Using a sophisticated computer to examine all the factors involved—hour by hour weather records, cost of solar collectors, cost of fuels, cost of loans and interest rates, transportation and building costs — the researchers proved that it is already cheaper to build homes with solar heating capabilities than to use conventional heating alone, in at least three states: Maine, Montana, and North Dakota! By 1980, only three years from now, solar

heating will be a money-saver in five more northern states, as the price of fuels rise.

Why is this so? The simple answer is that the north receives almost as much sun as the south, yet has greater heating needs. Energy fuels most commonly used in northern states must be transported from other parts of the nation, and are steadily rising in cost and scarcity.

In the JEC study, heating costs are figured on a "life-cycle" basis—that is, the cost of both fuel and installation of equipment over thirty years. For houses built today, that would include the costs in the year 2007, when shortages will have made some fuels prohibitively high-priced or non-existent.

The computer demonstrated that in thirty states—including West Virginia—it is already cheaper, on the "life cycle" basis, to install solar heating units in new homes if the other heat source is electricity. If natural gas prices were decontrolled, solar space heating would be cheaper than either oil or gas alone in at least twenty-eight states!

By 1990, less than fifteen years from now, solar heating will be the cheapest way to warm homes and heat water in most of the nation. We will no longer follow the sun, as man did in ancient times. We will have found a way to bring the sun indoors.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Misinformed Fault-Finding

A prominent Congressional historian once said, "There is always more interest in, and a wider market for, fault-finding than praise." The recent barrage of attacks on the Congress have proved that statement to be true. Banned in newsmagazines and blared over the airways, the flood of talk about so-called "Congressional perquisites" implies that "lavish" benefits are given to Members of Congress for their *personal* gain. Yet, most of the "perks" listed by critics relate to the work a Congressman or Senator is elected to do, and are not "perquisites" at all. Others are listed as "perquisites," but are really standard employee benefits, available to all federal employees.

For example, we frequently hear about the "Government - subsidized health insurance plan" for Members of Congress. This is actually the same voluntary health program that covers other federal employees. Deductions are made from the salaries of those who choose to participate — including Members of Congress. Costs and benefits are identical for all who are covered under any one plan.

Critics also complain about the "liberal retirement benefits" of Members of Congress. Actually, Members participate in the same retirement program as do other federal employees. Because of un-

certainty of continued employment (evident in November elections every other year), Members receive a slightly higher benefit for each year of service—but they contribute a higher percentage of salary than do other federal employees. Members, moreover, have no career status, no severance pay, no unemployment compensation, and no appeal rights, as do other employees.

A third complaint is sometimes heard about "free emergency medical care by Capitol Hill physicians." The Capitol Hill Physician's office is manned by three attending physicians. It provides medical and emergency care for Members and staff, for Congressional Pages and Capitol Policemen, and, in the event of illness or injury, for any of the 4 million annual visitors to the Capitol. Such medical facilities are both a wise and common provision in most corporate or industrial offices, wherever men and women work long hours under strain.

Criticism, when it is justified, leads to constructive reforms, but half-truths merely foster misconceptions and distrust. It is essential to rebuild public confidence in government, but if the people's perception of their Congress is influenced by misinformation and distortions of fact, the rebuilding of public confidence will be infinitely more difficult.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting 'Perks' in Perspective

Webster defines a perquisite as a "privilege, gain or profit incidental to regular salary or wages." In other words, a perquisite is something which brings one *personal* profit.

However, during the current "open season" on criticism of the Congress, many newspapers and magazines have repeatedly listed as "lavish benefits" and "taxpayer-supported perquisites" items which do not personally profit a Member of Congress at all. Instead, these "perks" are part of the normal costs of doing the people's business.

For example, some critics have complained that Senators and Congressmen have "rent-free offices with liberal furniture allowances." The furniture, equipment, and offices used by Members are all owned by the government, of course. The public's business could not be conducted on the Capitol lawn; Members of Congress — most of whom must maintain two residences, one in Washington and one in their home state — could not afford, and should not be expected to pay for, office and furniture-rental costs in order to do their jobs.

There has been talk of staff allowances "mushrooming . . . up to \$902,301." That statement is a good example of a "half-truth" which misleads the public. Only the Senators from our most populous

state—California—get the top allowance. The average Senatorial allowance for 1977 is \$482,233. As the workload for Members of Congress has grown, the need for competent staff has also grown. In the first Senate, 26 Senators represented less than 4 million people. Today, 100 Senators represent 215 million. In the last 40 years alone our population has increased by 60%. The "mushrooming" workload of Members of Congress has mandated staff growth.

Finally, Members of Congress have been said to receive "huge allowances" for travel, telephone, telegrams, and paper. None of these allowances financially benefit Members, but all are essential if Members are to stay in communication with constituents and carry on the public's business. At the end of the year, any unexpended funds revert back to the U.S. Treasury, and no Member of the Senate can pocket any of his allowance.

Despite its imperfections, Congress is a cornerstone of our Constitutional system of checks and balances, and a living monument to the freedom of our people every day. Unwarranted criticism is unfair, and seems, all too often, to be the product of a chronic cynicism on the part of some who delight in attacking Congress for any reason or, indeed, for no reason at all.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting Coal in Our Gas Tanks

The history of the United States is the history of ingenuity responding to need. Americans take a "can-do" approach to problems, which often results in our meeting impossible challenges successfully. Today, we are challenged anew as our energy supplies dwindle.

One proposal frequently heard is the use of grain or wood alcohol mixed with gasoline to increase the amount of motor fuel. These alcohols were used during World War II by many countries which had oil shortages.

The technology exists to produce a "mix of 10% alcohol and 90% gasoline. Such a mixture could work well in our cars and would save at least 10 billion gallons of gasoline a year.

Why aren't we already using this system? The answer is that the cost to produce these alcohols has been more than the cost of gasoline in the past. Also, the material needed to produce these alcohols is either itself a fuel—natural gas, for instance—or is not readily available.

It would take 40% of our current grain production, for example to produce enough ethanol—grain alcohol—to cut our gasoline consumption by 10%.

Methanol—wood alcohol—can be made from gas,

wood, waste products, or coal. Coal is the most plentiful and least expensive resource for methanol production. Ten billion gallons of methanol could be made from about 10% of our current coal production.

ERDA researchers in the federal laboratories at Bartlesville, Oklahoma, have been experimenting for several years, and have stated that "if the U.S. were immediately forced to use a synthetic liquid fuel, the only option is methanol." Methanol plant capacity would have to be increased to ten times what it is now, however, in order to supply 10% of our motor fuel. Automobile manufacturers would have to make design changes in fuel tanks, air/fuel ratios, and some minor engine changes. Most difficult would be the necessary adjustments to our supply and delivery systems—a six- to ten-year job.

ERDA believes that the first practical large-scale use of these new blends will be by "fleet vehicles," where adjustments to cars or trucks could be made uniformly by one owner.

As gasoline prices rise, the move toward a coal-derived gas extender becomes more practical. Someday soon, we may all be driving with a little coal in our gasoline tanks.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Our Future Secure

At the beginning of this century, nearly one-quarter of all elderly Americans were "paupers," and by 1935 almost one-half of our citizens over 65 were without retirement income or savings. The depression, which hurt all working people during the 1930's, made life a tragedy for these older men and women.

Partly as a response to that tragedy, Congress passed the Social Security Act in 1935. This federal program was intended to guarantee an adequate income to retired workers. Over the years, Congress has broadened coverage, so that today the elderly, survivors and dependents of insured workers, disabled workers, self-employed workers, and most farm and domestic workers are protected. In addition, Medicare now provides hospital insurance for the elderly as part of the Social Security package.

In general, this has been a remarkably successful program, providing the kind of basic security for retired workers and their families which it was intended to provide. More than 90 percent of all those over 65 receive benefits, and Social Security is the major source of income for most older Americans. That is one reason people are deeply concerned about reports that the Social Security Trust Fund is "disappearing," or that

there may not be sufficient funds to pay retirement benefits to those young people who are entering the work force now.

It is true that both Congress and the Administration are re-examining Social Security funding because during the past few years more money has been paid out in benefits than has flowed into the Fund from payroll taxes and interest on money in the Fund. This is primarily the result of several years of high unemployment and high inflation rates. Unemployment results in decreased income to the Fund, and inflation causes higher benefits to be paid out. However, the Trust Fund itself contains more than \$40 billion, which earns interest at more than 6.5 percent. It is in no danger of "disappearing" in the short-run future.

Congress has never failed to take the necessary action to keep the Social Security system fiscally sound and still protective of those who have contributed. The benefits of this program are the best insurance bargain American workers can buy, and the program will continue to provide security to those who are covered. Without this system we would be returning to the time when many of our older citizens lived their last years as "paupers." None of us is willing to see that happen.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preparing for Disaster

Since the end of World War II, the federal government has increasingly been involved in disaster relief, civil defense, and a variety of other emergency programs. In the 1940's and 1950's, the emphasis was on military preparedness and our readiness in case of enemy attack. However, today our federal programs are aimed at providing help in any kind of disaster. There is a commonsense understanding that the security of life and property is composed of more than simply a defense against enemy invasion. A flood, a tornado, an industrial accident, a sudden and damaging winter storm—all of these can present the same terrible problems for the victims.

A maze of government disaster prevention and relief programs has grown in response to public demand. More than 25 federal agencies or departments have disaster-related programs, and there are now three major federal agencies with the sole responsibility of handling emergencies or preparing for disasters.

The Congressional Joint Committee on Defense Production has recently completed a two-year study of our national emergency preparedness. The Committee has released a report which states that our federal programs have grown into a "many-headed monstrosity" with no central control and no effective coordination of the emergency functions of various

government programs.

The Report suggests that a single Federal Preparedness Administration be created to take over the responsibilities of the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, and the Federal Preparedness Agency. The new agency would report directly to the President, would coordinate all disaster programs in other agencies, and would serve as the focal point for information and coordination of federal, state, and local emergency programs. The Committee believes that this kind of reorganization would provide faster and more efficient delivery of assistance to victims of either natural or man-made disasters.

In the complex and dangerous world of the 1970's, it is essential that the United States be able to respond quickly and effectively to emergency. No place is better able to understand the problems of disaster relief than Appalachia, which has suffered 26 percent of all major declared disasters in the last ten-year period for which records are available. This year, West Virginians again suffered tragedy as a result of massive floods. The cost to individual families, businesses, and government will be in the millions.

It is time to make all of our disaster relief programs into the efficient tool for public assistance which they can and should be.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Facing Facts on Juvenile Crime

Today, more than 40 percent of all those arrested for committing a serious crime in the United States are children under the age of 18. While there has been a disturbing and rapid increase in crime everywhere in the nation, and especially in large cities and in their suburbs, the percentage of juvenile crime has been increasing out of all proportion to the 16 percent of our population between the ages of 10 and 17.

Compounding the problem is the fact that our jails are not designed with child-criminals in mind, and our court systems are overloaded. Although we have had juvenile courts since 1899, the sad truth is that those courts are unable to cope with the massive increase in juvenile arrests for violent crimes like murder, rape, assault, or robbery. Violent crimes increased 130 percent from 1960 to 1975, but arrests of juveniles for those crimes increased 293 percent!

The federal government has provided pilot programs to demonstrate methods of juvenile crime prevention, and has assisted state and local governments through block grants aimed at solving this growing problem. The Juvenile Justice Act, reorganized under the Department of Justice, and

operating through the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, provides technical assistance, training of police, and other federal resources. But the federal effort is small, and this is essentially a local and state problem. We can fight the juvenile crime menace best through a strong family structure, a good school system, and a firm commitment to work together—parents, teachers, police officials, and government—to find a more successful way to turn those statistics around.

West Virginia is the least likely place in the nation for this crime explosion by children to take place. We are 50th among all the states in the number of crimes committed and also 50th in the tax dollars we are forced to spend per capita for law enforcement. But no citizen in the United States will be untouched by the final results of the juvenile crime explosion. Young criminals are the most likely age group to repeat their criminal behavior—74 percent of those under 20 who are arrested are rearrested later, according to the FBI. This means that today's tragedy will become tomorrow's catastrophe unless we find some way to check this rapid increase in crimes committed by children.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making Our Traveling Dollars Count

As a responsible leader of the free world, the United States has done more than its share to support humanitarian and developmental needs of other nations in the past thirty years. We were prime movers in the creation of the United Nations, and many of the special agencies of that group. We developed, and make major contributions to, the international financial organizations which assist third world nations to grow.

Yet, one of the perplexing problems facing Congress is the fact that American taxpayer dollars are being used to support a growing number of international organizations and agencies over which the American government has little control. Membership in the UN has grown to 147, and new and developing nations have begun to vote as a bloc. As a result, the effectiveness of the U.S. contribution has come into question.

A recent report by the Committee on Government Operations of the Senate outlines some of the serious problems in 65 international organizations. In 1975, the United States contributed \$1.02 billion directly to the 65 groups considered in the Committee Report. We provided 25 percent of all funds provided by member governments—21 percent of the assessed funds, and 33 percent of the funds volun-

tarily contributed. Yet, with increasing frequency, those funds are being used for political purposes counter to American policy, or are used to benefit Third World countries alone, rather than providing for programs designed to benefit all member countries.

Equally disturbing, the Committee found duplication, lack of coordination, no procedure for independent evaluation of work, poor management techniques, and poor personnel practices in many of these organizations. Salaries are high — exceeding salary scales for U.S. civil servants by as much as 57 percent!

The Committee has recommended a reevaluation of our participation in these organizations by both the Administration and the Congress. They suggest ending our membership where it is found to no longer serve a useful purpose.

As the world faces major international decisions concerning energy, environment, nuclear safeguards, food production, and the development of both human and natural resources, America must continue to provide leadership. That leadership should include speedy discontinuation of support to organizations found to be wasteful, inefficient, or destructive of American policy interests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Tomorrow's Adults

Within the past few months, the World Health Organization has reported the triumph of man over an ancient enemy: smallpox. For the first time in recorded history, it is believed that there are no cases of this disease anywhere on earth. An international effort to provide immunization on a worldwide basis has been victorious, at last.

In the United States, the fight against other crippling diseases has received a strong boost this year through the President's announced plans to immunize 20 million children against polio and other childhood diseases. Only 65 percent of America's 52 million children under the age of 14 are protected against diphtheria, measles, rubella, whooping cough, mumps, or tetanus. Surprisingly, public health officials estimate that 19 million children are not yet immunized against polio, and the number of unprotected children is rising.

Most young parents today cannot remember when polio was a frightening threat to every family. In 1952, the year of our worst polio epidemic, 57,879 cases were reported and 3,145 children died. There was no immunization possible then, and no way to protect the popula-

tion. The program which provided that protection, through the Salk and Sabin vaccines in the 1950's and 1960's, was like a miracle. Polio began to disappear. There have been fewer than 10 cases per year reported for the last four years.

However, parent apathy and ignorance are now giving health officials cause to worry. Immunizations, especially of children under 4, are decreasing. There is a renewed threat of epidemics, not only of polio but also of other diseases for which ample immunization exists. Until a much higher percentage of the child population is immunized, there is a threat of a new outbreak of one of these diseases.

The Secretary of HEW has now set a goal of 90 percent protection by 1979. Congress has provided \$17 million in the 1977 appropriations legislation to fund the childhood disease immunization program.

Disease knows no barriers. The children of the wealthy as well as the children of the poor are threatened. Every family and every community should be willing to use the one weapon at our disposal—immunization—to protect American children against many crippling and killing diseases.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Troop Withdrawal from Korea

During the recent consideration of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, the Senate narrowly avoided a repudiation of the President's plan to withdraw U.S. ground troops from Korea over a period of four to five years. Such a repudiation would have resulted from the almost certain adoption of a motion by Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker to strike from the bill the committee language affirming the President's announced policy of withdrawal.

Instead, the Senate adopted my substitute amendment which stated that any implementation of the President's withdrawal policy be carried out in consultation with the governments of South Korea and Japan and that such a phased and gradual reduction of U.S. ground forces be implemented in a way that is consistent with the security interests of South Korea, Japan and the United States. My amendment also clearly provided that any implementation of the President's planned withdrawal be carried out only in close consultation with Congress, and that, until such withdrawal is completed, the President, no later than February 15 each year, submit a report to Congress assessing the implementation of the reduction of U.S. ground forces in South Korea.

Hence, my amendment

not only protected the President from a serious foreign policy defeat; it also tacitly recognized the President's plan for withdrawal, it laid down certain principles and guidelines for the implementation of such withdrawal, and assured Congressional participation in policy at every stage of the withdrawal.

U.S. troops have been in South Korea for 24 years. During this period, the South Koreans have received much U.S. equipment and training, making them quantitatively and qualitatively superior to the North Koreans. Moreover, South Korea's economy is much stronger than that of North Korea. Obviously, the United States cannot keep ground troops in Korea forever. The President's withdrawal plan would involve ground troops only and would be carried out over a period of years during which the United States would continue to build up South Korea's military equipment and firepower. Even during ground troop withdrawal, U.S. air and naval units and logistical support would remain, so as to guarantee a continuing U.S. commitment to South Korea.

Under these circumstances, I favor a gradual phase-down of American ground troops in Korea over the next few years.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Are We Ready for Tomorrow?

Abraham Lincoln once reminded his Cabinet "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today!" This year, the Committee on National Growth Processes, reporting on the ability of the United States to foresee and prepare for tomorrow's problems, states critically "We are backing into the future, stumbling as we go."

Forging America's Future, the Committee's report, is being studied by Members of Congress, by the Administration, and by problem-solvers in the business and academic communities. Legislation has already been introduced in the Senate to implement some of the recommendations of this group of business, academic, and government leaders.

Entering the last quarter of the 20th century, there is an accelerating interdependence of the nations of the world, yet an apparent inability of most governments to respond to change in time to prevent adverse economic impact. The oil embargo of 1973, with all its long-range and complex results, is only one example of such change. Increasingly we are threatened with shortages of goods or resources. Inflation, often sparked by regional or cartel decisions, is another constant worry. Between 1960 and 1974, the

United States' gross national product tripled—but the value of its imports and exports multiplied six-fold. Trade expansion increases our prosperity, but in a world with dwindling natural resources and unstable supply systems, the United States is at a disadvantage if we are not able to predict how such change will affect American citizens.

Recognizing that even minor decisions in one region of the world or one sector of the economy can have major impact on other sectors, the Committee recommends the creation of a national center for the collection and analysis of statistical data, and the creation of a modern computer model which would make it possible for Congress or the President to obtain long-range projections of possible trouble areas. This information would be available to businessmen, state and local governments, or interested citizens. The nation would be better prepared and better able to coordinate action in the rapidly changing technological world of tomorrow.

Alexander Hamilton, in *The Federalist*, said that there "ought to be a capacity to provide for future contingencies." A national data center would give the country some of that capacity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bringing Energy Into Focus

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have now passed legislation to create a new department of government: the Department of Energy. Following a conference to iron out minor differences in the two bills, and final approval by both House and Senate, the legislation will be ready for the President's signature, and the new Department will begin to function.

This may be the single most important step taken this year in the effort to keep energy flowing to American industry and homes. By shifting the many federal programs concerned with research, development, production, and use of energy into one Department, with a single Cabinet-level Secretary, we shall have taken a giant step toward making these programs work more efficiently.

Congress has worked for many years on programs to increase our energy supplies; however, no single agency, at present, has the authority to formulate and implement national energy policy. Information on fuel availability and consumption comes from 261 different energy data systems within government. There are three major energy agencies: the Energy Research and Development

Administration; the Federal Energy Administration; and the Federal Power Commission. In addition, there are energy-related programs located in the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Defense Department, the Interior Department, the Commerce Department, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. By shifting various parts of the nation's energy effort into one department, it will be possible to better coordinate energy information, eliminate duplication of effort, and bring problems and solutions closer together.

The speed with which Congress has moved to study this legislation, hold hearings, and move for passage, is indicative of the urgency of the nation's energy concerns. I have stated that energy legislation must be the first priority for Congressional action this year. The Energy Department which Congress and the President have worked together to develop will bring energy into focus, and will make the well-thought-out national energy policy we need a reality. This is the first step in meeting the major challenge which faces this nation in the remaining years of this century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Too Many Eggs in One Basket

After many hours of careful consideration, I reached the conclusion that the wisest course for the United States to follow in the matter of the B-1 bomber was to cut off funds for full production of these expensive manned bombers. On June 23, I notified the President of my position. On June 30, the President announced his own decision to request a cut-off of funds for further production of the B-1 as a follow-on to the B-52.

Going all-out for the B-1 at this time would be putting too many eggs in one basket; the high cost would force us to drastically reduce spending for other, essential weapons systems. Congress was being asked to gamble a massive amount of public funds on the B-1, in spite of the fact that the job required of this new plane could be done efficiently and less expensively by our current fleet of B-52's when coupled with the new cruise missile.

The \$3 billion which has been spent in designing, developing, and building three prototype B-1's has provided us with the technical knowledge needed to keep the door open. However, further production

and deployment must be considered in light of the enormous and rising costs involved. The latest estimates are at \$100 million for each plane. Over the life-cycle of a B-1 fleet, the cost could approach \$100 billion.

The strategic and functional value of the B-1 has become questionable because of the strong possibility that these planes would be vulnerable at low levels to Soviet technology by the 1980's. If flown at supersonic speeds, the range of the plane is shortened considerably. There are problems concerning the need to refuel in flight. The crew and plane would both be vulnerable to surface-to-air missiles. In the age of intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the Soviet Union in half an hour, the B-1 may well have become an anachronism.

In the final analysis, it is a question of the best allocation of our resources and the maximum deterrent for the dollar cost. There are less expensive and more credible military alternatives—and many unmet domestic needs—for which public funds would be better spent.



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1977



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Controlling the Federal Budget

Congress has a growing concern about the size of the federal budget and about Congressional responsibility to set limits for spending. As Chairman of the then Senate Subcommittee on Rules, I helped to write the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, which was designed to give the Members of Congress the expertise needed to understand the economic impact of budget decisions and to better establish national priorities.

As the nation has grown in power and wealth in the last half of this century, the complexity and size of the federal budget have grown, too. Inflation and recession put added strains on government, making it necessary to provide security for the unemployed and to assist local and state governments in financial trouble. Making the right decisions on revenue and expenditure problems has become increasingly difficult.

The joint Congressional Budget Office is now staffed by economists who compile economic data, analyze administration budget requests, and project the probable result of various legislative and appropriation options.

The House and Senate each has a Congressional Budget Committee with a mandated timetable for action. Following the President's budget request in

January of each year, these two Committees begin preparation of a Concurrent Resolution, setting spending limits in each of seventeen broad areas of government. By May 15, Congress must resolve any differences between the House and Senate versions, and approve the First Budget Resolution. Thus, Members have a total picture of expected revenues and established spending limits in every area before they begin to take action on specific bills.

In the fall, a Second Concurrent Resolution must be passed, setting final and firm limits for the Congressional Budget for the next fiscal year, which begins on October 1.

This procedure has made it possible for Congress to better control the budget and set national priorities. During the first two years of operation, Congress has successfully stayed within its own limits, making changes only for emergencies such as this year's severe winter and gas shortage, or for sudden shifts in the economy.

Congress is responsible for the final decision on the collection and spending of taxpayer dollars. The Congressional Budget Act has provided modern economic tools and a strong and effective new procedure to help Members of Congress do that job well.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Spreading Sunshine Over Our Farms

There was once a time when rural America lagged far behind the cities in modern conveniences and in up-to-date mechanized production systems. That began to change in the 1930's, when the Rural Electrification Act brought energy to rural areas, upgrading communications and the production capabilities of farmers.

Before that breakthrough, each farmer worked with his own energy—the sweat of his brow. After the creation of REA, farmers had more horsepower with fewer horses, and more manpower with fewer men. A rapid increase in the use of machinery and energy-powered equipment brought impressive increases in the production of agricultural goods. If we were forced to return to a man-or-animal-energy farm system, nearly one-third of the entire U.S. work force would be required just to produce food for the American population. There would no longer be agricultural products to export. We would be unable to maintain a decent standard of living, either in rural or urban areas.

Since 1950, food and fiber production has increased more than 50 percent, while the labor re-

quirement on farms has decreased. Energy use in rural America has quadrupled, however, and will continue to grow to meet world demands. New energy sources must be found for our farms.

Congress has included within the Agricultural Act of 1977 a solar energy research component for just this purpose. It would focus on the use of sun energy to heat and cool farm buildings, pump water, dry crops, operate farm equipment, and store energy in one season for use in the next. Model solar energy farms and demonstration projects would be supported, and regional centers would coordinate efforts and inform farmers and rural businessmen of systems which work well.

Because of the high cost of delivering energy to remote and isolated areas, solar units on farms would be cost-effective and practical. Farmers have always relied on the sun to help them do their jobs. With the final passage of this legislation, the Department of Agriculture will begin helping farmers to put the sun to work in new ways, replacing expensive and exhaustible fossil fuels without decreasing food production. Every citizen will benefit in the long run.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Valuable Debate

The United States Senate has been called the most important debating society in the world. The issue of the enhanced radiation weapon—the so-called neutron bomb or warhead—and the debate on the Senate floor concerning continued production and deployment of this weapon were a clear illustration of the value of that debate, both to the public and to the Congress.

As the flurry of newspaper headlines illustrated, there was a general misconception of the problem. Gradually it became clear that the neutron warhead was a tactical weapon which had been under development for more than fifteen years. This "new" weapon would be less destructive than the tactical nuclear weapons which are currently deployed. It would inflict far less damage from blast and heat, while delivering a more intense radiation in a confined area.

Standard nuclear weapons would render an area uninhabitable for months, but radiation from the neutron warhead would clear up within hours. There would be less than one-tenth the fallout from this weapon, and it would be particularly effective against tanks—an important part of the strength of Communist armies in Europe.

It is especially important in our defense of Western Europe that we be able to pinpoint our attack upon enemy troops, enemy armored vehicles, and enemy commands, without endangering the civilian popula-

tion of a friendly country through which they may be moving. The neutron warhead will make that kind of defense possible.

A second point in the Senate debate focused on a separate but important issue: the role which Congress should play in controlling the use of any nuclear weapon. Following passage of the Arms Control and Disarmament Act of 1975, the President is required to send an arms control impact statement to the Congress whenever a new weapon is to be deployed. This requirement had not been fully met with the neutron warhead. I was the author of the Senate amendment which retained this oversight role for the Congress, allowing final passage of the bill. No funds will be appropriated until the President certifies that production of the weapon is in the national interest. Following that certification, production may proceed unless both Houses of Congress disapprove within 45 days.

No weapon used in modern warfare is humane. However, as the debate over this particular weapon made clear, a weapon which can be effectively used against the enemy without bringing massive destruction to either the surrounding countryside or the civilian population or allied troops is a better and more useful weapon. This new tactical nuclear weapon would enhance deterrence, thereby hopefully decreasing the chance that this or any nuclear weapon would have to be used.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cooperating on a Shared Responsibility

One of the most difficult problems of government in recent years has been the making of decisions on the sale of military equipment by American manufacturers to the governments of other nations. Even when these nations are allies, the sophistication and complexity of both defensive and offensive weapons systems today—and the fact that these weapons have been developed primarily for use by our own defense forces—make it essential that both the President and the Congress give careful consideration to such sales. The Arms Control Export Act requires that Congress be notified of a proposed sale, and allows 30 calendar days during which the sale may be prohibited by Congressional action if there is reason to doubt the wisdom of proceeding.

The importance of this shared responsibility was emphasized recently, when, on July 7, the President proposed selling seven Airborne Warning and Control Systems to Iran. On July 15, sixteen Senators introduced a resolution objecting to the sale, and the Committee on Foreign Relations scheduled hearings on the matter. Testimony in the Committee hearings included a discussion of a report by the General Accounting Office, which had raised serious questions about the sale, and which also drew attention to the

fact that the Central Intelligence Agency had expressed concern about possible security risks involved.

It became clear that the Congress would not have time to adequately consider this issue during the period provided by law, and I notified the President on July 22 of my own and other Senators' concerns, and urged him to temporarily withdraw the proposal.

A major concern was the security risk involved in introducing this very sophisticated new weapons system into an area where the Soviets might gain access to it, thus enabling them to cut years off the time needed to develop defense against the cruise missile. The need to maintain a stable military balance and limit arms proliferation in that part of the world were also important concerns. I also felt that inasmuch as actual delivery of the AWACS was not scheduled until 1981, there was no reason for the Senate to cut short the full debate and careful consideration which I believed were needed.

Although the President was at first reluctant, my concerns and the concerns of other Senators were finally persuasive. On July 28, he withdrew the proposal temporarily, thus giving Congress the additional time needed for a more thorough study of this proposal.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hard Work and Good Results

In the first seven months of the 95th Congress, the Senate faced the challenging job of setting national priorities and solving several emergency problems pressing for the attention of Members. At the same time, a new administration in the White House required advice and consent on a large number of appointments and several critical military and foreign policy decisions.

As the Majority Leader, I felt that the successful completion of our work would depend upon the restructuring of Senate committees and upon a more efficient scheduling of time for committee meetings and legislative action on the floor. The result has been a very productive legislative record, and one of which both the Senate and the people can be proud.

A tough Senate code of conduct was pushed through early in the session. Surface mining, clean air and clean water legislation and mine safety legislation have been enacted by the Senate. Additionally, the President's economic stimulus program—a 3-year 34 billion dollar tax cut, and jobs legislation—has been enacted into law. Congress has also granted the President authority to reorganize executive branch agencies.

Beginning with the emergency authority given to the President to deal with the natural gas shortage during the record cold winter, the problems of ener-

gy supply and energy conservation have demanded and been given highest priority. A new Department of Energy has been created—the first new Department in 11 years. The Senate has passed 21 energy-related bills, eight of which have been enacted into law. Two are waiting for the President's signature, and one is being considered in Conference; ten are awaiting action in the House.

Later this year, the President's energy package will be passed, with some modifications.

A major part of the workload of every Congress is the passage of legislation appropriating funds for the following year. In recent years these bills have too often been passed late—from 3 to 6 months into the new fiscal year. This year, the Senate has passed 12 of the 13 regular money bills well in advance of the beginning of the new fiscal year, which is October 1. In the process, we have successfully stayed within the Congressional budget targets.

After 119 days in session, and the passage of 418 public bills, the approval of 4 treaties, and confirmation of 41,156 Presidential nominations, the "shake-down cruise" of the 95th Congress is over. There are still major legislative initiatives to be studied and considered, and I believe the Senate is ready for the many tough decisions which lie ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building Factories in the Air

In corporate business rooms and offices from coast to coast, long-range planners and hard-headed economists are working out the details of plans for making money and products in the thin air of space. They are figuring costs and profits on a new kind of industry: the reduced gravity production which will be possible in factories carried into orbit by the NASA Space Shuttle in the 1990's. The seriousness of their work is indicated by the fact that their discussions already include market analysis, investment - risks, labor force problems, and transportation payloads.

Catching the Space Shuttle to work in these factories in the sky will not be quite like catching the bus at the corner station. Workers will be highly trained technicians, scientists, and engineers, and their standard work period will probably be figured in weeks or months, rather than in hours.

The list of products which these workers could produce at lower cost or with improved quality is growing. Because material in a low-gravity area or in the relative purity of space can be worked on while the material is "levitated"—suspended in mid-air without touching a container—there is less risk of impurities and a much greater opportunity for fine quality work. Material in this weightless atmosphere could be moved by electro-

magnetic, electrostatic, or acoustic fields, making it possible to manufacture pure crystals, very high quality glass for lasers, and a wide variety of optical, biological, and other products which are difficult or impossible to produce on earth.

Drug manufacturers are interested in producing medical substances like enzyme urokinase, which can dissolve blood clots, but which now costs up to \$1,500 per dose. There is a potential for saving 50,000 lives a year in the United States alone, if cheaper and better quality production can be achieved.

Development of these space-age industrial plans will depend upon an industry-government partnership in research, and Congressional Committees are already hearing testimony concerning future needs for engineering programs. Industry is investing \$1 million a year in studies and research, and NASA allocates between \$4 and \$5 million toward space processing research. Pilot plants may be constructed by 1985, and actual commercial manufacture could begin in the 1990's.

Reduced-gravity technology—learning how to make things in thin air—may lead to profitable new business ventures, life-saving new medicines, miraculous new electronic products, and a challenging new kind of career for young people who are studying hard in science classes today.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Fight for Soil and Water Conservation

"Water, water everywhere—and not a drop to drink!" That famous old sailor's lament must have come to mind frequently this year in those parts of West Virginia where flood and drought conditions have made life difficult for residents.

For more than twenty years, water engineers and agricultural specialists have been concerned about soil erosion, sedimentation of the floors of valleys, and the frequent floods which cause progressive deterioration of West Virginia and other Appalachian mountain states.

At the direction of Congress, the Agricultural Research Service completed a report in the 1960's on the long-range water and soil conservation needs of the nation. That report selected the Appalachian valleys and ridges as one of the regions in which there were research problems of "greatest urgency."

Elevations run from 247 feet to 4,863 feet, and rainfall varies from as much as 80 inches per year on the western slopes to as little as 20 inches on the eastern slopes. The soil is shallow, and more than two-thirds of the land lies on a slope of more than 25 percent. Farming is difficult, and mechanized farming is often impossible. Valuable topsoil disappears in uncontrolled runoffs, and valuable streams and rivers are polluted. Sediment fills the valleys following frequent floods.

The result of this con-

tinual attack on essential soil and water is often rural poverty, lessened opportunity for economic development, and a constant threat of destruction to homes and businesses.

Is there a way to reverse this trend? Scientists believe that what is needed is a thorough study of the hydrology of the region, research into the kinds of grasses and legumes which would provide ground cover, creation of sediment traps, desilting basins, better irrigation systems, and new kinds of mulches.

Since 1970, I have worked to see that funds were provided to build and staff a Research Laboratory in West Virginia to study these problems. Although I succeeded in getting the money appropriated in 1973, those funds were impounded, and the laboratory was never built.

This year, at last, plans are being redrawn, and construction is scheduled to begin early next year on an Agricultural Research Service Appalachian Soil and Water Laboratory at Beckley. More than \$2 million has been appropriated for this project, and we should be able to put researchers to work early in 1979. Their work may make it possible for us to control and save two essential elements for life itself—water and land—and to preserve these "free" resources for the future generations of West Virginians who will need them in years to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Learning to Think Through Language

For fourteen years the average scores of college-bound students who take the Scholastic Aptitude Test have declined steadily. This disappointing trend has once again been reported in the 1977 scores. A "blue-ribbon" panel of experts has spent two years examining this phenomenon and has released a report identifying possible causes for this steady decline.

The SAT examinations are designed to test aptitude for learning at the college level, which is not the same thing as testing for knowledge gained. Scores can range from 200 to 800 on both the verbal and mathematical tests. More than one million young people take these examinations every year—one-third of all high school graduates, and two-thirds of those entering colleges. In the period between 1963 and 1977 there has been a 49-point drop in the average score on verbal aptitude, and a 32-point drop in the average score on mathematical aptitude.

The panel which looked for causes for this apparent failure in our schools has come up with a mixed bag of explanations: the increased participation by women, minorities and economically disadvantaged students; too much TV (from 10,000 to 15,000 hours before the age of 16!); the "decade of distraction" in which Vietnam, political assassinations and Watergate took place; too many electives and too few required courses; and a diminished seriousness of

educational purpose, manifested by automatic promotions, grade creep, reduced homework, and lowered college entrance standards.

Most significant of all, the panel found that "less thoughtful and critical reading is now being demanded," and that "careful writing has apparently about gone out of style." It is interesting to note that this comment correlates with the drastic decline in scores on the English Composition Achievement tests during these same years.

Historians and anthropologists tell us that the difference between primitive man and civilized man is mainly the ability to use language. In order to think, man had to invent language. In order to work as a team, men had to learn to communicate with one another. In achieving greatness, man's most important tool has been his mind—and his mind operates best through the understanding and use of words.

By enlarging vocabularies, students increase knowledge and also stimulate thought. By learning to read and to write, they not only gain skills; they also develop the ability to learn more and understand better.

It seems evident that a rapid return to insistence on basic reading and writing skills in our grammar and high schools will help put students back on the road to better education and greater success in college work.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Future in an Old Industry

Recently, millions of young men and women have spent hours poring over college catalogues before making decisions about which career field they wish to enter, and which courses must be taken to prepare for their future life work. Often these decisions must be made on the basis of guesswork. Predicting what will be a necessary or sought-after skill ten years from today is difficult.

This year, however, there are some clues which should be helpful to students and counselors alike. It is clear that experts in energy conservation and energy development, for instance, will be desperately needed in the years ahead. When properly trained, these experts will be able to command good salaries and excellent job security for the foreseeable future.

A very large part of the President's energy program depends on a massive increase in coal production in order to provide sufficient coal for conversion from gas and oil by 1985. Successful completion of this part of our energy conservation efforts will mean almost doubling coal production in the next ten years.

That unprecedented increase in coal production will require an estimated 152,000 new miners. The Bituminous Coal Operators' Association estimates that the industry will need 3,700 more technicians, 1,100 more engineers, and 2,000 more surveyors within a ten-year period. There will be a need for 54,000 more salaried employees; and because coal mining is now a high-technology industry,

most of these new workers will have to be trained technicians and professionals.

In addition to those who actually produce coal, there will be a need for those who can help meet the developing requirements in environmental, reclamation, and safety programs. Many of these technical fields will provide opportunities to break new ground, and totally new career opportunities will be developed.

Even though graduates and undergraduates in our mining schools are increasing in number, we are not yet training people in sufficient numbers to fill the needs of the expanding industry.

West Virginia is the home of a number of universities and colleges which offer two- and four-year courses in mining technology. These include the University of West Virginia, Beckley College, Bluefield State College, Fairmont State College, Salem College, West Virginia Institute of Technology, and West Virginia Wesleyan. In addition, the National Mine Health and Safety Academy is located at Beckley. There are Vocational Technical Centers and special programs in many parts of the state which offer training to students on either a full- or part-time basis.

As the need for mining industry workers becomes more apparent, places in these schools will be rapidly filled. This is an excellent time to think about the future in terms of the real needs of the nation and the real opportunities which are opening up in one of West Virginia's great industries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Prescription for Health Fraud

One of the saddest commentaries on the problems of our society today is the fact that fraud and abuse of the Medicare and Medicaid programs have increased dramatically in the last few years. Two years of hearings in both the House and the Senate have demonstrated that some people in the medical field have used medical aid programs to unjustly enrich themselves.

Such individuals cheat the taxpayer, divert money needed for legitimate health care by the poor and the elderly, and destroy the reputation of responsible and honest institutions and doctors. The tragedy of this criminal activity is that the victims of these crimes are seldom aware that they are being cheated, and the criminals often seem to feel no sense of guilt.

Testimony in Congressional hearings has clearly outlined the worst of the fraudulent practices as being present in the "Medicaid mills" which have sprung up in poor areas of larger cities. These are the so-called shared health facilities where medical staffs are forced to split income with the owners under complicated fee arrangements. Operating out of store-fronts, most of these facilities are unlicensed and unregulated. Fraudulent actions by operators of these "mills" include unnecessary referrals from one doctor to another, billing for services never rendered, multiple billings, and kickbacks from laboratories or pharmacies to which patients are referred.

Clinical laboratories which cooperate in this attempt to defraud the government also came under attack in Congressional testimony. Nursing homes which have substandard facilities, or use kickbacks to repay referrals, or use false reports to cheat both their patients and the government, were also under fire.

As a result of these reports, Congress is considering legislation which will classify most fraudulent acts of this kind as felonies instead of misdemeanors, with maximum penalties raised to a fine of \$25,000, five years in prison, or both. In addition, the new legislation will clearly define illegal acts and illegal financial arrangements, and will allow states to suspend Medicaid recipients who have been convicted of defrauding the program. It will also require that HEW suspend from participation, in either Medicaid or Medicare, any practitioner or doctor convicted of a criminal offense related to these programs.

In a final effort to protect both taxpayers and those in need of the medical services of these programs, the new legislation will, if it is passed, strengthen the Professional Standards Review Organizations. These local groups are currently asked to review inpatient care. They would also be asked to review care provided in shared health facilities, clinics, and doctor's offices under the new law.

It is essential that criminal fraud and abuse in these systems be eliminated.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening the Confirmation Process

In recent weeks, the controversy over the qualifications of Bert Lance to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget has called attention to certain shortcomings in the process of confirmation of Presidential nominations by the Senate.

This is not a new problem. It is interesting to note that the first time the Senate ever used its powers of advice and consent to confirm a Presidential nomination was in 1789, when William Short was nominated to replace Thomas Jefferson as Minister to France. Lengthy debate finally resulted in a secret ballot, because some Senators feared to speak out against "the President's wishes," while others feared to be seen as currying "the warmth" of the President's favor.

Even today, too often the feeling among Senators is that a Cabinet-level nominee is "the President's man," and should, therefore, be routinely supported unless strong negative information surfaces before confirmation. Especially during the first months of a new Administration, when there is pressure for quick action, and in deference to the wishes of a new President, the confirmation process too often has been a rubber stamp, with Senators asked to vote up or down on a nominee about whom insufficient information is available.

Senator Ribicoff, Chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, has offered legislation to establish a non-partisan Congressional Office on Nominations to conduct a thorough review of all reports prepared by federal agencies like the FBI or IRS on each nominee, with strict rules to protect the privacy of the individuals involved. The legislation would also establish standards of professional fitness and personal and professional integrity against which each nominee could be measured. The Office on Nominations, if created, would make no recommendation, but would provide a report of its findings to all Senators before a confirmation vote occurred.

This proposal has merit. Our responsibilities in the Senate go much deeper than the pro forma approval of nominees which has sometimes taken place in the past. If it becomes necessary to reject a nominee, the Senate should be able to take that action on the basis of complete and non-partisan information, and without undue injury to the individual.

The advice and consent power of the Senate is an essential part of the checks and balances of our system. In order to avoid damaging, painful, and time-consuming reappraisals, I believe it is necessary to strengthen the mechanics of the confirmation process.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Wasted Energy in Falling Water

For more than 150 years, much of the energy for the work done in the towns and villages of North America came from falling water. Wherever streams or rivers ran, waterwheels turned. The power of water was used to cut wood, to grind meal, and to make things move. When electricity was discovered, turbines were added to create this miraculous new form of energy from the force of moving water. The first water-powered sawmill in the United States was built in 1783—and water is still used to produce about one-sixth of our electric energy.

However, many of the old, small waterpower installations have been abandoned. The nation stopped developing small hydro-power projects, as electric utilities turned more and more to huge hydroelectric installations or to more cost-efficient fossil fuel powered plants. Although the use of our national waterways for navigation increased fourfold between 1950 and 1970, more than 220 small hydroelectric plants have been abandoned in the last 30 years in New England alone. The Federal Power Commission estimates that only 1,400 of 50,000 small dams have been developed for power production, although if only 10% of these existing dams were equipped to produce electricity we could save 180 million barrels of oil every year. The Corps of Engineers estimates that providing a generating capacity to existing dam sites

could add 54,000 megawatts of power to our national energy resources.

It is true that in many places these small power plants would operate only as a complement to larger systems. When water power was low, in areas with small hydro installations, the larger and major generating systems would be asked to bring additional power into the area. When water levels were high, however, the small system could sell excess electricity to a larger installation at economically worthwhile rates.

Many small communities, particularly in Eastern states where water has traditionally been used as an energy source, are already moving to return to the limited use of water power to produce electricity. Even very small 5,000 kilowatt stations, serving only a few thousand families, have suddenly become economically practical and energy valuable, as fossil fuel prices rise and shortages occur. By utilizing these small hydroelectric capacities, we will add significantly to our national energy resources.

Water is a renewable resource which has historically been used to help run small businesses and farms, and to light rural homes. It makes good sense to stop wasting the energy in water which falls from the thousands of existing small dams, and to make full use of this old-fashioned power system wherever we can.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Above and Beyond the Call of the Union

The Constitution gives to the Congress the power to raise armies, declare war, repel invasion, and call forth the militia. It also specifically states that Congress has the power to make rules for the "government and regulation" of military forces. This is a solemn responsibility, and one which Members of Congress take seriously.

In recent months there has been persistent union activity in and around military installations. There have been numerous suggestions that military personnel be organized under the banner of one union or another. The Committee on Armed Services of the Senate determined, after extensive hearings into this matter, that such a move would be a danger and a threat to the security of the nation. After listening to testimony from experts in constitutional law, representatives of labor unions, military associations, and a cross-section of the military and civilian leadership of the United States, legislation was drafted which would prohibit union organization or membership for the armed forces. The Senate has now passed that legislation, with my support.

By its very nature, the military operation must be based on command authority, prompt obedience, and firm discipline. Without

those three elements, the life of every soldier, sailor, and airman involved in such military operations is endangered, and the success of any military effort is threatened.

Labor unions have made important contributions to the welfare of American workers, and are a valuable part of the social fabric of our country. They work through collective bargaining, concerted action, and the representation of workers' grievances to management. The goal of the union is shared decision-making, and theirs is an adversary role.

Unionization of the military forces, however, would break the chain of command which is essential for any military operation. It could divide the loyalty of fighting men and women, destroying essential "esprit de corps," and could threaten the "readiness" of our armed forces to quickly and effectively respond to any emergency.

It is interesting to note that one national union recently polled its current members to discover their feelings on unionization of the military, and it discovered an overwhelming 80 percent opposed. I believe most Americans would agree with that opposition, and would approve the legislation which has been passed by the Senate.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reusing Gray Water to Solve a Water Problem

Most Americans are aware of the energy crisis which faces the world, and have already begun to conserve energy in one way or another, pending the long-range solutions for which energy experts are searching. However, a recurring echo of that theme is the threat of a shortage of water. The water problem is not of crisis proportions, except at times and in certain places. The United States will not "run out of water" soon, as it may run out of oil or natural gas.

However, much of our current energy reserves of coal or oil shale are underground in areas of the nation which have never had an abundance of water. There is some question as to whether water supplies are sufficient to provide for the population growth which would be necessary if coal mines or oil shale recovery operations were to be put in place. This year's droughts in some states have increased our understanding of the problems which inevitably arise when people find water is not in the right place, in the right condition, or present at the right time. That kind of problem will increase in frequency in the years ahead, according to most water engineers.

One American family is spending this year living in an experimental house at

NASA's Langley Research Center in Virginia. A water re-use system is one of the innovative ideas incorporated in the three-bedroom home. Using some of the techniques developed for spacecraft systems, the water system in this unique home was designed so that the "gray water" from bathroom sinks, bathtubs, showers, and laundry machines would be filtered and chlorinated for re-use as toilet flush water. This single step reduces water consumption by 60 to 100 gallons a day for a family of four, cutting water needs in half. The cost of materials was about \$450, and the system is already developed sufficiently for commercial production.

Although a total recycling system is technically feasible, it would be prohibitively expensive except in emergency situations. However, the type of simple and inexpensive system built by NASA at the Langley house will save thousands of gallons of water annually where it is installed. For many desert regions and drought-prone states, this dividend from space technology can make economic development possible. For the nation, this re-use of "gray water" can also open up the opportunity for retrieval of energy reserves located in water-short areas.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Back to the Books

The United States led the world in the creation of locally-controlled and tax-supported free public schools, and in the building of great public universities. Our public education system has been called one of the great wonders of the contemporary world, and we have the right to be proud of the fact that, in the United States, all children have the opportunity for an education.

Historically, education has been the prerogative of the young. Going to school was what people did before they grew up and went to work. With rare exceptions, adults did not go back to school after having dropped out or graduated.

Today, a strange phenomenon is changing that concept—in schools and colleges and vocational schools all over the country. Suddenly, gray heads are appearing in classrooms, and "older" students are a common sight on campuses. Whether it is called "adult education," or "lifelong learning," or "continuing education," the number of adults who are "going back to school" has increased by 30 percent in the last five years. The Center for Education Statistics reports that more than 17 million adults are registered in part-time courses of one kind or another. The U.S. Depart-

ment of Labor estimates that the number of students who are 35 years or older has doubled in ten years, and predicts that 40 percent of the nation's college campus population by 1980 will be adult students attending part-time.

Educators have been surprised to find this flood of adults in the classroom to be highly motivated and excellent students, for the most part. Whether they have come to complete a degree, find a new career, update technical knowledge, or simply to make their leisure hours more worthwhile, these grown-up students are changing the system. The National Advisory Council on Adult Education has called this "a major turning point in the history of American education."

Many major industries are now adding education benefits to the work package. Colleges and universities are shifting gears to adjust to the needs of mature students. Congress has now added a "Lifelong Learning" section to the Higher Education Act, to assist states and local communities in coordinating responses to this new educational challenge. Continuing education will enrich the lives of individual students, and it will contribute to the progress of the nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Difficult Duty

Following six full days of debate in the Senate on the natural gas pricing bill, more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Senate voted for cloture, to limit debate and to provide for no more than one hour's speaking time for each Senator before a final vote was taken. Every indication was that the final vote would be close, but that those Senators favoring the deregulation of the price of natural gas would be in the majority.

However, a loophole in the Senate Cloture rule has, in recent years, allowed a cloture vote to become a mockery. By introducing hundreds of amendments to the legislation before cloture, a few Senators can delay the final vote on the measure by calling up these amendments after cloture and demanding roll call votes and quorum calls on all of them. In effect, this is a "filibuster by amendment." That is what happened on the natural gas bill. The Senate was held hostage to such tactics for 13 days and one night before the filibuster was broken.

Meanwhile, other major energy legislation, tax legislation, labor and health bills, and much serious Senate business waited.

Only by breaking the filibuster could a bill be passed and sent to Conference with the House, where a compromise could be worked out.

As Majority Leader, it became my duty to take action under very difficult circumstances. I supported the position of the filibusterers on the regulation of natural gas, and voted with them on the final vote. However, in order to allow the work of the Senate to proceed, I made a point of order that the Presiding Officer be directed to "take the initiative" in declaring amendments out of order if they were not germane, or out of order on their face. The Senate supported me in that proposal by a vote of 79 to 14.

Vice President Mondale, within five minutes, then correctly ruled 33 amendments out of order, thus breaking the spirit of the filibuster, and allowing final passage of the bill on the 14th day.

No Senator should be denied the right to speak or to attempt to convince his colleagues that his position on legislation is the correct one. However, no Senator should be able to unduly delay the work of the Senate after a successful cloture vote to limit debate. The seriousness of the energy crisis and the importance of other problems facing the nation made it imperative that the Senate move deliberately but decisively to work its will. My action in this instance was difficult, but necessary.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Meaning for Sea Power

In 1881, Jacques D'Arsonval, a French physicist, first proved that an engine could be operated on the energy extracted from "solar sea power"—the difference between the cold water of the ocean depths and the comparatively warm water at the surface. The possibility of using this natural difference in temperatures — often as much as 40 degrees — to create electricity is once again under examination as energy researchers explore every possible route to non-traditional and renewable energy sources to serve the needs of the free world.

The Energy Research and Development Administration took over ocean thermal energy conversion research in 1975, as one segment of its solar energy effort. The goal is to establish the technical and economic feasibility of a complete ocean-based power plant system, leading to the commercial use and production of energy from these ocean thermal gradients. ERDA's plans call for ocean testing of 1-megawatt equivalent components in 1979, using "OTEC 1," a 300-foot-long deep sea salvage vessel which is being converted to a highly technical testing platform for ocean thermal energy research.

If tests are successful, a 5-megawatt pilot plant will

be built in 1980, and a 100-megawatt demonstration plant in 1983 or 1984. Commercial plants could be in operation by 1990.

The technique which is currently favored for use in these tests is the closed cycle system, by which warm surface water would be pumped through heat exchangers, where a working fluid of ammonia or propane would be transformed to a high pressure vapor. The vapor would drive a turbine, creating energy, and would then be returned to the liquid state as it was cooled by water from the cold ocean depths.

The total ocean thermal system operating at sea in the future would probably be contained in a semi-submersible hull, with heat exchangers, turbines, generators, and pumps. Such a system could also be used to produce protein, plant life, fresh water, minerals from the ocean, chemical fuels, and fertilizers.

From a small initial investment in research funds, a promising new energy alternative is being developed in this ERDA project. As the new Energy Department takes over ERDA's work, this is only one of the many ways in which our past investment in energy research will begin to pay off by providing possible solutions to tomorrow's energy dilemma.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Shocking Abuse of Runaway Children

The Senate and the House of Representatives have now both passed legislation to bring under control a shocking and disgusting form of child abuse: the sexual exploitation of children by a multi-million-dollar pornography industry. The Senate bill passed on a vote of 85 to 1, and the House bill passed on a vote of 375 to 12.

There are five federal laws which prohibit the distribution of "obscene" materials in the United States. Unfortunately, as most Americans are aware, these laws have not effectively controlled the flood of pornographic material printed and distributed in the nation, and available in "adult" bookstores in many of our major cities. A comparatively new element is the rapidly increasing use of children in the pictures, films, magazines, and newspapers which are peddled by pornographers. In addition to the obscenity prevalent in most of this material, child abuse and delinquency are serious problems which the federal legislation will address.

Recent Congressional hearings uncovered the fact that an estimated one million children are sub-

ject to abuse of this kind.

Testimony by Investigator Lloyd Martin of the Los Angeles Police Department makes clear that most of the children who are being victimized in this inhuman traffic are either runaways or are the children of drug addicts or pornographers. The runaways are especially vulnerable, because they are alone, usually in large cities, and have no support or protection.

Police officials from major cities across the nation, and psychologists and psychiatrists who specialize in work with traumatized children, all testified to a rapid increase indicating a national network which is probably under the control of organized crime.

The legislation, which I cosponsored, provides up to ten years in jail and fines up to \$10,000 for the use of children to produce this material, its distribution or sale, or for the transportation of children of either sex across state lines for purposes of prostitution. The physical, psychological, and emotional abuse of children is intolerable in a civilized society. Profiting from such abuse is exploitation of a cruel and corrupt attack upon our nation's youth.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Arming the World

Since 1972, the United States has approved the sale of more than \$48 billion of military equipment to foreign governments. Last year, our foreign military sales agreements totaled almost \$10 billion. I am troubled by the increase these figures represent and by the need for better Congressional oversight in this area.

Since August 5, Congress has received 29 separate proposals for arms sales, totalling more than \$3 billion. Congress has, by law, only 30 calendar days in which to disapprove such sales.

Both the Administration and the Congress are badly served by the piecemeal method in which such arms sales agreements are considered. I recently outlined several changes which I believe are needed. I urged the President to do three things: (1) submit a detailed overall plan for projected arms sales early in each year; (2) refrain from submitting notification of sales during non-legislative sessions or during the final days of any session, except in an emergency; and (3) make certain that each notification includes the total value of military sales already sent to the

country in question and information about the support and services which would be needed in the future if the particular sale were approved.

With these changes, Congress could act with full understanding of the cumulative impact of arms sales in any one region of the world. Legislation has already been introduced to provide for 45 days of time in continuous session during which Congress could act to stop a sale. I support such legislation. It would also be valuable, I believe, if Committee Chairmen could request additional days. Most valuable, however, would be a requirement for explicit Congressional approval for a major arms sale, rather than the current opportunity only for disapproval.

Congress should consider all areas of foreign policy with full information and within the context of the broad global picture. The cumulative and long-term impact of armament sales is directly tied to our own future defense capabilities. Congress is responsible for protecting our future national strength and security interests. Tightening up on oversight of arms sales is a necessary part of that protection.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Schools Warm

As the winter months approach, most homeowners are preparing for the cold weather with better insulation, weather stripping, and other energy-saving additions to houses they occupy or own. Memories of last winter's difficulties, the rising cost of home heating fuels, and the President's call to the nation to save energy wherever possible, have all encouraged these moves.

However, it has become apparent that some public buildings will not be part of the conservation efforts taking place this year. There are not sufficient funds in local and state government treasuries to handle the installation costs involved, and there is a lack of expertise in exactly what steps to take in some areas.

Public and nonprofit educational institutions and hospitals are high on the list of buildings which consume significant amounts of energy during the winter. These buildings are also those which are most likely to place heavy burdens on local taxpayers due to rising energy costs. The implementation of energy-conserving maintenance and operating procedures and the installation of energy-conserving equipment would save substantial amounts of energy

and would also reduce costs to the public in the long run.

In an effort to assist states and local areas to solve this problem, the Senate has passed legislation which would provide grants to elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, and public or non-profit hospitals. These funds would be used to evaluate and implement energy-efficient procedures and equipment. The federal government would provide up to 50 percent of the cost of approved projects, and each state would be required to develop a plan for the evaluation and installation of energy-conservation measures. Each state plan would also contain an estimate of the energy savings and cost effectiveness of projects approved for that state.

Through this program, tax dollars would be returned to local communities to be invested in projects which would provide lower costs for the operation of necessary public facilities. In addition, the energy savings across the nation would be significant. In our fight for energy solutions, the conservation of both fuel and dollars at the community level is of great importance. I believe the Senate's legislation would assist in that goal.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Where Is Timbuktu?

In a world which seems to grow smaller every year, as television and satellite communications bring us into touch with other nations, it is more important than ever that students study geography and begin to have some appreciation for the problems of world affairs. Sadly, however, like the study of writing and grammar, geography is no longer one of the school subjects which receives solid attention in many schools.

That fact is brought clearly into focus by the results of a survey which has been done for the United States Office of Education by the Educational Testing Service. When 1,800 students in the fourth, eighth and twelfth grades were questioned about their attitudes toward, and knowledge of, international problems, and even about the locations of other nations of the world on our globe, it became clear that many of these students were unable to talk intelligently about these subjects.

Four out of ten students thought Israel was an Arab nation. Seventy percent of the 8th graders could locate Russia on the map, but less than half could find Egypt. Sixteen percent of the high school students thought Egypt was in India—more than 5,000 miles to the East!

Although 98 percent of the twelfth graders reported studying American history, only 29 percent were studying European history, and less than 20 percent reported studying Asian or African history. The result of that gap in the education of these youngsters is the startling lack of knowledge about world affairs which this survey turned up.

Students did report that outside of school, television and reading greatly influenced their attitudes about the world and world problems. However, it also became clear in this survey that those nations which were studied with some emphasis in social studies classes—nations such as England, Russia, and China—were familiar to most students. Those nations which received little attention in schools were not understood well, in spite of wide coverage by television.

We live in what has been called the space age. Man has been to the moon, and has looked back at the whole earth. For young people in today's world, it is essential that schools offer as much information as possible about our own planet and the nations which inhabit it. That kind of knowledge must begin with a thorough grounding in geography and history.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping West Virginia Students in School

When students drop out of school, parents are usually saddened by the decision their youngsters have made. Experience has taught them that opportunities for good jobs and successful careers are lessened if education is cut short. However, it is sometimes hard to convince young people of the difference a few years in school can make.

In a new report, *The Condition of Education*, issued by the Office of Education, that difference is spelled out clearly. For those who have completed 8 years of school, the expected lifetime earnings are \$221,000. For those who graduate from high school, the average lifetime earnings will be \$286,000. Even without a college degree, a few years of college or other post-secondary education can raise the expected earnings to \$341,000. The college graduate can expect \$424,000 — almost twice as much as the student who drops out before finishing high school.

Unemployment rates tell the other side of the same story. In 1976, the unemployment rate for those with 8 years of school or less was 24 percent. For those who had completed college, however, it was from 3 to 6 percent, depending on the field of

study.

Those figures are important for all parents and students—but they are especially important for West Virginians. The education report, which is a collection of information from school districts across the nation, shows that for the nation as a whole almost 99 percent of children between the ages of 6 and 13 are in school, as are 91 percent of those of high school age. Yet, the Census Bureau's report on West Virginia indicates that less than 90 percent of our state's high school age students are enrolled in school, and only 95 percent of our 7 to 13 year olds are there. Those few percentage points of difference represent future unhappiness and difficulty for the young people concerned. They also mean lessened economic security for their families and for the communities in which they will live their lives.

In the last part of this century and the first years of the next century, technical training and education will be of special importance to individuals and to our nation. Every West Virginia student who finishes the job of educating himself is improving his own life—and the future of our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Prehistoric Energy Riches in West Virginia

Hidden below the surface of the ground in West Virginia and other Appalachian states is an energy resource which has the potential of providing 1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas per year—about 5 percent of the current level of natural gas production of the nation.

At the present time, most of that natural gas is trapped in Devonian Brown shale, a geologic formation laid down 350 million years ago. At that time in the prehistoric history of the area, the high mountains to the east, rising out of what is now the Atlantic coastline, produced mud and silt and sand through erosion. This organic-rich mud flowed down into the Appalachian Basin, shifting back and forth in what geologists call the Catskill Delta. The organic material collected in long fingers; in later centuries other rocks and layers of sand covered this material, folding it within the shale layers of the Devonian period.

As early as 1820, a well was drilled down into this Brown shale to release the natural gas. Since that time, other wells have produced gas, usually for local use. The technology for drilling and retrieving this hidden natural gas in an economical manner had not

been developed until recent years.

Today's energy shortages have renewed interest in drilling for Brown shale natural gas, however. The current Energy Research and Development budget includes money for exploring and drilling, as well as money for experimental horizontal and deviation drilling to increase production capabilities.

A new report by the Office of Technology Assessment estimates that it will take twenty years to develop the pipelines and wells to make full use of this unused Appalachian energy. The decline in natural gas discoveries and production in conventional gas fields in recent years has now made the Appalachian Basin Brown shale fields economically practical. The conservative estimate of OTA is that 15 to 25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas is available in the 163,000 square miles of the Appalachian Basin.

If fully developed, these Devonian Brown shale natural gas wells would encourage energy-intensive industry to relocate within the Appalachian region. In addition, this new source for natural gas would help to fill the needs of the New England and Middle Atlantic states which are running short of natural gas.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Who Are the "Unemployed?"

How many people are unemployed today? Periodically the newspapers give a number—a percentage—which is called the "official" unemployment figure. Very few people know exactly what the figure signifies.

What kind of unemployment does it measure? Although many federal programs are based on these "official" unemployment figures, people seldom question the source or understand the effect on their own town or state.

Unemployment statistics are released by the Bureau of Labor Standards, and result from sample surveys taken monthly by the Census Bureau in 58,000 households all over the nation. The answers to questions in the sample surveys are used to project population figures, economic and social factors, and—incidentally—to tell us something about the number who are unemployed.

Seven figures are actually developed by the Bureau—each measuring a specific kind of unemployed person. The figure which is used generally—and which is most often quoted—is a measurement of those who are unemployed full-time workers, who were available for work during the survey week, who searched for work during that week, and who did not work at

all for pay. Currently that figure is 6.9 percent.

The other six "unemployment" figures use other criteria. One figure measures only those who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or longer—for example, that was only 1.9 percent for the third quarter of this year. The most comprehensive figure measures all unemployed workers, including those who have given up looking for work but who say they would like to be working. That figure was 9.7 percent for the third quarter. Clearly, it is important to know which "unemployment" group is being measured.

In addition to those national figures, the Bureau develops unemployment rates for special groups—women, veterans, and others. It develops the unemployment rates applied to states and local areas. Because federal assistance is often tied to these figures, their accuracy is constantly under question. West Virginia has had a rate slightly lower than the national average for 1976 and for the first half of 1977.

Even for those who have jobs, it is important that these economic statistics be accurate and clear. They are a good indicator of the economic well being of the country if they are understood properly and used with care.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

No Place for a Trouble-Maker

Millions of people around the world watched with hope and cautious optimism as Anwar Sadat of Egypt courageously broke through thirty years of war, prejudice, and tension between Israel and her Arab neighbors, to extend the hand of peace to Prime Minister Begin and his beleaguered nation.

Plato once said that "The beginning is the most important part of the work." That certainly is true in any attempt to bring peace and mutual understanding to warring countries. Although nothing in the exchanges between Israel and Egypt has yet settled any of the long-standing problems between these nations, the very act of speaking to one another and preparing for negotiations has increased the opportunities for real peace. The courage, wisdom, and diplomatic vision displayed by the leaders of these two Middle-Eastern nations have brought joy and hope to all civilized and peace-loving peoples and their governments.

However, the Soviet Union, perhaps fearing to lose influence in the region, has not only failed to support the move toward peace by President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin; it has also apparently encouraged intransigence on the part of radical Arab governments and extremist Arab groups.

Acting as a trouble-maker in this very volatile part of the world, the Soviet Union endangers efforts toward peace and increases the difficulties of finding real solutions to long-standing problems.

I have commended the President and the Secretary of State, as well as previous Administrations, for the patient pursuit of mutual understanding with Egypt as well as Israel. The United States can be proud of the balanced policy which has been followed by our government in recent years, allowing us to provide assistance and diplomatic resources to both sides. If the seed of genuine peace was planted in Jerusalem this past month, America can take some satisfaction in the fact that American diplomacy has long cultivated and tended the soil in preparation for that seed.

It is to be hoped that all other nations in the Arab world will come to see the wisdom of cooperating with President Sadat in his bold first steps toward negotiations. If the Soviets are sincere in their often expressed desire for peace in the troubled Middle East, the opportunity is at hand for them to encourage Syria and other reluctant Arab governments to participate in the difficult job of turning swords into plowshares.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Why West Virginia Students Score Higher

West Virginians can be proud of the fact that college-bound students in our state had higher Scholastic Aptitude Test scores this past year than those of students in the rest of the nation. The National Report of the College Entrance Examination Board and the College Board Summary for West Virginia have both recently published the average student scores in both math and verbal sections of the tests. West Virginia students average 30 points above the national average in both areas.

Parents, teachers, and students have good reason to be pleased with those higher scores. They should also be interested in the parts of the reports which compile and analyze the answers to questions which the students were asked about themselves, their schools, their grades, and their activities. These summaries turned up some very interesting differences in students in various parts of the nation. They reveal some clues to the higher academic aptitude scores of West Virginians.

High school grade records in math, English, foreign language, science, and social studies averaged higher in West Virginia than they did nationwide, in every subject. This emphasis on basics helped

produce better scores, and, therefore, better college opportunities for these young people.

Another difference was in the goals which students themselves reported. A higher percentage of those who took these tests in West Virginia reported goals of a postgraduate degree or graduate school work. In today's complex and highly technical world, that is certainly another plus for our school system and our students.

Most surprising of all is the marked difference reported in the number of students who participated in church or community activities. Nationally, only 23 percent reported having been "leaders" in these groups, and only 62 percent thought their own participation had been more than nominal. West Virginians, however, indicated that 35 percent had been "leaders," and an amazing 75 percent were more than nominally involved in their churches or in community activities.

This sharp difference in non-school activity of a community & religious nature indicates a strong and supportive home and community, and the encouragement of participation by young people. That may explain a good deal about why West Virginia's students do better than others on scholastic aptitude tests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

What to Do With Extra Years?

At the beginning of this century there were 3 million Americans who were over 65 years of age. In 1975, there were more than 22 million! That change reflects both amazing medical achievements and improvements in the American standard of living which have made it possible for people born in this century to live longer, more comfortable, and more productive lives.

However, these changes also present problems for our society. As the number of Americans over the age of 65 grows, and their percentage of the population increases, changes must be made in health care planning, housing built for older citizens, pension plans, transportation, and many other aspects of our culture. The "normal" retirement age is changing. Inflation adjustments needed for the elderly are different from those needed by young families. The nutrition requirements for the elderly are different than those for younger persons, creating new markets for the food industry.

A survey by the Public Health Service estimates that by the year 2000 there will be more than 31 million Americans over 65. More than half of those older citizens will be over 75. In 1900, at the turn of the century, only 29 percent of those in the "senior citizen" category were over 75; today, 45 percent are that old.

Although elderly Amer-

icans are healthier and better off financially today than they were fifty years ago, they still are often those with the lowest income and the highest health care costs. Inflation has caused the total spent for older citizen health care to go up from \$8 billion in 1966 to \$35 billion in 1976, cutting into the income of all older Americans, in spite of Medicare. A great part of that increased cost has been the result of advances in medical technology, research into better kinds of preventive health care, and improved treatment for heart disease, cerebrovascular diseases, and cancer—the three most common causes of death over age 65.

All Americans have been given extra years in which to live and to work. It will be up to both the young and the old to adjust to the new demands created by those extra years of life. Healthy senior citizens who wish to work should be able to do so, without age discrimination. Health care professionals must do the long-range planning necessary to care for an increasingly older population. Inflation should not be allowed to destroy the savings of those who have retired from the labor force after years of hard work.

If we recognize the rapidly changing demographic statistics concerning older citizens, we can help to make those extra years more worthwhile.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Country Doctor's Helper

Like apple pie and Fourth of July picnics, the country doctor is part of what most Americans like to think is the "real" America. Yet, in recent years, the country doctor is disappearing. Medical school graduates go on to study specialties or move to urban areas with financially rewarding careers. Only 4 percent of new doctors plan to go to work in rural areas; yet, there are 133 counties in the nation where no doctor's services are available — and there are 5,000 communities with no health care services at all.

Grants to build and help staff rural health care clinics have begun to bring better health to some rural areas. Many of these rural clinics have been able to use physician assistants or nurse practitioners who can handle routine health duties, making it possible for the overworked country doctor to take care of more serious problems and a greater patient load. These assistants, of course, must be qualified and work under the supervision of an M.D.

There were 2,500 graduates of physician assistant training in the first two years of the federal program. Almost half chose to work in rural areas after graduation. There is strong evidence that the presence of these doctor's helpers serves as a magnet, encouraging doctors to practice either full or part time in rural areas. The Appalachian Regional Commission esti-

mates that, where physician assistants have been used, the number of patients who are hospitalized has been reduced up to 25 percent through better and earlier care. As the cost of hospitalization rises, that is an important consideration.

One problem plaguing rural clinics is the fact that Medicare and Medicaid payments cannot be paid unless the physician is actually present when treatment is given. In rural clinics, where medical staffs are small and where physicians are often present only part time, the loss of these funds can mean the difference between breaking even or being forced to close.

Legislation has now been passed and signed into law to correct this inequity, allowing payment for health care provided in rural clinics where a physician acts as a supervisor of care, even though he is not actually present at the time of treatment. This legislation will prevent the closing of about 40 of the 200 rural clinics in the Appalachian states. It is especially important to rural clinics in coal-mining areas, where United Mine Worker Health Funds will be adversely affected because of the strike.

I supported this change in our Social Security laws; if good medical care is going to continue to be available to rural America, it is necessary that the country doctor receive the support and help he needs to do a proper job.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Star Adventures

Only a few hundred years ago, explorers and adventurers were venturing across the Atlantic and Pacific oceans to discover new worlds. Today, from the heart of the new world they found, the United States is continuing man's adventure—sending spacecraft out into the solar system to explore the planets.

The latest in this space odyssey is the trip being taken by the two Voyager spacecraft which were launched in 1977 by NASA. They will travel to the giant Jupiter, to Saturn, and to Uranus, carrying cameras and instruments to return first-hand information to planet Earth.

During the ten-year voyage of these spacecraft, they will send back to us reports about our neighbors in the solar system, giving scientists important clues as to the history of our own planet and our solar system. If all goes well, they will be able to examine Titan, a satellite of the planet Saturn, and the only one in the solar system which has a substantial atmosphere.

Finally, these two Voyagers will leave our solar system to journey among the stars. Each one of these carefully planned space ships carries infor-

mation and records of our own planet, in case another technological civilization exists somewhere in the vastness of the Universe.

In addition to these solar system explorers, NASA has sent the first of three High Energy Astronomy Observatories into space to study what astronomers consider the most important and mysterious questions about our universe — pulsars, black holes in space, and exploding galaxies. These observatories will be able to scan the entire sky in six months, reporting back to earth on observations made without the interference of our atmosphere.

The knowledge which man gains from these adventures in space is of great interest to scientists, of course. It will have a great value to us in practical and immediate ways, by providing a better understanding of solar-terrestrial phenomena such as solar winds, ozone depletion in the atmosphere, and weather and climate here on earth. Just as the adventures of our ancestors led to discoveries here in America which made all of our lives more worthwhile, these new explorers may provide our descendants with a better and safer life in the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fairness Required for Free Trade

The United States believes in a free market. Wherever possible, we have supported open trade on a worldwide basis. More than any other nation, America has helped to rebuild the industries of war-torn countries, and has encouraged the growth of industry in underdeveloped parts of the world.

However, free trade must mean fairness and a respect for the laws of trading partners. There is today a strong suspicion that the depressed world market for steel has tempted other nations to use predatory pricing when they export their steel products to the United States. This marketing practice is called "dumping"—the selling of goods at less than the cost of production, or at a lower price than the goods would bring in the seller's home country. It is done to capture a market and to drive competitors out of business. This practice is against American law.

Our share of the world market in steel has declined from 39 percent to 20 percent in the last 27 years. Partially, this is due to outmoded plants and equipment and to the economic burden of strong environmental laws. However, steel manufacturers believe a major part of the problem is foreign "dumping." Complaints have now

been filed against steel firms in Japan, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, West Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

Currently, when a complaint is filed, the Treasury Department has up to 10 months in which to investigate. If the final decision is that dumping has taken place, the case is turned over to the U.S. International Trade Commission, with directions to decide if U.S. interests are being harmed. If the Commission so decides, import duties can then be imposed on the offending nation.

Several months ago, I urged the President to move quickly to improve this process. The Administration has now decided to try a system wherein reference prices will be set, based on the cost of production of the most efficient foreign producer for each category and grade of steel. Sales below that reference price will automatically be seen as "dumping," causing retroactive fines and penalties.

Combined with several other initiatives proposed to help the steel industry to modernize and rebuild, this anti-dumping step will alleviate problems in a fair manner, I believe. A six-month trial period for the new administrative action will be worthwhile and beneficial.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting People to Work

One of the most disturbing elements in our unemployment statistics in the last ten years is the rise in the number of "hard-core" unemployed. These are the men and women who have no skills or little work experience. They are usually people with an inadequate education and poor work habits.

Their numbers have very little to do with the recession, or with the standard one-to-three percent of our work force who are moving to new jobs, changing careers, or looking for a first job after graduation from school. Even in times of prosperity, those we call the "hardcore" unemployed have a difficult time finding and holding a job.

The problem in the statistics about this small group of Americans is that they are increasing in number and increasing in their percentage of our population. Although we have poured millions of dollars into training courses, we have not decreased their number or their percentage.

Sociologists and educators who have attempted to research the causes for the continued long-term unemployment of certain workers have discovered

that they are usually untrained, unskilled, and functionally illiterate. They are often unable to read even simple directions or to do ordinary arithmetic problems. Some of them, for instance, are unable to read prices in the markets, or to use a bus schedule. They are educationally handicapped, which makes them poor candidates for any manpower training or skill training program.

Adult education specialists suggest that these workers will never be fully employable until they are "re-educated" in basic reading and arithmetic skills. In the past, some of these workers would have been hired in spite of their educational handicaps. However, in today's technological world, there is less often a place for unskilled labor.

No job program can help those who are not ready to be helped, and employers cannot be expected to hire workers who are of no economic value—workers who cannot do the job. However, each of these individuals can help himself if he is willing to do the hard work of returning to school for a new beginning in basic functional skills.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Soviet Pay Raise

Workers in at least part of the Soviet Union have recently been given a raise in pay—the first in several years. Our newspapers have carried that story, but it is difficult to know exactly what that pay raise will mean to those who receive it. What can a Soviet family buy for the money they earn? Is there any way to compare the Soviet cost of living or their quality of life with that of an American family?

In the Soviet Union, where government sets both prices and salaries, the real cost of producing goods is not always reflected in the price. There is no competition, no profit incentive, and little opportunity to develop new products without the approval of government. As a result, there is still a scarcity of consumer goods for Soviet citizens to buy. With artificially set prices and salaries, and limited goods to purchase, it is difficult to make comparisons.

Our own free enterprise system has provided the American people with the highest standard of living in the world. In spite of inflation, the average American worker can still purchase a greater variety of goods, and can still provide a more comfortable life for his family, than can workers anywhere in communist controlled nations.

One way in which comparisons can be made is in the number of hours or minutes which must be worked in order to earn

enough money to purchase basic items. For instance, in America 8 minutes of work will buy the amount of milk or bread which requires 25 minutes of work in Russia. Approximately 1 hour of work in the U.S. will purchase the same amount of beef as that provided by three hours of work from a Soviet citizen. Many modern items which Americans consider "normal" purchases—cars, radios, TV's, household equipment—are astoundingly expensive in the Soviet Union. While a Soviet worker must work about 1,150 hours in order to earn enough to buy a color TV, the average American worker only works 165 hours in order to buy a similar set. A Soviet worker must labor for 43 months to earn enough to purchase a car, while his American counterpart can purchase the same car with a little more than 4 months' salary.

Those differences in real cost—hours of work required to purchase an item—account for at least part of the discrepancy in the standard of living in the two nations. In the United States, there are more radios than there are human beings, and there are 627 telephones for every 1,000 people. In the Soviet Union, there are only 211 radios and only 53 telephones for every 1,000 people! In comparing the two systems, results are what really count—and the results prove that the American system works to the great advantage of the people.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Democracy Alive

Will the next generation of Americans be able to keep democracy alive in the United States? Will they be well enough informed to vote intelligently in local, state, and federal elections? Will they understand the history of America's long struggle for political freedom and the "unalienable rights" which our forefathers described in the Declaration of Independence? Without a knowledge of how our system of government works, can a citizen effectively and wisely participate in the self-government of which we are so proud?

Once again, as they did in 1973, the National Assessment of Educational Progress has released the results of a survey of the political knowledge and understanding of American teenagers. The first report was disturbing, because it demonstrated that too many young people growing up in the United States did not understand the structure and functions of our government, and did not have even a basic knowledge of Constitutional rights. Less than half of those questioned knew how a Presidential candidate was nominated and elected, and only forty-one percent could use a simple ballot to vote.

The new report shows a continuing decline in every one of the five knowledge areas studied. Overall, researchers found that knowledge about how our gov-

ernment works declined most of all among 17-year-olds, with average scores dropping from 64 percent correct in 1970 to 54 percent correct today.

Approximately one-fifth did not realize that broad areas of their civil rights are stated in the Constitution; freedom of religion, for example, was not recognized as a Constitutional right by 30 percent of the 13-year-olds.

Equally disturbing, 35 percent of the younger group and 18 percent of the 17-year-olds did not know that the Senate was a part of the Congress. More than half could not identify one of their representatives in Washington—and 22 percent said "I don't know," when asked if Congress is a part of the legislative branch! A majority did not know that the Senate must approve a treaty before it can be ratified, and that a nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court requires Senatorial confirmation.

The fact that political understanding is demonstrably weaker among young people today than it was in 1970 and 1972 should be cause for real concern among parents, teachers, and community leaders. We live in the oldest living Constitutional Republic in the world. The health of our political system depends upon our ability to educate our children in the difficult art of governing themselves.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Learning To Do It Yourself

How do you teach young people today to be self-sufficient? In a society which has come to depend more and more on federal and local governments, is it still possible for the individual to solve problems?

The New York Times recently reported a situation which gives possible answers to those questions. In an account about a New Lebanon, New York, high school, a very encouraging and heart-warming story was told. The rural and largely middle-class school district faced an austere budget and difficult administrative problems in 1971, following the defeat of a proposed school bond. The principal of the combined junior and senior high school was informed that the situation would mean no sports, no library books, and no lunch program. Because of the requirement for matching funds, it also would mean a cut-off of the federal school lunch subsidy.

Fortunately, for both the students and the school, the young principal, Gerald L. Blair, saw this unexpected cut-back as an opportunity. He decided to let the youngsters themselves solve the school lunch program. He saw this problem as an opportunity for "a unique and rewarding experience."

He and a fellow teacher each put up \$200 as seed money to begin an experi-

ment in self-reliance. The students were recruited to plan, cook, and serve lunches. Prices were set by the students: low enough to be acceptable to most, but high enough to provide a very slight profit for reinvestment in the program. Today, the experiment is a successful educational program.

Students who cannot afford to buy lunch, or who would rather use their money in some other way, can work for their meals. The young people who run the program are given academic credit for their work in a course called "Commercial Cooking." They are learning business procedures, self-discipline, and problem-solving. They are—and they should be—proud of what they have accomplished. They have more than repaid the trust and faith of their principal and teacher. In addition, they quickly repaid the dollars loaned to start the program, and have built a working inventory of equipment and foodstuffs.

Not every school district would want to use this program for school lunches. However, the basic concept of encouraging young people to provide a needed service to themselves and their fellow students through hard work and initiative is a good one, and the success of this program provides food for thought for all of us.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Fight Against Black Lung

In recent years, the nation has come to better understand the serious occupational hazards of coal mining — especially the threat of black lung disease, which results from the inhalation of coal dust. In 1969, the federal government began a program of payments to coal miners who were totally disabled by pneumoconiosis—black lung disease—and to the widows and orphans of those who had died of this disease. The President has recently signed the Black Lung Benefits Reform Act of 1977 and the Black Lung Benefits Revenue Act of 1977, making substantial revisions in the law and in our method of paying for benefits.

When the federal government first stepped in, in 1969, to provide compensation for miners who had suffered work-related health damage, the statistics showed that the risk of death for coal miners was twice that of the general public. The average working period for miners was 5 years less than that of other American labor groups. No serious research had yet been done on the problems of black lung disease or on how the presence of this disease affected other health problems of miners. In 1972, Congress, for the first time, authorized a program to construct and operate clinical facilities near the mines to examine miners, do basic clinical research, develop tests and treatments, and provide a bet-

ter picture of the health problems which are involved. Unfortunately, funding for these clinical facilities ran out in 1975, and had not been reauthorized until this year.

The new law will reestablish funds for clinical facilities to detect, diagnose and treat black lung and related diseases, and will establish field offices wherever there are sufficient claimants in need of assistance. These changes are aimed at providing faster service, better assistance, and clearer medical definitions of various black lung related health problems. Clinical facilities will be located where service is most needed. Field offices will be local and will operate under more realistic guidelines.

The establishment of a Black Lung Disability Insurance Trust Fund, to be maintained by a tax on coal — primarily on coal produced in underground mines — will provide long-term assurance that the black lung program will continue to operate as the responsibility for costs are gradually shifted to industry and away from the federal government. As the program to provide benefits to the victims and their families is thus put on a financially sound basis, the medical research into all aspects of occupationally related lung diseases will go forward, providing better weapons in our fight against an old enemy of the coal miner—black lung.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Who Should Pay the Bills?

In recent months, it has become clear that both the Guaranteed Student Loan Program and the National Defense Student Loan Program are in trouble because of "borrower defaults" — that is, because some students are failing to repay money borrowed to go to college.

In the GSL program, money is loaned directly to the student through a local bank, and its repayment is guaranteed, or insured, by the taxpayers. For 1977, the default rate on these guaranteed loans was 12.8 percent, not including loans which were cancelled due to death, disability, or bankruptcy. It is estimated by the Office of Education that the money needed to cover these defaults in 1978 would be \$154 million.

The other major Federal loan program, NDSL, works through the colleges and universities, where a student loan fund is established to provide students with low interest loans payable when the student leaves school. The default rate on these loans has been as high as 14 percent—a staggering loss to the universities and to the public.

Why are so many young people, educated and trained with the help of their fellow citizens, failing in their responsibility? Is it possible that between 10 and 15 percent of our better-educated young people are deadbeats?

The answers to those questions are not as simple as it would appear. While it is true that defaulting borrowers are legally responsible for money owed,

it is also true that some schools have encouraged students to borrow without making sure the student understands his obligation or is really capable of succeeding in a chosen field. Lending institutions have been lax in taking action when payments fall behind, preferring to have the government pay on a "default." Some students have complained that unused tuition money has not been refunded when a course is not completed, with the result that the student feels he should not have to pay for education he did not receive. Unemployment levels are high, making it difficult for students to get jobs immediately following graduation.

Congress has begun to tighten up on the federal requirements for students, lenders, and educational institutions who participate in these federal loan programs. However, the biggest and most important steps must be taken by participants themselves. Those who are in default must understand that unwarranted abuse of these programs will endanger funds for future students. Lending institutions and universities and colleges must make a greater effort to be both realistic and fair. Starting life with a poor credit rating undermines the advantages gained in higher education, and the trend toward defaults in educational loan programs is a serious threat to the nation's higher education system. Both the students involved and the general public will suffer unless this trend is reversed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Panama Canal Treaties, I

The United States and the Republic of Panama have now entered into new treaty arrangements respecting the Panama Canal. Senate approval of the new treaties continues to face an uphill fight, and a spirited national debate thereon is occurring. Contrary to the general notion, the U.S. does not "own" the Canal Zone. Title to the land and waters of the Zone — which extends a distance of five miles on each side of the center of the Canal — was never vested in the U.S. The 1903 Treaty, under which the United States built the Canal, granted to the United States "in perpetuity the use, occupation, and control" of the zone of land and waters. Also contrary to the general opinion that the U.S. is the "sovereign" over the Canal Zone, the language of the 1903 treaty stated that the Republic of Panama granted to the United States "all the rights, power, and authority" within the Zone which the U.S. would possess and exercise "if it were the sovereign of the territory." Hence, the argument by some of the opponents of the new treaty, to wit, that the U.S. has sovereignty over the Zone is not supported by careful reading of the exact language of the treaty. Moreover, a new treaty, signed on March 2, 1936, between Panama and the United States, referred to "the territory of the Republic

of Panama under the jurisdiction of the United States of America."

Under the 1903 Treaty, the United States agreed to pay Panama \$10 million in gold, and \$250,000 annually beginning nine years later. The 1936 treaty increased the annuity from \$250,000 to \$434,000 annually. The 1955 treaty increased the annual annuity to \$1,930,000 and increased the number of Panamanians to be employed in operating the canal.

Dissatisfaction in Panama over the 1903 treaty has existed from the beginning, and resulted in demonstrations in 1959 and riots in 1964, in which three U.S. soldiers and 21 Panamanians were killed, whereupon President Johnson initiated negotiations on a new treaty. These negotiations continued through the administrations of Presidents Nixon and Ford. For 13 years, therefore, the U.S. has engaged in negotiations for a new treaty that would strengthen our security interests, be fair to ourselves and the people of Panama, and insure continued neutral international use of the Canal. The U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff have been involved in the talks at every stage. Our military leaders maintain that the strategic military value of the Canal is in its use, and that its uninterrupted use is best assured by the new treaties which protect U.S. security interests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Panama Canal Treaties, II

The 1903 Panama Canal Treaty was a treaty that no Panamanian signed. Theodore Roosevelt's Administration received inside help from Philippe Bunau-Varilla, a Frenchman, who virtually blackmailed the new Republic of Panama into naming him its envoy in return for promised U.S. support of the revolution in which the Province of Panama seceded from Columbia and became a republic. Bunau-Varilla, it turned out, was less interested in the well-being of the new-born country than in the U.S. takeover of a French canal company which had gone bankrupt in attempting to construct a sea-level canal across the Isthmus. During the 1880's, Bunau-Varilla had worked for the French company, the organizer of which was Ferdinand de Lesseps, builder of the Suez Canal. When de Lesseps company went bankrupt in 1889, the French had already moved 50 million cubic metres of earth in attempting to build the canal across Panama, and 20,000 workers had died of malaria and yellow fever.

The canal company's creditors hoped that the U.S. would buy the French rights to the project, and Bunau-Varilla, former acting director of the French company, vigorously lobbied the U.S. government to do just that. To secure approval of the treaty

from the new Panamanian government, Bunau-Varilla cabled a false message from Washington to the Panamanians stating that the U.S. would withdraw its protection of the revolutionaries unless they promptly accepted the treaty which Bunau-Varilla had hurriedly drafted. Racing against time, Bunau-Varilla and U.S. Secretary of State John Hay formally signed the treaty at around 7:00 p.m., on November 18, 1903—only two hours before Panamanian officials arrived in Washington. Bunau-Varilla knew that U.S. Senate ratification of the treaty was vital to the success of his scheme. Hence, the treaty language prepared by him was so favorable to U.S. interests that Secretary of State, John Hay, wrote to a U.S. Senator: "You and I know very well how many points there are in this treaty to which a Panamanian patriot could object." Senate ratification was by a vote of 66 to 14. The Bunau-Varillo firm recovered all of its \$440,000 stake in the bankrupt French canal company, plus a profit of \$13,200.

The history of the treaty is a tale of rough-riding diplomacy that virtually insured long-smoldering resentment in Panama and throughout Central and South America against the United States.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Panama Canal Treaty, III

There is no question but that the U.S. wants and needs to retain ready access to, and passage through, the Panama Canal. By economic terms, America's dependence on the Canal has been steadily declining, due to advantages in other modes of transportation as well as to the fact that the Canal is not large enough for our new, larger cargo ships. Although 13 percent of our water-borne trade went through the Canal in 1949, only 7 percent of the foreign trade going in and out of U.S. seaports in 1976 passed through the Panama Canal. Moreover, the Canal has shown a net operating loss each year since 1973, with the result that tolls have been raised. Militarily, according to the U.S. Department of Defense, the Panama Canal is not only incapable of use by our aircraft carriers and other large warships, but the Panama Canal would also be very difficult to defend, even with the most sophisticated weaponry. Our military experts tell us that the Canal is operationally indefensible from terrorist attacks or acts of sabotage. They believe that the defense—and uninterrupted use—of the Canal would be greatly enhanced through a new treaty that would assure Panamanian cooperation. Only through such

a cooperative relationship with Panama, can the Canal be of practical use to the U.S. in wartime, our defense officials point out. Otherwise, the work of a single Panamanian saboteur could put it out of commission for months. And while the Canal's military and economic importance to us today is much less than it was 30 to 50 years ago, its importance by the year 2000—when the United States fully relinquishes control and operation—will be even less than it is today, according to U.S. military and economic experts.

Because of the limitations on the capacity of the present canal, Administration officials say we should keep open the option of replacing the present canal with a new and larger canal. Retaining this option requires a relationship of cooperation and mutual respect with Panama because extensive studies show that the best route for such a canal would be in Panama. Administrations under both political parties have stated that the prerequisite for such cooperation is the resolution of the long-held, festering resentments that currently exist in Panama and other Latin American countries concerning the present arrangements created by the 1903 Panama Canal Treaty.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bad Habits Start Early

At what age do Americans begin to drink and smoke? Although most of us would like to believe that these habits are picked up after young people grow up and leave home, the fact is that in today's world, many students in junior and senior high school have already begun to use these drugs.

The recent comprehensive federal study of the health of Americans includes startling statistics on the drinking and smoking behavior of students, as reported by the students themselves. Fifteen percent of students between the ages of 12 and 18 were found to be habitual smokers, and, for the first time, there was little difference between boys and girls. In spite of the fact that most students admit knowing that smoking could decrease the length of their lives or cause serious health problems, the percentage of teenagers who smoke has increased since 1968.

The report on drinking was even more disturbing. Although 27 percent of the junior and senior high school students who were surveyed reported not drinking at all, and 33 percent reported drinking only lightly or infrequently, 40 percent listed themselves as being moderate to heavy drinkers!

A "heavy" drinker was defined as one who drank five drinks at least once per week. Ten percent of these youngsters claimed to be in this category, and of those under 14 years of age, 5 percent claimed to drink that amount of alcohol regularly.

Although the percentages were lower for students in the South than for those in other regions of the nation, they were about the same for students in both rural and urban settings, and about the same for all economic groups.

Not surprisingly, these figures correlate almost exactly to grades received in school. Those who drank the most alcohol on a regular basis received the most D's and F's, while those who were abstainers received the most A's. Drinking and smoking habits also seem to correlate to the use of marijuana and hard drugs; 30 percent of those who use marijuana regularly are "heavy" drinkers, and 47 percent of those who use hard drugs also described themselves in the "heavy" drinker category.

The real tragedy of these figures lies in the future of these young people and their families. Both their education and their health are being threatened. The results are, unfortunately, highly predictable.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A PIPELINE TO THE SUN

Man's energy sources were once limited to things he could find on the surface of the earth: wood from trees, water in rivers and streams, and wind. As the need for energy grew, man began to dig into the earth for fossil fuels: oil, natural gas, and coal. All of these forms of energy—whether the wood from a living tree or the oil formed thousands of years ago from ancient forests—are derived from the heat and light from the sun itself. In that sense, all of our energy is solar power.

Now, scientists are suggesting that we should go into space to "mine" the greater solar power which lies outside our atmosphere. Solar satellites, capable of receiving sunlight which is not diluted by the thick layer of air covering the earth, would collect sunlight, turn it into electricity, and then beam it to earth on microwaves. Collectors of this kind could produce from 6 to 15 times as much energy as a solar collector based on earth, because approximately 65% of the energy power of sunlight is screened out by atmosphere, and because on earth, sunlight is only available in daylight hours.

The National Aeronautics and Space Agency and the Department of Energy are in the middle of a 3-year study to determine the feasibility of a solar satellite system. The tech-

nology already exists, according to space engineers. The satellite power station would be placed in geosynchronous orbit, held in position above one spot on the earth. Energy in the form of microwaves would be received in a rectenna, where it would then be reconverted to electricity.

The initial costs would be high, making it unlikely that private industry could fund the program. However, several industries are already funding research. A joint private-public effort, similar to that used for the television satellite system, is most likely.

It will be essential to evaluate environmental hazards, such as the possible effects of microwave radiation on the atmosphere. Some scientists have suggested that radio frequency interference might pose problems, and that the large amounts of silicon and aluminum needed to build the satellites would drain our reserves. All concerns of this kind would have to be thoroughly examined.

However, it is impossible that by the end of this century, man will begin to tap the original energy source—the sun—in outer space. If successful, this system will bring a new kind of power to earth, for the benefit of generations still unborn. Our "step into space" will truly have been valuable.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Flowers or Floods?

"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" This ancient Chinese proverb is often used to remind people that, in the cycle of life, a difficult period does not last forever. However, for many Americans this past winter's heavy snow and ice storms mean that spring may bring floods as well as flowers. Once again, nature threatens to add insult to injury for those people who live in the flood plains.

In past years, the nation has responded to flood disasters after the fact. Disaster relief was given to flood victims, and efforts were made to build flood control dams, seawalls, or levees. But very little was done to protect family or business investment through better construction techniques or more careful planning before disaster struck.

Finally, as flood losses mounted across the nation, Congress created the National Flood Insurance program, providing property-owners with affordable insurance protection through a coordinated local, state, and federal effort. Through careful local management of the flood plains, new construction will better withstand flooding, and as a result taxpayers will be called on less frequently to provide costly relief and repair assistance. It is estimated that by the year 2000, taxpayers and flood victims will be saved approximately \$1.7 billion a year.

More than 14,500 communities have already joined the first phase of the program, qualifying for emer-

gency coverage. This action triggers a detailed on-site survey of expected flood levels and risk zones by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Each Governor has a State Coordinating Agency to help communities adopt required flood plain management measures. Once a community has joined the emergency program, owners may purchase flood insurance for as little as \$25, with coverage for both old or new construction and for the contents of homes or businesses.

In West Virginia, 263 communities are now in the flood program, with 247 hazard areas identified. Most of these communities are still in the emergency program, but at least 15 have progressed to the regular program, where the full limits of flood insurance become available locally. This full coverage means that the local community has upgraded its local building standards, in cooperation with state and federal engineering surveys and flood maps.

No government can completely protect its citizens against floods or other natural disasters. However, the National Flood Insurance Program promises to be a worthwhile effort by government at all three levels—local, state, and federal—to prepare for possible future disaster and to protect individual families and businesses against catastrophic loss. As the worry about spring floods is eased, those who live in flood plains can then welcome spring flowers with a lighter heart.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Partnership in Progress

In 1961, the Congress established a special program aimed at providing economic help to depressed areas of the Appalachian states. That small program grew into the Economic Development Administration, which now brings development assistance in the form of roads, sewers, and other community facilities to all parts of the nation which are hard-hit by unemployment. Thousands of small towns and rural areas have been given a second chance through this partnership of local and federal efforts.

One of the most successful elements in the Economic Development Administration's package is the business-loan program. Within specific guidelines, the EDA can loan money or guarantee a loan from a private lender, in order to create a small business or keep a floundering business going. The business must be in an area where unemployment has exceeded the national rate by 100% for at least one year, or by 50% for three years. The applicant must have exhausted other forms of financial help. In addition, the loan from the government must be matched on a 50-50 basis by a loan from a commercial bank.

Once the EDA loan or loan guarantee has been approved, at interest rates which will repay the government at the same rate which the government itself pays when borrowing money, the EDA acts as a constant counselor, helping with management and other administrative prob-

lems. This kind of help is advisory only, however; the business manager and workers must make final success or failure on their own.

In spite of the fact that these loans have been made in areas which were badly hit by recession or some other economic disaster, the default rate on loans has been very low. The agency reports that more than 95,000 jobs have been created or saved through this small program, and more than 400 businesses are alive and healthy today as a result of EDA loans.

Because West Virginia was one of the first areas to receive these special job-creating business loans, some of the most successful models are located in our part of the nation. A prime example is the small veneer plant in Martinsburg, about which the New York Times recently reported. Joint local and federal loans awarded twelve years ago, when unemployment was almost 10%, have kept this business producing for both domestic and export markets, and have provided jobs for 90 people.

Once again, a program which loans but does not give away money has proved to be the most worthwhile in the long run. Government cannot do for people what they refuse to do for themselves. But sometimes government can move sensibly to help people who are willing to repay taxpayers for a hand-up rather than a hand-out.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Measuring Inflation

If you got a raise this year, how much would it really be worth? If you are retired, and living on a pension, will your benefits be adequate to cover higher prices? If you are making an investment, is your return going to be fair? The answer to all these questions lies in the rate of inflation. Although that rate decreased last year, it is still one of our major problems. It is essential to correctly measure this increase in the dollar cost of things we buy, in order to better understand and control our economy.

The most important measure of inflation is the monthly Consumer Price Index, which is compiled in the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This report compares what a "market basket" of goods and services cost this month, as compared to what the same items would have cost last month, last year, or in the base year, 1967. Thus, if the CPI is 186, as it was in December, the cost of the "market basket" was \$186 for the same items which cost \$100 in 1967.

The "market basket" items which are used in this survey reflect the purchases of the average urban worker and clerical worker—about 40 percent of the total population. Items measured run the gamut from bread and butter to television and bowling fees, from pediatric health care to funeral services, from tricycles to

college tuition. Periodically, the goods and services measured are reevaluated, so that the CPI will accurately show changes in the spending habits of families. The relative importance of each item in the "market basket" may change, reflecting changes in how people allocate their income.

For instance, 35 percent of the average worker's income was spent on food in the years 1935 to 1939. However, in 1977, food took only 24 percent of that income, and the latest revision shows that food accounts for only 19 percent of the urban worker's purchases.

Beginning with the index published in February of this year, the Bureau is publishing a new, revised workers' index, based on an updated "market basket" and a more detailed survey. In addition, the Bureau has created a new index, reflecting the purchases made by a broader segment of the population. This new "All Urban Households" index includes spending by the retired citizen, the unemployed, the self-employed, salaried professionals, and urban and clerical workers—about 80 percent of our population.

The revised CPI and the new all-urban CPI will give us a much more accurate yardstick to measure inflation, and a better set of tools to work with in planning our attack on our old enemy—inflation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Appreciation for an Ancient River

Centuries ago, long before the Appalachian mountains were formed, the river which we call the "New" River was already running through what is now North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. This ancient stream continued to dig its own channel as the mountains rose around it, so that today its banks rise as high as 1,300 feet above the valley floor in West Virginia. Anthropologists have suggested that this river was one of the pathways which early man took in traveling to the Atlantic ocean on his long trek from Siberia. Naturalists report that there are at least 23 kinds of plants and animals alive, in West Virginia's segment of the New River, which are found nowhere else on earth. As one of the most dramatic and beautiful spots in the nation, the New River Gorge is a part of our national heritage.

The Senators from West Virginia have introduced legislation to provide protection for the 60 miles of this ancient river which lie in our state. By designating this scenic area a National River, and by placing it under the management of the National Park Service, it is believed that the ecosystem and environment of the river can be protected, while still allowing for the development of the area for the use of both residents and visitors. The nine small communities which lie

within the proposed National River would be preserved, as would private ownership of property. However, land use which was "incompatible with the purposes of the National River" would be prohibited.

Under the plan, the National Park Service would be provided with \$20 million to purchase land for the protection of the river itself or for the building of visitor facilities and access roads. Estimates of the number of visitors to the New River Gorge National River are as high as 3 million per year by 1985. Those 3 million visitors would spend about \$42 million annually, creating a gradual and healthy economic development, while still preserving the integrity and historic beauty of the gorge.

This proposal has been under study for several years. As the legislation is reviewed by House and Senate Committees, hearings will be held to provide an opportunity for experts, state officials, as well as interested members of the public to comment or recommend changes. If finally passed, the new National River would make West Virginia the home of a fine new national recreation area. Visitors from other states would be welcomed to share with us the excitement and pleasures of one of America's oldest natural wonders—the New River Gorge.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Crime Against Ourselves

During most of the 200 year-old history of the United States, Americans have felt a strong sense of pride in their government. We use the word "our" when we speak of our country, our army, our Capitol, our federal highways, our Congress, our flag. We have contributed voluntarily to the defense of our nation, in most cases. We have had a remarkable record of paying our income taxes honestly and voluntarily—97%, according to IRS records. Even today, when many taxpayers complain about high taxes, that voluntary and honest record stands as a symbol of our belief in our system of self-government and in obedience to the law.

However, a recent report by the General Accounting Office, and reports from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, have brought to light a serious new problem which affects our government and which affects each one of us as taxpayers. Those reports concern the apparent outright fraud in many government programs — with GAO estimates as high as \$15 billion being stolen fraudulently every year. The men and women who are taking this money are not members of organized crime, not hoods or robbers or muggers. They are ordinary Americans who have come to

believe that our government has so much money that a little bit here and a little bit there will never be missed. One GAO official explains these thefts by explaining that people feel "they can rip off the Government and it doesn't matter, that it isn't really a crime."

A new awareness of the problem is the result of Congressional hearings which uncovered some of the worst examples, triggering audits of various programs. The Department of Justice is now moving to take stronger action, and various Departments are setting up special programs to provide investigators with the facts. It is clear that more resources will have to be allocated to tracking down both fraud and waste. The fact that HEW has reported the loss of 24 cents out of every Medicaid dollar, 10 cents out of every Medicare dollar, and 10 cents out of every student aid dollar is shocking, and is a clear mandate for action against those who are committing these crimes.

The most tragic aspect of this kind of crime is that it is crime against "our" government — which means that it is crime against ourselves. It indicates that for some Americans, greed and selfishness have overcome pride in our nation and our form of self-rule.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An American Self-Portrait

One morning in the year 1980, each household in the United States will receive a thick letter from the federal government. That letter will contain a questionnaire to be filled out and returned. After months of preparation, the Census Bureau will be ready to help the citizens of this nation paint a self-portrait—through the Constitutionally-mandated “enumeration” of the population which must take place every ten years.

The simple head-count, which was originally intended for the purpose of adjusting the number of Congressional seats and the boundaries of Congressional districts, has developed gradually into a valuable and sophisticated data-collection system. The Census Bureau today compiles information about social and economic conditions, trends in population growth and movement, and demographic changes in 39,000 local areas of the country.

The questions which are selected for use on the Census forms are the result of months and years of study and consideration by the Bureau. Various federal agencies, state governments, local governments, social scientists, urban and rural planners, schools and colleges, and members of the business community all submit ques-

tions which they would like to have included. Statistical experts sift through the questions, selecting those which will develop the most necessary or worthwhile data.

Two forms have been developed and pretested for the 1980 Census. One includes only essential questions, and will be received by 80 percent of the population. The other, longer form will go to the remaining 20 percent, and most of the detailed social and economic data concerning the nation will be extrapolated from information on this “sample” survey. The amount of money each community receives for revenue sharing, or for hundreds of other assistance, development, or training programs, is calculated on the basis of this important Census information.

Congress last year passed legislation providing for a Congressional review of questions, greater protection for the confidentiality of information, and the elimination of the penalty of imprisonment for refusal to answer questions. No citizen should feel compelled to answer questions which he feels are improper. However, every citizen should make sure that he is counted, and that his own picture is included in the national self-portrait which will be drawn.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Railroad Rebuilding and Energy Plans

In 1870, a little more than one hundred years ago, three quarters of our energy was produced by the burning of wood. Soon after that time, however, coal became the apparently endless source for energy, resulting in the production of iron and steel, and massive industrial growth.

The next step in our energy history was a shift to liquid fossil fuels—oil and natural gas—and the widespread use of electricity. As these cheaper fuels became available, coal lost its title as “king” of the energy world.

Now, coal is again becoming of vital importance. The President has asked that coal producers increase their production by 400 million tons per year by 1985. This additional coal would be used by utilities and industry both, as a replacement for higher-priced natural gas and oil.

Not enough planning, however, has been given to the problems of transporting that additional coal from the mines to the places where it will be used to keep our nation running. Railroads transport about three fourths of our coal today. In 1975, that meant that 400 million tons of coal were transported by rail. Barges

and coal slurry pipelines are other modes of transport which are being used. However, a recent assessment by the Office of Technology Assessment pinpoints many controversies surrounding pipeline proposals.

The railroad industry itself estimates that by 1985 it will probably be asked to move 800 million tons of coal—twice the amount moved last year. Shipment to electric utilities will account for about half of the increase, and shipment to industrial users will account for the remainder.

The increased rail traffic will require an investment of \$9 billion in coal-carrying cars and locomotives, and an investment of \$4 billion in plant improvements, such as additional track, heavier rail systems, and other technical improvements. Yet, the nation's railroads have not had a rate of return in recent years which promises to provide that kind of capital outlay.

As we struggle to meet our energy needs, it is going to be necessary to find ways to solve these peripheral transportation problems. Rebuilding the nation's railroad system should have a high priority in our national energy planning.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Agriculture's Roller-Coaster

When nature destroys a farmer's crop, through drought or storm, he usually determines that he must try again the next year. However, when a farmer loses the value of his crop through unexpected fluctuations of crop prices, he understandably feels betrayed by an economic factor he cannot control.

Consumers and taxpayers, as well as farmers, are at the mercy of fluctuating farm prices. In the last few years, those prices have jumped to new highs or plunged to record lows. A sudden increase in the cost of energy, boom-or-bust price changes caused by world food shortages or surpluses, sudden and sharp increases in the value of farm land, and the impact of inflation on the cost of packaging and processing farm products have all contributed to the economic risks which farmers face.

In 1977, American farm exports were valued at \$24 billion—nearly three times the value of 1970's exports. Much of our balance of trade depends upon maintaining or increasing that agricultural export market. Yet bumper crops in 1976 and 1977 translated into low unit prices to farmers—and painful business losses to many of them.

Secretary of Agriculture Bergland has stated that there are four possible solutions to the economic

plight of the family farmer. We could let giant agribusinesses absorb the family farms. We could impose government controls. We could increase the number of farmer cooperatives. Or, we could provide a system of voluntary controls and commodity reserves. The first two of these solutions, of course, are unacceptable to Americans. Farmer cooperatives are a good long-range possibility, but require a high degree of participation by farmers in order to be effective on a large scale. The final alternative is the one which was incorporated in the 1977 Agricultural Act, and the one which is being tested this year for the first time.

This legislation aims to strengthen market prices through loans and target prices, and to establish a reserve program through voluntary set-asides. Surpluses will then be removed from the market, held in reserve, and released to the market when prices reach a "release" level which will assure a fair return to the farmer. Farmers themselves will control the reserves, and the time at which they are released.

This is not a "quick-fix" solution to farm problems, but it does promise steady and sustained growth, with economic protections for family farmers. That goal is of great importance to all of us—farmers, consumers, and taxpayers.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Paying for Government

Taxpayers in each of the other 49 states have watched with interest as California voters made their decision to limit the tax on property to 1 percent of the 1975-1976 assessed value. "Proposition 13" has become an instant code word for tax restraints and tax rollbacks, throughout the country.

The citizens of California resorted to an extreme solution because they had an extreme problem. California taxes have been among the highest in the nation, and the highly inflated real estate prices in that state have compounded the problem, so that in some cases one year's tax was approaching the original cost of the property. For the average middle-income family, the tax cost was a heavy burden, and for the fixed-income homeowner, the tax cost had become prohibitive.

West Virginia has had a tax rate limitation since 1932. That early and sensible decision has kept local and state property taxes in West Virginia at a more modest level. It has been a strong factor in keeping local government aware of the need for sound fiscal policy. As a result, West Virginia property taxes for fiscal year 1974-1975 took only 2.2 percent of state residents' personal income, as compared to the 4.3 percent

U.S. average — and the 5.97 percent paid in California!

However, the decision in California is symbolic of a serious and nationwide problem. Inflation has increased incomes, but it has increased the cost of living even more. It has also increased the percentage of total income paid in taxes, because workers are in higher tax brackets, although their "real" income has gone down 2½ percent in the last 5 years.

Big government is a natural response to big demands. These demands have been made by various groups and individuals in our society for government action to solve specific problems. Making the difficult decisions about where to cut, and how much, should be done carefully. Waste must be eliminated, and firm priorities established. The Congress has recognized the need for fiscal responsibility in the federal budget, and the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was instituted to effectively control and limit government spending without cutting essential defense or social programs. Greater economy in government at every level is a goal which must always be sought. Achieving that goal is best accomplished through reasonable and deliberative decisions on spending limitations.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Aging of America

The English poet, Robert Browning, expressed the desires of most human beings when he wrote, "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be—the last of life, for which the first was made." Yet, throughout the history of mankind, the last of life has usually been far from "the best." Impairment of the senses, loss of the ability to work, or even painful disease has seemed a more likely prospect for the final years of life. That is why many people dread and fear old age.

Yet, America is gradually becoming an "older" nation. In 1940, only 7 percent of all Americans were 65 years of age or older. In 1970, that percentage had grown to 10 percent, and by the year 2000 it is expected that more than 12 percent of our citizens will be more than 65 years of age. Part of the cause for that shift in age groups is the lowering of our birthrate and the decrease in the size of the average family. A second, and even more powerful cause, is the better health care provided for all Americans today, from birth onward. Babies have a better chance of being born healthy and strong, and our medical teams have conquered many diseases which killed or crippled people in earlier times.

Some commentators have jumped to the erroneous conclusion that these

statistics will translate automatically into hardships for younger people, as they struggle to care for nearly 30 million senior citizens who are elderly and ill. However, work being done at the National Institute on Aging, and in other laboratories around the world, indicates that the most likely change will be in our definition of words like "old" and "aging." Scientists have found that healthy organs in the body do not necessarily deteriorate dramatically with age, as was previously believed.

Biologists, nutritionists, gerontologists, geneticists, and other researchers have had success in experiments which extend the lives of laboratory animals or which even reverse the aging process. New drugs, originally developed to combat specific diseases, have provided clues to possible human life-extension. In one experiment, the healthy life-span of mice was increased 10 percent after dosages of a drug used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

The work being done in these laboratories should be of great interest to every American. Age is a future we all share. As our nation grows older and healthier, it is possible for us to hope that we, too, will be stronger and healthier in our later years, the "last of life, for which the first was made."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fighting to Control International Terrorists

In the first week of 1978, a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Britain was shot by an assassin. The victim was considered to be a political moderate, and had made anti-terrorist speeches in the last few months before his death. The terrorist attack on this man was only the first of the acts of international terrorism for this year—and he became an instant statistic in the records of such attacks which are being kept by worried governments everywhere in the world.

Our own CIA has reported a tentative listing of 1,151 such terrorist incidents between 1968 and 1976. Some of those tragedies received media attention, and some did not. Some were crimes against property—bombings, arson, or incendiary attacks. Some were kidnappings, or the taking of hostages. The most tragic were outright assassinations or armed assaults. The single thread which joins all of these cases of international terrorism together is the fact that a violent crime, or the threat of a violent crime, was committed for political purposes. The victim is seen by the terrorist only as a means to an end—a tool to be used to draw attention to a political problem or to force a desired political action.

In the last decade there has been a rapid increase in the number of international terrorist attacks. There is strong evidence

that terrorist groups are shifting to transnational cooperation and are directing terrorism against the existing system of international order, rather than against an isolated political party or the government of one nation.

Although most of the terrorist attacks of the last decade have taken place outside of the United States, the number of international incidents in which American citizens or property were victimized is disproportionately high. Our own strict airport regulations and well-coordinated and sophisticated police procedures are unfortunately not duplicated in most other nations. Both the Administration and the Congress have taken steps to encourage greater international cooperation in bringing terrorism under better control. Security at American installations abroad has been tightened. American businessmen are assisted in providing security for property and employees. Congress has moved to cut off aid to governments which grant sanctuary to terrorists.

The development of firm and uniform international policies toward these criminals is a difficult but very worthwhile goal. The use of terror to achieve political power is an unacceptable development in world affairs. It is the antithesis of everything which our nation believes in and stands for in the world. We must do all we can to make this kind of behavior unsuccessful.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Name for an Old Game

Thousands of years ago, hidden in the mists of pre-historic time, men and women began the invention process which we now call technology development. Whether that first idea was for a wheel, or an oven, or a new way of measuring time, the process was essentially the same as that which takes place today. The inventor recognized a need; he found a new way of using a natural resource, or a new way of doing a job, in order to satisfy that need. His invention changed the lives of his family and friends—and, as information about his idea passed from one group to another, life changed for others, too.

The knowledge he had created about how to do something was valuable in itself—and it became more valuable as it passed from one group to another. Undoubtedly, the discovery was soon made that knowledge has the power to inspire and develop further knowledge. We recognize that fact when we say "one idea leads to another." Wheels led to carts, and carts led to roads, and roads led to commerce and trade.

Transferring "how-to-do-it" knowledge has been an essential ingredient in the history of man's progress. However, our engineering and scientific knowledge has grown so rapidly in the last 100 years, it has become very difficult to discover and organize all the technical information that exists today. Even en-

gineers and scientists are unable to keep up with the ever-increasing storehouse of information. They are too often forced to "re-invent the wheel"—that is, to spend hours and money wastefully duplicating technology which already exists in some other laboratory in some other area of the nation or the world.

When government invests tax dollars in research and development programs, searching for new technology to meet specific public needs, it is sensible to provide a technology transfer system which will make the results of that research available to the public as quickly and understandably as possible. That may mean building a demonstration plant—like the coal liquefaction facility which is proposed for West Virginia. It may mean providing a Technology Access Center, where information can be stored in computers and retrieved by engineers and scientists as it is needed. It may mean publishing reports and technical bulletins for use by industry, or by local and state governments.

The English philosopher, Herbert Spencer, defined science as "organized knowledge." Technology transfer is a new name for the very old process by which mankind has organized and communicated the know-how created by inventors and engineers. It is still one of the most valuable tools we possess.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

NATO: Not a Military Museum

Thirty years ago, the West was recovering from the devastation of World War II when a new danger arose—the threat of Communist aggression. To preserve the hard-won peace, the United States and its Western allies formed a political-military alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which was to become the cornerstone of post-war U.S. foreign policy.

After three decades of peace and prosperity in Europe, the United States is again focusing its attention on the continent's security. The reason for the concern is the steady buildup of Soviet-Warsaw Pact men and munitions in Eastern Europe. Clearly, it is vital that the North Atlantic alliance maintains adequate military strength.

During my recent trip to Europe as President Carter's special emissary, I discussed the state of NATO's defenses with alliance officials and with leaders of three NATO countries — Prime Minister James Callaghan of the United Kingdom, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, and Prime Minister Leo Tindemans of Belgium.

I reassured the European

leaders of the United States' strong support for NATO and for the long-term defense program agreed to in May by representatives attending the Washington NATO summit.

The long-term plan consists of a 10 to 15-year program to coordinate and improve NATO's forces, and a commitment by each member to increase defense spending by 3 percent per year.

All of the leaders were heartened by the United States' renewed commitment to European security and were encouraged by the progress made at the Washington meeting.

NATO's Secretary General Joseph Luns said it would be up to each member country to implement the long-term plan. He said the member countries would move at different paces because of economic and parliamentary difficulties.

It is clear that NATO's leaders have no intention of allowing the alliance's forces to become a military museum. I found, instead, a willingness to send a clear signal to Moscow that the North Atlantic allies stand united and ready to meet any challenge.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Paving the Way for Peace

Turkey, strategically located on the Soviet Union's border, has long been a close and valued ally of the United States. The friendship is based on Turkey's western-style democracy and a common membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the post-war alliance created to protect Western Europe from invasion.

Greece is also an old and trusted ally, as well as a fellow NATO member. For the past 3½ years, the two countries have been feuding over the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, which has both Greek and Turkish residents. In 1974, the Turks quelled a coup on the island mounted by Greek officers and Cypriots who favored a political union between Greece and Cyprus.

Congress imposed an arms embargo on Turkey because the Turks violated U.S. law by using American weapons in the invasion. Also, it was felt that an embargo might pressure Turkey, which still controls the northern third of Cyprus, into making concessions.

The U.S. Senate has adopted an amendment I introduced to repeal the 42-month-old embargo while making further aid to Greece, Turkey and Cyprus dependent on resolution of the conflict.

The amendment also provides for an additional \$35 million in foreign military sales credits to Greece as well as Congressional review of progress in the Cyprus negotiations.

The embargo has served its purpose in registering

our discontent and has become counterproductive. It has not brought Turkey and Greece closer to agreement, and it has jeopardized Turkey's military strength and ability to contribute to NATO's defenses.

Unable to get spare parts or modern weapons, the Turkish army has been forced to cannibalize other equipment.

The Turkish army is the second largest in NATO and its diminished military capability leaves the whole of southeastern Europe, including Greece, more vulnerable to Soviet attack. Such an attack is a possibility, given the unprecedented Soviet buildup on the southern flank and the central front.

European leaders and NATO officials I talked with on my recent trip to Europe were unanimous in urging that the United States lift the embargo. A weakened Turkey weakens NATO, I was told.

There are indications that Turkey and Greece are ready to negotiate on Cyprus, and lifting the embargo improves the atmosphere for concessions. Turkish Cypriot leaders have offered to withdraw from the Greek city of Varosha so that some 35,000 Greek Cypriot refugees can return to their homes and live under an interim, probably U.N., government.

In repealing the arms embargo we are not turning our back on Greece. Our goal is to have strong and friendly nations in the Eastern Mediterranean to maintain the strength of NATO and make possible a just Cyprus settlement.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal: The Nation's Insurance Policy

Coal, West Virginia's greatest natural resource, may also be America's insurance policy in the event of a world-wide oil shortage that could come as early as the mid-1980's.

To mute the impact of soaring oil prices, the federal government plans to use domestic coal as a synthetic substitute for imported oil.

Since World War II, scientists have experimented with processes to turn coal into a liquid fuel. The most promising technique is called solvent refining of coal or SRC, which, in its most advanced form (SRC-II), produces a liquid that meets clean air standards and can be used in existing liquid fuel boilers.

At present there are two small SRC pilot plants—one in Wilsonville, Ala., and a larger one in Tacoma, Wash., which use from six to 50 tons of coal a day to make liquid and solid fuels.

On a much larger scale, the U.S. Department of Energy and a subsidiary of Gulf Oil Corporation plan to build a \$450-\$600 million SRC-II demonstration plant on a site near Morgantown, W. Va. Each day the plant would convert 6,000 tons of high-sulfur coal into clean-burning

fuel and gas byproducts. Under the present schedule, the plant could be in operation by 1983, producing the energy equivalent of a 20,000-barrel-a-day oil refinery.

If the demonstration proves successful, the plant could be enlarged to commercial size, converting 30,000 tons of coal a day into the energy equivalent of 100,000 barrels of oil.

SRC liquid fuel, at an estimated cost of \$20-\$21 a barrel, could also become a bargain if the real price of oil continues to rise.

West Virginia was chosen as the site for the plant because of its abundant coal reserves, its extensive river and rail shipping systems, and its proximity to East Coast utilities and industries, where need for fuel is great.

The plant could become a drawing card, attracting energy-intensive industries to West Virginia, as well as being a good customer for our native coal.

The demonstration plant is contingent upon full approval by Congress, but I am certain that, given the predictions of an energy shortage and President Carter's call to use domestic coal instead of foreign oil, the SRC plant's future is bright.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Realism and Railroads

A quick glance at any map of the United States reveals the impact of railroads on the settlement of our country. As tracks were laid across America, huge areas opened up to farming and ranching; towns sprang up, and cities developed where rail lines met.

Our founding fathers realized that improved transportation was a prerequisite for the success of the American experiment in democracy. George Washington, concerned about uniting the far-flung sections of the continent, wrote that it was necessary through transportation "to supply the cement of interest to bind all parts of the Union together by indissoluble bonds."

Railroads remain the backbone of our transportation system, although they now face stiff competition from highway, barge, and air carriers.

One of the nation's largest freight lines is Consolidated Rail Corp., or ConRail, which Congress created in 1976 by consolidating several bankrupt Northeastern lines.

ConRail carries one-fourth of the nation's freight through 17 states, including West Virginia, where its cars haul thousands of tons of coal, petrochemicals, grain and farm products, lumber and crushed stone. In addition, ConRail employs some 459 West Virginians at an annual payroll of \$7.4 million.

Congress originally intended to sponsor ConRail until it was financially able to stand on its own, but that day seems to be far away. ConRail has again come before Congress—hat in hand, palm extended—asking for more federal dollars. In a time of austerity budgets and conflicting priorities, Congress needs answers to some hard questions.

The Senate has approved an amendment I proposed that would require closer government examination of ConRail's operations. I believe that Congress cannot make informed judgements on budget priorities without accurate, concise, and complete reports.

My amendment directs the U.S. Railway Association, which already monitors ConRail's financial performance, to deliver periodic reports to Congress on ConRail's operations, cost control and marketing policies. In this way, Senators can see what ConRail's problems are and what its managers are doing to correct them.

By identifying and acting on serious problems in plenty of time, we can avoid the disasterous effects on local economies of canceling money-losing routes. We also fulfill our obligations to the customers and communities served by ConRail—as well as to all taxpayers—to assure that the railroad performs according to sound management principles.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Preventable Tragedy

The April 27 tower collapse at Willow Island is all the more tragic because it was preventable. Like so many disasters, it resulted from undetected hazards that caused the scaffolding to crumble, sending 51 men to their deaths.

If only the concrete had been tested and found unsafe; if only the scaffold formwork had been properly secured; if only the beam sections supporting the concrete lifting system atop the tower had been anchored to support the maximum load—this tragedy might never have occurred. That is the judgment of Dr. Eula Bingham, head of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

It is of little consolation to the families who lost brothers, fathers, sons, uncles or nephews at Willow Island that the tragedy could have been prevented. The loss of a loved one can never be compensated. The least that can be done is to quickly and thoroughly complete the investigation and determine the question of guilt or innocence.

Although OSHA has been investigating the matter for three months, the final report is not ready. OSHA officials tell me they are waiting for the National Bureau of Standards to finish tests on the sta-

bility of the tower's concrete and to complete a computer model of the tower. The full investigation should be finished on Sept. 30.

OSHA has already found a total of 10 willful and 10 serious violations committed by the three companies involved in the tower's construction. The firms are appealing the violations, which carry combined penalties of \$108,300.

I have contacted U.S. Secretary of Labor F. Ray Marshall, urging that everything possible be done to expedite the investigation. Also, because of the number and seriousness of the violations OSHA found, I have urged that the agency's findings be turned over to the Justice Department for consideration of a possible criminal investigation.

I am pleased to report that Secretary Marshall has advised me that the Labor Department will share its Willow Island files and a summary of OSHA's findings to date with the Justice Department.

Companies and government agencies responsible for workers' safety must take to heart the lessons learned from the Willow Island tragedy. The terrible price that was paid will never be forgotten.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help for America's Families

Middle-income families with college-bound children have more reason than most to complain that they feel powerless in the ever-tightening pincers of inflation. College costs have risen more than 93 percent since 1967.

To add to their financial woes, middle-income families find they fall between the cracks of most public and private scholarship, grant, and loan programs. They are considered neither poor enough to qualify for aid, nor rich enough to pay the full cost of a college or vocational-technical education.

Federal aid programs are mostly slanted toward low-income families. Of this year's \$8.6 billion spent on college-level school aid, 69 percent will go to low-income students.

Advanced education is now out of the reach of many. The average total yearly cost of a private, four-year college education is about \$6,619 and about \$4,546 at a public institution.

Congress, aware of the financial plight of so many American families, has considered several alternatives, particularly the extension of tuition tax credits. Some proposals considered would

provide credits to parents of elementary and secondary private and parochial students, as well as to college-level students.

I am pleased to report that the Senate, with my support, has passed a bill that would provide a tax credit equal to 50 percent of tuition and fees up to a maximum of \$250 for college, junior college or advanced vocational-technical education effective Aug. 1, 1978. On Oct. 1, 1980, the credit would be increased to a maximum of \$500 per student. The tax credit is subtracted from the amount of taxes owned.

I think we ought to get some experience in dealing with the college-level tuition credit and assess its impact on tuition costs before we proceed to deal with elementary and secondary school tax credits.

As approved by the Senate, the college-level tuition tax credit will particularly benefit middle-income families whose budgets are strained by rising education costs.

Education is a social benefit from which we all profit. As Diogenes said, "The foundation of every state is the education of its youth."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Green Bank's Sky-Scanner

Nestled in the mountains of Green Bank, W.Va., are four giant, ear-like discs, poised and listening to signals emitted by celestial bodies as far away as the edges of our universe.

The discs are actually the 85-foot wide, oval-shaped antennae of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's radio interferometer—a highly sensitive radio telescope built in the 1960's to probe distant galaxies.

About 150 West Virginians, employed at the observatory in technical and administrative positions, came close to losing their jobs recently.

The National Science Foundation, which built and operated the telescope, moved its research facilities to New Mexico. Two Southern Hemisphere countries were interested in the telescope. Any change in ownership would have meant replacing the West Virginia staff.

However, the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington wanted a powerful radio telescope to gather measurements for navigation and time determination. Rather than build a new interferometer at a cost of \$3-\$5 million, the Naval Observatory decided to contract with the National Radio Astronomy Observatory to use the Green Bank equipment.

There was a problem in finding the necessary funds in the Naval Observatory's budget to run the West Virginia facility; but, at my urging, the Navy transferred money from other departments to operate the Green Bank observatory, using the present staff.

While the radio interferometer was originally used for special research problems, the Naval Observatory plans to use it for more practical matters, such as determining the precise time.

Beginning in October, the Naval Observatory hopes to take daily readings of the exact positions of stars, planets, and other celestial bodies. These measurements will be used to set the Naval Observatory's Master Clock in Washington.

The Master Clock is considered to keep the most accurate time in the world—precise to within one second per 3,000 years. Its settings are used to determine the positions of ships, submarines, and aircraft, as well as in coordinating communication of satellites.

West Virginians can take pride in the work that will continue uninterrupted at Green Bank. In its new role, the observatory will continue to make its mark on the world and enhance our national defense.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

"To Debate and Never Vote"

The filibuster, one of the most potent weapons in the arsenal of parliamentary skirmishes, usually refers to the use of continuous talk to delay or kill legislative action.

The time-consuming tactics that are now called filibusters are as old as parliamentary government. Indeed, long-winded speakers were to be found in the Roman Senate as well as America's first colonial assemblies.

The word filibuster only came into popular use in the mid-1800's. It is derived from the Dutch word, *Vrijbouter*, meaning freebooter, referring to 19th century American adventurers who waged unauthorized warfare on foreign lands for plunder or profit. By the late 1800's, the legislative practice, as well as the new meaning of the word, was firmly entrenched in the U.S. Senate.

Filibusters were common in the House of Representatives before they occurred in the Senate, but the larger membership of the House soon resulted in curbs on debate. Today, one hears only of Senate, not House, filibusters.

Filibusters are tolerated perhaps because of the Senate's cherished tradition of respect for both the rights of the individual and the minority. One historian

points out that in the early days of Congress, Senators were much like ambassadors from the sovereign states, treating each other equally and with respect for individual differences.

But, as filibusters proliferated, the Senate moved to curb flagrant abuses. In 1917, the Senate adopted a provision for cloture or limitation of debate. Later amended over the years, the rule now requires the votes of 60 Senators to invoke cloture.

Cloture, however, has not proved the end of a filibuster. It is still possible for one Senator to prevent a final vote by repeatedly requesting roll calls, quorum calls, and other delaying parliamentary maneuvers.

Because such stratagems stall the legislative process, I have proposed a resolution to change the Senate rules so that after cloture is invoked, the Senate has a maximum of 50 hours to further debate the clotured matter before a final vote is taken.

Post-cloture filibusters are an anachronism in a world where pressing problems abound. The Senate must remove roadblocks to its effective functioning.

As one Senator long ago said, "To vote without debate is perilous, but to debate and never vote is imbecile."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Case for Compromise

In the heat of Indian summer, it is hard to remember the bitter cold of the last two winters. We forget that schools and factories closed, and people shivered in frigid houses because of a natural gas shortage.

The Senate, at this writing, is considering a natural gas compromise bill that would help prevent future gas shortages, and gear our national energy policy toward reliance on domestic, rather than imported, fuels.

At the present time, gas sold in the state in which it is produced is unregulated and brings a higher price than gas sold in the interstate, federally-regulated market. The result of such a dual price system has been surpluses of gas in the producing states and shortages elsewhere.

Another serious consequence is that industrial users, afraid of disruptions in gas supplies, tend to burn foreign oil, or costly liquid natural gas imported from abroad, rather than domestic natural gas. Reliance on imported oil is a chief cause of inflation.

The natural gas compromise bill would begin to phase out the distinction between interstate and intrastate markets in order to create a national market. Federal pricing regulations would be lifted from all newly discovered gas by 1985. The bill en-

courages increased and uninterrupted gas supplies, gradual price rises and industrial use of domestic gas instead of foreign oil.

Most importantly, passage of the bill would help restore the international community's faith in America's ability to deal with long-term energy problems. Other nations are watching us to see if we have the fortitude and self-discipline to curtail our appetite for foreign oil.

European leaders, during my recent trip overseas, repeatedly told me of their concern about the United States' failure to enact a national energy policy. There are already tangible signs of international doubts about America's global influence. The U.S. dollar has lost 30 percent of its value against strong currencies. Other nations think we are simply printing more dollars to buy foreign oil, thus, flooding the world with worthless currency.

Passage of the compromise gas bill would symbolize U.S. resolve to deal with energy needs, and would do much to restore confidence in the dollar, correct our balance of trade deficit, and cut inflation.

It is my hope that Congress will accept its responsibility, rise above regional and vested interests, and vote in the nation's interest for the compromise natural gas bill.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Free Trade: A Two-Way Street

Japan may be half a world away, but business decisions made there have had a profound effect on West Virginia's coal miners.

Japan was once a major customer of U.S. coking coal used in steel production, but since 1970 its imports of our coal have declined by 20 percent. During the past few years, West Virginia's share of total U.S. coal exports has dropped from 64 percent in 1973 to 44 percent in 1977.

The West Virginia Coal Association estimates that 2,500 mining jobs have been eliminated since last March because of the world-wide decline in coking coal purchases.

The Japanese say they buy less coal because their steel mills are only running at 70 percent capacity in a depressed world market. They also say that U.S. coal, while it may be the best in the world, is not competitively priced with cheaper coals from Australia and Canada.

It is true that U.S. coal costs more, but it also has more carbon per ton so that steel mills can use coals of lesser qualities and still produce an acceptable coke strength. Thus, if compared with other coals in cost per carbon unit, U.S. coal is competitive.

In recent meetings with Japan's minister of external economic affairs and

with a high official of Japan's largest steel company, I stressed the cost-comparison benefits of our coal and urged Japan to buy more of it.

I also suggested that buying more American coal was the quickest way to improve Japan's trade imbalance with the United States, which is threatening American jobs. I reminded the Japanese officials that free-trade is a two-way street and that Japan has a responsibility to buy more American goods.

I am happy to report that a coal industry expert will be included in the special trade mission to Japan in early October to seek ways to improve the balance of trade.

In the post-war reconstruction era, we helped rebuild Japan's steel industries. Under Japanese assurances of continued purchases, U.S. coal producers invested in new mines, plants and equipment. Some of those mines have been forced to close and others are operating on shortened workweeks because of cutbacks in imports.

If the trade imbalance continues and more American jobs suffer, the protectionist sentiment will grow in Congress. In the interests of free trade, it is incumbent upon the Japanese to hold up their end of the coal bargain.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fine-Tuning the Bureaucracy

"POSITION WANTED— A gentleman who is well-qualified to be a government clerk is willing to pay a portion of his salary every month to anyone who will get him a place in the Departments."

The above classified ad appeared in a mid-1800's newspaper, where it was not uncommon to see offers of cash or monthly payments for help in securing a federal government job in Washington.

In the last century, government jobs were openly bought and sold or doled out through the infamous "spoils system." Federal jobs were used as payoffs for political support, so that every time a new administration came to town, employees appointed under the old administration were fired and replaced by new office seekers.

Apart from the graft and corruption bred by the spoils system, there was almost no continuity in government. The public was understandably outraged, but reform was slow in coming. Only after the assassination of President Garfield by a disappointed job seeker, did Congress create the Civil Service system in 1883.

The new system was expected to correct the abuses by establishing a

permanent bureaucracy of employees hired for their qualifications rather than their political connections.

Over the years, however, the pendulum has swung too far in a protective reaction to the spoils system. By trying to prevent political patronage abuses, the Civil Service has become mired in paperwork and policies that make it almost impossible to fire incompetent workers, reward excellent job performances or speedily hire new workers.

Studies show that it takes an average of seven months to hire a mid-level white-collar worker and up to three years to fire an unsatisfactory employee.

President Carter made reform of the civil service a high priority of his new administration. I am pleased to report that Congress has approved the administration's reform legislation, which simplifies and expedites hiring and firing procedures, provides a system of pay incentives, and creates an elite corps of senior executives that trade some job security for a chance at higher pay for top performances.

All of us will benefit from a revitalized civil service, because in the long run, the result will be a more efficient and better-run Service.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Blueprint for Peace

The Middle East has been convulsed by periodic outbursts of violence and open warfare for the last thirty years. Only a short time ago, a deadlock in Israeli-Egyptian talks threatened to dissolve into a fifth major war.

The Camp David Summit has profoundly altered the situation. Through the courage, flexibility and vision of the three main participants — President Carter, Prime Minister Begin, and President Sadat—the prospects of a Middle East peace have brightened.

Already, the Israeli government has voted overwhelmingly to dismantle its settlements in the Sinai and accept the Camp David accords as a blueprint for a peace treaty with Egypt to be signed in a matter of weeks. The chances of a major Mideast war will diminish because Israel's neighbors will not risk a clash without help from Egypt.

To be sure, problems remain, subsequent negotiations will be trying at times, but, so long as the "spirit of Camp David" prevails, differences of opinion need not be obstacles to peace.

A larger question remains

unanswered. Will the Camp David agreements result only in a separate Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement, or will they lead to a comprehensive Mideast peace involving all of Israel's neighbors?

The answer lies in the willingness of Jordan, at least, and, hopefully, also Saudi Arabia and Syria, to accept the agreements' detailed language dealing with the future of the West Bank, Gaza, and the Palestinian refugees.

So far, the Arab nations have been reluctant to fully endorse the Camp David accords. It is hoped that the Arab leaders will remember that peace is in the national interest of all Mideast countries.

All parties involved, including the United States, have a stake in stabilizing the oil-rich Middle East by promoting moderate governments that resist Communist influence. Another compelling argument for peace is that money now spent on weapons, could be spent on schools, roads, hospitals, and other badly needed structures.

Peace will not come easily, but as long as national interests are kept in mind, peace will come eventually.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An American Tradition Falters

Hard work has long been an American tradition. The country's earliest settlers, repelled by the leisured, indulgent life of the European aristocracy, prided themselves on long hours of toil.

Newcomers, fresh from class-bound societies, have always known that America was the "land of opportunity," where performance mattered more than wealth or family background.

This reverence for work spawned high rates of productivity or average output per hour of labor. As productivity rose, wages and living standards improved.

In view of this cultural history, it is disquieting to note that for the past ten years, America's productivity has been slipping. Throughout the 1950's and 1960's, the rate of productivity zoomed at nearly 3 percent a year. In the years after 1968, the trend dropped to half that rate. Since late 1976, it has barely risen at all.

These figures are particularly disturbing when compared with productivity rates in other industrialized countries. The United States now trails Japan, France, West Germany, and even Italy, in productivity in manufacturing. The U.S. is now on a par with Great Britain,

often cited as the world's great example of industrial decline.

No one is sure why American productivity has fallen. Many explanations have been offered, such as: declining business investments; decreased funding of research and development; increased government regulations that require industry to invest in expensive equipment, but do not contribute to worker output; and an influx of new, inexperienced workers.

There is agreement among economists that sagging productivity has added to inflationary pressures. The situation is of great concern to Congress and the Carter administration. President Carter has announced plans to appoint a task force to review all federal government programs that affect productivity, and Congress has devised legislation to encourage investment and economic growth.

But, the federal government and the private sector can only do so much. In the final analysis, productivity is the responsibility of each worker.

Perhaps it is time to reflect on the cultural values that built a strong America and remember Thomas Carlyle's words, "Work alone is noble."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The 95th Congress: A Benchmark

The 95th Congress, just ended, was the toughest and most productive session I have experienced in my 26 years on Capitol Hill. I cannot remember a Congress that dared to tackle and resolve such emotional, divisive and long-standing issues.

Congress' top priority, and its greatest achievement, was the passage of a comprehensive energy package that included natural gas deregulation, utility rate reform, and coal conversion legislation — as well as a carrot-and-stick approach of credits and taxes to encourage conservation.

For the first time, our nation has the foundation of an energy policy that rewards conservation, promotes greater domestic fuel production, and discourages reliance on imported fuels. The international community is expected to respond to our initiatives with increased faith in the dollar's stability and in America's ability to lead the world in solving a global problem.

The 95th Congress also devoted much of its work to holding down inflation by cutting out excess government spending and by passing major tax reforms. Congress shaved \$13.6 billion from the President's suggested budget figure and pared the federal deficit to

\$38.8 billion, the lowest since 1974.

Congress also passed an \$18.7 billion tax cut that concentrates more than half of its relief on those with incomes less than \$30,000. The bill is also designed to cut corporate taxes to encourage investment.

On the domestic front, Congress also: refinanced the Social Security system; raised the minimum wage; passed major civil service reforms to increase government efficiency; approved an airline deregulation bill to encourage airfare competition; passed major banking legislation to end preferential treatment of bank officers; and approved the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill that sets national goals for unemployment and inflation rates.

Both houses played active parts in vital foreign policy matters. The Senate, in accordance with its constitutional role, strengthened and ratified the Panama Canal treaties and approved the President's Mideast arms sales. Congress also voted to lift the Turkish arms embargo to shore up the defenses of a crucial NATO ally.

These are but a few of the many achievements of the 95th Congress — a session that historians, no doubt, will look back on as a benchmark of courageous and farsighted legislation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fighting the Nation's Number One Problem

Much of the work in the 95th Congress, recently adjourned, was devoted to finding innovative ways to combat inflation—the nation's number one problem.

Nowhere are Congress' anti-inflation efforts more evident than in its handling of the fiscal year 1979 budget. President Carter submitted his suggested \$501.1 billion budget to Congress last January.

Congress reduced those figures once in May by setting a spending target of \$498.8 billion or \$2.3 billion below the President's figure, and again in September, by voting a mandatory spending ceiling of \$487.5 billion, for a total decrease of \$13.6 billion.

By clamping a lid on excess spending, Congress has reduced the federal budget deficit to \$38.8 billion, which is about \$11 billion less than the fiscal 1978 deficit, \$21 billion under the President's projected budget deficit, and the lowest since 1974.

The goal, of course, in reducing the deficit is to achieve a balanced budget. The Senate Budget Committee expects that continued spending restraint over the next five years will make it possible to attain that goal.

Congress has further moved against inflation by recognizing the high cost of excessive government regulation and working to

reduce it to encourage free market competition. The airline deregulation bill is a case in point. The bill is designed to spur competition among airlines, resulting in lower airfares to consumers.

Unemployment is as serious a concern to Congress as is inflation. The Senate has acted to reduce joblessness in the least inflationary way, by targeting federal job and training programs to benefit the hard-to-employ. In this way, the unemployment rate decreases, without fueling inflation by raising the wages of those already employed.

Congress also passed an \$18.7 billion tax cut that concentrates 60 percent of its tax relief on those whose incomes range between \$5,000-\$30,000. Other aspects of the tax measure are designed to encourage corporate growth and investment, which in turn reduce unemployment.

Finally, passage of major energy legislation was the capstone on Congress' anti-inflation campaign. The energy package will help reduce our reliance on imported oil, a chief cause of inflation and instability of the dollar abroad.

More can be done — and will be done — to reduce the high cost of living. Congress has already taken the first steps on the path toward reducing inflation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Black Lung: Coal Miner's Burden

Few occupations demand as much of a person's health as does coal mining. Studies show that, in addition to the danger of serious accidents, miners run a high risk of developing stomach and lung cancers, and chronic respiratory ailments.

Black lung disease, known to doctors as pneumoconiosis, is one of the most invidious afflictions likely to attack a miner. If undetected and untreated, the disease can severely impair ability to breathe. Apart from making it impossible to work or lead a normal life, black lung can be fatal.

The federal government first began to provide compensation to miners with black lung disease in 1969. However, there were complaints that many who suffered the disease could not receive benefits because of the law's complexities.

Last March, Congress amended the law and simplified the application process, broadened the definition of the disease, changed the rules on how it is diagnosed, and cut out many restrictions on who may receive benefits.

Congress also ordered a review of all cases where

black lung benefits have been denied. However, the medical facilities available for such retesting are limited.

In 1972, Congress authorized a program of clinics set up near the mines to test, diagnose and treat miners for work-related illnesses. Funding ran out for the clinics in 1975, but was reestablished this year.

But the funds were not sufficient to comply with the Congressional order to review the thousands of cases where benefits have been denied.

I sponsored an amendment which resulted in funding of an additional \$7.5 million for the Black Lung Clinic Grant Program, to expand the number of clinics as well as operate existing clinics.

These clinics are valuable in that they provide an early warning system for diagnosing black lung, thus keeping miners from lengthy hospitalization. In one clinic, there was a 35-percent reduction in hospitalization.

The coal miner is an essential element of the nation's work force, and funds spent on his health are a wise investment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reining in Runaway Regulations

Regulatory agencies are like people, an economist once noted. They are vigorous in youth, mellow in middle age, and sometimes senile in old age.

The federal regulatory system has been a source of contention and a target for reform since Congress established the first agency, the Interstate Commerce Commission, in 1887 to correct railroad industry abuses.

Since then, regulatory agencies have proliferated and their powers have multiplied, so that today, more than 60 independent commissions and executive agencies write thousands of rules and regulations each year.

Federal regulations do provide many benefits that we take for granted, such as purer foods, safer drugs, better workplaces, cleaner air and water, and other factors that make up our high standard of living.

But, too often, the regulatory agencies produce petty rules that conflict and overlap, and do little to protect the public from unfair and unsafe business practices. The agencies are marred by too much inertia, waste, delay and harassment, while consumers are taxed with higher prices and businessmen with increased costs.

Excessive regulation is also a major factor in spiraling inflation. One study predicts that federal regulations next year will cost approximately \$103 billion, or \$5 billion in administrative costs and \$98 billion

in compliance costs for the private sector. It is estimated that in the last ten years, regulations have driven up the price of a new car by an average of \$666.

Whenever possible and without endangering the public's welfare, Congress is attempting to eliminate the federal regulatory role so as to allow free market competition to bring down prices.

The 95th Congress passed two bills designed to meet these objectives. The natural gas deregulation bill phases out federal price controls by 1985. The airline deregulation bill gradually reduces the role of the Civil Aeronautics Board in airlines' fare and route decisions and abolishes the CAB altogether in 1984.

Congress must also scrutinize the individual agencies to see that they are acting effectively, balancing the costs and benefits of regulations.

I have cosponsored legislation which requires Congress to review and reauthorize 18 major regulatory agencies once every ten years in order to guarantee regular review of agency performance. The legislation was incorporated in a bill that passed in the Senate, but not in the House, and should remain a major priority in the 96th Congress.

Only through continued and systematic review of the regulatory agencies can we hope to control runaway federal regulations.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Silent on the Sidelines

Nearly two-thirds of the nation's eligible voters did not vote in the recent congressional elections. The estimated 34-36 percent that did vote is the lowest percentage of participation in a non-presidential election since World War II.

The decline in American voting, which began about 1960, is a source of concern to legislators and scholars, who see it as an erosion of our democratic institutions. Others are concerned that low turnouts give small, but highly vocal groups, an exaggerated impact on election results.

During the last decade more than 15 million eligible Americans, many of whom were regular voters, stopped voting altogether. In addition, a smaller percentage of Americans are registering to vote each year.

Other democracies have much higher election participation. It is not uncommon for 74 percent of the voters in Canada or 91 percent in West Germany to cast ballots. By contrast, one study shows that voter turnout in the U.S. has fallen below every other democracy in the world except Botswana.

The decline in voting occurs, paradoxically, at a time when it is easier than ever to vote. In the last 15 years, literacy tests and poll taxes were abolished,

discrimination on the basis of race and language was prohibited, residency requirements were eased, and the voting age was lowered to 18. But, despite these changes, voter participation continues to fall.

Political scientists attribute the decline to many factors, including disenchantment with the political process following the Vietnam War and the Watergate scandal, weakening of party loyalties, and the lowering of the voting age to include the highly mobile young. Mobility may also affect voting patterns among older people. Newly-arrived families may have been politically active in their home town, but often do not identify with their new community, or may not know the local candidates.

One political scientist found that voters and non-voters do not differ much in terms of race, wealth or education, but do differ in their outlook on life. Non-voters tend to believe their future is largely a matter of luck, while voters are more likely to believe they can plan and control their lives.

A democracy is founded on the principle that the leadership of the nation depends on the consent of the governed. Only through voting can that consent be given.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Aftermath of the Oil Embargo

Five years after the 1973 oil embargo, there are indications that America's traditional patterns of energy consumption are changing.

In many ways, large and small, the embargo and subsequent steep rise in the price of all fuels have affected the way Americans build and heat their homes, travel and conduct their businesses.

In the area of auto use, sales of small cars are up, amounting to 48 percent of all new cars purchased last year, against 35 percent in 1972. Annual consumption of motor fuels since 1973 has risen at a yearly pace of about 2 percent, down from 5 to 6 percent in the 1960s.

Much of the decline is attributed to the fuel efficiency of U.S.-made cars, as required by Congress in 1975. New cars made this year will get about 19 miles to the gallon. By 1985, that figure must rise to 27.5 miles, compared to the average 1973 figure of 14 miles to the gallon. Congress, this year, also enacted the so-called gas guzzler tax, effective for 1980 models to further discourage fuel inefficiency.

There has been a marked reduction in the use of home-heating fuels as well, following the more than doubling of the retail price of natural gas since 1973, and a two-thirds rise in the price of electricity. With greater use of insulation in newly-constructed and older homes, plus lowering of thermostats, there has been a 13 percent reduction in

per-unit residential use of natural gas between 1973 and 1976, and a reduction from 6 to 3 percent in the average annual growth of home electricity use. The home insulation tax credit recently passed by Congress should encourage more homeowners to install insulation, weatherstripping, caulking and storm windows.

Manufacturers have also cut their fuel bills. One research group reports that total energy consumption in the U.S. industrial sector dropped by 13 percent between 1973 and 1976, while production remained steady. Manufacturers also are using more coal rather than costly natural gas or imported oil, a trend that is expected to continue. The movement toward coal is particularly apparent in the energy-production area. The National Coal Association reports that no new gas-fired utility plants are expected to be built after next year, and no new oil-fired plants after 1984.

Other changes in energy consumption include greater use of mass transit facilities, and increased funding of research into new energy sources. Designs of commercial buildings are also changing, making better use of direct sunlight to share the work of lighting and heating office buildings and hotels.

These changes are encouraging signs that Americans are ready to accept the responsibilities of conserving energy in order to adapt to present-day conditions.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Controlling Government Growth

The resurgence of inflation is, without doubt, the most serious problem facing our nation. Congress is aware that in recent years the growth of the federal government has had an impact on inflation.

For the last three years, Congress has been examining a procedure to restore congressional control over the federal budget and the spread of the bureaucracy. That procedure is known as the sunset bill.

In the most general sense, a sunset law is one which states that certain specified activities of government will end—the sun will set—unless specifically continued by the legislative branch of government. Within this broad definition, the term “sunset” can take many different forms. Sunset laws have been adopted in 28 states so far, in widely differing versions with varying effectiveness.

As applied to Congress, the sunset bill would require congressional review and re-authorization of nearly all federal programs and agencies once every ten years. The programs would expire unless Congress voted to re-authorize them. Some of the exemptions to sunset review would include Social Security, the Federal debt, civil rights programs, federal retirement and disability, Medicare, and income tax refunds.

Sometimes, Congress would decide to extend a

program without any changes. At other times, Congress would want to consider major alterations to improve programs. The sunset bill also allows the option of terminating a program that is no longer effective and responsive.

Two factors led to the development of the sunset bill: the vast number and complexity of federal programs, and the fact that only 25 percent of the federal budget is under direct control of Congress. The other 75 percent of the budget consists of programs where spending has been set by earlier congressional action and cannot be appreciably altered.

Critics of the sunset bill fear that it would increase the workload of Congress and require the hiring of more staff. There is no question that the review of government programs would be extra work, but the bill is designed to make the workload manageable. Programs with similar functions would be reviewed at the same time to facilitate evaluation and help eliminate overlapping programs.

The Senate passed the sunset bill in October, but the bill died for lack of House action. It is expected that the bill will be reintroduced in the 96th Congress, where it is likely to remain a high priority in the fight against inflation and excess government spending.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Still a Nation of Readers

"Reading maketh a full man," Sir Francis Bacon, the English philosopher once wrote. Wise men throughout the centuries have extolled the pleasures and benefits to be gained from reading widely and well.

Educators, for many years, have warned that the diversions of American life, chief among them television-viewing, were luring many people away from books.

A recent landmark survey, conducted by the book industry and the Library of Congress' Center for the Book, sheds a new light on America's reading habits.

The study was based on interviews with a representative sample of 1,450 Americans, aged 16 or over, in 165 U.S. cities.

The survey disclosed the heartening finding that America is still a nation of readers. Nearly 94 percent of those polled had read either books, magazines or newspapers in the six months preceding May, 1978.

But, of that majority, 39 percent read only periodicals. Many of those interviewed said their time was too fragmented by activities to read books.

Television remains a major factor in assessing the nation's reading patterns, for 76 percent of those

polled listed TV-watching as their major leisure activity. There was little difference in the amount of television-viewing among book-readers, non-book readers, and non-readers.

The survey discovered a kind of inverse ratio between the reader and non-reader. Those who read more, do more; and because they do more, organize their time better to include many outside activities.

The most popular non-fiction categories chosen were biographies and autobiographies, and the most popular fiction categories were action and adventure stories, as well as historical novels.

The survey did not disclose the quality of the books and other materials that were read. The Center for the Book, a privately-funded office in the Library of Congress, is studying the survey to answer the questions of what Americans like to read and how good reading habits can be encouraged.

The best books challenge and extend us. They are our connection to the history, culture, poetry, and drama of the past. They reveal the secrets of greatness in the lives of the most famous men and women. Good books ignite the spirit and nourish the mind.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Defusing a Global Time Bomb

Only ten years ago, many experts predicted that the world's growing population was a time bomb that could explode into mass starvation, world chaos, and even world war by the year 2,000.

The latest U.S. Census Bureau figures indicate that the time bomb may have been defused by family-planning efforts in the most populous countries.

The Census Bureau reports that for the first time in the history of population statistics, world population growth has slowed. Since 1970, the global population has increased 1.9 percent annually, while in the previous 15 years, it had been rising at 2 percent each year.

While the decline of a tenth of a percentage point does not seem substantial, demographers are encouraged by the change in direction the figures represent.

World population growth has been accelerating rapidly in recent years. Global population was estimated at 1 billion in 1830, at 2 billion in 1930, at 3 billion in 1960, and at 4 billion in 1975. Predictions of the world's population by the year 2,000 range from 5.8 billion to 6.3 billion.

According to the new

statistics, some of the most populated countries that were viewed as seedbeds for population explosion—such as China, India, Indonesia, and Egypt—are showing evidence of major and continuing birth-rate declines.

The declines are attributed to the success of family planning programs. As of 1976, 63 countries had launched such programs.

Many experts believe that excessive population growth diminishes the quality of life. The problem is particularly grave in developing nations, which exist at substandard levels and already suffer for want of enough food, education, employment, and housing. Overpopulation also has the potential to stimulate political unrest and conflict within and among nations. Moreover, allocation and availability of food resources could become a critical factor in world stability.

Over the years, the United States government has affirmed its support in solving population problems, and has contributed substantially to assistance programs and research. The heartening news that world population growth may no longer be a crisis, is evidence that our efforts have been rewarded.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The High Cost of Hospital Care

Ten years ago, the average cost of a day in the hospital was \$55 and the average cost of a hospital stay of 8.4 days was \$469. Today, the average daily rate is \$200 and the average stay of 7.7 days costs \$1,543.

At the current rate of increase, in five years hospital costs will rise to an average of \$373 a day and \$2,872 for an average stay of a little more than a week.

Last year, Americans spent over \$160 billion for health care. Hospital costs amounted to 40 percent of the total health care bill and have been rising at a rate of about 15 percent a year.

Hospitals note that the prices they pay for goods and services — employees' wages, food and fuel, medical malpractice insurance, and equipment costs—have all increased. Hospital administrators say they cannot provide quality health care on shoestring budgets.

But, critics say that many hospitals have become inefficient, causing costs to rise unnecessarily, because there is no competition among them and no incentive to control costs.

A large part of the inflation is attributed to the fact that hospitals are paid for bills they submit to insurance companies or federal or state programs, such as Medicare or Medicaid. More than 90 percent of all hospital costs are

paid for by someone other than the patient. There is no incentive to cut costs when bills, no matter how large, will be reimbursed by a third party.

Other factors that fuel hospital inflation include: the labor-intensive nature of the industry, overabundance of empty beds costing about \$20,000 per bed to maintain, and duplicate equipment and services in the same city or area.

President Carter has proposed mandatory controls limiting hospital cost increases to 9 percent a year, with smaller increases in subsequent years until a new hospital payment system can be implemented. The legislation would also address the bed-surplus and bed-shortage problem and encourage sharing of expensive equipment among nearby hospitals.

The hospital industry, protesting mandatory controls, has implemented a voluntary plan to reduce costs by two percent each year. The success of the plan has yet to be determined.

Congress, this fall, considered a compromise bill that would impose mandatory controls to contain hospital costs if the hospitals' voluntary efforts failed. The Senate passed the bill, but the House failed to act.

Hospital cost containment, as an important part of the nation's battle against inflation, is likely to remain a high priority of the 96th Congress.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America on a Spending Spree

There are indications that, despite high inflation, many Americans may be sliding too deeply into debt.

At the end of October, Americans owed a total of \$265 billion on installment loans, an increase of nearly 20 percent from the year before. Savings, on the other hand, are down to 5.1 percent of disposable income, compared to 1973, when people saved an average of 7.8 percent of their income.

Auto sales climbed to a record high in 1978, and sales of such luxury items as jewelry, art, boats, and European vacations also have increased. The real estate market is booming, despite the fact that interest rates on borrowed money are high. Outstanding mortgages are close to 48 percent of Americans' combined disposable income, compared with 41 percent in 1975.

Thus far, consumers apparently have been able to service their debts with little problem. However, economists are concerned that household indebtedness could constrain future spending and contribute to a recession, causing more widespread financial difficulties.

Inflation, historically, has acted as a brake on spending. For reasons that eco-

nomics analysts cannot entirely explain, inflation is not functioning in the traditional manner today.

However, analysts have offered several explanations for the country's current spending spree: credit terms are relatively easy, people apparently expect prices to rise even further so they buy now, and an unusually high proportion of the population is in the age group that is normally debt-prone.

Since 1972, the number of people 25 to 44 years old has been increasing at seven times the rate in the 1946-71 period. People in this age group are furnishing houses and raising families. They are more apt to borrow on the expectation that their incomes will increase later on.

Changes in credit laws have made credit easier to obtain, and many people like the convenience of revolving credit in the form of credit cards and bank overdraft privileges. People are also taking larger loans at lower rates for longer periods. The standard car loan now runs for four years instead of three.

Credit, no doubt, has helped many people build better lives, but simply because it is readily available, we must guard against mortgaging ourselves beyond our ability to pay.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Killing the Golden Goose

An ancient fable tells of the farmer who had a goose that laid eggs of gold. Consumed with greed, the farmer killed the goose, thinking he'd find many golden eggs. Needless to say, the end of the goose was the end of the golden eggs.

The recent 14.5 percent incremental increase in oil prices announced by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), brings to mind the tale of the golden eggs. OPEC members, aware that their vast oil-fields may someday run dry, appear eager to get the maximum benefit from the West's gold to develop their own economies quickly.

The price increase threatens the prosperity of every oil-consuming country. In the U.S., the increase is expected to force up prices of consumer goods, adding an estimated .3 to .4 percentage point to the inflation rate. Overall, prices are expected to rise between 7 and 7.5 percent in 1979. The price of gasoline is expected to go up between 3 and 5 cents a gallon by next October.

Thus, OPEC's price boost will aggravate our battle with inflation, and will impede the world's economic recovery from the sudden 1973 oil-price explosion.

The oil producers, in the long run, may find that their decision to continue raising their prices has backfired. Excessive oil price increases could spur a recession in the West and boomerang against

OPEC, both by reducing energy demand and by jeopardizing OPEC's huge investments.

OPEC officials said the price increase was necessary to recover purchasing power lost through inflation in the cost of Western goods, and in the decline of the dollar, the currency on which the OPEC pricing system is based. OPEC was able to carry out the increase in part because Iran's political turmoil has disrupted oil production, reducing the world's oil supply, while demand for oil has increased.

Recently, at the request of President Carter, I visited Saudi Arabia and other Mideast countries. I urged Saudi leaders to convince other producers to freeze oil prices at the December OPEC meeting in Abu Dhabi. When the Saudis said some increase was unavoidable, I emphasized that an immediate 10 percent increase could have serious international results. I stressed that any increase should be held within 5 percent for the year, and that any larger increases should be graduated and reviewed in the light of future economic conditions.

While OPEC's decision to raise prices is deplorable, the cartel's action may have revived interest in improved conservation efforts, and in development of alternate fuels from coal, shale, geothermal, and solar sources. The best way to break OPEC's stranglehold is to reduce drastically our dependence upon its oil.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taking Heed of America's New Investors

In an abrupt shift during the last decade, American investments abroad have slowed, while foreign investments in U.S. real estate, farmlands, and industries have grown rapidly.

Accurate statistics on foreign purchases of real estate and farms are unavailable, but the federal government does monitor direct investment of securities from Treasury bills to common stock. Those holdings increased from \$175 billion in 1973 to \$311 billion in 1977, not far below the \$381 billion in U.S. investment abroad.

Acquisitions of American companies, and building of new plants by foreigners have increased an estimated 40 percent in the last year.

There are many reasons for the rise in foreign investment here: greater political stability, lower rates of inflation and taxation, large pools of skilled and highly productive labor, and a weakened dollar that makes most purchases bargain-priced.

Congress is concerned about possible drawbacks to direct foreign investments, which, so far, represent a small share of total U.S. investment. Disadvantages would include neglect of local community responsibilities by absentee landlord owners, loss of some American-earned profits to stockholders overseas, possible inflation of farmland prices due to heavy foreign bidding, remoteness of home offices to concerns of U.S. workers, and loss of top management and technical positions to foreigners.

Congress has already tightened restrictions on foreign banks, and has passed legislation requir-

ing disclosure of farmland ownership.

In addition, Congress has ordered the U.S. Commerce Department to prepare regular five-year nationwide studies on foreign investment. The first study, released in 1976, concluded that foreign investments in the U.S. have essentially the same economic effects as domestic investments; i.e., they bring in jobs and money. The study also showed that the jobs go overwhelmingly to local workers. Of the 1.8 million employees of foreign-owned companies in 1974, only 42,699 were foreigners.

Many states, including West Virginia, have shown an interest in foreign investment as a way to create jobs and to provide money to update manufacturing plants. According to the Commerce Department study, in 1974, West Virginia had \$528 million worth of foreign investment, which provided jobs for 9,419 employees.

The state government of West Virginia encourages joint ventures that do not leave total control in the hands of a foreign company. An example is the agreement between the U.S., Japan, and West Germany to share the cost of building the proposed Gulf Oil Corporation solvent-refined coal plant in Morgantown. In return for helping with the expense of developing a process that turns coal into a clean, liquid boiler fuel, the other countries will have access to the new technology.

While we must continue to monitor foreign investment in our country, such cooperation may be increasingly necessary as nations recognize their interdependence in the changing economic world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Modern Treatment of Crime

For more than ten years, Congress has labored at the mammoth task of consolidating and modernizing all the federal criminal laws passed since 1789. This task had never before been attempted in the history of our country.

Congress' objective was to take some 3,000 laws—some obscure, some contradictory, some anachronistic—and replace them with a consistent, rational Criminal Code.

The revised Code, which resulted from the years of research, eliminates such outmoded statutes as laws that detain a government carrier pigeon. Modern phenomena, such as white-collar crimes, are dealt with more severely than at present. Mandatory sentences are required for trafficking in opiates or using a gun in the course of a crime. Laws concerning wiretapping, public demonstrations, and press protection have been strengthened.

The Code's two major contributions are abolishment of parole in most instances so as to ensure certainty of punishment, and establishment of a unified sentencing system to reduce disparities that now exist. Currently, a judge in one state may routinely hand down a sentence of 18 years for a bank robbery conviction, while a judge in another state may hand down a sentence of six years for the same crime.

The new Code establishes nine specific classes of crime, ranging from those punishable by a maximum of life imprisonment, down to those punishable by no more than five days in jail. Every crime designated elsewhere in the Code is matched to one of those categories. A sentencing commission would be appointed to write a range of sentencing guidelines to which federal judges would adhere. A judge would have to justify any divergence from the guidelines.

Under the new Code, federal sentences for the first time could be appealed, with an appellate court reviewing the judge's adherence to the guidelines.

This system is designed to promote greater uniformity and fairness in sentencing, while retaining flexibility for judges.

The abolishment of parole, and the reduction of so-called "good behavior" credits given prisoners, reflect modern criminal justice opinion that surer sentences are a greater deterrent to crime, and would result in more equitable treatment of prisoners.

The Senate passed the revised Criminal Code last year, but the House failed to move the bill out of committee. Because the new Code represents a major advance in the principle of equal justice for all, it should be re-examined by the 96th Congress.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balanced Budget: Goal or Requirement?

Every American knows the importance of operating on a balanced budget. Those who spend more than they earn may soon find themselves without personal belongings.

Many Americans are asking themselves, "If I have to balance my budget, why shouldn't the government be forced to balance its budget?"

There is growing support in some areas for a constitutional amendment to require the federal government to balance its budget every year. While I am in favor of a balanced budget, such a constitutional amendment could endanger the nation's security and economic health by its inherent inflexibility.

What would we do if a severe economic downturn developed, as it did in the Great Depression, throwing thousands of Americans out of work? A constitutionally-required balanced budget could prevent the federal government from spending the necessary funds to create job programs to counteract high unemployment.

An international crisis could also develop that might call for extraordinary defense or security expenses — expenses that might unbalance the budget.

A constitutional amendment, once it is passed, is difficult and time-consuming to alter. In times of crisis and rapid economic fluctuation, Congress must not be straitjacketed by an inflexible constitutional requirement.

Many people point out that several state govern-

ments have requirements for balanced budgets. However, state governments do not have such responsibilities as national defense and security. Secondly, many states have two budgets; one for government operating expenses, which must balance, and one for capital outlay or construction projects, which need not balance. The federal government, of course, does not operate in the same manner.

A federal balanced budget is the right direction to move in now for many reasons. In our battle to control inflation, a balanced budget demonstrates to all segments of the economy that the federal government is willing to cut spending. By setting an example, the government helps moderate wage and price demands.

Congress is already pursuing such a course. Last year, Congress cut the President's projected \$60.5 billion budget deficit to \$38.8 billion, a savings of \$21.7 billion. The 96th Congress will, no doubt, continue to practice fiscal restraint balanced by social responsibility.

A balanced budget ought to remain a goal, not a requirement. Indeed, Congress may achieve that goal as early as 1981, if spending restraint continues and economic conditions permit. But, Congress should not be wrapped in the chains of a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget, when faced with times of economic and political uncertainties.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Approach to Trade

The U.S., last year, posted a record \$28.5 billion trade deficit—\$1.9 billion more than in the previous year. The troubled state of our balance of payments threatens American jobs and industries, as well as the stability of the dollar overseas.

Clearly, the U.S. must make a greater effort at aggressively promoting trade to better serve the interests of American business and labor. Other countries are fighting to win a share of the American market, and we must do the same in overseas markets.

I plan to introduce legislation that would establish a new Department of International Trade, similar to agencies in other major industrial nations. The department would be created by consolidating the many government agencies that now share jurisdiction over export promotion and financing—in many cases with overlapping responsibilities.

At present, various aspects of trade policy are handled in the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Treasury, Agriculture, and State, as well as the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations.

A single department of trade would allow for more efficient promotion of U.S. commercial interests, and for greater vigilance in the enforcement of our anti-

dumping law and other laws on unfair trade practices. A new trade department should also include offices in industrial analysis. One of the specific functions would be to focus on ways to regain or find replacements for markets once held exclusively or in large part by the U.S., but later lost to foreign competition.

West Virginia, in particular, would benefit from a centralized trade department. There are indications that coal production in the state has slowed in part because of alleged dumping of foreign coke on the U.S. market. The decline in Japanese imports of West Virginia metallurgical coal has also had an adverse impact on the state's economy.

A trade department could do much to help correct such situations, or to spot them before they develop into crises that cost West Virginians, and other Americans, their jobs.

A Department of International Trade could also provide greater assistance to the American business community—especially to small businesses which have limited experience in foreign markets and need guidance on the best way to enter them.

I believe that a Department of International Trade is long overdue, and would do much to help bring our accounts into balance, and so rectify our troubled trade situation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

On Recognizing China

In 1972, at the end of President Nixon's famous visit to China, the President and Premier Chou En-lai signed the Shanghai Communique, in which the U.S. acknowledged that there is but one China and the island of Taiwan is part of it.

The establishment of full diplomatic relations with China is the logical conclusion of the policy set forth in the Communique, and followed by both the Ford and Carter administrations.

During the past seven years, as the U.S. moved toward greatly increased trade with China, it became apparent that formal diplomatic relations were needed. Both countries acknowledged that full recognition would come when a formula could be found to ensure the well-being of the Taiwanese.

Under the terms of the normalization agreement, President Carter will terminate the U.S.-Taiwan defense treaty at the end of 1979. The President has the right to terminate the treaty under a provision of the document itself, which states, "Either party may terminate it one year after notice has been given to the other party." The U.S. will continue to sell needed defensive weapons to the Taiwanese after 1979.

During Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping's visit here, I stressed that the U.S. continues to have a strong interest in a peaceful resolution to the reunification of China and Taiwan. Teng said he expected reunification to be peaceful. He noted that Taiwan will remain autonomous under locally-elected Taiwan leadership, and that the Taiwanese will retain

their armed forces, their trade and commerce, and their own way of life. He said the only conditions Taiwan authorities will be asked to fulfill is that they acknowledge that Taiwan is part of China.

While Teng's assurances considerably allayed my concern for the security of Taiwan, when Congress debates legislation converting our relations with Taiwan to unofficial status, it may be wise to examine whatever reasonable and feasible means we have available to express our support and concern for the Taiwanese.

We will continue our strong economic, commercial and cultural ties to Taiwan, where many U.S. companies now do business. A non-governmental corporation, rather than an embassy staff, will administer U.S.-Taiwan relations. Such an arrangement has worked well for Japan, which has increased its trade with Taiwan by 233 percent since formally recognizing China.

The U.S. should benefit also from having the world's largest nation as a trading partner and consumer of American goods and services. China is pushing hard to modernize its economy. Normalization could provide an opportunity for American business to increase sales and employment in America, while reducing the U.S. trade deficit.

In the long run, a diplomatic relationship with China should strengthen the United States' position in dealing with the Soviet Union.

Thus, it should be in the security and commercial interests of both the U.S. and China to enter this new era of collaboration.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Crisis in Coke Imports

The United States measures its coal resources in the trillions of tons. It is ironic that, given its vast stores of coal, the U.S. increasingly imports foreign-produced coke — the hot-burning, high-grade coal product essential to steel manufacturing.

In 1977, U.S. imports of coke suitable for fuel were at a level of about 2 million tons. In 1978, such imports increased dramatically to nearly 6 million tons, the majority imported from West Germany. By 1980, coke imports are expected to reach approximately 10 million tons.

Some coal industry leaders allege that foreign-produced coal is being sold on the American market by overseas manufacturers at rates below the home-market price. Such a practice, known as "dumping," is a violation of domestic law.

Increased U.S. reliance on foreign-produced coke not only threatens the normal growth of the domestic coke industry, but also slows U.S. coal production and leads to layoffs in the mines. The consequences of rising coke imports are disturbing, particularly for such coal-rich areas as southern West Virginia, which yields the high-grade metallurgical coal needed to make coke.

It takes between 1.4 and 1.7 tons of coal to make a ton of coke. Thus, 10 million tons of foreign coke, not counting shipping

losses, would displace about 15 million tons of U.S. coking coal. This level of imports would represent about 19 percent or one-fifth of our domestic coking coal consumption.

The average underground miner produces 2,000 tons of saleable coal in one year. The importation of 10 million tons of coke, displacing 15 million tons of U.S. coal, would be the equivalent of 7,500 man-years in U.S. coal mines. In other words, elimination of 10 million tons of imported coke would create a demand for 15 million tons of domestic coking coal, which, in turn, would create 7,500 mining jobs.

The impact of increased coke imports extends even beyond the domestic coke and coal industries to related industries such as steel and railroads, which depend on domestic coke as a reliably-delivered and reasonably-priced fuel, and as a profit-maker for the transportation business.

I strongly believe that a thorough investigation of the coke-dumping charges should be undertaken by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the Special Office for Trade Negotiations. I have written to the heads of these agencies, asking that the facts be ascertained and the actions to be taken be identified. Unfair trade practices on the part of our trading partners must not further undermine our domestic industries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bridges From Times Past

Covered bridges were once a common sight in rural America. Designed and built by local carpenters, their hand-hewn timbers were stamped with the hardiness and inventiveness of the nation's early pioneers.

The covered bridge rendered a great service to the young, growing country. Stone bridges were common in Europe, but were prohibitively expensive to build in America. Timber bridges filled the gaps in the transportation system, when they were so much needed to carry the highways and railways into undeveloped country.

In America, timber bridges were built on a scale never attempted in any other country, some of them more than a mile in length. The covering was for protection from the weather, as it was considered that the added length of life more than offset the disadvantage of greater weight and cost.

The earlier bridges in America were of the type popular in Switzerland in the eighteenth century, which consisted of great timber arches braced and stiffened by the framework forming the sides of the enclosure. This type was gradually modified, reducing the arch and placing more dependence on the trussed framework until the arch was finally abandoned entirely.

The highway bridges were usually planned, and cleverly so, by the local carpenters who built them. The more important bridges, and those carrying

railways, were more carefully studied, and models were often built and tested to determine the strength.

West Virginia once had a number of covered bridges, now only 18 remain and most are still in use. The rest have rotted or burned, or were destroyed to make way for modern vehicles that were never contemplated when the bridges were first built.

Some of the bridges, besides adding to the scenic beauty of the state, have historic connections as well. For example, on June 3, 1861, the bridge at Philippi over Tygart's River was full of sleeping Southern soldiers, who were awakened by the first cannon fired on land in the War Between the States.

Jurisdiction of the bridges, as well as the funds available for their repair and maintenance, depends on whether the bridge is located on a state or county road. To provide an extra measure of protection and a limited amount of funds, the West Virginia Department of History and Culture hopes to have the bridges listed on the National Register, the official list of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. Applications are now being prepared and will be submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior for approval.

In a fast-paced, technological world, West Virginia's covered bridges are picturesque reminders of times past. We can cherish them as symbolic of the ingenuity of our forefathers who built them by hand.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Children's Advertising

In the past decade, television advertising aimed at children has come under the increasing scrutiny of parents, advertisers, and the federal government.

Although the effects of TV commercials on children are the subject of debate, one fact stands out: by 1977, the average American child aged 2 through 11 was exposed to more than 20,000 commercials annually.

Many consumer groups and child psychologists say children's advertising is inherently unfair and deceptive—and thus a violation of the Federal Trade Commission Act — because youngsters cannot yet understand the selling purpose of, or otherwise comprehend or evaluate, TV commercials.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is conducting a series of hearings into the effects on children of the \$600-million-a-year children's advertising industry.

The FTC is studying several proposals for limits or bans on certain forms of such advertising, including, (1) a ban on all TV advertising aimed at children 8 years old and younger; (2) a ban on all ads for sugar-coated products known to cause tooth decay aimed at youths under 12; and (3) a requirement for advertisers of sugared products to pay for separate health and nutrition messages to "balance" their ads aimed at under-12-year-olds.

Although the proposals have the support of the American Dental Associa-

tion, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, many segments of the advertising and broadcast industries oppose them. The opponents have protested that the FTC hearings are a blatant example of government overregulation, and that any attempt to curb TV ads is a violation of advertisers' free speech rights.

At least one major network, noting the controversy, has announced plans to cut back 20 percent of its weekend morning television ads, using the resulting free time for public service announcements on nutrition.

This is an encouraging sign that the television industry is capable of regulating itself, without government intervention.

While it is appropriate for the FTC to monitor TV commercials to assure that their content is not false or misleading, there are serious legal problems involved in any outright ban on children's advertising. Some legal experts believe that the U.S. Supreme Court eventually may resolve the issue.

Apart from the legal aspect, the proposed advertising bans raise the question of asking the federal government to perform tasks that are rightfully those of the parent. In the final analysis, it is up to parents to monitor and limit TV viewing, and to say "no" to types of food or toys that they see as unfit for their children.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ferreting Out Corruption

The General Services Administration, until recently, was a little-known agency spending about \$5 billion annually to provide office space and supplies for the federal government.

The agency's name now has earned a measure of notoriety. For more than a year, the GSA has been under investigation on charges ranging from sloppy management to outright theft by its employees—abuses that apparently have gone on for years undetected.

Some GSA employees and private contractors, according to testimony in recent trials, worked hand-in-glove to devise ingenious methods to conceal bribery and theft. Investigators say the most common form of fraud was for GSA employees to take kickbacks from contractors in return for certifying work that was never done. In some cases, work was done, but the contractors overbilled for it, and split the difference with the GSA employees. Many instances of appalling waste and poor judgment have also been uncovered.

Estimates are that roughly \$66 million a year was lost through outright corruption. Including waste and negligence, the losses are estimated at more than \$100 million a year.

Three investigations are now in process, including those conducted by a Justice Department task force, a Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee, and an internal probe under the

direction of GSA administrator Jay Solomon.

Solomon, who was appointed by President Carter in 1977, has made great strides in uncovering corruption, in tightening up procurement procedures, and in chopping away at the bureaucratic deadwood that permits both inefficiency and corruption.

By all accounts, Solomon has done an excellent job. So far, 45 individuals have been indicted in the GSA scandals, and 38 of those have pleaded guilty.

Regrettably, reports appeared in the press recently that the White House is looking for a replacement for Solomon. Some administration staff members apparently believe that Solomon is politically naive, and has been too open with the press.

To my way of thinking, such charges are not sufficient grounds for replacing a man who has done everything in his power to ferret out corruption in his agency.

If Solomon leaves before the internal investigation is finished, people will be left with the impression that fraud is being swept under the carpet. The investigation must not be allowed to bog down for lack of direction.

I have written to the President, urging that Solomon be retained in his position until the GSA investigation is closed. His leaving would only foster public distrust of government.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Jobs For Tomorrow

Labor experts predict that in the 1980's, prospects will be bright for many jobs that do not require a college education. Mechanics, carpenters, heavy-equipment operators, dental hygienists, insulation workers, sales people, nurses, and computer programmers are all expected to be in great demand.

The nation's future employment needs indicate that vocational education will continue to benefit students, as well as business and industry.

In West Virginia, vocational education programs already have proved successful in easing unemployment and keeping pace with manpower needs. In 1968, there were seven vocational education centers in the state with about 66,000 students enrolled. A decade later, there are more than 50 centers, throughout West Virginia, with nearly 153,000 enrolled.

Vocational education enrollments in West Virginia are expected to soar in the future — largely because the programs have helped students to obtain jobs. Eighty-seven percent of the graduates from high school programs find jobs, as do 93 percent of the graduates from post-secondary vocational programs.

The success of the state's vocational education system is attributed to three factors: first, people are trained in skills that will serve them a lifetime, not just the duration of a sin-

gle job; second, the curriculum is planned and updated to meet the needs of students, business and industry; and, third, the centers are located throughout the state so that almost everyone who wants training is reasonably close to classes.

Vocational education in West Virginia ranges from the modern to the time-tested, from mine safety to blacksmithing. Mine training is emphasized, reflecting the state's role as a major producer of a resource that is in increasing demand. Other programs include environmental protection, fire science and prevention, emergency medical technology, nursing, dental hygiene, computer programming, and a wide variety of crafts.

The success of vocational education in West Virginia and other states can be traced to the cooperation of federal, state, and local governments. Federal funds for vocational education across the nation amounted to \$534 million in 1977-78, while state and local governments provided \$4.4 billion for an estimated 16 million students.

Vocational education has proved to be a success as a preventative, rather than a remedial, response to the nation's employment problems. Without a doubt, vocational education will continue to provide West Virginia and other states with the skilled workers that can keep pace with tomorrow's technology.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Price of Deregulation

Last year, Congress deregulated the airlines industry, in hopes of lowering prices and curbing inflation by increasing business competition through a free market.

Airline deregulation has not fulfilled these expectations. Thus far, the experience with airline deregulation has failed to inspire confidence in lessening federal controls in other industries.

True, some airfares have been reduced. But, the airlines have substituted their own thicket of regulations, restrictions, and requirements on "super-saver" fares, limiting the number of travelers who can take advantage of the bargains.

As for the anti-inflationary impact of deregulation, the airlines raised their regular fares 3.2 percent in November 1978, and there is a pending request for another 4 percent increase.

Even more distressing is the conduct of the airlines in seeking to abandon or reduce routes. Such reductions have a severe impact, particularly on small and medium-sized cities, which need the prestige of a national carrier to encourage economic growth. While some cities have gained more routes and better service, more than 100 cities across the country face air service cut-backs.

Since January, four air service carriers have filed requests with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to reduce or eliminate service to four West Virginia cities. United Airlines, which now provides half of

the service to the Charleston area, has proposed a 50 percent reduction in its service to the state's capital; American Airlines has requested to discontinue service to Charleston, and Piedmont wants to cancel service to Parkersburg. Allegheny has been granted its proposal to allow its subsidiary commuter service, Aeromech, to take over service to Clarksburg and Morgantown.

I have been in frequent touch with officials of these airlines, the CAB, and local leaders to help assure that West Virginia retains sufficient air service. In the case of United, I, together with Senator Randolph, have petitioned the CAB to keep United's service to Charleston until it can be replaced by another carrier. United has agreed to a three-week extension of its service through June.

The negative consequences of the loss of service to these West Virginia cities far outweigh the limited benefits of reduced rates for a few travelers.

Deregulation must be accompanied by a responsible attitude on the part of the deregulated industry. Service industries, such as the airlines, have an obligation to act in the public interest. What may be efficient for the airlines, will not always be efficient for the public. A proper balance must be struck.

If those in business and industry want deregulation, they must be prepared to act responsibly toward the public. Without responsibility, deregulation will be an idea whose time has come—and gone.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In Case of Emergency

The nation's disenchantment with the Vietnam conflict, coupled with traditional American antipathy to conscription, resulted in the end of the draft in 1973 and creation of the all-volunteer Army.

Selective Service System registration and classification procedures ended in 1976. Since that time, the Selective Service Board has been virtually dismantled, with fewer than 100 employees in Washington, no state headquarters, and no local draft boards.

There are about 790,000 men and women in the active Army, compared to 1,825,000 in the Soviet Army. But, the strength of the active military service in peacetime is not as critical as the ability of the U.S. to mobilize hundreds of thousands of reinforcements to meet a crisis.

Since 1973, the number of trained reservists, who would be called on to mobilize immediately, has fallen to a low point—from 1.5 million to less than 300,000. This is far below the 820,000 reservists the Army thinks would be necessary in wartime to fill the ranks of regular units engaged in battle.

In sum, the U.S. has insufficient numbers of reservists, and no apparatus to quickly raise large numbers of reinforcements in the event of war or the threat of war.

According to the Department of Defense, it would take 120 days to rebuild the Selective Service System before the first induc-

tee could be drafted, and another 40 days before 100,000 soldiers could be conscripted.

In recent testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, four chief officers from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps supported re-establishment of Selective Service registration.

Registration should not be confused with the draft, which is the method of selecting individuals for compulsory military service.

Registration would require 18-year-olds to register personal information such as names and addresses, and to receive physical examinations and a classification. Congress would have to decide if those older than 18 would be required to register for the first year or so to ensure equitable treatment, if and when the Selective Service System is re-established. Registration would sharply reduce the time needed to activate a draft should it ever be necessary.

While I do not foresee a need, at this time, to reinstitute the draft, it would seem wise to reactivate the Selective Service System for purposes of registration and classification. Congress is likely to take up the question of registration this year.

The time for action on these measures, that can ensure adequate military strength, is now. It would be foolhardy to wait until a crisis is upon us.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Overlooking Our Best Bet

The breakdown of the nuclear power plant near Harrisburg, Pa., raises serious questions about the future of nuclear power in the U.S.

Some newspaper editorials have made the claim that nuclear power is in jeopardy when no other options look more promising.

This is simply not true. Coal is a readily available and abundant energy source that does not carry the potential for radioactive disaster. Coal can be made into a clean fuel. Nuclear energy can never be made clean; it will always carry with it the possibility of noxious, cancer-causing emissions, and the problem of disposing of poisonous wastes that remain toxic for thousands of years.

No matter how elaborate the safety systems of a nuclear plant may be, the fact remains that one accident can be catastrophic. The margin of error, both human and mechanical, is very slim.

It can no longer be said by proponents of nuclear energy that the odds of a serious accident are infinitesimal. The Three Mile Island accident is the latest in a series of incidents that cast doubt on the nation's widespread reliance on nuclear power. In January, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) repudiated the Rasmussen Report, which had been wide-

ly quoted as demonstrating the safety of nuclear plants. Last month, the NRC shut down five plants because of the possibility of a construction defect.

This is not to say that all nuclear plants should be shut down or that nuclear energy has no place in America's energy future.

Nuclear plants now provide almost 13 percent of our electric-generating capacity. Even temporary closings of a few plants raise the possibility of brownouts this summer, and further complicate policy decisions on the oil shortage.

In the short run, Congress will examine the need for a complete review of all 72 U.S. nuclear plants, as well as a tightening of safety standards. Legislation has been proposed to strengthen federal oversight at all nuclear plants, and to put the government, rather than individual utilities, in charge in the event of a serious accident.

In the long run, a major restructuring of our energy priorities appears to be in order. For more than 20 years, federal energy research has been weighted in favor of nuclear projects, at the expense of other, safer fuel sources.

Perhaps, in a highly technological era, coal seems a bit old-fashioned. In our fascination with sophisticated technology, we must not overlook the best bet we have for a safe and dependable energy supply.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Graying of America

America is on the verge of an important trend that will have profound effects in the next century. The number of persons over age 65, the age at which most people become eligible for retirement benefits, has been increasing steadily during this century.

The elderly numbered 3 million in 1900. By 1975, the aged totaled 22 million, and by 2030, demographers think the total will hit 52 million.

There are two main reasons for what is sometimes called, the "graying of America"—the average life expectancy is increasing, while the birth rate is decreasing. The dearth of young people increases the elderly's percentage of total population.

This imbalance will become even more marked when the youngsters born in the post-war baby boom become the "senior boom" early in the next century.

The effect of the growing numbers of older Americans can already be seen in the federal budget. In 1978, \$112 billion—or 24 percent of the budget—went to the elderly, mostly in the form of Social Security payments. Federal estimates are that in 50 years, the outlay will be \$635 billion.

Policy makers are concerned that, unless there are major changes in the way Americans work and

retire, the nation could be faced with a huge group of aged, former workers supported by a shrinking base of active wage-earners.

In 1940, there were nine active workers for every retired person. Today, the ratio is six to one, and by 2030, there will be only three workers for every former job holder.

Planners and analysts are already asking questions about future policy choices. In light of recent medical advances, is age 65 "old," and should that be the age of forced retirement? Is the trend toward early retirement the best thing for the individual and society? Should the government and the private sector begin thinking in terms of offering re-training in second careers to middle-aged workers to keep them in the workforce longer? What is the relationship between enforced idleness and poor health? Are there more flexible work hours, part-time work opportunities, or other incentive arrangements that would allow workers to phase into retirement?

In many ways, the graying of America is a great victory for our society, and a testimony to the quality of life in our country. But, in order to maintain that quality, planning must begin now, so that the nation is prepared for the changes that the future will bring.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Is There An Energy Crisis?

Many polls indicate that the American people do not believe that an energy crisis exists. Any shortage of oil supplies, they think, is the result of a "conspiracy" concocted by the oil companies for their own benefit.

Unfortunately, the energy crisis is real. The problem is of crisis proportions simply because half of our oil supplies come from foreign sources at a cost of \$50 billion a year. That huge sum is the equivalent of \$50 for every minute since Jesus Christ was born. The flood of dollars leaving the country is a major cause of our current inflation troubles.

In addition, the nation, held hostage to the good will of unpredictable foreign governments, is in constant danger of interrupted oil supplies and rising prices. Our dependence on other countries for fuel also has serious national security implications.

President Carter, in his recent announcement of plans to decontrol oil prices, did not exaggerate the problem—if anything, he underestimated it. In meetings with the President prior to his speech, I ad-

vised him that if there is to be decontrol of oil, it should be phased in, and it should be accompanied by an excess profits tax.

A tax on the oil companies' unearned profits would yield billions of dollars to be used for rebates to lessen the impact of the energy crisis on those who can least afford higher prices. The tax revenues could also provide funds for mass transit, and for research into coal technology and other fuel source alternatives, including such projects as the proposed SRC-II liquid coal demonstration plant in Morgantown.

Fifty percent of the profits will be available to the oil industry for plow-back into exploration and production. Oil companies are entitled to a just return on their investment in a high-risk business.

The President took a necessary step, and it is now up to Congress to act promptly to recover for the public benefit, half of the new revenues that decontrol will generate.

I favor a fair and reasonable excess profits tax on oil, and I hope that Congress will support it.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Look At Rural Schools

The one-room school and two-room school were once a common sight in rural America. But, over the years, school consolidation and other reforms reduced the number of school districts, resulting in bigger, centralized schools.

A recent book entitled, *Education in Rural America: A Reassessment of Conventional Wisdom*, edited by Jonathan P. Sher, challenges the accepted notion that bigger schools, larger school districts, and more urban-oriented education bring substantial benefits to rural communities.

The authors say that the more than 14 million children who attend rural schools receive miniscule amounts of the nation's financial resources and professional attention. They believe that rural schools and districts deserve more attention and assistance.

Small schools have many advantages; chief among them is the high degree of community control, participation, and interest—to an extent unknown in urban school systems.

Small schools are also conducive to more individual instruction, to older students helping younger ones, and to the use of community resources as part of the school curriculum. These are all ideas that urban and suburban systems are constantly rediscovering and reintroducing into classrooms.

Much of what is unique about rural schools cannot

be measured—the calmer pace, the less pressured environment, the spirit of cooperation, the opportunities for leadership development, and the less formal and more personal interaction among students, teachers, and parents. The authors believe that, because of such intangibles, professional educators may have tended to give rural schools short shrift.

However, the authors note that a small school is no guarantee of a good school, and neither is a big school necessarily bad. Rural schools must overcome unique problems of sparsity and isolation, limited funds, and difficulties in attracting qualified teachers.

The authors' main premise is, "Bigger is not necessarily better." They contend that, by and large, consolidated schools, because of bigger class sizes and higher transportation costs, have not resulted in better education at lower cost.

While the book does not suggest that the answer to the problems of rural education is a return to the one-room school, the authors offer practical suggestions to policymakers and parents in rural areas.

There is a growing rural school movement in America, and this study makes an important contribution, not only by bringing fresh information and a new viewpoint, but also by reopening debate on a vital aspect of rural life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Japan, Inc.

The words "Made in Japan" were once synonymous with cheap goods and shoddy workmanship. No more. Japan has made a stunning economic recovery from post-war industrial chaos, and its high-quality merchandise is sought by consumers the world over.

Japan is now one of our largest trading partners, but the figures are not in our favor. In 1978, the U.S. bought nearly \$13 billion more in cars, televisions, cameras, and other goods than it sold to Japan.

In meetings with Japanese trade officials and industry leaders, I have urged them repeatedly to lower trade barriers, and increase purchases of U.S. goods, particularly U.S. metallurgical coal.

Japanese officials often claim that part of the problem is that American businessmen are reluctant to get involved in the Japanese market.

If American businessmen do seek a share of the Japanese market, what do they find?

—An intricate web of protectionist devices installed after World War II when Japan wanted to make sure it would generate trade surpluses to cover the cost of imported raw materials.

—The existence of export trading companies that enjoy virtual monopolies, as well as broad-based government support.

—A complicated distribution system in which a company buys only from long-time friends and relatives,

and refuses to consider foreign competitors.

—Government procurement policies that give preference to home-produced goods.

—Strict limits on U.S. farm imports of beef and citrus fruits. Because of import quotas, U.S. oranges can cost more than \$1 each in Japanese groceries, while beef can sell for as much as \$45 a pound.

Subtle trade barriers can also include customs valuation methods that are used covertly to keep out foreign goods, and testing procedures that are supposed to protect consumers, but are manipulated to keep out foreign wares. Unlike other countries, Japan does not accept certification by foreign laboratories, such as the Underwriters Laboratories.

There has been some progress lately in reducing Japan's trade surplus with the United States, which is expected to decline from about \$13 billion last year to \$8 billion or less this year. Japan's Prime Minister Ohira, during his recent state visit, promised to work toward further reduction of the trade surplus. In addition, Congress will take up major trade legislation soon that could do much to ease trade barriers.

The Japanese may be getting the message that, unless the trade imbalance improves, protectionist sentiment will grow in Congress, with unwanted consequences for both countries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal's Added Advantage

A team of Long Island researchers may have found the solution to a waste disposal problem that could develop as the nation switches from oil to coal for its major energy needs. The solution could also prove to be a boon to commercial and amateur fishermen.

Scientists at the Marine Sciences Research Center in Stony Brook, L.I., have developed a way to use the waste by-products of coal furnaces to make building blocks for artificial sea reefs that attract fish.

Modern coal-stoked plants produce fly ash and a paste-like sludge made of slurry from wet scrubbers and limestone. A 1,000-megawatt plant can produce about 1,000 tons of fly ash and sludge per day. It is estimated that by 1990, coal wastes from power plants could total more than 50 million tons a year.

Scientists at the Stony Brook center use wastes from a coal-fired plant in Pennsylvania to make cubic-foot-sized blocks. Fly ash and scrubber wastes are mixed, then the blocks are chemically stabilized into a solid, concrete-like form. The blocks are made at a Philadelphia company specializing in coal-waste disposal technology.

Two years ago, the re-researchers built a small reef, 20 feet below the surface of Conscience Bay on Long Island Sound. Periodically, the researchers

don diving suits, and check the submerged reef. Not only are the coal waste blocks holding up, but several kinds of bait fish, as well as lobsters and crabs, are flourishing on and around the reef.

This fall, the researchers hope to build a larger reef in the deeper waters of the Atlantic Ocean, about three miles from Fire Island. The plan is to use bigger blocks, each about a cubic yard, and build a reef 10 feet high, about 60 feet under water. The researchers hope that sea bass, blackfish, porgies, and flounder will be attracted to the nooks and crannies of the blocks.

Artificial reefs have been made from many scrap items—including sunken barges, old tires, building rubble, and old autos. But such reefs last only a few years. The researchers hope the coal waste blocks will endure, benefiting the fish population and America's two million saltwater anglers.

If the coal waste reefs prove durable and environmentally acceptable, the blocks could be used to build artificial islands for industrial use, as well as fishing reefs.

If the Stony Brook solution to the coal waste problem succeeds, what was once a drawback will become an added advantage to one of the nation's major natural resources.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Three-Pronged Defense

For nearly 20 years, much of the United States' defense has depended on a three-pronged system of land-based missiles, submarine missiles, and heavy bombers.

This system, known as the triad, has provided a way to defend the U.S., and to deter a Soviet attack, whether by land, sea or air.

In recent years, Soviet missiles have increased in accuracy and in nuclear potency, posing a grave threat to the United States' intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

Currently, the U.S. has 1,054 strategic missiles, housed in underground silos. Military experts believe that in a few years the Soviets will be able to destroy many of these missiles in a first strike, leaving the U.S. with only limited means to retaliate.

Action must be taken soon to protect our land-based missiles. The Defense Department has proposed developing a new mobile intercontinental missile, known as the MX. The MX would be larger, more powerful, and more accurate than the Minuteman III, which makes up the bulk of

our present land missile force.

Three main methods have been proposed to make the MX mobile. Multiple protective shelters, better known as the "shell game," would involve 200 MX missiles moved at random in a field of 4,500 holes. A second option, known as hardened open trenches, would involve missiles placed horizontally in open trenches, moved about on railroad tracks between covered portions of the trenches. In the third option, missiles would be taken off the ground and put on airplanes at the first warning of an attack.

The President is expected to announce soon whether the MX missile will be deployed, and how it will be made mobile.

I have urged the President to go forward with the MX, because I believe it is imperative to protect our vulnerable land missiles, and to maintain our defense/deterrent capabilities on land, sea, and air.

To leave our ICBMs unprotected would indicate to our allies and enemies that we are backing away from a strong triad defense. That is a signal of weakness we do not want to send.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Oversight: A Prudent Priority

One of Congress' most important and least publicized duties is to scrutinize the programs and agencies created through the legislative process.

The term "oversight" is applied to the reviews, hearings and studies conducted by Congressional committees and subcommittees in order to examine how effectively past programs and policies function.

This year, the 96th Congress has particularly emphasized Congressional oversight. Many committees in both the House and Senate have been holding oversight hearings to ensure that federal activities under their jurisdiction are necessary, and operate in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. As a part of this effort, Senate committees file biannual oversight reports.

In addition, the appropriations subcommittees carry on many of the same oversight functions in deciding what programs should be funded. The subcommittees often hold hearings during which officials from federal agencies must justify and prove the cost-efficiency of their agency's programs, or the programs will be reduced or not be refunded.

This year, House and Senate committees have

targeted many areas for investigation, including Medicare-Medicaid reform, the anti-inflation program, gasoline pricing rules, hazardous waste disposal, the dangers of low-level radiation, the operation of the Department of Energy, and the benefits of certain federal regulations.

The growth of the federal government during and after World War II led Congress to define its powers, as distinct from the executive branch, in the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. The Act was also the first official recognition of Congress' oversight responsibilities. Since then, both the House and Senate have set up and refined the subcommittee machinery to handle oversight functions.

The oversight activities of Congress rarely make major headlines, but such work helps to control the cost of government, as well as waste and fraud in individual programs. It is an important function of Congress — one which needs more attention by Congress.

Oversight, perhaps, is just a new legislative term for prudence. And, as the great British statesman, Edmund Burke, said, prudence, is "in all things a virtue, in politics the first of virtues."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Computer-Age Politics

Without doubt, computers have transformed our way of life. Computers balance accounts and keep books, record bank deposits and withdrawals, check the designs of dams and bridges, steer spaceships, and set type for newspapers and books.

In industry, computers control the machinery to make bakery goods, chemicals, steel products, paper and many other items. It was only a matter of time before computers began to have an impact on our system of representative government.

Computerized direct-mail techniques are often used by various groups, as well as campaign strategists, to pinpoint potential supporters and contributors.

Names and addresses can be stored in a computer and cross-referenced so that people are classified according to their beliefs about specific issues. Thus, a group favoring balanced budgets may hire a direct mail consultant to send letters and telegrams to a specially chosen group of people, who are also known to favor balanced budgets.

The letters—which show no sign of being processed by a direct-mail company—attempt to raise money, drum up votes, or generate pressure on legislators by asking supporters to flood

them with pre-printed post-cards.

One of the largest direct-mail political consultants has collected the names of more than 8 million people in the course of 14 years. In 1977, the consultant sent out 75 million letters and solicited \$50 million for various causes and candidates.

Millions of dollars have been garnered from the voting public by such mailing businesses for themselves in conducting these mail operations for particular causes and candidates.

There are many, and I am one, who fear that direct-mail techniques are helping to undermine the principal political parties and the political system, and make it more difficult to govern. Traditionally, political parties have built the broad coalitions needed to find a compromise among competing factions.

Supporters of direct-mail techniques say that the computer is simply an automated version of the ward heelers of old-style politics, who kept in touch with voters' concerns and relayed them to politicians.

To my mind, a well-reasoned, personal letter has more impact than a hundred pre-printed post-cards. These latter, by and large, are often simplistic, biased, and sometimes distortive of the facts.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balancing National Priorities

One of the most important duties in the federal government today is striking a balance between potentially conflicting priorities.

The current oil shortage has spawned such a conflict; we must balance our environmental needs with our need to use domestic energy resources, such as coal, to replace imported oil.

This issue arose recently when officials of the Environmental Protection Agency were writing the air pollution standards for new coal-fired power plants and factories. The new EPA rules would govern the amount of sulfur dioxide and other chemicals released into the air by these facilities.

There were reports that the EPA was considering a more stringent sulfur dioxide emission standard than one currently in effect. There was a potential danger that the proposed standards would discriminate against Midwestern, Southern, and Eastern coal, which is higher in sulfur content. Such coal would require additional scrubbing, at great expense, if excessively stringent emission standards were to be met.

Utilities and factories, under these circumstances, would choose to burn low-sulfur Western coal. The result would be decreased demand for Midwestern, Southern, and Eastern coal, and increased unemployment among miners in those

regions. Additional thousands of coal miners would be put out of work in West Virginia alone; almost one-half of the United States' available coal reserve would be precluded from use.

This was not the result envisioned by Congress when the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 were adopted. In writing the rules to carry out the intent of these laws, the EPA officials had to be made aware of the implications of their decisions.

In a series of meetings, which I chaired, coal industry leaders, union officials and EPA representatives exchanged views on the proposed standards. Then, I arranged a meeting of coal-state Senators, most of us from the South, Midwest and East, with President Carter to convey our concerns.

We presented the President with sound arguments for a more flexible sulfur dioxide standard, and reminded him that it makes no sense to urge industries to switch to coal from oil or natural gas, and at the same time, allow regulatory agencies to issue rules and regulations that limit coal burning and mining.

Happily, our words were heeded. The EPA recently announced a reasonable, flexible coal emission standard which will continue to protect the environment, without harming the coal industry, or jeopardizing our efforts to achieve energy independence.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Words Of Courage

Few events in recent years have been so inspiring as Pope John Paul II's recent visit to his native Poland.

The euphoria of the Polish people was shared by many in all parts of the world. Poland, a country that has suffered so much at the hands of foreign powers, was mobilized by the brave words of John Paul.

As the first reigning Pope ever to visit a Communist-ruled land, John Paul criticized the Communist rulers of Poland directly and indirectly throughout his nine-day visit. Although Polish authorities barred the Pope from visiting many areas of the country, the state's power was insufficient to stop thousands of the faithful from making long journeys to see him.

John Paul's words were even more poignant because he spoke them in a country where faith is strong, but civil and religious freedoms are few. He condemned Poland's Communist leaders for treating a man "merely as a means of production, or that he be appreciated, esteemed and valued in accordance with that principle."

The Pope's outspoken challenge was a stirring reminder of personal courage. He also epitomized the lesson that the words and actions of one individual can have an impact on the events of history.

John Paul's message was noted by the faithful in other Communist countries, where people must contend with such daily indignities as discrimination at work, use of the news media for anti-religious propaganda, reluctance of state officials to sanction the building of new places of worship, and imprisonment of church leaders who distribute religious literature.

John Paul's visit to Poland underscored the fact that yearnings for freedom cannot be extinguished by tyranny, torture, propaganda, or oppression.

The lesson Communist leaders in Eastern Europe are drawing from the Pope's pilgrimage is that despite 35 years of official atheism, a majority of Poles adhere to a religious, rather than a secularized view of the world. Far from withering away, as Marx predicted, religion is stronger than ever in the Communist-ruled country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Anti-American Americans

It has been fashionable in some circles for the past few years to criticize America, its social traditions and attitudes. While the right to dissent is a valued American freedom that is rare in other parts of the world, such widespread criticism may reflect a deeper malaise.

The famed French playwright Eugene Ionesco recently toured this country and talked to college students, as well as journalists, lawyers, and literary editors. He later reported that he was astonished to find "a spirit of self-destructiveness, of masochism, an American anti-Americanism" among those he met.

Ionesco said many Americans seemed to blame the U.S. for everything that is wrong in the world, but no one wanted to hear that twice in this century, the United States saved Europe from tyranny and totalitarianism. No one wanted to be reminded that the Soviet Union had blatantly annexed whole nations and provinces in Eastern Europe after World War II, had brutally crushed the Hungarian revolution, or had clamped shackles on Czechoslovakia only a decade ago.

How different was the sense of pride and public spirit at the time our country was founded over two centuries ago! On July 2,

1776, the resolution for independence was adopted by a committee including John Adams. Adams later wrote that the date would be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. "It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance . . . to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illumination from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forevermore."

As history would have it, the nation celebrates its anniversary two days later, on the day the Declaration of Independence was agreed to, signed and sent to the state legislatures.

During this year's Independence Day celebration, perhaps we should bear in mind Adams' words, and the observations of the Rumanian-born Ionesco, who has suffered under Communism and Nazism.

"It is to the future that the Americans should look," he said. "It is the only way for them to overcome their sense of guilt, this self-punishment that they inflict on themselves. This masochism which continues to afflict them, will do still more harm, will be more dangerous for humanity, than all that humanity has done against itself for centuries and centuries."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Is There A Gas Shortage?

The uncertain state of gasoline supplies in many parts of the country has baffled and angered many Americans.

The gas shortage that affected California some weeks ago has spread to other states, as service stations reduce operating hours to conserve gas allocations.

While the lines grow longer at the gas pumps, various experts in government and the oil industry have offered conflicting explanations of the shortage, and confusing predictions for the future. One day we hear of serious shortages of gasoline, fuel oil, and diesel fuel; the next day we are told that the situation should improve by the end of the month, or the end of the summer because gasoline supplies are up.

These contradictory statements have added to the general public distrust and suspicion that an energy crisis does not exist. It is widely believed that the oil companies are hoarding gas supplies until prices rise even further.

Some of the explanations offered for the current gas shortage include: a shortage of crude oil, due mainly to the Iranian oil shutdown; rising gasoline consumption; and panic buying, stemming in part from heavy media coverage of gas shortages in California and other areas. Automobile owners are "topping off" their tanks to keep them full with frequent visits to the pump.

One of the most disturb-

ing aspects of the gas shortage is the lack of adequate, independent information available on oil and gasoline supplies. The Department of Energy, which is charged with monitoring oil supplies, receives its information from the oil companies. There are growing doubts in Congress that the nation benefits from this hand-in-glove relationship.

The General Accounting Office, the independent auditing branch of Congress, is verifying the Department of Energy's oil supply figures, and the Federal Trade Commission has begun an inquiry into the causes of the current gasoline shortage.

There is no doubt that the country is experiencing an oil shortage, one that is likely to continue. OPEC nations are committed to stretching out their reserves as long as possible, and have cut their oil production already. The Senate is working on responsible solutions to our energy problems—by developing ways to make maximum use of our domestic sources of energy, including coal, and by acting quickly on a tax to limit windfall profits.

But the ability of the administration and Congress to deal with the energy crisis has been eroded by inadequate information. Clarification and independent statistics are badly needed. The nation needs the reassurance that we are being told the truth about the energy situation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal: Our Best Energy Option

It is inevitable that the U.S. will turn to coal to answer our current oil shortage problems. There is no lack of this abundant fuel—trillions of tons lie beneath the nation's surface, enough to satisfy our energy needs for several hundred years.

At present, coal makes up 82 percent of our total energy reserves; yet, it fulfills only 18 percent of our current energy needs. This latter figure must be interchanged if we are to reduce our dependence on OPEC-produced oil, and increase our reliance on coal—a secure, plentiful and immediately available domestic fuel.

Progress has been made in many areas, particularly coal conversion and synthetic fuel development. Congress has passed legislation to order industries and utilities to burn coal rather than oil. Additional pending legislation, in particular the Omnibus Energy Supply Act, which I am cosponsoring, would stimulate the development of synthetic fuels from coal, oil shale, and grain.

More must be done. Research is needed in coal use, coal production, and in mining safety. We must find ways to get coal out of the mines in the quickest and most cost-efficient way, making maximum use of expensive mining machinery.

In addition, mine safety techniques must be perfected, so that increased mining does not lead to increased injuries or fatalities. Finally, scrubbing technology could be improved so that coal remains environmentally sound. Research in these areas will help assure that coal is an appealingly-priced, clean and safe energy source.

West Virginians have always recognized coal's advantages, but there has been an apparent prejudice toward coal on the part of the current and past Administrations. The President's FY 1980 budget proposal includes a 3-percent decrease in fossil energy research, and a \$16 million decrease in mining research and development. The Administration also intends to construct only one, instead of two, solvent-refined coal demonstration plants.

On many occasions I have advised the President to correct this shortsighted view of coal, and to eliminate any federal obstacles to greater coal use. I have also urged the President that adequate funds to construct both the SRC-I and SRC-II coal demonstration plants be sent to Congress as budget amendments.

It is folly to cut corners in coal research when coal is the obvious and best immediate alternative to OPEC oil.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reviving the Rails

This summer's gasoline shortage, coupled with bad weather last winter and a prolonged airlines strike, has sparked the biggest burst of intercity train travel in almost 30 years.

Amtrak, which was formed by the federal government in 1971 to take over all intercity passenger trains, has experienced an increase of 72.5 percent in passenger ridership figures over the same period last year.

The increased Amtrak ridership has helped convince the Department of Transportation (DOT) to alter plans to cut Amtrak service.

DOT's original plan, submitted to Congress, called for cutting 12,000 miles from Amtrak's 27,000-mile system. Passenger rail service in West Virginia would have been virtually eliminated.

DOT claimed that three West Virginia long-haul routes—the Cardinal, the Shenandoah and the Hill-topper—did not attract enough riders to justify their continuation. The fourth train, the Blue Ridge, is a commuter line that runs between Washington and Martinsburg. DOT wanted to eliminate commuter routes from the Amtrak system.

DOT has now proposed to add \$35 million to its original Amtrak operating budget to run additional trains with high ridership. The fate of West Virginia's trains remains in doubt under this proposal.

The West Virginia Con-

gressional delegation has joined together to fight to save some cross-state Amtrak service for West Virginia.

At Congressional hearings, and in letters to DOT officials and fellow Senators and Congressmen, we have stressed the plight of transportation in West Virginia.

We have pointed out that West Virginia has experienced recent cutbacks in air service, as a result of airline deregulation. The predictions of limited fuel supplies for air, bus, and automobile further complicate West Virginia's transportation situation.

I have strongly urged that both the Cardinal and the Shenandoah be retained by the joint conference committee, which will iron out differences in the House and Senate versions of the Amtrak legislation. The Cardinal runs from Washington to Chicago, with stops in Charleston, Huntington, Prince, Hinton, and White Sulphur Springs. The Shenandoah runs from Washington to Cincinnati, with stops in Harpers Ferry, Martinsburg, Keyser, Rowlesburg, Grafton, Clarksburg and Parkersburg.

The Blue Ridge commuter run would also be retained in the House-Senate bill.

Train travel can be a highly efficient and attractive form of travel for millions. But, in order for passenger rail service to remain viable, train trips must be more frequent than once-in-a-lifetime "sentimental journeys."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ahead of the Game

The President, in his recent energy address, called for the nation to unite in the energy battle, and to cut our dependence on foreign oil in half by 1990.

Congress is willing to give thorough and bipartisan cooperation to this effort in order to free us from bondage to the OPEC cartel. Indeed, many of the energy plans mentioned by the President are already moving through the legislative process in Congress.

For example, there is the omnibus energy bill that would create an Energy Mobilization Board, fund a major program of synthetic fuel development and solar heat research, and open more Federal land to gas and oil leasing.

The Energy Mobilization Board, loosely patterned on the War Mobilization Board of the 1940s, would be empowered to cut through governmental red tape that often delays for years construction of new energy projects.

The goal of the synthetic fuel program would be to develop a new fuels industry—to liquefy and gasify coal, convert organic materials to methane and tap the oil in oil-shale deposits. The omnibus energy bill would fund 15 "synfuel" demonstration projects, including the Solvent-Refined Coal-II coal conversion plant proposed for Morgantown.

The Senate Budget Committee has set up a task

force to study energy proposals in the bill, including the President's plan to set up an Energy Security Corporation to direct the development of 2.5 million barrels daily of oil substitutes by 1990.

In other energy-related developments, the Senate Finance Committee has been examining a windfall profits tax on profits the oil companies are expected to take in as the government removes controls and prices rise.

Two years ago, Congress passed coal conversion legislation to encourage utilities to switch to coal. Congress may now consider an amendment to the Fuel Use Act that would mandate utilities to switch from oil to coal, in order to cut oil consumption by 50 percent in the next decade.

It is important for the country to have a standby gas rationing plan ready, if needed, in the event of any major interruption in oil supplies. The Senate approved such a plan in May, but the House failed to act. The climate appears to be better now for full Congressional approval of the plan.

Congress has taken a strong leadership role in the past in enacting a great deal of energy legislation. Congress is already well ahead of the game in marshalling the forces that will turn the country back toward national energy self-sufficiency.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ten Years After Apollo 11

Ten years ago, on July 20, 1969, Neil A. Armstrong enthralled the world by taking the first step on the moon. Armstrong's achievement was the climax of a tremendous national effort to put a man on the moon.

A decade later, the country is setting its sights on other goals—such as controlling inflation, balancing the budget, and developing energy alternatives to foreign oil. Reduced federal spending is a must, in order to achieve these goals.

For these reasons, the space program has been scaled down. The budget of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)—when discounting for inflation—is about half what it was a decade ago. NASA's work force has also been cut back.

Because of these limitations on funding and manpower, NASA has plans to use unmanned globe-circling satellites, rather than expensive manned flights, to explore the universe. Earth-circling satellites can be used to search for mineral deposits, gather military and intelligence data, improve communications, and evaluate forests, crops, and water resources.

The centerpiece of NASA's program in the 1980's will be a reusable manned space shuttle. The shuttle's orbiter is an airplane-like vehicle that is

launched by booster rockets and lands like a jetliner. While in space, the orbiter can launch up to five satellites, later retrieving them with a robot arm.

NASA also intends to rent space aboard the orbiter to private companies that want to conduct experiments at zero gravity and absolute vacuum. Space aboard the shuttle is sold out for the first 28 flights, through early 1983. Officials hope that the shuttle program will recover as much as half the costs of each mission.

The first of four shuttles now being scheduled for launching by midsummer of 1980. Once in orbit, the shuttle will circle the globe every 90 minutes for 54 hours, carrying two astronauts. Eventually, the shuttle will carry as many as seven male and female astronauts and scientists on trips of 30 days or more. Each orbiter is expected to last about 100 flights.

Far-sighted scientists believe the space shuttle could lead to orbiting factories and scientific space stations, satellites that convert sunlight into electricity, and colonization of space to solve overpopulation on earth.

Apollo 11 was just a prologue to U.S. exploration of space. The finale has yet to be written.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America In Shirtsleeves

Not so many years ago, before central heat and air conditioning were commonplace, Americans weathered the summer heat in white cotton and seersucker, and wore sensible wools to fend off winter's chill.

The current oil shortage may bring a return to such seasonably appropriate attire. Social customs may change, as well. Judges may have to suspend wearing their robes in August, and businessmen may shed suit-jackets and loosen ties before sitting down at conference tables.

In other countries, clothing styles and customs have already been altered by the need to conserve energy. Japan, which imports 99 percent of its oil, has adopted major and minor energy conservation measures.

When American officials recently attended the Tokyo economic summit, they were invited to remove their coats and ties in order to work in the 82-degree temperatures common in government and office buildings. The Japanese parliament, noting the need of its members to remain comfortable in the summer heat, approved a short-sleeved safari suit as appropriate wear in the chambers.

Americans may soon follow the Japanese example. President Carter, under standby authority approved by Congress in May, has

ordered restrictions on thermostats to 78 degrees for cooling and 65 degrees for heating in most commercial, industrial, and nonresidential public buildings. The new thermostat limitations could save an estimated 180,000 to 360,000 barrels of oil a day. Although the thermostat controls do not apply to private residences, they could be used as guidelines to help reduce fuel bills.

Many researchers believe that with some modifications in dress, the federally mandated thermostat settings need not be uncomfortable. A U.S. Army physiologist has been studying the role of clothing in gaining public acceptance of temperatures outside the so-called comfort zone of 74-78 degrees Fahrenheit. He reports that simply by removing their jackets, men could tolerate 83 degrees. A change from long-sleeved to short-sleeved shirts would add another two degrees, while loosening shirt collars is good for one more.

Some modification in American dress will probably come about in the future. As the experts see it, men will have to wear lighter clothes in summer, than is now customary. Women will have to dress more warmly in winter. This is the sort of common sense solution our grandparents would appreciate.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Toppling Trade Barriers

For six years, negotiators from the United States and 99 other countries worked intermittently in Geneva at liberalizing international trade. The result of those hours of work is the largest single trade bill in U.S. history, which was enacted into law on July 26.

Although passage of the trade bill in Congress was swift and attracted little attention, the event could have a strong impact on our economy by increasing U.S. exports and by creating new jobs as markets open for American business.

The new pact reduces literally thousands of obstacles to free trade, including tariffs—the special fees added to the price of imported goods—and non-tariff barriers, such as customs valuation methods and testing procedures that are used to keep out foreign goods.

The negotiators also agreed to relax “buy-national” government procurement policies that give preference to home-produced goods. The new pact will help eliminate government subsidies for exports, set uniform methods for determining the value of goods in trade, and raise quotas for cheese, meat, and other agricultural products.

These trade barriers prevented American companies from supplying foreign customers, and contributed to the \$100 billion balance-of-trade deficits the U.S. has suffered in the past four years.

The trade bill puts into effect treaties and agreements with 21 countries now, and another 78 later on. One economist has estimated that American consumers will benefit by some \$10 billion, with little increase in unemployment, when the trade agreement is fully phased in seven years from now.

Of course, trade liberalization puts domestic producers and their employees under greater competitive pressures, but that is not necessarily unhealthy, and can lead to greater economic efficiency and growth.

Perhaps an even greater benefit to be derived from the trade pact is the fact that it will help prevent a return to protectionist policies that reward inefficiency, strain international alliances, and threaten jobs.

One out of eight manufacturing jobs in the United States depends on exports. Thus, a thriving world trade system should bring more prosperity to many U.S. workers, greater international cooperation and interdependence, and a healthier trade balance.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Switching to Coal

One of the fastest ways to expand American energy supplies is to begin immediately to shift oil-burning plants to coal.

In the long run, synthetic fuels made from coal may provide the best way to reduce our huge imports of foreign oil. But, "synfuels" won't be able to contribute much before the mid to late 1980s. Coal conversion and conservation are the two speediest ways to ease our energy problems.

The President's Commission on Coal, in its final report on ways to increase domestic coal use, identified 60 electrical utility plants that could be converted to coal immediately, with a savings of about 400,000 barrels of oil per day in 1985. With the conversion of other plants, an additional one million barrels of oil per day could be saved by 1990.

The movement toward coal conversion has been slowed by obstacles such as confusion over Clean Air regulations. Air-pollution regulations were scheduled to be rewritten in 1977, but the Environmental Protection Agency did not issue its final ruling until June 1. Utilities delayed coal conversion until they could determine that coal would not be too expensive to burn because of too stringent standards.

Congress has pursued coal conversion policies in the past, and will continue to do so in the future. Last year, Congress passed the Fuel Use Act, which created a legal framework for the mandatory conversion of oil-burning power plants to coal. The bill prohibited new electric-power utility or industrial plants from using oil or natural gas, unless granted an exemption by the Department of Energy.

It appears that a stronger effort must be made to enforce coal conversion. President Carter is expected to propose legislation requiring utilities to cut oil usage by 50-percent by 1990. However, the administration, to date, has not devised a plan to implement mandatory coal conversion.

Since time is valuable, coal-state Senators are examining possible ways to legislate mandatory coal conversion. Federal grants and/or loan guarantees might spur coal conversion by helping utilities buy needed equipment.

The immediate benefits of coal conversion are too great to be put off any longer. Besides alleviating our dependence on foreign oil, coal conversion would increase mining jobs and coal production in West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In Praise Of Grandparents

The role of the family in America has changed dramatically in this century. The divorce rate has doubled in the last ten years. One out of six families is headed by a single parent. Nearly half of all American families have no children under 18.

This is a far cry from life in the last century when large families were necessary for survival in rural areas, family ties were tight, and family members depended heavily on each other.

Throughout these times of rapid change, grandparents remain an important stabilizing force in the family, and in the growth and development of grandchildren. Grandparents bestow love and encouragement on grandchildren, teach the values and traditions of the past, and provide a sense of family history.

The House and Senate recently passed a joint resolution empowering the President to proclaim the first Sunday in September following Labor Day as "National Grandparents' Day." The legislation authorizes the President to issue the proclamation in each succeeding year.

West Virginians can take special pride in the role played by Mrs. Marian McQuade of Oak Hill in establishing Grandparents'

Day. For the last five years, Mrs. McQuade, a mother of 15 and a grandmother, has led the movement to create a nationwide observance honoring grandparents. Mrs. McQuade said she got the idea for such an observance from working in a nursing home, where many of the elderly are sometimes forgotten by their families.

Using her own funds on her own time, she was instrumental in winning designation of Grandparents' Day in 25 states, including West Virginia.

Mrs. McQuade's efforts continue the tradition begun by Anna Jarvis of Grafton, W.Va., who worked to win acceptance of Mother's Day. Traditionally, West Virginians have placed a special value on family ties, and cherish the contributions made by parents and grandparents.

We live in a time when older Americans too often feel insignificant and forgotten, when instead they should be honored for their uniquely influential role in nurturing subsequent generations.

Grandparents' Day falls on September 9th this year. Perhaps on that day, Americans can show their grandparents that they are loved and appreciated in this increasingly busy, urbanized society.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Shredded Millions

Most West Virginians know that inflation has taken its toll of their buying power, but few may realize that it is taking its toll of their dollar bills.

Inflation results in more money in circulation, which means that more paper currency is wearing out, and must be destroyed. In the last hundred years, the amount of cash in circulation in the U.S. has risen from just over \$816 million, or about \$16.76 per person, to more than \$100 billion—about \$450 per person.

The Federal Reserve Bank branches, which are charged with destroying unfit currency, are hard put to keep up with the chopping and shredding of millions of so-called "dirty" dollars.

A dollar bill, which costs two cents to manufacture, lasts only about 18 months, on the average. All U.S. currency is produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, and then sent to the 37 Federal Reserve banks in 12 regions nationwide for circulation among the public. Currency is returned to the regional banks for counting, sorting, and disposal of unusable bills.

The bulk of currency circulating in West Virginia is distributed by the Richmond branch of the Federal Reserve system; a

small amount is handled by banks in Pittsburgh and Baltimore.

Federal Reserve employees once sorted bills individually on a simple machine, handling at most 35,000 bills a day. A later-model machine, still in use, allows sorters to handle 90,000 bills a day in \$100 chunks. Experienced sorters can tell by the heft and appearance if there are unfit bills in the chunk. In Richmond, unfit notes are macerated in a pulverizing machine, then taken to the city dump. The manual system is closely guarded by an elaborate security system of double verifications and surprise checks.

Federal Reserve officials hope that a new high-speed machine, which counts up to 72,000 notes an hour, will help keep up with the rising volume of unfit money. The machines catch all unusable money, as well as counterfeit bills. Unfit bills are automatically sent through a pipe to a shredder. The Richmond bank has one such machine, and expects to have two more by year's end.

Unfortunately, apart from novelty items, there are no uses for the federal government's shredded and chopped currency. The city dump is the end of the line for worn and inflation-wearied paper money.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Update On Congress

More than half of the first session of the 96th Congress is over, so it is appropriate to take a close look at the Senate's accomplishments.

The first matter the Senate disposed of is often overlooked, although it is important. In February, the Senate agreed to a 100-hour limit on debating time after cloture has been invoked. This rule change ended the so-called post-cloture filibuster, which prolonged debate unnecessarily.

This Congress, following a course set in the 95th Congress, has also reflected the public's desire for limited federal spending and reduced government regulation. This year, the Congress reduced the Federal deficit by \$21 billion. In setting fiscal 1980 budget levels, the Congress cut the President's budget request by \$12.4 billion and the projected deficit by \$17.6 billion.

On energy issues, Congress approved the President's standby emergency building temperature restrictions of 78 degrees for cooling and 65 degrees for heating for most commercial, industrial and nonresidential public buildings. The Senate also gave the President emergency authority to authorize state governors to submit for approval their own plans for energy conservation in their states. The President's modified standby gasoline rationing plan was approved by the Senate, but defeated in the House. Safety precautions were

tightened at nuclear plants, in the wake of the Three Mile Island accident.

Legislation was enacted approving and implementing the largest single trade bill in U.S. history—the multilateral trade agreements negotiated in Geneva, which reduce literally thousands of tariff and non-tariff barriers to free trade.

In the health field the Senate extended and amended five health programs dealing with alcohol abuse and alcoholism prevention, drug abuse and treatment, emergency medical services, health planning and nurse training. The Senate also passed two bills to improve health care for veterans, and to make benefits more equitable.

On international matters, the Senate debated and expressed its will regarding economic sanctions against Rhodesia, aid to Turkey, the MX missile, and clarification of unofficial U.S. relations with Taiwan.

The Senate has also passed 58 of the 67 authorization bills, necessary to keep programs operating. Six of the regular 1980 appropriations bills have also been approved.

This represents but a portion of the work that has occupied the Senate so far. The Senate still faces many important issues, including enactment of a windfall profits tax, approval of a government-backed synthetic fuels program, a gas-rationing program, and debate on the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginians Speak Out

During the month of August, I took the opportunity to visit 21 West Virginia counties in order to learn more about constituents' views on a variety of subjects.

In the course of 12 trips into almost every section of the state, I talked to, and answered questions from, hundreds of people—at civic meetings; state and county fairs; breakfast, lunch, and dinner meetings; and dedication ceremonies.

In conversations with West Virginians, I shared my concerns about the world-wide problem of inflation, the severe economic consequences of our dependence on OPEC oil, excessive government regulation, and the growth of government in response to the public's demands.

I spoke, also, of what has been accomplished so far to increase coal use, expand coal markets, and reduce federal roadblocks to burning coal.

I also related my concerns about the growing military imbalance between the Soviet Union and the U.S., and our need to strengthen our conventional forces and strategic defense systems.

As for the questions asked by West Virginians, most of them dealt with inflation, energy—and particularly, coal. I, in turn, asked questions by distributing a questionnaire to about 1,000 people.

One question asked for a rating of President Carter's performance on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest. Fifty-six percent of those polled gave the President a low rating, between 1-4; 34 percent gave him a moderate rating, between 5-7; and 9.7 percent gave him a high rating between 8-10.

Another question posed was: Do you favor ratification of the SALT II treaty? Those who answered yes, numbered 507 or 52.1 percent, while 434 people or 44.5 percent answered no. Twenty-four people were undecided, and 91 did not answer.

A third question was: Whether or not the SALT II treaty is ratified, do you think U.S. defense spending should be increased? A majority, 75.1 percent said yes, while 24 percent said no.

It will be interesting to see if the results of this straw poll foretell future events on the national scene.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sensible Coal Regulation

During my month-long travels through West Virginia in August, one theme that occurred continually in conversations with constituents was a great dissatisfaction with the role of the federal government in coal development.

Inconsistency in federal regulations regarding coal has been an obstacle to use of the nation's most abundant domestic fuel source. While we must maintain a careful balance between environmental and energy concerns, we must not retard coal use with contradictory policies.

Two years ago, Congress passed the Surface Mining Act, which was intended to give the States a meaningful voice in the regulatory process. The Act specifically states that the primary responsibility for developing, authorizing, issuing, and enforcing surface regulations rests with the States. The States need this regulatory flexibility in order to deal with unique circumstances, such as difficult terrain.

Unfortunately, the Surface Mining Act has not been interpreted in this manner by the federal agencies responsible for administering the Act. Since 1977, the Office of Surface Mining

(OSM) has issued thousands of pages of regulations, demanding that States' plans comply with all of them.

The Senate recently passed a bill, which I cosponsored, clarifying the meaning of the Surface Mining Act and giving the States the opportunity to assess and regulate individual coal mining problems. Under the bill's provisions, regulations drafted by West Virginia and other States would be permitted if they met the minimum standards set by the Act. Arbitrary regulations would be reduced as States submit plans which are consistent with the 115 environmental standards set forth in the Act.

The bill also extends the amount of time States are allowed to submit their reclamation plans to the OSM. This change would ensure that the reclamation plans will be carefully crafted and closely scrutinized before they become effective.

The amendment, if agreed to by the House, will be an important step toward essential cooperation between the Federal and State governments in developing a strong, consistent national coal policy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Responsible Press

Over the last several months, the U.S. government has been trying to block publication of articles and letters describing in detail the making of a hydrogen bomb.

The government recently abandoned its efforts after a small Wisconsin newspaper printed an 18-page letter outlining the fabrication of an H-bomb. Similar articles have since been published.

Scientists are now debating the degree of danger to our nation's security posed by publication of the H-bomb articles.

The general principles of the atomic bomb have been declassified for years. But, the specific engineering solutions to the complex problems involved in the hydrogen bomb are a legitimate security secret—for good reason. The explosive force of H-bombs ranges from one megaton (equivalent to one million tons of TNT) to 60 megatons.

Many scientists emphasize that to produce a hydrogen bomb, a nation would need a large trained cadre of technologists, and a lot of money—about \$1 billion to build power plants and factories to process uranium and other elements.

Some scientists think that countries such as India, Israel, and South Africa may have the means to produce an H-bomb, and could make good use of the de-

tails in the published articles.

The H-bomb controversy raises fundamental questions on the need to balance the constitutional right of individuals to publish and read what they want, and the right of the public to be protected from danger.

Two serious problems have also surfaced. One is the fact that the security procedures governing access to highly sensitive technologies are not sufficiently stringent. It is disturbing that the key facts in the H-bomb articles were apparently culled from unclassified documents that are widely available. Americans have a right to demand that technical details of potent nuclear weapons not be divulged, whether in government reports later made available to the public, or through scientists' interviews with the press.

We also have the right to expect the press to act responsibly with regard to our national safety. The difference between freedom and license is responsibility—the responsible exercise of freedom is essential to the maintenance of a free society and a free press.

For the press to claim First Amendment rights while playing fast and loose with our national security is the equivalent of claiming a constitutional right to falsely yell "Fire!" in a crowded theater.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Hard Look at U.S. Defense

In the course of preparing for the upcoming SALT II treaty debate in the Senate, I have been reviewing the record of hearings conducted by the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations, and on Armed Services.

While I have not yet come to a final decision on ratification of the treaty, I have reached some conclusions, based on the evidence presented at the hearings, on the need for an increased commitment to build U.S. defense strength.

The testimony presented at the Committee hearings reveals a disturbing trend. Put simply, the Soviet Union for the past several years has been outspending the U.S. on defense programs, and the U.S. is in danger of facing a growing imbalance in strategic nuclear weapons and conventional forces.

Although the U.S. today has what is known as "rough" or "essential" equivalence with the Soviets in conventional and strategic military power, the picture for the future is darker. In the 1980's, we face the troubling prospect of vulnerabilities of our land-based missiles. I have supported development of the mobile MX missile as a means of countering this vulnerability, but this weapon will not be initially operable until 1986 and fully operational until 1989.

In other areas, the Soviets and their Warsaw Pact allies possess a superior conventional and theater nuclear capability in Central Europe, with one-

third more troops in the field, three times as many tanks as the NATO allies, and a distinct advantage in theater nuclear systems.

The Russians are building far more military strength than they legitimately need for defense purposes.

The U.S. maintained unquestioned superiority in strategic and theater nuclear weapons over Russia up to the 1970's and has made important strides during the past 10 years. In some cases — such as our air-breathing systems (bombers and cruise missiles) and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, as well as in the accuracy of our Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicles (MIRV's) and Minuteman ICBM's — we have maintained an advantage. But, in other areas, the Soviets are roughly equivalent to, or have an edge over the U.S. — for example, the giant SS-18 ICBM's, and the SS-20 mobile intermediate MIRV'd missile now targeted against NATO forces in Europe.

Regardless of the outcome of the Senate's consideration of the SALT treaty, the U.S. will need to increase its defense spending in a careful, selective manner. The Senate recently approved, with my support, a 5-percent increase in defense spending for 1981 and 1982. We must focus our defense dollars on those programs that strengthen our conventional forces and restore the strategic balance.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Improving Rural Health Care

Two years ago, Congress passed the Rural Health Clinics Services Act, which was intended to improve medical care for rural residents, and provide help for small, financially hard-pressed rural clinics.

Such small clinics often cannot attract or support a full-time physician, and, instead, rely on one or two primary health practitioners and a receptionist, who may also double as a laboratory technician or bookkeeper.

The rural clinics legislation authorizes payment by Medicare and Medicaid for services provided by physician assistants and nurse practitioners in rural clinics located in medically underserved areas. Forty-four of West Virginia's 55 counties have been designated as medically underserved.

It was hoped that in the first year of the law's operation, 600 clinics serving 1.8 million people around the nation would be certified, and would receive Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement.

Eighteen months later, slightly more than 300 clinics have been certified. In West Virginia, only one dozen of more than 60 health clinics have been certified. It seems clear that the law is not working as it was intended.

Testimony at recent oversight hearings held by a Senate Agriculture subcom-

mittee showed that the small rural clinics are overwhelmed by the volume of paperwork required for certification and reimbursement.

In addition, federal policies on Medicare, Medicaid, Railroad Retirement, and Black Lung programs often conflict or are handled by different offices. Small clinics are not equipped to cope with such bureaucratic intricacies. Also, there is no program to train rural clinic employees in the application of federal regulations.

Clinics have also been discouraged from getting certified because the reimbursement rates for their services have been unrealistically low. Reimbursement has been based on 1976 data that do not take into account inflation and the current minimum wage.

Simply put, the rural clinics have found that the Rural Health Clinics Services Act was costing them more in paperwork than they were receiving in reimbursement.

This problem is under review by the Senate, and is being addressed by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Next spring, HEW is expected to issue simplified regulations, more streamlined administrative procedures, and more realistic reimbursement rates so that the Rural Health Clinics Services Act will work as Congress intended.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pressing Ahead On "Synfuels"

With the ever-present threat of OPEC oil price increases and supply interruptions, it is clear that the nation has no time to waste in developing alternatives to imported oil.

The Senate already has taken important steps in speeding development of a synthetic fuels industry. The Senate recently approved an amendment, which I introduced, to provide \$20 billion for the early stages of "synfuel" plant design. Of the total sum, \$2.2 billion would be available immediately for loans for site feasibility studies of potential plants.

In further efforts to hasten "synfuel" development, the Senate has also passed a bill, which the House must approve, that would establish an Energy Mobilization Board to waive restrictions and eliminate crippling delays for selected, large projects such as synthetic fuel plants, pipelines, refineries, and coal conversion projects.

The four-member board is intended to push forward projects that would otherwise be bottled up by thousands of federal and state regulations that now govern—and often delay or prevent—the building of such projects.

The board would designate "priority" projects, and set strict deadlines for

decisions made by federal, state or local agencies, such as whether to grant a zoning variance or an air pollution permit.

Should an agency fail to meet a deadline, the board could obtain a court order forcing the agency to make a decision, or the board could make the decision itself.

In related energy action, the Senate—acting on an amendment by Senator Javits, which I co-sponsored—recently approved \$1.2 billion to help the poor and the elderly cope with home-heating oil prices. Three-quarters of the funds would be administered by the Community Services Administration, with the rest distributed by state governors.

The Senate also approved an amendment, which I co-sponsored, that would allocate an extra \$10 million to the Economic Regulatory Administration in the Energy Department to provide sufficient funds to review the prospects of utility plant conversion to coal.

There is no wiser national security program we can adopt than to move toward energy self-sufficiency. The longer the delay in developing a synthetic fuels industry, the more vulnerable the nation will become to the whims of the oil-exporting countries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Runaway Russians

In recent weeks, several members of the Soviet cultural elite have renounced their homes and privileges in the Soviet Union to defect to the West.

In one month, five leading figures—three dancers and two ice skaters—have sought refuge in the United States or Europe. They are the most recent arrivals, but others have come in years past.

They come despite rigid screening and controls, and the painful knowledge that relatives at home may be held as hostages against their return. They are not deterred by the harsh Soviet laws that carry the maximum penalty of death for illegally leaving the motherland.

Unable to stem the tide—or the political embarrassment—the Soviet authorities have cancelled the American tour of the Moscow Symphony Orchestra. Orchestra officials wanted a guarantee that any musicians defecting during the tour would be shipped back home. No country that values freedom and the principle of individual choice could accept such an arrogant demand.

The Soviet press either barely mentioned the defec-

tions, or used them for crude political propaganda. The first dancer who defected was said to have been brainwashed by Western agents who offered him "seas of free whisky and mountains of gold."

Many Soviet citizens reportedly found it hard to understand why talented performers—who are well-paid and well-treated by Russian standards—would leave the society that pampers them more than the average person.

But, in fact, the favors and privileges enjoyed by the culturally gifted in Russia cannot compensate for the lack of creative exploration and expression they must endure. The government supervision of the lives and work of Soviet artists may be lax compared to other sectors of Russian society, but the restrictions still chafe.

America, however, is the richer for these new arrivals. The defectors gain more social and cultural freedom and a higher living standard than they have known previously. Americans gain, not only fresh artistic talent, but also the reminder of the freedoms too often taken for granted.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Benefits of SALT II

For several months, I have studied the SALT II Treaty and related issues to determine whether the treaty, as written, is in our national interests.

After reviewing the treaty text, extensive committee hearings transcripts, and the Senate Intelligence Committee's report, I have concluded that the SALT II Treaty benefits the United States' national interests.

Briefly, the reasons for my decision are:

—SALT II leaves the U.S. free to develop strategic weapons needed for our own security. The Joint Chiefs of Staff testified that no planned American strategic or theater nuclear weapons system is inhibited by SALT II;

—Without the treaty, the U.S. would face unrestrained arms competition, which would drain funds needed to strengthen our conventional forces and the theater nuclear forces in Europe;

—SALT II will leave the U.S. free to continue to collaborate with our allies in the modernization of NATO's theater nuclear forces, and to consider arms control initiatives in that area;

—The treaty provides significant arms control by limiting each side on the number of Multiple Independently-targeted Re-entry Vehicles (MIRV's) on Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM's), Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBM's), and Air-to-Surface Ballistic Missiles (ASBM's);

—The treaty is adequately verifiable, and does not rely

on trust. The treaty prohibits interference with national technical means of verification or any deliberate concealment measures which impede verification of compliance with treaty provisions;

—The treaty prohibits Soviet testing, production or deployment of the SS-16, a mobile ICBM. Soviet production of the Backfire bomber is also limited by agreement.

During the almost seven years of negotiations on SALT II—under both Republican and Democratic administrations—the Soviets made several concessions. If the treaty negotiations were to be reopened—as some people suggest—the Soviets would want to renegotiate these concessions. It is likely that the resulting treaty would be less favorable to the U.S., or, even more probably, there would be no treaty at all. The Soviets also could develop and deploy weapons that are banned under SALT II, while the treaty was being renegotiated.

Our European allies strongly support the treaty, and rejection of it could raise serious questions about U.S. stability and leadership. The cohesiveness of the Western alliance would be undermined.

Senate ratification of the SALT II treaty would not mean that we are doing the Russians a favor, nor does it imply approval of the Soviets or their system of government. Ratification is desirable because the treaty is in our own interest, and would contribute to our national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help For A Dying Nation

The horrors of civil war, famine, and disease in Cambodia during the last four years have resulted in a death toll exceeding that of any small country since the plagues of the 14th century.

As many have pointed out, the world may be helplessly watching the extinction of a nation—an event almost unparalleled in human history.

Cambodia's sad saga began in 1975, when Pol Pot's murderous regime took power. At that time, the country's population numbered about 8 million. Under Pol Pot, the population was reduced through execution, disease, and malnutrition to about 4 million.

In January of this year, the Vietnamese invaded Cambodia, ousted Pol Pot, and installed a puppet regime headed by Heng Samrin. The fighting has continued, and because of the resulting dislocation, no crops have been planted. Relief workers estimate that roughly half of the remaining Cambodians will die within six months if they do not receive food and medical aid.

More than 300,000 refugees are housed in camps throughout Thailand, and more than a half-million more Cambodians are inch-

ing their way toward the border, in an effort to escape a new Vietnamese offensive. The refugees arrive in appallingly weak and diseased condition. Many report that they were reduced to eating leaves, bark, bugs and rodents while hiding in the forests.

Because the Senate needed a first-hand report on this tragedy, I appointed a bipartisan group of three Senators to go to Thailand and Cambodia. One of the group's goals was to convince Phnom Penh officials to allow U.N. and Red Cross truck convoys of food to enter Cambodia from Thailand. This would be the quickest, most direct way of getting aid to the starving.

Unfortunately, the effort failed. The Phnom Penh officials claim they are afraid the food will go to the ragged Khmer Rouge army.

The Cambodian situation is a colossal disaster, all the more tragic because it is man-made. It can only be hoped that the continued pressure of the international community will force the Phnom Penh officials to put humanitarian concerns ahead of politics, and allow food to be distributed quickly to the starving remnants of the Cambodian people.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A U.S. Technological Gap?

For years, American industry dominated world markets for everything from passenger jets to oil-drilling equipment—largely because of U.S. preeminence in scientific research and its industrial applications.

In the last decade, European and Far Eastern nations have made great gains in technological development, and thus have increased their share of export markets.

Japan and Germany, in particular, have recovered from World War II's devastation, and have poured their energies into research and development, and advanced technology. Many European countries have joined forces and finances to complete large, expensive projects. And in countries such as Japan, there is a high degree of cooperation between public and private institutions on research and development.

A look at current patent data shows how great is the progress of other nations. Between 1971 and 1976, U.S. patents issued to American corporations dropped by about 20 percent, while patents issued to foreign corporations increased almost 25 percent.

The lack of technological innovation is often cited as an important factor in the steady decline in U.S. productivity. Poor productivity,

in turn, is acknowledged as a cause of inflation, slow economic growth, and the declining dollar.

Some critics charge that obstructive federal regulations, reduced federal spending on research and development, and tax policies that discourage business risks have contributed to the United States' slowed technological progress.

But, other experts are not convinced that the rapid growth in technology in other countries reflects shortcomings in U.S. innovation and policy. They believe that progress in other countries is the inevitable result of an increasingly integrated international economy, in which technological superiority is increasingly difficult to maintain. In other words, it could well be that the U.S. has not slipped, but that other countries have caught up. Under these conditions, more research money and different policies won't restore the United States' number one position.

The best course, in the short run, is to target research dollars in the areas that contribute the most to the national interest—such as alternative energy sources and defense. This is the approach that has been taken in Congress, and one that is likely to continue.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Troubled Glass Industry

Glassmaking was one of America's first industries. The Jamestown settlers made glass in 1608—12 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

The nation's first glassworks were located near woodlands, which provided ample fuel to feed the hot fires needed to melt the basic ingredients used in making glass—sand, soda and limestone. Early glassmakers created free-blown, crudely-shaped jars and bottles to hold cider and various household liquids.

Changes in the fuel used by America's growing glass industry necessitated changes in the industry's location. By 1880 coal had replaced wood as the most widely used fuel for glassmaking and glass plants were then located near coal deposits. Natural gas and oil soon replaced coal as the industry's fuels.

By the early 20th century, West Virginia's abundant energy resources made the state the site of hand-blown, pressed, and cut-glass manufacturing. West Virginia today has 42 glass plants—more than any other state—and produces a wide variety of products, including bottles and containers; glassware; flat glass for windows, mirrors and storefronts; fine, hand-blown crystal; and stained glass for church windows.

The state's glass indus-

try is now facing several troubling problems. Fuel costs have risen dramatically in the past decade. Competition from foreign imports, and the lack of overseas markets for domestically-produced glass have hurt the industry. High interest rates have kept many companies from taking advantage of more modern equipment. Some Environmental Protection Agency emission standards have also caused complaints.

Department of Commerce authorities project that unless something is done soon to counter these problems, there may be little or no domestic glass production in the United States within 10-to-15 years.

I and other members of the congressional delegation are deeply concerned about West Virginia's glass industry, and have offered our assistance. As a first step, we have asked the Commerce Department to approve and fund a four-part study of the state's glass industry, including a technical study, and separate studies of the cut-glass, pressed/blown glass, and purchased and re-worked glass industries.

It is hoped that the badly-needed study will point the way toward solutions to revitalize this old, and honored West Virginia industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Outrage in Iran

Few events have so outraged Americans as the recent ugly acts of terrorism, mob rule, and lunacy in Iran.

The seizure of the U.S. Embassy and its staff violates principles of diplomatic immunity, sovereignty, and asylum honored by civilized nations, even in time of war, since ancient times.

It is particularly galling that the Ayatollah Khomeini—who, himself, sought asylum in the West—condones the embassy's seizure, and encourages mass hysteria with a steady outpouring of vitriolic, anti-American rhetoric.

His campaign of hatred—ostensibly aimed at gaining the return of the Shah to Iran—also serves to distract Iranians' attention from severe economic problems, and helped assure passage of his hand-drawn constitution designed to turn Iran into a 7th-century theocratic state.

No matter how this tragic affair ends, there are several points to be made:

1) The U.S. has proved its determination not to submit to blackmail. Paying blackmail to a government that kidnaps diplomats would only invite further humiliations, and not only in Iran. Out of concern for

the hostages' safety, our response to this affront has been measured, but firm. However, the decisions to cut off Iranian oil imports, freeze Iranian assets, and deport Iranian students who are here illegally, can leave no doubt about our resolve.

2) Although embassies are not intended to be fortresses, changes may have to be made to protect our people overseas. Host governments are supposed to guarantee the security of foreign embassies. The U.S. Marine Guards at each embassy are expected to maintain the security of staff and confidential papers for a short while, until help from the host government arrives.

Apart from the storming of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, the attack on our embassy in Islamabad and the delay of the Pakistani government's response, raise serious questions about accepted security arrangements.

3) The disarray in the Persian Gulf is a vivid reminder of the West's vulnerability on oil imports. No prudent nation can afford to stake its energy future on stability in the area. There is no time to lose in conserving energy, and in finding alternatives to foreign oil.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Quick Way to Clean Coal

In the history of energy, the world had to await the development of new technologies before the power of the sun, wind, and water could be harnessed. Without the invention of the windmill, the solar reactor, or the steam turbine, the energy potential from these sources would be lost.

Faced with the need to reduce reliance on expensive, imported oil, the United States is seeking new technologies to tap the full potential of the nation's most abundant fuel source—coal.

Engineers and researchers in Europe and the U.S. are watching the performance of a small experimental power plant in Rivesville, W.Va., to see if the plant's highly efficient coal-fired boiler is another important technological step in using coal.

Indications are that the so-called fluidized-bed boiler, invented by a New York engineer, may provide a simple, clean, and cheap way to burn coal.

Conventional boilers burn pulverized coal, and require expensive gas scrubbers or the use of low-sulfur coal to meet government emissions standards.

The fluidized-bed boiler

burns crushed coal, which is cheaper than pulverized coal. The coal granules are mixed with crushed limestone in an aerated or "fluidized" bed, which cleans the coal of sulfur and other pollutants as it burns.

So far, the boiler has tested well, and shows promise as a useful energy provider for such institutions as schools, hospitals, and small factories.

Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., is using a fluidized-bed boiler to heat campus facilities. The boiler is actually exceeding government air standards, allowing the school to reduce its costs even further by cutting down on the amount of limestone used.

The Rivesville plant, which was built with funds I helped to secure, is currently working out the problems in adapting the fluidized-bed boiler to large-scale industrial and utility use.

The fluidized-bed boiler may not be the ultimate solution to the nation's energy problems, but it does offer the prospect of providing large amounts of clean energy quickly, while the technologies of the next millenium are being perfected.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Mine Academy's Growing Role

Beckley, West Virginia, is home to an institution that is making a unique contribution to the nation's energy future.

Since 1976, the National Mine Health and Safety Academy has been training federal mine inspectors, and developing programs to enhance the health and safety of miners all over the United States.

The Academy—the only institution of its kind in the nation—offers two- and three-month-long resident programs for mine inspectors, and shorter seminars on safety for industry representatives and miners.

The purpose of the Academy is to expand and upgrade the health and safety expertise of mine management and mine workers, as well as the Federal and state agencies responsible for mine health and safety.

When the Academy opened in 1976, a total of 1,517 students received instruction during the first year. Last year, approximately 12,000 students attended the seminars and resident programs.

In addition to training programs, the Academy is also engaged in publishing manuals on mine safety. The Academy currently

distributes approximately a quarter-of-a-million safety, programmed instruction, and other manuals each year to Department of Interior and Department of Labor employees, community colleges, vocational schools, mining and other industrial groups throughout the United States.

Campus storage facilities are limited and inconveniently located. A publication processing and storage area was needed that was easily accessible for the delivery and distribution of such large quantities of publications.

To this end, I was able to secure funds to construct a publications center on the Academy grounds, continuing my involvement in all stages of the Academy's development since its inception.

West Virginians may take pride in the fact that the Academy is a major source of trained health and safety workers needed by the mining industry.

The United States has needed more government and industry personnel with formal training in mine safety. That need is greater than ever, now that the nation is turning more to coal as the answer to the energy quandary.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taxing "Windfall" Profits

One of the most important components of the nation's policy to reduce foreign oil imports is the production of more domestic oil and natural gas.

This was the primary motivation behind President Carter's decision to decontrol the price of domestic crude oil, in the hope that higher prices will spur greater production and conservation.

However, as a result of decontrol, the oil companies will reap a tremendous windfall of profits that are not directly attributable to increased costs.

I supported the President's decision to decontrol domestic oil prices with the understanding that Congress would pass a meaningful "windfall" profits tax—one that was fair and equitable to the American people; one that would not discourage further oil exploration.

After several weeks of debate, the Senate recently passed and sent to a House-Senate conference a tax bill that would raise about \$178 billion in revenues over the next ten years. The final bill represented a \$40 billion increase in revenues over the Senate Finance Committee version.

I would have preferred an even tougher, permanent

tax, but given the divisiveness of conflicting views on the tax question, compromises had to be made. It is expected that House-Senate conferees will stiffen and improve the tax even further.

During debate on the tax, the Senate adopted several important amendments, including one which I cosponsored, providing a 20-cents-per-gallon tax credit to producers of clean-burning methanol from coal.

This is an appropriate incentive for a fuel source which has the potential to replace gasoline, home heating oil, jet fuel, kerosene, and diesel fuel.

The Senate also approved my amendment to provide an additional ten-percent investment tax credit for coke-oven reconstruction and replacement. The purpose of the amendment is to help reverse the decline of coke production in this country, and to increase coal usage. The nation's coke industry is in such poor condition that the steel industry has been forced to turn to imports to meet its needs.

As world oil prices persist in rising, Congress will continue to assess the "windfall" profits tax in light of future oil company profits and the country's energy needs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Rural Life Improves

After decades of population loss and economic decline, rural America has progressed significantly toward improved social and economic conditions.

That is the encouraging message contained in the latest annual U.S. Agriculture Department report on rural development. The report stems from a law passed by Congress in 1972, directing the Secretary of Agriculture to set national rural development goals and to report each year on the progress made in attaining those goals.

The Agriculture Department report shows that population and economic growth are increasing in rural areas. Substandard housing and poverty are declining, though less dramatically, and remain high compared to cities.

In 1959, median family income in rural areas was only 71 percent of urban median family incomes, while in 1977, it was 79.4 percent.

The report cites the following reasons for the population turnaround: rural modernization, greater economic vitality, and an increasing preference for rural living.

But, rural areas remain plagued by inadequate passenger transportation and shortages of doctors. And the problems of disadvantage in rural areas weigh most heavily on the poor and the elderly.

Although the Agriculture Department report does not deal with data on individual states, a recent Appalachian Regional Commission study of the 13 states in Northern, Central and Southern Appalachia shows that population and personal income are also increasing in West Virginia.

Between 1970-75, Central Appalachia had the most rapid increases in population and per capita income levels, but started from the lowest levels.

Other West Virginia counties, included in the Northern Appalachian sub-region, kept pace with the nation on personal income, with population growth increasing only slightly over previous levels.

After many years of poverty and isolation, rural America appears to be moving toward greater prosperity, economic strength, and an improved quality of life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Science and Small Business

Innovative research in science and engineering has made many contributions to the nation's economic strength and high standard of living.

Congress, in 1950, established the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support applied science and engineering research through grants to universities, non-profit organizations, industry, and State and local governments.

Recognizing that small business has an established record for innovation, the NSF has launched a three-phase, competitive program to extend financial support for high quality research conducted by all types of small businesses, including high technology, research and development, manufacturing, and service firms.

The program, entitled Small Business Innovation Research, is open to small businesses, in West Virginia and other states, with no more than 500 employees. The businesses must submit proposals for applied research on important scientific or technical problems that could have significant public benefit if the research is successful.

In the first phase of the program, the NSF will award 50 grants of approximately \$25,000 each to individual businesses submitting the most exceptional

proposals. The second phase will provide for larger awards to those companies with approaches that appear most promising as a result of the first phase.

The third phase, which will not be funded by NSF, is the development phase to pursue commercial applications.

The NSF will consider proposals in the following areas: advanced measurement, industrial processes, deep mineral resources, human nutrition, advanced marine farming, ground-water pollution, alternative biological sources of materials, appropriate technology, earthquake engineering, and science and technology to aid the handicapped.

The program does not apply to product development, technical assistance, or pilot-plant efforts. The NSF, as a rule, also does not support clinical (medical or disease-related), market, classified, or weapons-related research.

For information on the length and format of proposals, write or call: EAS/Small Business, National Science Foundation, 1800 G St. N.W., R.M. 1105, Washington, D.C. 20550 (202) 634-6205.

Proposals must be submitted no later than January 21, 1980.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Good Times Ahead?

As the new decade begins, some demographers, who study population trends, predict that the 1980's will be a period of stability, tranquility, and mature productivity in America.

Among the predictions for the coming decade are: a dramatically lower crime rate, a sharp decline in unemployment (particularly among teenagers), more children going on to college and finding better jobs, a decline in teenage suicide and violence, and a possible reduction of the welfare rolls.

These predictions are based on the fact that birth rates are declining and American society, as a whole, is aging.

In the immediate post-World War II era, the nation experienced a so-called "baby boom." In the mid-1950's, at the peak of this period, over 4 million babies were born annually, compared with 2.5 million in 1940, and about 3 million today.

Starting in the late 1950's, fewer children, on the average, were born in American families. Now, those babies are reaching maturity.

The result is that the nation is at the crest of a long population cycle. The year

1980 will be the peak year for persons aged 18-to-24, who number 29.5 million. By 1995, as a result of declining births in the last decade, the 18-to-24 age group will shrink to 23.2 million.

Many social commentators believe that the large groups of "baby-boom" children competing for limited entry-level jobs and college places produced some of the social upheavals that marked the late Sixties and early Seventies.

On the other hand, a declining youth population may mean decreasing crime rates as most major violent crimes in the U.S. are committed by people 15-to-29 years old.

Certainly, job prospects should be better. Young people in the 1980's should find themselves in a seller's market, with a scarcity of youthful laborers willing to start at the low-wage bottom of the economy. This scarcity should bid up wages, offer more choice and mobility in careers, and make an education even more valuable.

In short, the coming decade may hold more options and opportunities for the young, in particular, as well as more social benefits for all Americans.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Soviet Bear Hug

The Soviet invasion of neighboring Afghanistan is the first time since World War II that the U.S.S.R. has attempted the military conquest of a country outside the Communist bloc.

The "embrace" of the Soviet bear should leave no doubt as to who is the real threat in that troubled area of the world. Islamic countries—Iran and Pakistan, in particular—should note the arrogant, direct armed expansion of Soviet power.

Under the guise of a Soviet-Afghan "friendship" treaty, the Soviets claim to have sent in their troops in response to an Afghan government request to help quell "outside aggression."

In fact, Soviet troops launched an airborne invasion and carried out a violent coup. One Soviet-backed Afghan leader was overthrown and executed, only to be replaced by another puppet, hand-picked by Moscow. Now, Communism is being imposed on a bitter, rebellious Afghan populace.

It is thought that Soviet troops, numbering an estimated 50,000-85,000 have taken control of the major towns and highways in the country, and are moving to consolidate their position permanently. Afghan rebels, fighting for a traditional Islamic way of life and using antiquated weapons, are resisting the Russians.

The Soviets are thought to have risked this bald takeover of a non-aligned

country because the Afghan-Marxist government they sponsored was in danger of collapse. The Russians may also have feared that recent upheavals in Islamic countries would spill over into the 40 million Moslems living under Soviet rule.

Whatever their reasons, the Soviets have succeeded in stirring world opinion against them, and have put a chill on detente.

I believe the sanctions against the Soviets, recently announced by President Carter, are appropriate actions to take at this time, and I would hope that our allies would follow suit.

Those sanctions include a U.S. grain embargo, cuts in other trade, a halt to scientific and cultural exchanges, and a threat to boycott the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow.

There are lessons in this episode for all concerned. The Soviets must learn that they must pay a high economic and political price for the occupation of Afghanistan.

Third World countries should realize that it is foolish, if not fatal, to view the Soviets through rose-colored glasses.

Finally, the United States must realize that it cannot afford to delay improvement of its conventional forces, and modernization of its theater nuclear forces. The peace of the world may hang in the balance.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Long Road to the White House

The road to the White House seems to grow longer as the campaign season opens earlier with each election.

The presidential "sweepstakes" year is prolonged largely because of the recent proliferation of state primaries and caucuses, where state delegates are chosen to attend each political party's nominating convention.

The number of primaries, in particular, has grown since the 1968 Democratic Party rules changes to broaden grass-roots participation in the nominating process.

In 1968, there were only 17 primaries; there are 37 tentatively scheduled in 1980, including one in West Virginia.

In 15 states, both parties will elect delegates through the caucus process, which involves a multi-tiered system of meetings scheduled over several weeks. Caucus participants are usually a limited number of local party leaders and activists, as opposed to the large numbers of registered Democrats or Republicans who vote in state primaries.

The operation of the caucus varies from state to state, and each party has its own rules. But the process often begins with precinct caucuses or some other type of local mass meeting open to all party voters. Participants, often publicly

declaring their votes, elect delegates to the next stage in the process.

Eight states this year are "hybrids," with one party using a primary, and the other a caucus process.

Campaigning in caucus states usually focuses on grass-roots organization, one-to-one personal contact between the candidate and potential supporters, and an early start. Primary campaigns depend more on money than on time, with heavy investments in media advertising, phone banks, and mailings to reach larger numbers of voters.

Since 1968 most presidential hopefuls have concentrated on primary campaigning. Now, early caucuses are also stressed. Both processes can serve as springboards for dark-horse candidates by allowing them a share of national attention.

Primaries and caucuses can offset the edge enjoyed by the incumbent President, who can draw on the powers of his office and vast name recognition.

At the same time, the new emphasis on primary and caucus campaigning requires enormous amounts of time, money, and organization. This discourages many well-qualified people—who may not have millions of dollars or a year to devote to campaigning—from seeking the highest office in the land.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sports and Sacrifices

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has prompted the United States to seek the transfer, postponement, cancellation or boycott of the Moscow Summer Olympic Games.

Ideally, the Olympics should be above politics, but, in fact, the Games have been politicized by nationalistic displays on many occasions — most notably in 1936 when Hitler used the Berlin Games to propagandize the Nazi war machine.

American attendance at the Summer Olympics would allow the Russians to duplicate the Nazis' charade, and would lend respectability to the Soviets' armed aggression in a neighboring country.

American withdrawal from the Moscow Games would be keenly felt by the Soviets. It would be even more difficult to explain to the average Russian, who may not hear through state-controlled news of the world's outrage over Afghanistan.

The Soviets are counting on the Olympics to serve as a showcase for, and to bring prestige and legitimacy to, their Communist country.

The U.S. Senate has approved overwhelmingly a resolution calling for the United States to boycott the Olympics regardless of whether Soviet troops with-

draw from Afghanistan. The resolution goes a step further than the President's proposal of a boycott if the Russians are not out of Afghanistan by Feb. 20, an event considered unlikely.

The Senate resolution also calls for the creation of a permanent home for the Summer Games in Greece, where the Olympics began in 776 B.C., and a permanent home for the Winter Games in a neutral country, such as Switzerland or Austria.

Many U.S. athletes have trained countless hours during several years in preparation for the games, and their sacrifice will be great if an alternate site or alternate games cannot be arranged in time.

But, let us not forget the sacrifice of the American hostages in Tehran and their families — a sacrifice that the Soviet Union ignored when it vetoed United Nations economic sanctions against Iran.

The 600,000 Afghans who have been driven from their homes by the ruthless Soviet invasion are also making sacrifices, as is Nobel Peace Laureate Andre Sakharov, who was exiled by the Soviets for his criticism of his country's action.

These sacrifices should be kept in mind as the United States contemplates a fitting response to the Soviets' adventurism.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal's Potential: 1985-2010

The nation's most prestigious scientific organization—the National Academy of Sciences—has concluded that, for the next 30 years, the United States must rely on coal and nuclear power to meet its future energy needs.

These conclusions were recently issued in a massive study prepared by an Academy-appointed committee of some 350 experts, who submitted their findings to the Department of Energy. The 783-page report took four years to complete, and is perhaps the most comprehensive analysis of American energy needs yet published.

The committee agreed that the most critical supply problem the nation faces is a probable worldwide shortage of fluid fuels in the next ten years.

The nation's two highest priorities, the report said, should be conversion from oil to coal and nuclear energy for electrical power generation, and development of a domestic synthetic fuels industry for both liquids and gas.

The report concluded that coal and nuclear energy are the only economic alternatives for generating electricity in the near future.

Both energy sources could also ease future fluid fuels shortages if the electricity they produce can replace some oil or gas.

By 1990, coal may be even more in demand as an ingredient for synthetic fuel production, with nuclear power providing most of the country's electricity.

The report warned that it was unwise to count on the sun as an immediate, convenient replacement for foreign oil. The committee's members held out little hope that solar power would contribute much to the nation's energy supplies during the next three decades—unless the government provides enormous subsidies for solar research, and penalizes the use of non-renewable fuels.

Such a crash program would be very costly, and might prematurely freeze the nation into obsolescent energy systems. A better route would be to continue solar power research at modest levels, with an eye toward long-term benefits.

The Academy's message is clear: the United States, if it is to regain its energy independence, must pursue several alternatives to foreign oil, and must begin immediately to benefit from its vast reserves of coal.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Public Office/Public Trust

Members of Congress—indeed, any public officeholder—must adhere to a higher standard of conduct than the average citizen.

To hold public office is to be given a public trust, and a public trust should not be betrayed.

An individual who commits a crime commits an act against society. Criminal activity cannot be tolerated in this society wherever it occurs.

The recent allegations that eight members of Congress have been implicated in a bribery/conflict-of-interest scandal have shocked the American public, and those of us who serve in government. Public confidence in Congress has been shaken.

But, in this country, there are principles and procedures for dealing with allegations of criminal conduct, and for dealing with criminal acts. A fundamental principle of American jurisprudence that underlies these procedures is that one is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Unfortunately, news of the so-called ABSCAM investigation conducted by the FBI and the Department of Justice was leaked to the press before the judicial process had begun. Crimes may or may not have been committed. So far, there have been no charges, indictments, or convictions.

The pretrial publicity may have damaged the reputations and careers of innocent people. In addition, the leaked stories may have compromised the case against those who may have committed criminal acts and who should be punished.

Although the leaks are regrettable, they in no way excuse any criminal conduct that may have occurred.

Some have raised questions about the way the investigation was conducted by the FBI, but I believe that this is not the time for Congress to be investigating the investigators.

If and when any of the cases go to court, the courts will determine whether the FBI's methods were such that they were prejudicial to the defendants.

With respect to the inquiry, the Department of Justice and the Congress have separate and distinct duties and responsibilities. It is hoped that the established House and Senate ethics committees will discharge those responsibilities without delaying the criminal investigation.

It is imperative that the judicial process go forward as quickly as possible, so that those who may have committed crimes may be punished, and those innocent may be cleared. In this manner, faith in government may be restored.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Backbone

The entrepreneur with a small business is a risk-taker whose traditions and spirit have always been a backbone of the American economy.

Often in the past, big business and small business were lumped together and seen as one. There was no recognition that what might be good for General Motors might not be good for Joe's Machine Shop.

But, the interests of big and small businesses often diverge. For example, tax provisions can have vastly different effects on small and large firms. Government regulations and paperwork requirements affect them diversely. Anti-trust law and competition policy can put them on opposite sides of the fence.

Moreover, small business does not have access to large credit and equity markets to finance its undertakings.

During the last few years, small businessmen and women have joined together in national and regional associations to represent their special concerns, and to have an effect on national business policy.

The nation's small business owners now number approximately 14 million.

In the last five years, Congress has passed legislation that:

—reduced by \$2 billion,

corporate income taxes for companies earning less than \$100,000;

—reduced capital gains taxes from 49 percent to 28 percent;

—tripled the exemption from federal estate and gift taxes for all heirs, greatly lessening the tax burden on surviving spouses, and permitting payment of estate taxes on farms and small businesses over a 15-year period;

—cut paperwork by eliminating 400 federal forms and consolidating others, and;

—recognized the importance of small business by recommending the formation of the White House Conference on Small Business.

The majority party in the Senate intends to continue to work to insure that small business remains a vital sector in our economy. Among the upcoming objectives are: increased government procurement from small businesses; more research and development money for small business; a review of the impact of government patent policy on small business; and possible regulatory reform legislation.

Finally, if the economy demands passage of a tax cut this year, it should be a tax cut which is consistent with the needs of small business.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Weeding Out Waste

A recent report prepared by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) demonstrates why government agencies need to do their homework before spending taxpayers' money.

In response to my request, the GAO investigated the use of federal funds to recruit foreign workers to aid in the 1978 apple harvest in West Virginia as well as several other East Coast states. When domestic workers are unavailable, assistance is sought from foreign employees on a temporary basis to prevent crop loss to growers.

The GAO report noted that the U.S. Department of Labor referred 133 workers to West Virginia growers in 1978, but only six of them stayed on the job for 15 days or longer, and only three workers remained to complete the harvest.

In West Virginia, a total of \$27,745 in federal money was spent on the recruitment project, most of which was allocated under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973. This sum, according to the report, "far exceeded the wages earned by the workers."

Assistance to growers

also was minimal since the apple harvest was late, and no effort was made to delay the scheduled arrival of off-shore workers to coincide with the harvest.

Thus, the project failed to provide meaningful assistance to growers or workers, representing a waste of federal funds which cannot be tolerated.

The primary causes of this project's lack of success, according to the report, were attributed to failure to recruit qualified workers and failure to train them for the job.

The recommendations of this requested investigation suggest that the Department of Labor develop procedures to ensure an adequate recruiting period so that qualified workers can be hired. The recruitment program also should provide job orientation and training.

It is imperative that the Department of Labor—or any governmental agency—take the necessary precautions to ensure that federal money is being well-spent. It is appropriate that those responsible for oversight of governmental programs continue to be on the alert to eliminate inefficient use of taxpayers' money.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Delicate Balance

In searching for appropriate legislation to strengthen the nation's intelligence agencies, the removal of unreasonable restraints must be balanced with guarantees of accountability to Congress.

Certain restrictions were placed upon the CIA and other intelligence units in the 1970's after abuses of authority were revealed. But it has become apparent that some of these provisions may threaten the ability of our intelligence agencies to function properly and effectively.

The need for accountability, however, is not diminished, and it is in the interests of the country to maintain a proper oversight role by the legislative branch of government.

The Senate, which is considering legislation to address these concerns, must strike a compromise that provides the CIA with adequate flexibility to conduct its work, while stipulating safeguards against unwarranted activity.

Under present provisions, intelligence agencies must report many of their activities to eight Congressional committees whose total membership exceeds 200. It would be more appropriate to limit reporting to only

the Senate and House Intelligence Committees — both of which, incidentally, have proved to be reliable in protecting secret intelligence information.

Intelligence agencies should not be required to notify Congress about every detail of their undertakings, particularly for information-gathering activities. But it is essential that Congress be informed—through its Intelligence Committees—of any significant covert operation which affects national security.

In emergency situations where the CIA deems it necessary to act without delay, it would be reasonable to require prior notification to Congress via the House and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, as well as the chairmen and ranking members of the Intelligence Committees. This stipulation would not impair the CIA's ability to act speedily.

Congress must respond to the challenge of achieving a delicate balance between flexibility and accountability so that our country's intelligence system can react to the often unpredictable events of this complex world and protect our national interests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Step Against Inflation

It is time for Congress to pull in the reins on government spending and balance the federal budget.

As every citizen is keenly aware, rampant inflation has been eating away at the individual's pocketbook, at the businessman's profits, and at the country's productivity. No sector of the economy has been immune from its devastating effects.

A balanced federal budget for the 1981 fiscal year will not rid the nation of this economic malaise, but it will be a step in the right direction.

Fiscal policy which matches government expenditures with anticipated revenues would remove some pressure from the Federal Reserve Board in its efforts to curb inflation. This agency has been pursuing a tight monetary policy—primarily through allowing interest rates to rise—to stem excessive spending that fosters the inflationary spiral.

Inflation can be chiefly attributed to the escalating

cost of energy, food, housing, and medical costs.

The balancing of the federal budget will represent a firm commitment on the part of Congress to the fighting of inflation by holding down spending. It will send a signal to the American people to tighten their belts similarly, and will foster an atmosphere of economic stability needed by the business community.

The process of achieving this goal, however, is going to be painful. All areas of the federal budget must be scrutinized to determine where spending cuts will be made — and many worthy projects and services may be affected.

Although funding cuts are certain to be protested by affected interest groups, the long-run goal of beating inflation must be paramount. Chronic inflation is more damaging to everyone's economic and social well-being than are the hardships which may result from carefully considered budget cuts.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Time for a Turnaround

The development of new coke-production facilities in West Virginia would help stimulate the state's economy, while pushing the country forward in its goal of achieving energy self-sufficiency.

The state's depressed coal market, of course, would be bolstered by the construction of coke plants which use metallurgical coal. Additional jobs would be created through this increased demand for coal, as well as from operation of the plants.

The nation, in pursuit of breaking its ties to imported energy, would also benefit. Ensuring an adequate supply of domestic coke for the production of steel is an important step in meeting this objective.

It is for these reasons that I, and other members of the West Virginia Congressional delegation, have been working to smooth the way for locating coke facilities in the state. Several meetings have been held with federal, state, and local officials to aid in the development of financial packages; to offer technical assistance; and to obtain

assurances of meeting clean air standards.

Because of the nation's critical shortage of domestic coke, an estimated six million tons of the fuel will be imported this year. By 1985, our steel industry could experience a domestic coke shortfall of 10 to 12 million tons.

The country's loss of coking capacity, according to a recent study by Fordham University, can be attributed to several factors. They include the unavailability of investment capital, obsolescence of coke ovens, environmental control regulations, escalating capital costs, and continual advancements in coke-making technology.

There currently are only two coke-producing facilities in West Virginia—one in Weirton and the other in Follansbee.

For the benefit of the state and nation, it is time for a turnaround in the coking industry. We currently have a potential for locating several coke-production facilities in West Virginia; and efforts to assist in the development of these projects must be continued.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Potential Straitjacket

Congress must keep a skeptical eye on proposals which would impose additional restraints on a society that already is inundated with regulations.

Clearly there is a need for both economic and social regulations to protect citizens from potential abuse. But there is the danger of a regulation overdose.

Thousands of regulations have been applied to all segments of society at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

It has been estimated that federal regulations in 1979 cost nearly \$103 billion. The expense of complying with these restraints in paperwork alone ranges from \$25 to \$32 billion a year, according to the Commission on Federal Paperwork, with the bulk of it borne by five million small businesses.

There is no doubt, of course, that many regulations result in benefits to American citizens, most of which cannot be quantified in dollars. It is difficult to put a price tag on clean air and water, reduced noise levels, a safe work-place, and the like.

But to regulate for regulation's sake is nonsense.

An example of overzealous regulation is illustrated

in the current debate over proposed standards for automobile bumpers. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration believes bumpers should be heavy enough to withstand damage after 5 mile-per-hour head-on crashes.

The agency defends this criterion even though safety is not a factor—and in defiance of two of its own benefit-cost studies showing that consumers could save millions of dollars if a lower standard were enacted.

The Senate has passed my amendment to establish a 2.5 mile-per-hour bumper standard which would reduce the average weight of a car by 40 pounds, saving hundreds of millions of gallons of gasoline each model year. This standard also would protect 400 jobs at a Huntington plant that produces light-weight bumper systems.

Because too many standards can lead to excessive regulation, Congress this year will study regulatory reform. It is one of the areas under scrutiny by the Senate Task Force on Small Business, which I established last month.

Our society must not be bound in a straitjacket of regulations.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stand Up and Be Counted!

A national endeavor has begun that will determine our citizens' representation in Congress, the marketing strategies of corporations, and the distribution of \$50 billion in government aid.

It is called the U.S. census.

The Census Bureau last month sent out questionnaires across the country—not only to tabulate the official population of the United States, but also to gather other statistics that it considers necessary for our complex society.

An estimated 300,000 pages of data will be culled, including information on housing, education, ethnic origin, income, and employment. New questions were asked this year which will help determine national energy usage and travel-to-work patterns.

The primary purpose of the census as stipulated in the First Article of the U.S. Constitution, is to provide an accurate head-count for the apportionment of our country's 435 U.S. Representatives. These statistics also are employed by states to draw their Congressional districts for assuring balanced representation.

In addition, the distribu-

tion of about \$50 billion in federal funds is based on the most recent population count. The census figures affect the allocations of federal revenue-sharing money, as well as funds for educational programs, health care, employment opportunities, housing assistance, and highway building.

But the census is not a tool only for use by the government. Private industry relies on demographic data obtained from the census for the development of marketing strategies, the building of new plants, and the recruitment of personnel.

The nation's first census was taken in 1790 by U.S. marshals who tabulated a population count of 3.9 million. Today, the Census Bureau depends on sophisticated computer technology to compute an accurate head-count, projected to be 222 million this year.

Similarly, West Virginia has shown dramatic changes in its population. Several years after the birth of the Mountain State, its population was figured at 442,014. Today it is projected to have a count of 1.8 million people, nearly a 6 percent increase over 1970.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Loosening the OPEC Grip

A proposal that would help free our country from its bondage to foreign oil is in the hands of Congress.

The legislation, which several coal-state senators and I introduced recently, would require 107 utility power plants to convert from oil or natural gas usage to coal. It not only represents a partial answer to the nation's energy dilemma, but it also would provide thousands of Americans with needed employment.

This country—which has bountiful coal resources—can no longer tolerate increasing dependence on foreign sources of energy. It has become necessary not only to induce the use of coal instead of oil or gas, but also to require certain coal-capable plants to make this sensible switch.

The bill, which has the backing of the Carter Administration, calls for a two-phase program for converting utility generating stations to coal by 1990. This transformation is projected to reduce our daily imports of foreign oil by one million barrels in 1990.

The \$10 billion package will provide federal grants to assist in the conversion of power plants for the clean-burning of coal. All existing environmental standards will remain intact and will be closely observed.

This proposed coal policy also would provide consumers with a cheaper source of electricity. The mining, shipping, and cleaning of coal all cost far less than the escalating price of oil, which is dictated by a monopoly of foreign countries.

Coal is our nation's ace-in-the-hole if we are to achieve energy independence. It is abundant, available, and can be burned cleanly. This resource must be fully utilized if we are to attain energy self-sufficiency.

Hearings will be held soon on this proposal, and I will take every step necessary to ensure that it receives top priority. It is through the use of coal that, one day, we may be able to sever the nation's umbilical cord to foreign oil.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Good News For the Small Saver

Congress recently enacted a new law that is intended to help the small saver, the small borrower, and the small businessman.

The legislation—which is a basic overhaul of regulations governing our depository institutions—will encourage Americans to save rather than spend. Specifically, it phases out, over the next six years, ceilings imposed on interest rates that can be applied to savings accounts.

By law, banks and savings institutions have been restricted on the interest rates they can pay on savings accounts—and they have been considerably less than our current double-digit inflation rate. Consequently, these interest rate ceilings have contributed to our inflation spiral by encouraging consumers to spend their money, rather than keeping it in low-yield savings accounts.

Elimination of the interest rate limitation will allow depository institutions to compete with major money markets for consumers' dollars. Thus, they will pay interest rates that will be competitive—giving an incentive to keep money in savings, instead of spending it or investing it else-

where in hopes of a higher return.

Banks, savings and loans, and other depository institutions are the principal source of credit for home mortgages, small business loans, and small borrowers from all walks of life. An increased flow of money into these institutions by savers will translate into additional dollars available for small loans, needed for investment in our communities.

Other benefits available to small savers as a result of the new law will be the payment of interest on balances kept in checking accounts and an increase in the ceiling on federal insurance covering each account.

In addition, the legislation significantly strengthens the ability of the Federal Reserve Board to conduct monetary policy by controlling the money supply. This expansion of authority should aid the central bank in its efforts to dampen inflation.

To revitalize our economy, it is important to reward and encourage savings, which can be translated into investment by business, resulting in real economic growth for our country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Fair Shake

The windfall profits tax recently enacted by Congress deals evenhandedly with the oil industry, which is collecting extraordinary revenues, and the public, which is bearing the burden of escalating energy prices.

The need for a tax is the direct result of President Carter's decision to lift price controls from domestic crude oil. This step was taken to stimulate increased production by allowing oil companies to charge higher prices, and to encourage conservation.

The decontrol of oil prices, however, allows domestic producers to charge the prevailing world price, resulting in unwarranted profits to the oil companies. Last year, the country's 20 largest oil companies reported profits of more than \$22 billion, a staggering 64-percent increase over the previous year.

Because only a portion of these windfall profits can be applied to new exploration and development, the remainder of these revenues must be directed to the public's benefit.

The windfall profits tax, which will be levied according to a complicated formula, is expected to gen-

erate \$227.7 billion over an 11-year period. These funds will be earmarked for income tax reductions, aid to low-income families, and development of energy and transportation programs.

One of the many business tax incentives included in the new law is a 10-percent energy credit, which I co-sponsored, that can be applied to equipment purchased for the production of coke and coke gas. Another tax credit is available, under certain conditions, to producers of synthetic fuels, such as the production of liquids from coal, or oil from shale.

The legislation also offers a variety of tax incentives to encourage energy conservation by the public. Credits are available for residential solar, wind, and geothermal equipment; and for certain home improvements, such as installation of storm windows and insulation.

By helping to promote increased domestic energy production, while fostering conservation, the windfall profits tax represents an important rung in the ladder towards energy independence.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Another Dose of Courage

The attainment of a comprehensive and enduring peace between Israel and Egypt is fundamental to the security interests of every nation in the Middle East, as well as the United States.

Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egypt's President Anwar Sadat recently visited this nation's capital for another round of consultations with President Carter, and meetings with Congressional leaders, including myself.

Both heads of state have demonstrated courage in taking the steps necessary for peace by signing the Camp David Accords of September, 1978. But another dose of courage is needed to achieve the comprehensive peace that is so imperative for the region and the world.

The question of Palestinian autonomy is the Gordian knot that must be cut if a comprehensive peace is to be attained. The Camp David Accords call for the establishment of a self-governing authority for Palestinians living on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Strip.

But the Israelis and the Egyptians disagree on the powers to be granted to the self-governing authority. The presence of secu-

rity forces for Israel, the establishment of Israeli settlements on the West Bank, and the status of 100,000 Arab residents of Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem are among the stumbling blocks that must be overcome.

Resolution of these issues will contribute to the security of all Middle East countries and the United States. The current stalemate over the Palestinian question hinders our nation's ability to foster closer cooperation with Arab countries — cooperation that is becoming increasingly necessary in view of recent events in the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan.

Egypt and Israel deserve American support for the peace initiatives taken, and are to be encouraged to take the final steps necessary to complete the accords. Economic and military assistance for both countries contributes to economic stability and security, both of which are foundations of peace. This assistance is an investment in America's own security.

I hope the recent talks will accelerate the Middle East peace efforts and provide the basis for an eventual compromise. The momentum of peace must not be lost.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Power at the Ballot Box

Although this country's population growth has far exceeded the expectations of our Founding Fathers when they laid down our governing principles, the significance of the individual vote has not diminished.

The voice of the public—communicated through the ballot box—lies at the foundation of democracy. Our constitutional republic is based on the granting of authority to individuals who have won free elections in which most adult citizens are allowed to participate.

In today's nation of 222 million people, the individual vote still counts.

The outcome of at least four presidential elections hinged upon less than one vote per precinct in one or two key states. This was the case in 1884 when New York tipped the scales in favor of Democrat Grover Cleveland over Republican James G. Blaine. Similar circumstances surrounded the elections of Woodrow Wilson in 1916 and Harry Truman in 1948.

Perhaps the most celebrated instance occurred in 1960 when Democrat John Kennedy's victory over Republican Richard Nixon hinged on the 43 electoral votes of Illinois and New Jersey. They were cast on

a margin of less than one vote per precinct.

Last month's primary election in Pennsylvania again illustrates the significance of a single ballot. The margin of Sen. Edward Kennedy's slim victory over President Carter was slightly more than one vote per precinct.

The U.S. Constitution originally granted suffrage to white property-owning males. Over the history of our republic, however, this right has been extended to the bulk of Americans, with several Constitutional Amendments specifically prohibiting discrimination based on race, sex, or age over 18 years.

West Virginia today has an estimated 1,357,000 citizens who are eligible to vote. Unfortunately, thousands of them have disenfranchised themselves voluntarily by failing to register for the upcoming June 3 primary election.

As attested by history, every vote does count. This is an especially important year for citizens to go to the polls because local, state, and national seats will be decided.

It is important to our system of government that American citizens exercise their privilege to vote.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Proud Heritage

Former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance served the country well for the past three and one-half years, conducting foreign affairs with a calm voice, supplemented by steady and wise counsel.

West Virginia can be proud to claim him as one of her sons. The lawyer-diplomat is a native of Clarksburg.

In his service as Secretary of State, Mr. Vance was identified with many of the major themes of President Carter's foreign policy. But he will be best remembered for his contributions in three key areas—the Panama Canal Treaty, the arms limitations agreement, and the Middle East accords.

Secretary Vance, who has been awarded honorary degrees from West Virginia and Marshall Universities, has served his country and his native state well. He joins the ranks of other West Virginia-bred leaders who have contributed their effort to the public's welfare.

Another Clarksburg native, John W. Davis, also was schooled as a lawyer and a diplomat. He held positions as solicitor general of the United States and ambassador to Great Britain before becoming the Democratic Party's nominee for the presidency in 1924.

Former Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson, who served in the Truman Administration, began his career in Clarksburg, where

he established his law practice. Johnson is credited with the formulation of pre-World War II defense plans of the United States when he served as assistant secretary of war from 1937 to 1940.

Labor leader Walter Reuther, a native of Wheeling, engaged in a different kind of diplomacy as president of the United Automobile Workers, and later as a leader of the AFL-CIO.

Two former secretaries of the Army also had ties to West Virginia. Elvis J. Stahr, Jr., took a leave of absence as president of West Virginia University in 1961 to serve as secretary of the Army in the Kennedy Administration. Stephen Ailes, a native of Romney and a graduate of the West Virginia University Law School, assisted in the reorganization of the country's military establishment in the 1960's as undersecretary, then secretary, of the Army.

One of West Virginia's most famous persons, author Pearl S. Buck, was an unofficial ambassador of goodwill through her compassionate books on the lives and suffering of Chinese peasants. The Nobel Prize-winning author was born in Hillsboro.

West Virginia can take pride in her native sons and daughters of the past. And, as demonstrated by Secretary Vance, additional contributions will be made by West Virginia descendants in the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Our Achilles' Heel

Because our nation's dependence on foreign oil is the Achilles' heel of our economy, it is imperative that our country be prepared to deal with any significant cutoff in oil supplies from the Persian Gulf.

The United States imports almost half of its oil supplies. It imports 25 percent of its oil from Persian Gulf countries. The energy reliance of our European allies and Japan on this region is even more substantial, with Western Europe depending upon Persian Gulf imports for nearly half of its oil needs.

The uncertain relationship between the United States and Iran alludes to our nation's vulnerability to an interruption in fuel supplies. Any curtailment in oil deliveries—whether due to embargo, terrorism, invasion, accident, or political instability—could severely cripple our nation's economy.

A recent study estimates that a cutoff of three million barrels of oil per day—representing about a 16-percent decrease in Persian Gulf production—would multiply into an annual loss of \$100 billion to our national economy. A total curtailment of Persian Gulf oil production of 19 million barrels daily would translate into a staggering \$700-

billion-a-year loss to the U.S. economy.

Such a shock to our economy—to say nothing of our national security—would be devastating. We must prepare now to guard against the potential economic gyrations that would result from severe oil supply interruptions.

An essential element for any energy preparedness scheme is a standby gasoline rationing plan. Although Congress rejected the original proposal offered by the Carter Administration almost a year ago, a new plan needs to be submitted and put into working order for use in an emergency.

The possibility of resuming oil purchases to augment the country's Strategic Petroleum Reserve also needs to be considered. No fuel has been added to the reserve for nearly a year, and it currently holds only 91 million barrels of oil—a 10-to-12-day supply.

In addition, negotiations with our allies would be prudent to develop plans for the apportionment of scarce oil supplies in the event of a Persian Gulf cutoff.

Energy security is essential for the stability of our economy and preservation of our lifestyle. We cannot afford to be caught unprepared.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Spotlight Turning to Coal

There is growing evidence that the United States—endowed with bountiful pockets of coal reserves—is destined to become the energy storehouse of the world as nations are weaned from diminishing supplies of oil.

The advantages attributed to coal are no news to West Virginians, who are steeped in knowledge about the mineral's qualities. But the recently-released World Coal Study, supervised by Professor Carroll L. Wilson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the latest in a growing chorus of acclaim for the part to be played by the black fuel.

The study group, consisting of leading government and business officials in 16 countries, identified coal as the only fuel capable of sustaining the world's economic growth over the next two decades. Because increasing supplies of oil imports will not be available, "coal can bridge the transition from the fading petroleum era to next century's renewable energy," according to the report.

Coal can assume this leading role, however, only if world production is tripled and exports of steam coal are multiplied 10-to-15 times, the study said. This goal is attainable, according to the report, if there is a 5 percent annual growth in the production of coal.

The world transition from

oil to coal would be a boon to the United States. Noting the rich reserves of coal within our borders, the study suggested the United States could become the Saudi Arabia of coal exporters.

West Virginia, of course, is a fountain of energy wealth within our country. The Mountain State produced more than 112 million tons of coal in 1979, and has reserves estimated at more than 57 billion tons.

Technically and economically recoverable world coal reserves are enormous, according to the study, which pegged them at five-times world oil reserves. Even in view of projections for expanded coal use, the study concludes that only 15 percent of these reserves would be exhausted by the year 2000.

The study predicted that the major coal use two decades from now would be the same as today—consumption by electric utilities. It projected a major reversal in the past trend of industrial users to switch from coal to oil, and forecast a substantial new coal market resulting from the development of synthetic fuels.

This study, a realistic assessment of the world's energy needs, bodes well for the future of coal and of the world economic order. Government and private enterprise must work hand in hand to help fulfill this prophecy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Repaying a Debt

A renewed effort is being made to discourage former college students from defaulting on their loans guaranteed by the federal government.

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee recently approved and recommended legislation that would extend the Guaranteed Student Loan Program through 1985. It is under this program that thousands of students across the country acquire loans, subsidized and guaranteed by the federal government, to finance post-secondary education.

The need for this program, and other student assistance, is obvious. Without student aid, many of our young adults would be denied the opportunity to pursue studies that can benefit them—and society—throughout their lifetimes.

But student loan programs must not be viewed as sources of free money reservoirs. When a student accepts a loan, he or she also accepts the responsibility to repay it under the agreed-upon terms.

Unfortunately, many of our student assistance programs have had high default rates. The federal government has paid more than \$1 billion in defaulted loans under the Guaranteed Student Loan Program since its inception in 1965.

Under pressure from Congress, the Office of Student Financial Assistance

was established in 1977 to strengthen collection efforts, and significant progress has been made. Last fall, regular payments were being received on 106,000 loans, compared to only 24,000 accounts two years earlier.

The legislation extending the Guaranteed Student Loan Program contains additional incentives for the student to repay his debt. It requires the student to begin making payments within four months following completion of his studies, a shortening of the grace period that now extends up to 12 months.

It is believed that this stipulation will reduce the loan default rate because lenders should not have as much difficulty keeping track of the student's residence in that amount of time.

The bill also authorizes the use of credit bureau organizations in the exchange of information concerning the past performance of student borrowers. If the student is aware that his failure to repay his debt to the federal government will become part of his credit record, he is more likely to make timely payments on his loan.

These student loan programs advance the goal of equal education opportunities and ought to be continued. But steps must be taken to insure that the loans are repaid, and that they do not become unintended subsidies.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Foundation of Freedom

As this country prepares for its traditional observance of Independence Day, it is appropriate for us to rededicate ourselves to the principles upon which our nation was built.

Our Fourth of July celebration, of course, refers to the birth of our nation, when, in 1776, the original 13 colonies broke from the British Empire. On July 2, the colonies declared themselves "free and independent states," and two days later, this declaration was approved by the Continental Congress.

This marked the beginning of a never-ending struggle for freedom. Following the Revolutionary War, Americans stood the test in the Civil War, two world wars, and other armed conflicts.

As we observe the 204th year of our sovereignty, we must remain vigilant in guarding our freedoms and rights granted under our democratic form of government. Unfortunately, there are many people across the globe who suffer from the heavy hand of repression.

The current plight of the men, women, and children of Afghanistan, besieged by

Soviet soldiers, is an atrocity. The freedom that we cherish so deeply is not within grasp of that beleaguered country.

Afghanistan is not an isolated example; the torch of liberty is missing from many other countries throughout the world. There are dictatorships, oligarchies, military juntas, and a variety of other forms of government that suppress the human spirit and deprive their citizens of the liberties that we, too often, take for granted.

It is particularly sad and frustrating this year that the anniversary of our nation's independence is marred by the captivity of 53 Americans in Iran. Some day—and let us hope that it is not too distant in the future — these Americans will celebrate their own independence day.

Although our struggle for independence began more than two centuries ago, we must not weaken in our resolve to preserve our country's foundation. A renewal of our national spirit, imbued with the courage and determination displayed by our ancestors, should be the essence of our celebration this Independence Day.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Signal of Strength

Peacetime registration of young men for military service not only will enhance our country's general defense preparedness, but it also will send a signal of strength and determination to our allies and adversaries.

Registration is a significant step in providing for our nation's military readiness in the event of a crisis. It is distinct and separate from the draft, but it lays the groundwork for our capability to respond to an emergency.

Under the registration plan, men who are 19 and 20 years of age will be required to fill out simple forms at their local post offices. The forms will be sent to the Selective Service System, where the information will be retained on file.

Military registration does not call for reinstatement of the draft. The president does not have the authority to reactivate the draft, and that authority can be mandated only by the Congress.

A peacetime draft existed from 1948 to 1973, during which time young men could be inducted to serve up to two years in the military to augment our volunteer forces.

The authority to draft young men expired in 1973,

although 18-year-old males still were required to register. In 1975, President Ford suspended registration, and the authority to require military registration has remained dormant for five years.

Resumption of peacetime registration is especially important today in view of international stress and tension apparent in the Persian Gulf region and southwest Asia. Its activation will indicate to countries around the world that we are prepared to back up our foreign policy pronouncements with military strength.

Registration is intended to build a pool of names and addresses so that a draft—if enacted—would begin with little delay. In the event of a crisis, this readiness to provide additional manpower to strengthen our standing army could spell the difference between success and failure of our military response.

In the present atmosphere of uncertain relationships and unpredictable events, resumption of peacetime registration is needed as a step of caution. It is hoped that our defense readiness will deter threats against our national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Hidden Tax

The oil-rich countries of the Persian Gulf have imposed a new round of "taxes" on the American consumer, who soon will be paying an additional penny or two for each gallon of gas bought at the pump.

Most Americans probably think the recent rejection of the proposed oil import fee by Congress blocked an increase in the current four-cents-per-gallon gasoline tax. True, it halted the imposition of a 10-cent U.S. fee on the cost of each gallon of gasoline.

But we continue to pay a "hidden tax" to the OPEC cartel—a tax which grows every time the Persian Gulf countries convene and announce another round in their endless series of oil price increases. The latest price hike of \$4 per barrel translates into an increase of one to two cents for each gallon of gas.

This new price level of about \$32 per barrel will add about \$5 billion to our foreign oil bill which, at the current level of imports, already is projected at \$94 billion for the year—or \$400 for every man, woman, boy,

and girl in the U.S. In 1970, the United States paid just \$3.7 billion for foreign oil.

And, unlike revenues from the proposed import fee, this money will not be deposited in the U.S. Treasury. It cannot and will not be rebated to the American public through a tax cut. Instead, it will fatten the coffers of OPEC treasuries.

The proposed import fee would have boosted our federal gasoline tax to 14 cents per gallon. The Germans pay \$1.14 per gallon in federal taxes, the French pay \$1.62 per gallon, and the Italians pay \$1.83 per gallon.

A cutback in oil production by Saudi Arabia or any other major producer would cause gasoline prices to skyrocket and gas lines to form once again.

Without taking more steps to conserve, Americans will continue to be at the mercy of the OPEC cartel, which increases our gas "tax" by a few pennies every several months. We must be freed from this domination and take charge of our own national destiny.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Responsible Refuge

The United States has a tradition of granting refuge to oppressed people, but it cannot allow itself to become a dumping ground for common criminals.

The recent influx of Cubans to our country—now numbering more than 100,000 — is an indictment of the Castro regime. It is testimony to communism's heavy hand of repression.

Unfortunately, this vast immigration of Cubans to the United States has strained normal processing procedures. The government, however, is endeavoring to resettle the refugees in an orderly fashion, having established refugee centers in various parts of the country to screen and process the Cubans.

But the United States has no responsibility to give refuge to common criminals, whose activities jeopardize the entire Cuban resettlement effort. In fact, our government has a legal responsibility under our immigration laws to keep out criminal elements.

In an apparent attempt to embarrass the United States, the Castro government unlocked its jails and put hardened criminals on boats bound for Florida. This criminal element, no doubt, is responsible for the sporadic violence that has occurred at refugee processing centers.

The persons responsible for violence at these centers should be identified, arrested, and deported. Likewise, all common criminals identified in the screening process should be deported.

Order must be maintained in the processing centers. The security of communities in the vicinity of these centers must be assured, as well as the security of those refugees who are not participating in the disturbances.

For the Cuban resettlement effort to succeed, the criminal element must be thrown out. The American people must be reassured that our country is not opening its doors to common criminals.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Our Energy Warehouse

The stimulation of coal exports from the United States would give West Virginia's economy a shot in the arm, as well as dramatize our recognition of the vital role coal can play in supplying world energy needs.

The promotion of our country's abundant coal reserves would be advanced through a coal export officer in our American diplomatic missions abroad. I recently co-sponsored an amendment requiring the secretary of state to designate such an officer in most U.S. embassies.

This officer would monitor the host country's ability to import coal from the United States. Also, under the amendment, the U.S. Secretary of State would prepare and submit to the Congress semi-annual reports on coal export opportunities.

This step to facilitate the growth of a free and competitive international coal trade would increase our expertise and effectiveness in the coal export market. It also would emphasize our commitment to the finding of alternative energy sources

to reduce international dependence on oil from the Persian Gulf region.

Almost half of the nearly 65 million tons exported by the United States last year came from West Virginia. The Mountain State shipped 21 million tons of coal overseas and nine million tons to Canada.

Our country's exports, however, represent only 8.4 percent of our total production last year. The largest recipient of American coal was Canada, with more than 19 million tons. The European Economic Community received 18 million tons and nearly 16 million tons went to Japan.

The potential for America's coal industry is enormous. The United States possesses about 27 percent of the earth's coal reserves—an estimated 1.7 trillion tons.

The rediscovery of America's coal may give free world countries a new energy warehouse to supply their needs of tomorrow. We and our trading partners must work together to seek a less oil-dependent energy future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

World Censure

Today—more than six months since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan—it is imperative that the brutal act of aggression be kept at the center stage of public attention.

The Soviets believe that passage of time will insulate them from world condemnation and accountability for their aggrandizement. We cannot let that happen.

World censure of the Soviets for their barbarism and ruthlessness must not abate. The murder of thousands of Afghans—including some children as young as eight years old—must not recede from the public's consciousness.

It is for these reasons that I recently sponsored a resolution—which was approved unanimously by the U.S. Senate—condemning the invasion of Afghanistan and deploring the Soviet violations of national rights and individual freedoms in Afghanistan.

The resolution urges all other nations to join in de-

nouncing the Soviet Union for its intervention. It also puts the Senate on record in support of withdrawal of Soviet military forces from Afghanistan, and supports the imposition of penalties against the Soviet Union for its unlawful acts.

The United States will not be mollified by a token troop withdrawal designed as a propaganda ploy. Until the Soviets retreat from their invasion, we must, at every opportunity, keep this outrage before the world and in the press.

We must be reminded daily of the atrocities being committed in Afghanistan. We cannot ignore the forced flight of hundreds of thousands of Afghans from their homes to the neighboring countries of Pakistan and Iran.

The Soviets, to a degree, respect world opinion. They should be reminded every hour of every day that the condemnation of their actions in Afghanistan is universal and unrelenting.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Breaking the Habit

A major effort is being mounted to break our country's addiction to foreign oil through the development of synthetic liquid fuels.

This badly-needed impetus is being provided by the Energy Security Act which will mark one of the major accomplishments of the 96th Congress.

The legislation establishes a Synthetic Fuels Corporation to finance the development of commercial-sized plants for the conversion of coal and oil shale to synthetic oil and gas. The lion's share of \$20 billion authorized by the act will be earmarked for loan and price guarantees and other incentives.

The initial goal is the production of liquid fuels that can displace at least 500,000 barrels per day of foreign oil by 1987, and two million barrels daily by 1992.

This drive for synthetic fuels development should benefit West Virginia, because coal is the raw resource needed for many of the available technolo-

gies for producing liquid fuels. Coal can be liquefied, gasified, refined, or cleaned in dozens of different ways to produce a variety of synthetic fuels.

The Energy Security Act also provides incentives for production of alcohol fuels from agricultural crops. It is hoped that this program will stimulate energy production that would amount to 10 percent of the nation's gasoline consumption by 1990.

In addition, the bill creates an energy bank to extend grants and subsidized loans for solar and conservation activities. Homeowners could receive as much as \$5,000 for approved solar projects and up to \$1,250 for conservation measures, such as installation of storm windows and insulation.

The synthetic fuels bill provides our country with a toehold in our energy future. It is only through energy self-reliance that we can retain command of our national destiny.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Our No. 1 Priority

The current atmosphere of international tension stresses the need for our nation to maintain its position of first-rate defense capabilities.

Although our country prefers to use diplomatic channels to resolve international conflict, it is essential that we deal from a position of strength. Strength is the only language that can be understood clearly by potential aggressors.

With this in mind, the Senate recently passed a \$52 billion defense procurement bill that includes nearly \$35 billion for military hardware and nearly \$17 billion for research and development.

The Senate-passed measure calls for the development of a new manned long-range strategic bomber to replace our fleet of B-52's by the mid-1980's. It also authorizes the Pentagon to start work on the MX missile, the newest generation of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles.

In an attempt to keep our voluntary forces in uniform, the Senate called for an 11.7 percent pay raise, ef-

fective Oct. 1, for the two million men and women in the armed services. The bill also stipulates that 68 percent of our 1981 Army recruits should be high school graduates.

The legislation sustains the major thrusts of defense preparedness initiatives that have been undertaken in the last four years. These initiatives have been designed to upgrade and improve military manpower, readiness, and equipment; enhance our theater presence—especially in Europe, the Middle East, and the Indian Ocean; and strengthen our arsenal of strategic weapons.

These components represent the building blocks of our country's defense structure in the 1980's. We must continue our efforts to build a defense system that is practical and usable, and flexible enough to accommodate our foreign policy initiatives.

National security always has been—and always will be — our no. 1 priority. Without national security, our other priorities have little meaning.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Economic Lifeblood

The revitalization of our country's economic lifeblood—the small business community—is the goal of a new federal law recently enacted by Congress.

The Small Business Development Act of 1980 is aimed at nurturing and promoting the entrepreneurial spirit. It establishes a national economic policy to coordinate all federal efforts fostering the development and expansion of small and medium-sized businesses.

Under this act, the Small Business Administration (SBA) is authorized to help states finance the creation and operation of small business development centers. They will offer management and technical assistance in such areas as marketing, product development, manufacturing, technology development, finance, and dealing with government regulations.

The federal government is committed, under the law, to providing private sector incentives for ensuring that adequate capital is available, at competitive costs, for small businesses. It directs three government

banking regulators to measure small business credit needs and to determine if those needs are being met.

In addition, the SBA is directed to publish a small business economic index that will aid in diagnosing the needs of this sector. The SBA also is authorized to make loan guarantees to employee organizations seeking to purchase their businesses when they would otherwise close, relocate, or be sold to larger firms.

Under reforms in the disaster loan program, interest rates charged to companies which can obtain private credit must be commensurate with the government's current cost of money, which is now around 10 percent. Businesses unable to obtain credit from the private sector, however, would be eligible for 5 percent loans.

Our economy thrives on the well-being of the small business community. Stimulation of this sector by government policy will boost competition, resulting in increased productivity, and more jobs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building a Beneficial Friendship

A recent visit to the People's Republic of China has convinced me, more than ever, that a secure, peaceful, and modernized China is vital to stability in the Asian-Pacific region.

My nine-day trip, taken at the invitation of the National People's Congress, enabled me to explore ways to strengthen further cooperation between the United States and China. Our growing relationship with China can benefit both nations' economies through increased trade and business investment, and it can contribute to stability in international affairs.

There are several areas of potential cooperation between the United States and China, including the addition of consular offices in each country. Normalization of relations also should envision civil aviation and maritime agreements, as well as a bilateral business practices accord relating to investment.

In international affairs, Premier Hua Guofeng and other top Chinese leaders said they shared our country's outrage over the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. The Chinese Pre-

mier also expressed the fear that the Soviets were attempting to transform Vietnam into the Cuba of the Orient.

There is clearly a convergence of strategic interests between the United States and China, and a shared view of significant aspects of current world affairs. China, representing one-fourth of the world's people, has an increasingly important role to play in the international arena, and along with Japan, has a particularly significant role in the Asian-Pacific region.

There will be no turning back the clock in the growing Sino-American relationship, which has been carried forward by two Republican and Democratic Administrations. Its maturation is, and should be, a fundamental element of U.S. foreign policy.

The United States will work to help China achieve its 20-year modernization program and to increase trade between our countries. This cooperation will contribute to greater international stability, and it will add to our mutual security interests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Backbone

The significance of our annual tribute to America's working men and women on Labor Day should not be forgotten amid the flurry of typical holiday activities—picnics, ball games, and cookouts.

The work force of our country epitomizes our spirit and our vitality. It is the workers' inspiration and creativity, matched by their strength and sweat, that have helped to build our nation into what it is today, and that are shaping the dimensions of our tomorrows.

Labor Day was first observed in 1882, in New York City, at the suggestion of Peter J. McGuire, a carpenter and a leader of the Knights of Labor. In 1887, Oregon became the first state to recognize Labor Day officially. West Virginia, under Gov. George W. Atkinson, designated Labor Day as a legal holiday in 1899.

Although Labor Day originated as a symbol of labor unions, it has evolved into a national holiday honoring everyone who works. America's laborers include the

architects who envision and design skyscrapers; the construction and trade workers who build them; and the secretaries and managers who work in them.

Although West Virginia is recognized for its many coal miners, the state's labor force of 748,000 persons encompasses all walks of life. In addition to miners, our state is well represented by persons employed in the fields of manufacturing, construction, trade, services, government, finance, insurance, and real estate.

And a growing percentage of the nation's work force—as well as West Virginia's — is represented by women. Statistics indicate that about 35 percent of West Virginia's labor pool is female.

Our land's diversity of skills is essential to the growth, progress, and prosperity of our communities and our nation. On Labor Day, all workers should pause to take pride in their contributions to our society. They are the backbone of America's greatness.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Harnessing Our Resources

The signing of agreements for constructing a \$1.4 billion liquified coal plant near Morgantown represents another valuable plank in the building of a new energy foundation for America.

The United States, Germany, and Japan, along with industrial firms in each of these countries, are embarking on a joint venture to promote a synthetic substitute for oil. Each of us must forge new energy development to reduce our reliance on the unstable Persian Gulf region, and to meet the petroleum demands of an industrial society.

The project involves the building of a pilot plant to demonstrate the solvent refined coal (SRC) II process, which converts high-sulfur coal into a clean-burning liquid fuel. The plant, which will transform 6,000 tons of coal daily into the equivalent of 20,000 barrels of liquid fuel, can be a guidepost for future energy projects.

It will exhibit the feasibility of a large-scale synthetic fuels plant, providing data on equipment performance, operating costs, and

investment needs. Following completion of the demonstration project, the plant can be enlarged to a commercial-sized operation that would produce 100,000 barrels of synthetic fuels daily.

The solvent refining process permits the use of West Virginia's abundant metallurgical coal, and the commercial development of SRC plants domestically would increase our reliance on native energy supplies.

The promotion of the use of coal—and other domestic energy resources—is imperative. Just a decade ago, our country paid an average price of under \$3 per barrel for imported oil. Today, the United States pays an average price of \$32 per barrel, pushing our imported oil bill to a projected \$94 billion this year.

We possess the technology and innovative spirit needed to establish coal as the focus of a secure energy future. Our national economic and military security is at stake, and time is running out.

Coal is our energy lifeline. We must act quickly to reduce our reliance on costly foreign oil.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Our Industrial Spirit

To meet the challenges of the 1980's, our nation's industrial spirit, as well as our plant and equipment, need to be strengthened and revitalized, stimulating economic development and spurring productivity.

At the base of a strong and healthy nation is a productive economy. Although the United States can boast of being the most productive economy in the world, our growth has stagnated, imperiling the competitive edge we have long held in international markets.

The reindustrialization of America is a goal that must be achieved. I believe Congress should consider the creation of an industrial corporation which would assist in restructuring some of America's basic businesses—such as the automobile, steel, rubber, and mass transportation industries.

An industrial corporation could be patterned after the Reconstruction Finance Corporation created in 1932 to help stimulate economic recovery following the Great Depression.

Productivity, in its simplest terms, is the measure

of output in goods and services per hour of labor. Among the factors that determine productivity growth are investment in new plant and equipment, research and development, government regulations, and capital formation.

An industrial corporation could help the private sector deal with these elements. It could assist with infusions of capital through government loans and grants, promote research and development, coordinate and direct regulations, and help target tax incentives and federal financial resources to encourage capital formation.

It is time to apply America's know-how to the task of invigorating our economy. We must rebuild our industrial regions and start developing projects for the coming decades.

An industrial corporation could play a vital role in helping business, labor, and government revive the country's productive capacity to forge new strength for the next decade, and to lay the foundation for the 21st century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cutting Down Bramble Bushes

Energy production is far too important to be stifled by bureaucratic bramble bushes grown in the nation's capital.

Because this federal red tape threatens our domestic coal production, I have worked to enact legislation that would give states a voice in designing their own regulatory structures to govern surface mining within their boundaries.

My amendment, which many coal-state senators cosponsored, allows each state to develop its own reclamation requirements, while abiding by the 115 performance standards set forth in the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. The intent is to make it possible for states to apply the surface mine law in a reasonable way—a way that will deal with the environment, while simultaneously dealing with our nation's energy dilemma.

The legislation will not weaken the Surface Mining Act, and is necessary to free coal-producing states from needless and arbitrary regulations issued by the federal

Office of Surface Mining. Federal bureaucrats have handcuffed coal production with too many regulations, too much paperwork, and reams of red tape.

These same bureaucrats were the ones who struck down West Virginia's carefully-written reclamation law that had been the product of months of tedious, detailed negotiations with the Office of Surface Mining. A balanced, finely-honed reclamation statute was dismissed arbitrarily.

Over-regulation, which is a growing problem in our country, is not a sound basis for good government. The people in our states whose livelihoods depend on producing vital energy resources do not need Big Brother breathing down their necks.

The orderly development of our country's most abundant fuel stock—coal—can be achieved only through reasonable regulatory policies. We must strike a balance between protection of the environment and production of a badly-needed energy resource.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Blossoming Export Trade

The international recognition of coal as an available energy source makes it imperative that our nation improve and upgrade our ports and railroads to capitalize on the expanding coal export trade.

West Virginians have long recognized the vital role coal can play in supplying our country's future energy needs. But this great American resource is being rediscovered by other Western and free-world countries, which also are looking for a less oil-dependent energy future.

This rediscovery has led to an explosive growth in coal trade with foreign nations. Exports of steam coal, for instance, have jumped from almost nothing in 1978 to more than two million tons last year—and are estimated to range from 9 to 12 million tons this year.

Unfortunately, this flourishing of coal exports has caught the major transporters of coal—railroads and ships—unprepared. Coal colliers in Norfolk Harbor in Virginia, for instance, generally wait 15 to 30 days to be loaded—a delay that can add as much as \$3 a ton to the price of American coal, jeopardizing its

competitive edge with other coal-exporting nations.

This congestion could be eased by deepening the channels to allow larger ships to use the ports, and by improving the ship-loading process, which has been considered a major bottleneck.

The blossoming of this coal-export trade obviously would increase our coal markets, putting more West Virginia miners—and miners across the country—back to work. It also would help reverse our country's balance-of-payments deficit, which today is running at an annual rate of more than \$40 billion.

And perhaps most importantly, an increased dependency of our allies and developing countries on American coal, rather than OPEC oil, would lead to a more secure energy future.

Coal obviously has a crucial role to play in the re-industrialization of America—and any successful economic revitalization program must encompass the restructuring of our coal-hauling system. This initiative—which will help us rediscover our industrial potential—will be a priority order of business when the 97th Congress convenes in January.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Shaping of Our Republic

The United States Senate, which has played a leading role in the shaping of our government's democratic foundation, will be 200 years old in 1989.

In preparation for the commemoration of its bicentennial, I have been speaking on the Senate floor, about once a week, on the customs, traditions, and history of this great institution.

I have uncovered many fascinating tales and facts regarding the Senate during my preparations for these speeches, a few of which I will share here.

Although the Senate was scheduled to meet, for the first time, on March 4, 1789, it did not attain a quorum until April 6. It met on the second floor in Federal Hall in New York City, while the House of Representatives met on the first floor, probably giving genesis to the terms "upper house" and "lower house."

The custom of opening sessions of the Senate and the House with prayer dates back to a proposal by Samuel Adams of Massachusetts during the second meeting of the Continental Congress in 1774.

For the first five years of the Senate's existence, the chamber met behind closed doors. Most of our informa-

tion on the conduct of business during the Senate's early years comes to us from a private journal kept by Pennsylvania Senator William Maclay.

Because the House and Senate could not agree on which chamber to use for President Monroe's inauguration in 1817, the President-elect took the oath of office outside before a group of spectators, establishing the custom of the outdoor inaugural.

The desks used by Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, and Daniel Webster, a statesman and orator, are still being used today — occupied by Sen. John Stennis of Mississippi, and Sen. John Durkin of New Hampshire, respectively.

In addition to these speeches, I co-sponsored a resolution, adopted by the Senate in August, creating a study group to plan the commemoration of the Senate's bicentennial in 1989.

This observance will emphasize the role of the Senate from its historic beginnings through 200 years of growth, challenge, and changes. As Franklin Roosevelt once said, "if we were to eliminate the Congress of the United States, we would automatically cease to be a republic."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Opportunities

As long as we need armed forces to protect the national security of our country, we have a responsibility to do what we can to assist any serviceman who was permanently injured in the line of duty.

This commitment to provide vocational rehabilitation to the disabled veteran began in 1917, and Congress has acted numerous times over the decades to upgrade and improve rehabilitation programs.

This year, the Congress has taken a major step to expand the range of services and assistance available to disabled veterans, including not only training for finding and holding jobs, but also the skills needed for independent living.

Specifically, the Disabled Veterans Rehabilitation Act of 1980 would extend the period, from nine to 10 years, during which an eligible veteran can participate in Veterans Administration (VA) programs, and would increase the monthly subsistence allowance rates for participating veterans by 10 percent.

The bill would establish a four-year pilot program to assist veterans in learning to live independently even though they may not be able to achieve vocational careers. A report on the suc-

cess of this program must be made to Congress no later than September 30, 1984.

Under the legislation, the VA would be required to provide a program of continuing professional training and development for its counselors so that they will be equipped to use the most advanced and up-to-date rehabilitation techniques.

In addition, a veterans advisory committee on rehabilitation would be created, with one-half of its membership being comprised of disabled veterans. The committee would be required to submit annual reports to the VA and the Congress on its assessment and review of the rehabilitation programs.

It is imperative for our country to have a workable, effective program to assimilate the disabled veteran back into civilian life. For the 37-year period from June 1943, through January 1980, more than 830,000 disabled veterans trained under the VA vocational rehabilitation program, including nearly 110,000 Vietnam-era veterans.

Under this legislation, the disabled veteran would be afforded new opportunities to function independently, to find employment, and to contribute to society.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Shattering Myths

While the challenges to democracy can never be minimized, the recent setbacks buffeting the communist world tell the story of an ideology in decline.

The United States, admittedly, is faced with many complex issues that must be addressed—issues covering the spectrum of our energy security, economic revitalization, and the need to expand our defensive capabilities.

But the day-to-day scrutiny placed on these and other challenges can leave the mistaken impression that our country has a monopoly on frustration in achieving our goals. Let us take a look at what's happening in the communist sphere.

In Poland, the ideology that professes to be dedicated to the well-being of the worker has been undermined by the working class. This Polish revolt has shattered the myth that communism is the ideal for the laborer.

And in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union obviously underestimated the resistance that the Afghan people would muster in opposition to its invasion. With 85,000 troops mired in battle, the Soviets are trying to hide their high casualty rate

from their own citizens.

There have been other indications across the globe that communism, like a withdrawing army, is losing ground.

Not long ago, the countries of Somalia and Egypt were in the firm grasp of the Soviet hand. Today, the United States is negotiating for a base at Somalia, and President Sadat of Egypt calls America a friend.

In China, Mao's "little red book" of sayings has been discarded as the country tries to improve its economy through capitalistic avenues. Conversely, the writings of Thomas Jefferson on democracy are not so easily cast aside.

And, we must not forget the Berlin Wall, perhaps the world's greatest continuing advertisement for democracy. We build no walls in the United States to keep in our citizens.

The democratic values upon which our government was founded are timeless and continue to serve us in good stead today. And we will rely on these eternal values—including those of hard work, love of God, love of country, justice, and obedience to law—to help us solve the problems of today and of tomorrow.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Lifeline of the Future

The Iran-Iraq conflict should sound an alarm to the United States, alerting us to the danger of being captive to the Persian Gulf oil pipeline.

Despite warnings of the past, this country and our allies continue to maintain an unhealthy dependence upon a thin line of tankers stretched halfway around the world for our economic and military security.

If this fragile lifeline were severed, it would cripple our industry and our military, and it would destroy our quality of life. It would be catastrophic.

Even after the pain and the economic dislocations that have occurred during the past decade, the American people do not yet fully comprehend the vulnerable position of the United States which results from our reliance upon the OPEC nations for oil. And that is why this message must be repeated again and again.

The war between Iran and Iraq demonstrates the volatility of the Middle East region.

Because the United States has not been importing oil from Iran, and had been receiving less than 100,000

barrels of oil daily from Iraq, the conflict has had minimal impact on our oil supplies thus far.

But, what course of action would we and our allies be forced to take if tomorrow the strategic Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf were blocked? The potential consequences of such an oil cutoff are frightening.

Although most industrialized nations are equipped with about a 100-day supply of oil, these reserves could be depleted rapidly.

Without oil, our planes could not fly; our ships could not sail; our tanks could not roll; and our armies could not move. We would be paralyzed.

This explains why America must turn to coal for its energy future.

It explains the critical need for enactment of the coal conversion bill, which would switch our utilities from oil to coal, and the need to give states flexibility in meeting federal surface mining standards.

We are on the threshold of a new energy era—one that builds on coal as our primary energy stock. Coal can be—and must be—the energy lifeline of the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Nurturing Small Business

Three pieces of legislation recently enacted by Congress should nurture the growth of small businesses across the country—helping them to raise capital, to enter the export market, and to reduce the cost of adhering to federal regulations.

The raising of capital to expand business can be a costly undertaking for a small firm.

Under the Small Business Investment Incentive Act, a company can sell up to \$5 million in securities without being subjected to the complicated array of regulations issued under the Securities Act of 1933. In the past, the exemption limit was set at \$2 million.

In a similar manner, the bill raises to \$10 million (from \$1 million) the amount of debt capital that can be obtained by businesses without adhering to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

A second bill, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, instructs federal agencies to seek ways to ease the economic burden placed on small firms by government regulations.

Congress has acknowledged that unnecessary regulations can deter competition in the marketplace, discourage innovation, and restrict product improvements.

Under the bill, federal agencies are required to try to fit regulatory requirements to the scale of business, so that small businesses will not be hampered by regulations intended to govern large corporations.

The Office of International Trade—which will promote sales opportunities abroad for small business goods and services—is created under a third measure. The bill also authorizes the Small Business Administration to make loans for the development of a company's export trade.

Also contained in this measure is a provision requiring reimbursement of legal fees to small firms when they are successful in legal actions taken against the government.

The provisions of these three measures—in addition to other small business bills enacted by this Congress—should stimulate economic growth in West Virginia and across the United States.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Step Forward

Our national commitment to fight mental illness should be strengthened by legislation enacted this year which is aimed at improving and expanding services for treating the mentally ill.

The measure, which authorized spending of \$796 million over the next four years, targets funding for providing services to groups which have not been adequately served—such as the elderly, severely disturbed children and adolescents, and the chronically mentally ill.

The new law also is intended to integrate mental health and general health care programs. Although it is estimated that between 20 to 30 million Americans need some form of mental health service each year, some individuals do not seek treatment because of the lingering stigma attached to mental illness.

Under the Mental Health Systems Act, grants will be available to establish mental health services at walk-in health care centers. These funds can be used to staff the centers with mental health professionals or to establish a liaison between the centers and other

groups providing mental health services.

Provisions also were made for the training of former hospital employees to work in outpatient facilities, where most mental health care currently is provided. Although 75 percent of mental patients were treated in institutions 30 years ago, today three out of four mental patients are treated at clinics.

Included in the legislation is a recommendation that states adopt a patients' bill of rights, which includes the right to a reasonable explanation of the nature of the illness and objectives of the treatment, and the right to refuse to participate in experimentation.

The measure, which rewrote conflicting and overlapping federal statutes, also clarified the lines of responsibility for providing mental health services at all levels of government.

This landmark legislation represents a step forward in our commitment to providing community-based mental health care. It is only through adequate treatment that mental illness can be combatted.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening Our Western Alliance

The return of Greece to the NATO military structure—after a six-year absence—solidifies the defense strength of our Western alliance in the eastern Mediterranean region.

Greece had withdrawn from NATO in 1974 during conflict with neighboring Turkey over the question of self-determination for Cyprus, an island situated in the Mediterranean Sea.

Greece's re-entry into NATO indicates an improvement in its relations with Turkey — another member of the alliance—and it certainly bolsters NATO's defensive capabilities. The Greeks will add strength through the availability of their armed forces, equipment, air bases, and communications satellites.

And, the significance of this alliance will not be lost on the Soviets. The alignment of Greece, in conjunction with Turkey, bars free Soviet access to the Mediterranean Sea and the Middle East region from the Ionian Sea to Iran, a stretch of 1,400 statute miles.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, formed by 12 Western nations in 1949, is pledged to the promotion of "stability and well-being

in the North Atlantic area." Under the treaty, these countries are resolved "to unite their efforts for collective defense and for the preservation of peace and security."

Both Greece and Turkey joined NATO in 1952, adding a critical element to the defense of the southern flank of Western Europe, which now is restored. Together, they protect the eastern Mediterranean Sea, and the Aegean Sea, which lies between the two nations.

The shoring up of our Western defense posture is a welcome step in today's turbulent times.

The holding of American hostages in Iran, and the conflict between Iran and Iraq, testify to the volatility of the Middle East region. The Soviet threat is apparent by the movement of troops into Afghanistan. And, the death of Tito in Yugoslavia, which borders on Greece, has left a sense of uncertainty.

The security of the United States and the security of our Western allies go hand in hand. A strong, viable defense will encourage stability in this region of the world and will deter Soviet aggression.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping an Informed Public

Although controversies over the responsibilities of a free press are endless, the media's fundamental role of informing the public cannot be minimized.

While most democratic societies accept the free press as a guarantor of liberty, totalitarian regimes rely on a controlled or censored press to strengthen their stranglehold on the public through indoctrination.

Because of this potential misuse of the press, I found it particularly disturbing that delegates to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recently discussed the establishment of world press standards.

Apparently some representatives of Third-World countries felt that the Western press focused on their nations only in times of crises or catastrophes, portraying a biased picture of constant upheaval.

Such criticism of the press may very well be justified. But the imposition

of standards on the world press is an unrealistic notion—and certainly a dangerous one.

An open and free press is necessary to keep the world public informed.

It is ironic that, during this UNESCO debate, Afghanistan's chief delegate took the floor to tell of the bloody carnage being committed in his country at the hands of the invading Soviet troops. This story of bloodshed and slaughter has been repressed because the world press has been shut out.

If the true dimensions of this bloody invasion could be told, perhaps world outrage and indignation could put an end to it. Instead, the invasion endures behind a curtain of secrecy.

A free press is not a perfect press. Mistakes often are made, and irresponsible reporting sometimes occurs, regrettably.

But to attempt to place controls on the world press is unwise and dangerous. It must not happen.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Improving Our Air Service

Industrial expansion and economic development for a community often rest upon the availability of an adequate transportation system—especially airline service.

The quality of air service can be the key to jobs. Before a company selects a site for a new plant, for instance, it analyzes the area's transportation network to determine if it will meet the needs of its employees—both for the conduct of business and for personal travel.

Because of this potential impact of airline service on a community's economic health—as well as the need for convenient service to the public—I have been working to improve West Virginia's airline service, which deteriorated sharply following enactment of airline deregulation in 1978.

Although some governmental restraints have been removed, the Civil Aeronautics Board still possesses the authority to determine the minimum amount of airline service that a community must receive. And the evidence is overwhelming that the CAB's determination of essential air service in West Virginia is lacking and needs to be upgraded.

To give the CAB first-hand information on the plight of West Virginia cities and towns, last spring I arranged for representatives of the Board to hold hearings in 10 of our communities — Huntington, Charleston, Beckley, Bluefield, Lewisburg, Parkersburg, Morgantown, Elkins, Clarksburg/Fairmont, and Wheeling.

And this fall, CAB Chairman Marvin Cohen held hearings in Charleston and Parkersburg on the state's appeal of its level of airline service. I testified at both hearings.

The CAB now will review the testimony and data presented at these hearings, and I am hopeful that it will take steps to correct deficiencies which threaten to impede our economic progress.

It is essential that the communities in our state be provided with an adequate number of flights and seats each week to meet the public needs. Also, convenient scheduling of flights, reasonable air fares, and a guarantee of safety are needed.

Our state must remain on the road to economic prosperity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Staying On the Sidelines

It is a sad commentary on America that only 53 percent of the people eligible to vote in the 1980 presidential election bothered to cast ballots.

And what is worse is that this figure continues a trend of a steady decline in voter turnout in presidential election years over the past 20 years.

The highest turnout in recent decades was 64 percent in 1952, but the record high for the 20th century occurred in 1900 when 74 percent of the eligible voters went to the polls.

And the turnout for Congressional, state, and local elections in off years routinely is less than in presidential elections. Unfortunately, the voter turnout in the United States is below that of most other representative democracies.

Far too many Americans "sit out" election day, preferring to stay on the sidelines as if elections were a spectator sport.

One political scientist, Clinton Rossiter, believes low voter turnout is due, partially, to Americans' confidence that another election will take place in four more years, giving them

another opportunity to voice their preferences. Rossiter says, "When ballots become bullets, Americans will be found casting them as willingly as any other people."

Unfortunately, however, there is a danger in the current trend of diminishing voter turnout. Our elected officials are being elected by less and less of the electorate.

President-elect Reagan, for example, was chosen by 51 percent of the 53 percent of the eligible voters who voted—in other words, by barely more than one-fourth of the nation's eligible voters.

This trend of diminishing turnout could lead to a government that is less responsive to the whole citizenry, and more responsive to the single-issue and special-interest groups that do mobilize voters and show an interest in the political machinery.

We should take note of the message given by Abraham Lincoln in 1862—"It is not the qualified voters, but the qualified voters who choose to vote, that constitute the political power of the state."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

"Advice and Consent"

The United States Senate has a unique role to play in the shaping of any new administration—role of "advice and consent" on presidential appointments.

Although the Senate confirms literally thousands of nominations each year, this constitutional responsibility receives increased attention when a new administration assumes office and key officials are subjected to senatorial scrutiny.

Under the U.S. Constitution, written in 1787, the President is authorized to nominate officers of the United States "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate." This language gives the Senate veto power over individuals deemed unqualified or unfit for federal appointments.

Prior to the post-election session in November, the 96th Congress had received 57,243 nominations, of which 56,833 were confirmed. Four-hundred nominations were unconfirmed, and 10 were withdrawn.

It has become a well-established practice to allow the President wide latitude in the selection of members of his Cabinet, since they will be responsible for carrying out the administration's policies.

In the history of our country, only eight Cabinet nominations have been rejected on the floor of the Senate—the last of which occurred in 1959 when Lewis Strauss was rejected as Secretary of Commerce.

After a presidential nomination is sent to the Senate, it is referred to the appropriate committee for consideration, possibly including public hearings. A review of the past two Congresses shows that the Foreign Relations and Judiciary Committees received the bulk of nominations.

Although each committee has its own procedures, the confirmation process generally sheds light on the individual's background and qualifications for the post. It also frequently affords legislators an exchange with appointees on future direction of the administration's policy.

Our Founding Fathers showed foresight by inserting this kind of legislative review into the Constitution. It not only provides a safeguard against the appointment of unfit individuals, but it also serves as a communications link between the executive and legislative branches of government.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cutting Government Costs

The U.S. Senate initiated action on two measures this year that demonstrate the resolve of Congress to tighten its own purse strings—and that are expected to save American taxpayers more than \$100 million annually.

A significant step was taken to pare down government costs when Congress approved—and the President signed into law—an amendment I offered that blocked the automatic 9.1 percent cost-of-living pay raise for high-level government employees—including members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

This amendment affected federal workers who were earning more than \$50,000 a year—including Congressional members and employees, federal judges, senior civil servants, and military officers. It has been estimated that this amendment will save about \$95 million annually in government expenses.

The Senate also has approved a 10 percent reduction in its operating funds for the 1981 fiscal year—representing a cut of about \$20 million. This amendment, which I also offered, was attached to legislation concerning the Council on Wage and Price Stability.

Both of these measures demonstrate the Senate's willingness to cut government costs where it can be done prudently.

Government, like all Americans, has been feeling the economic pinch brought on by continuing inflation. And government, like all Americans, should recognize the need to economize and to curtail spending where it can.

Although the savings represented by these two measures are only a dent in the overall federal budget, these cost-cutting efforts show that federal workers and offices are not immune to the economic burdens carried by all Americans.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Canal Treaties Reap Benefits

It is apparent that the Panama Canal treaties — which have been in effect for more than a year — have reaped benefits to the United States.

Under the agreements, in which the United States gradually transfers control of the canal to Panama by the year 2000, the operation of the waterway has run smoothly. Ratification of the treaties has borne numerous diplomatic dividends as well.

A recent article published by *U.S. News & World Report* confirms the success of the treaties. Entitled, "Panama: Where U.S. Diplomacy Is Working," the article stated that fears raised by ratification of the treaties "are fading fast."

"The first year of joint operation of the canal by the U.S. and Panama has turned out to be a success, which the administration of President Carter can claim as a major foreign-policy victory," the article said.

U.S. News & World Report continued: "Panamanian animosity toward Americans, which once erupted in bloody rioting, has virtually disappeared. Moreover, the influence of Communist Cuba's Fidel Castro is on

the wane, and U.S. influence is rising."

The goodwill that has developed in Panama for the United States, as a result of the treaties, is apparent in the support Panama has shown for American foreign-policy initiatives.

For example, a year ago Panama opened its doors to the Shah of Iran when most other nations refused to do so. Also, Panama followed the lead of the United States in denouncing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and joined the American call for a boycott of the Olympic games which were held in Moscow.

Panama also acted in concert with efforts by the United States to control the influx of Cuban refugees by prohibiting vessels registered under the Panamanian flag from participating in the boat lift.

The United States has entered a new relationship with Panama — one that is beneficial to both countries, and one that is working very well. The United States and Panama can be justifiably proud of the canal treaties and of the goodwill that they have created.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fostering Coal Use

A preliminary report by an international coal board underscores the need for deepening our nation's coal ports to meet the goal of doubling coal production and use by 1990.

This report was presented recently to members of the U.S. Senate by the Coal Industry Advisory Board.

The board, comprised of 33 individuals from major coal-related industries around the world, is charged with offering recommendations on how to double production and use by 1990, and to triple it by the end of the century.

The report described the transportation infrastructure in the United States as a major bottleneck to the marketing of increased shipments of American coal. It urged action by government and industry to improve and enlarge railroad and port facilities, which would encourage long-term contracts with foreign buyers.

The chief obstacle that Western nations must overcome, according to the coal

board, is the switch by utilities and large industrial users from oil-fired boilers to coal-fired generating capacity.

In its initial recommendations, the board urged government to take steps to encourage this conversion, and recommended that industry "urgently examine the shift from oil to coal as a matter of the highest priority."

Other concerns identified by the report as potential roadblocks were environmental constraints, stability of royalty and taxation policies, reliability of international contracts, shortages of skilled manpower, transportation costs, limitations on access to reserves, and availability of capital.

The board has developed six working groups that will draft specific recommendations for government and industry. It is hoped that these future reports will assist and encourage increased use of our most abundant and readily-available energy resource—coal.